



Your City

November-December 2009

City Hall

Calendar

City Council every 2nd & 4th Tuesday•7:00 p.m. • City Hall

Planning Commission every 2nd Thursday•6:30 p.m. •City Hall

Civil Service Commission every 3rd Wednesday• 5:15 p.m. •City Hall

Centralia Park Advisory Board every 2nd Monday• 5:00 p.m. •Parks Office

Historic Preservation Commission every 2nd Monday•6:00 p.m. •City Hall

Centralia Landfill Closure Group as needed• Centralia Public Works Office

Lewis County Solid Waste Disposal District No. 1 every 4th Monday•1:30 p.m. •Lewis County Board of County Commissioners Office

Library Advisory Board every 1st Tuesday (except July & August)•6:00 p.m. • Centralia Library

Holiday Happenings

Nutcracker Ballet

Friday, Dec. 18

7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19

2:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 20

1:00 & 5:30 p.m.

All performances at Corbet Theatre on the campus of Centralia College.

Tickets available at Hall's Drug (Centralia), Book 'n' Brush and Southwest Washington Dance Center (Chehalis).

Adults•\$22

Children (18 & Under)•\$15

Seniors (62+)•\$15

Special Golden Box Seats•\$40 (includes pre-show hors d'oeuvres and much more)

All seats are reserved. Please call Southwest Washington Dance Center at 360-748-4789 for more information.



Tree Lighting Ceremony and Visit with Santa

Friday, Nov. 27th

6:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public

George Washington Park (Pearl & Main in downtown Centralia)

Ring in the holidays with festive music and entertainment at Centralia's annual tradition of lighting the park – it's magical!

Following the tree lighting ceremony, join Santa at the historic Fox Theatre for an evening of entertainment, music and refreshments.

The Historic Downtown District will be illuminated throughout the holiday season for your shopping pleasure.



MORE ON PAGE 5!

Centralia Downtown Association

Saturday, Nov. 28

Home for the Holidays Open House in Historic Downtown Centralia—Merchants bring in the holiday cheer!

December 5-24

Name that Holiday Tune—Merchants will decorate their windows in holiday tunes—you guess which ones!

Saturday, Dec. 5

Wish List Shopping—Shop downtown and pick out what YOU want for Christmas!

Saturday, Dec. 19

Wishes Do Come True! Check your list one more time—Shop downtown 'till 8:00 p.m.

Fridays—Shop Late 'till 8:00

November 27•December 4

December 11•December 18

Emergency Preparedness

Will you be ready for Centralia's next emergency or disaster? More over, will your family be ready? What if an earthquake occurs while the children are in school and you're at work? Does your work place have a disaster plan? What if your home has to be evacuated because of a fire or flood? Are you prepared to be self-sufficient until public safety services can respond? What about your pets? Where will they go when they're not allowed in a shelter? When disaster strikes the best protection is knowing what to do.

City officials are responsible for the protection of life and property, provision for public health and welfare, repair or replacement of public property, and to help disaster victims. We participate in a number of local, State and federal programs that provide training, including exercises that have helped improve Centralia's response plan.

Why plan?

Centralia is subject to many potential natural and man-made disasters such as fires, flooding, windstorms, severe winter storms, earthquakes, dam

failures, volcanic eruptions and landslides. While we all hope that such an occurrence never happens, it has been shown time and time again

that being prepared for disasters is wise and prudent. Emergency services and government agencies may not be able to respond to your needs immediately. Their buildings, equipment, personnel, communications and mobility may be severely hampered by the event. They will be overwhelmed. Experts tell us to plan to be on our own for a minimum of 72 hours.

We cannot stop these disasters from occurring, but we can limit their impact on us and those we love. Each family can survive in a better way by assembling a family disaster plan. Every member of the family needs to be involved so that when disaster strikes, everyone will know what to do. How well you manage the aftermath of a disaster depends a great deal on your level of preparedness when disaster strikes.



The first 72 hours after a disaster are critical. Electricity, gas, water and telephones may not be working. In addition, public safety services such as police and fire departments will be busy handling serious crises. You should be prepared to be self-sufficient (able to live without running water, electricity, gas, telephones and assistance from safety services) for at least three days following a disaster.

To find out more about steps you can take to prepare, visit www.emd.wa.gov or stop by the Police Department at City Hall for printed information (in both English and Spanish).

During a disaster, up-to-date information on available shelters, road closures, etc. can be found at www.centralia.com. Be sure to bookmark this web site now so it's easy to find during an emergency.

✓ Prepare

✓ Plan

✓ Stay informed

Who needs flood insurance?

Those who live in flood prone areas should know one thing first: Home insurance will not cover damages caused by a flood. For that you'll need flood insurance, which is a special policy backed by the federal government with cooperation from local communities and private insurance companies.

Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to enable homeowners, renters and business owners to purchase insurance. To be eligible for flood insurance, you must live in a community that participates in the NFIP—Centralia does. You select from a menu of coverages for structure and contents, and prices are pre-determined for all choices. Coverage choices also vary depending on your flood-risk zone. For more information, you should contact your insurance company.

Storm and Surface Water Citizens Advisory Board Meeting

November-December 2009

Tuesday, Dec. 15

6:30 p.m.

Public Works Building

1100 N. Tower Ave.

Storm and surface water is what you see accumulating on the roads and other impervious surfaces during normal winter weather; not the water that inundates our community during flood events.

This Board serves as a liaison between the City's Stormwater Department and the citizens of Centralia. They review stormwater issues, listen to citizen issues, and look for new ways to deal with storm and surface water. They also act as the sounding board for new, innovative ideas and programs that promote improving the water quality in Centralia.



Emergency Resources Needed

Do you live in or around Centralia and have a boat, dump truck, heavy duty pickup, man-lift, multi-passenger van, loader, back-hoe, flatbed truck or trailer? If so, would you be willing to make it available to Centralia Emergency Management during an emergency? The Police Department maintains a resource list of people and equipment they call upon during a local emergency. If you've already signed up, thank you! If not and you want to help, please e-mail DEM@cityofcentralia.com or CPD@cityofcentralia.com, or call 330-7680.

Free Leaf Disposal

Autumn is here and leaves are turning color and falling into yards and gutters. This can result in clogged storm drains. Leaf disposal plays an essential part in maintaining Centralia's stormwater system. Picking up leaves keeps catch basin lids from being covered. This helps prevent minor street flooding, along with preventing major blockages within the storm lines which can cause even more street flooding and costly repairs.

To help eliminate these situations, the City's Street and Stormwater Departments are offering two new City-wide leaf disposal programs.

At your request, the City will supply a yard waste container while supplies last. Please call 330-7512 to sign up for this program. All you need to do is put your leaves in the

container and share the container with your neighbor if possible. The City has made arrangements with LeMay, Inc. to pick up the yard waste from the container every Thursday until December 19th at no cost to you. The City will use the leaves in a pilot composting project.



The City has also established a leaf drop off site at 1223 Woodland Avenue. This site will be open to City of Centralia residents on Saturdays only from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. until December 19th. The City will accept limbs, leaves, and yard debris—also to be used in the pilot composting project. All yard waste must be separated and cannot be in bags. City staff will not be available to unload vehicles.



What can you do to help?

- Please do not rake leaves into the street.
- Rake a drain to help prevent flooding. Snow, leaves and debris can clog storm drains. Use a garden rake or shovel to remove debris from the storm drain. Be sure you deposit leaves into a yard waste container so they don't wash back into the street during the next storm.

Remember.....keeping drains clear of leaves is a partnership effort and the City needs your help!

If you have questions about these programs, please contact the City's Public Works Department at 330-7512.

*"If I were a leaf on a majestic tall tree,
And I had the choice, of which I could be,
I'd be a maple to turn orange yellow gold
When the cool autumn winds turned warm nights cold".*

Sharon P. Pinnick



Centralia City Council

The City of Centralia Newsletter

"Your City" is published six times per year as a public service to the citizens of Centralia.

Writing and Research:

Carol Hamilton•360-330-7674
chamilton@cityofcentralia.com

Send Questions To:

"Your City"
P. O. Box 609
Centralia, WA 98531-0609

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CENTRALIA.COM



One of the great joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and to wish you the very best for the New Year.



Standing (left to right): Bill Bates, Ted Shannon, Harlan Thompson and Ryan Barrett
Seated (left to right): Mayor Pro Tem Bonnie Canaday, Mayor Tim Browning and Lee Coumbs

CITY OF CENTRALIA INFORMATION

Building Inspection Request Line•330-7663	Engineering•330-7512
Building Official/Inspector•330-7664	Finance•330-7659
City Attorney•330-7675	Fire Business•330-7681
City Clerk•330-7670	Municipal Court•330-7667
City Council•330-7674	Parks Department•330-7688
City Manager•330-7674	Personnel•330-7672
Community Development•330-7662	Police Business•330-7680
Customer Service Center (Utility Bill Payments)•330-7657	Streets, Light, Water, Wastewater•330-7512
Economic Development 330-7820	Public Works•330-7512

All Area Code 360

Parks & Recreation Events

November

- 7 Girls 3rd-6th Grade Saturday Basketball Starts
- 14 Boys 7th-8th Saturday Basketball Starts
- 16 Men's City League Basketball Deadline
- 21 Turkey Trot Fun Run

December

- 1 K-3rd Grade Pee-Wee/Junior Basketball Registration Begins
- 6 Men's City League Basketball Starts
- 12 6th Graders Night Out



It's Almost License Renewal Time

Renewal reminders will be mailed in late November to all licensed businesses and to the owners of licensed dogs. Dog licenses for the calendar year 2010 will be available on December 1st.

You can renew either license by mail using the address on the renewal form, or in person at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall (2nd floor - 118 W. Maple St.).

All licenses are due by Jan. 1st and be sure to renew by Jan. 31st to avoid late fees.

If you have questions about license requirements, please contact the City Clerk at dbilodeau@cityofcentralia.com or 360-330-7670.

Holiday Happenings (continued from page 1)

November-December 2009

DICKENS HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Visiting Nurses Foundation and the Historic Fox Theatre are working together to bring you a spectacular, fun-filled weekend of events. Combo tickets for all 3 events are available through December 10th for \$50 at all "Home Tour" ticket outlets.

"The Magic Lantern"

Friday, Dec. 11

Historic Fox Theatre Restoration is offering student matinees and an evening performance for families. "The Magic Lantern" is an authentic Victorian big-screen extravaganza that led to the movies. See dramatic stories, hear spectacular songs and enjoy hilarious comedy for kids and adults ages 6 to 106. Proceeds support the Historic Fox Theatre Restoration.

For information on show times and individual ticket prices, please visit www.centraliafoxtheatre.com or call 360-623-1103.

Visiting Nurses Foundation's 10th Annual "Dickens of a Christmas" Holiday Home Tour

Saturday, Dec. 12

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Six lovely homes in Centralia's historic Edison District will be featured. Guests are invited to gather at the tour's holiday headquarters in Centralia's Train Depot (210 Railroad Ave.) where they will enjoy refreshments and live Christmas music to

warm the heart. Attendees will be able to ride on a wagon pulled by Gwen Marshal's draft horses, hop on the trolley or catch the van provided by Campbell Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep.

Individual pre-sale tickets•\$12

If purchased on event day•\$15

Tickets available at Visiting Nurses Thrift Shop, HubBub, Santa Lucia Coffee, Heymann Winery, The Bath Depot, Fruffel's, Book 'N Brush, Lewis County Historical Museum and all branches of Security State Bank. The day of the event, tickets will only be available at the tour homes or Visiting Nurses Thrift Shop. Proceeds help fund home health and hospice needs in our community.

For more information, please call 360-623-1560 or visit www.VisitingNursesFoundation.org.

Victorian High Noon Tea at the Tea Cup

Sunday, Dec. 13

Enjoy a special treat rarely experienced this side of the Pond! This event will feature the finest of teas, finger sandwiches, scones and soup. Seating times are 12:00, 1:30, 3:00 and 4:30.

Individual tickets (\$25) can be purchased at the Tea Cup in downtown Centralia until December 10th.

Borst Home Holiday Open Houses

Saturday, Nov. 28

11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Open House)



A Living History Presentation

12:30-3:00 p.m.

Enjoy the sounds of Christmas carols played on the Borst Home parlor organ by Jean Bluhm, portraying Mary Borst.

Saturday, Dec. 12

1:30-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 13

1:30-4:00 p.m.

\$2 per adult (age 13 & up)

\$1 per child (age 5-12)

\$10 per family

Built in the 1860's by pioneer Joseph Borst, the historic house museum, located in Fort Borst Park, is filled with original furnishings and artifacts. Adjoining the museum is a replica of a one-room schoolhouse, built in 1995 through community efforts. Come enjoy these buildings decorated for the holidays! For more details, please call the Parks Office at 360-330-7688.

Free Breakfast With Santa

Saturday, Nov. 28

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Historic Train Depot



Enjoy a tasty breakfast with Old Saint Nick, and then deliver your wish list to him personally.

Free parking – free photo opportunity (bring your own camera).

Sponsored by KITI/Live 95 Radio.

Chef: Lee Coumbs

Sertoma will be accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots.