

the Courthouse Journal

W A C O U N T I E S . O R G

May 8, 2008
Issue No. 14

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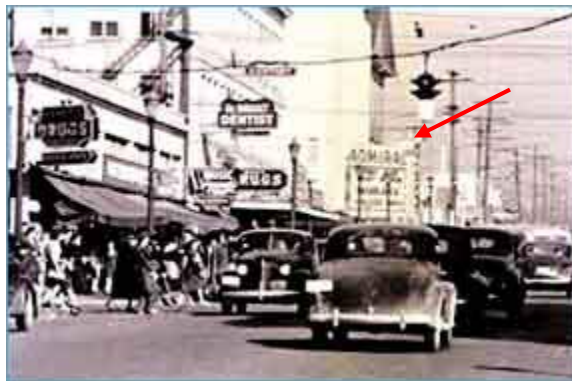
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*Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties*

See 2008/09 Scholarship Winners (page 2 - 3)

Register Now! Don't Miss Beautiful Kitsap County and WSAC's Joint District Meeting

Registrations are going well for the 2008 WSAC Joint District Meeting in Bremerton June 18 - 20. If you have not already registered, don't miss out on the early bird registration fee (ends June 3) and the opportunity to interact with your fellow members; enjoy a waterfront reception and dine at the historic and beautiful Admiral Theater. There are still spots available for elected officials and engineers to tour the Bangor Sub Base on Tuesday, June 17. Call (360) 753-1886 or email Ginni Peppert (gpeppert@wacounties.org) for details.



Admiral Theater then and now

To register go to http://wacounties.org/wsac/wsac_conference.asp. We look forward to seeing you in Bremerton!

Department of Revenue to Hold Local Government Partnership Spring Meeting

The Department of Revenue (DOR) is holding a Local Government Partnership Meeting on Thursday, June 5. All interested local government officials and staff are invited to attend. The meeting is a great opportunity for all local governments to share information, connect with Department staff and peers, and help in the planning of future tools to enhance local tax administration and communication. At the meetings, you'll also have an opportunity to discuss DOR initiatives impacting

Want to post a job announcement on our website ?

Visit <http://wacounties.org/>

And click on the job pages for format & submission details.

The Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials

(WACO) wacounties.org/waco

and the **Washington State Association of Counties**

(WSAC) wacounties.org/wsac

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly / bi-weekly deadline is noon Wednesdays. Direct inquiries and correspondence to - *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Av SE, Olympia, WA 98501

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Tom Robinson, *Timber Program Manager*

Tonia Sugarman, *County Training Institute (CPO) and L&I Retro Project Manager*

local government, provide additional suggestions for strategic priorities, and learn more about local government mitigation for destination-based sales tax.

Meeting information:

Date: Thursday, June 5th, 2008

Time: 8:30 a.m. – Noon (Continental breakfast begins at 8:30; meeting begins at 9:00)

Location: The Ameritel Inn
4250 Martin Way E
Lacey, WA 98516-5317

Registration is free. Please register before May 30, 2008, one of the following ways:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dor/efile/SecureForms/Content/ContactUs/Email/LocalGovernmentPartnership.aspx>, email Becky Hufana at beckyh@dor.wa.gov, or call Becky Hufana at (360) 586-3132.

You are also invited to join DOR's new listserv for Local Government Partnership Members. The listserv will let you receive e-mail notices of future meetings and updates on strategic priorities. The Listserv page at <https://fortress.wa.gov/dor/efile/SecureForms/Content/contactus/Email/listservEmail.aspx> will also allow you to sign up for notices and information on other tax issues.

WSAC 2008 Legislative Report

This report highlights WSAC Priorities, other important legislative and budgetary accomplishments as well as unsuccessful legislation from the 2008 Session. **To Access the 2008 Legislative Report** [CLICK HERE](#)

Washington Counties Scholarship Fund Has Five New Winners!

Five very deserving sons and daughters of county employees have each won \$3,000 scholarships for the 2008/09 school year from the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund. One hundred fifty-one applications were received this year and two independent selection committees chose the award recipients. The winners reflected superior academic achievement, leadership qualities and dedication to family, community and continuing education. The winners are:

- **Caitlin Corulli**, daughter of Doug and Sandra Corulli, of Wenatchee. Doug Corulli is a Chelan County Deputy Sheriff. Caitlin is a senior at Wenatchee High School and will not only graduate with honors, but will also receive her Associates of Arts transfer degree from Wenatchee Valley College where she has been in the Running Start program. Caitlin will be attending Washington State University this fall and plans to major in pre-medicine. She hopes to eventually become an anesthesiologist.

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

- **Matthew Hendricks**, son of Deborah and Terry Hendricks. Deborah Hendricks is employed by the Benton County District Court Probation Department. Matthew is a senior at Richland High School, and has maintained a rigorous schedule that has included three advanced placement classes and seven honors classes. He attended the 2007 National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine and plans to study physics, energy and biomedicine in college, and is interested in medical research and engineering.
- **Kelly Johnson**, son of Pamela and Lewis Johnson. Pamela Johnson is the Clerk of the Board for the Skamania County Commissioners. Kelly graduated from Stevenson High School and has attended Mount Hood Community College since last fall. He has helped tutor high school students and held a workshop for college students on essay writing. Kelly is pursuing a career in the field of sports medicine so that he can become an athletic trainer.
- **Derek Reinelt**, son of Lorin Reinelt and Myra Willingham. Lorin Reinelt is employed by the Pierce County Department of Public Works and Utilities. Derek is a senior at Vashon High School and will graduate with honors this year. Last summer, he volunteered with the Amigos de las Americas program in rural Mexico for eight weeks. At that time, he realized the clear impact one can have on the lives of others. As he leaves for college in the fall, it will be to pursue the engineering development field.
- **Annie Robertson**, daughter of Rick and Joan Robertson. Rick Robertson is a Snohomish County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Annie will graduate as Valedictorian from Holy Names Academy in Seattle this year, with honors and six advanced placement classes under her belt. She has been involved in drama and dances with the Pacific Northwest Ballet. She has been accepted into Ballet Chicago this summer. She will join her sister at Stanford in the fall looking forward to new opportunities.

Two alternates were also selected in the event that one of the previous students is unable to attend college this fall.

- (1) **Kira Hendricksen**, daughter of Richard Hendricksen and Mary Hendricksen. Richard is with the Columbia County Planning and Building Department. Kira is graduating with honors from Sequim High School and is in the Running Start Program at Peninsula College. She will attend Seattle Pacific College in the fall to study language.
- (2) **Rebekah Grochowski**, daughter of Stan and Priscilla Grochowski. Stan works for Pierce County Information Technology. Rebekah is a junior at Gonzaga University and is planning on a career in Civil Engineering.

The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund received applications from students in all 39 counties this year. They are all eager to embrace the world and follow their passions, and it was a very difficult job to award only five scholarships. They are all so deserving!

Budget, Finance and Taxes

A Little Known but Great Resource

Amongst all the paperwork generated everyday, once in a while you come across something useful. Something that is informative, easy to read, and quite frankly has a lot of information in it. This is routinely sent to all the Assessors and Treasurers via email, but there are a lot of other folks out there that would probably benefit from receiving it. Without further fanfare, let me introduce you to the "Property Tax Review" published by the good people at the Washington State Department of Revenue.

Being involved in the *Courthouse Journal*, I know a little bit about the problems you take on whenever you try and publish on a regular basis. The folks at Revenue have done a fine job. The "Property Tax Review" is easy to read, pleasant on the eyes, in color, and free. Up to date articles, staff listings, summary wrap ups; it is all there.

Hats off to Assistant Director of the Department of Revenue Brad Flaherty and staff for keeping the ball rolling on this topic. It is a tough task, believe me.

Items of interest include reminders of upcoming deadlines, and a synopsis calendar of upcoming training, and the latest pesky tax problem or item of interest.

So, to all of you out there that have never seen a copy, check it out using the link pasted below.

http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/Pubs/Prop_Tax/NewsletterSpring2008.pdf

Or, you can directly join their email distribution list by using this link below.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dor/efile/SecureForms/Content/contactus/Email/listservEmail.aspx>

I am also going to include another link that lists other distribution lists that you might not even be aware of. That link is pasted below also.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dor/efile/SecureForms/Content/contactus/Email/listservEmail.aspx>

The Property Tax Review is published quarterly, so it shouldn't overload your "inbox".

Environment, Land Use & Resources

CTED Surveying City and County Officials on Local Infrastructure Needs

At the direction of the Washington Legislature, the Washington State Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) is conducting a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the Growth Management Act. Part of the study addresses how best to meet and finance the infrastructure needs of growing communities. The results will provide valuable information to the Legislature on how to address local infrastructure needs.

As part of the study, CTED is conducting a survey of 150 growing communities including both cities and counties. Counties that are growing and fully planning under the Growth Management Act are included in the study with data being collected about the planning, funding and execution of Capital Facilities plans within your jurisdiction and unincorporated urban growth areas (UGA's). The questionnaire was developed by the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) with the assistance of the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington State Association of Counties.

This survey is being sent to Public Works Directors but they will likely need to consult with others involved in your capital facility planning, and we encourage you to do so. The survey is being distributed on Monday, May 12, and is estimated to take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

All the information provided is voluntary and will be kept confidential. All reports will be presented in a way that no individual can be identified.

If you have any questions about this project, feel free to contact WSU at 800-833-0867 or sesrcweb3@wsu.edu. If you do contact us, please reference the "Growth Management Survey."

Also, if you have additional questions on the project, please contact Anne L. Pflug, Research Project Manager, Dept of Community, Trade and Economic Development at either 509-925-2608 or annep@cted.wa.gov

General Government Issues

County Employment and Military Service

The following communication from C.J. Rabideau, retired Franklin County Prosecutor, and currently a member of the Washington State Committee for Employer Support of Guard and Reserves is provided to assist counties who may have employees who are members of the National Guard and or Armed Forces Reserves and are called to active military service.

“I write this to you to advise of my recent participation at the spring Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys training conference, and to ask your assistance. First, as a member of the Washington State Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, I am obligated to spread the message of the program, and especially the program for resolution of problems between employers, in this case Counties, and employee members thereof who are/have been or may become National Guard or Armed Forces Reserve Component members.

“Second, I once again advised the Civil Track trainees of WAPA of the means of contacting ESGR when problems occur or perhaps seem to be pending. On Friday, April 25th, I was more specific regarding the contact with the National Office and the State office at Camp Murray near Fort Lewis. I explained generally the Ombudsman informal mediation service and how to make contact with Camp Murray by phone, 253 512 8468, and nationally at 1 800 336 4590, and additionally my home phone as some of the attendees know me personally.

“Second, since it has been publicly announced that the 81st Brigade will be mobilized, once again, this summer, I would hope you would spread the word to the various County organizations that occasionally have employee problems because of such Military activity, especially the Sheriff's, Auditors, Commissioners and Administrators and other appropriate elected and administrative officers. I am concerned that each County Official is aware of the Federal Law that supersedes State law, especially the "hire at will" procedure widely understood by the employers. I recognize that County Employers are bound by other procedures and agreements; however there is always someone that fails to learn about the ramifications of the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994.

“Hopefully you will, at this request, notify the various organizations under the purview of yours that prior to any employer-employee action is taken wherein a member of the Guard or Reserve is involved that the County Prosecuting Attorney's Office be contacted to insure compliance with any provision of USERRA that is involved or may become involved. All our organization hopes for is that County Officials are aware of ESGR and USERRA, and how to make contact for assistance and or information. The Prosecuting Attorneys through WAPA are aware, but as we all know the word doesn't always become distributed to those that need it, especially the supervisors and mid managers in any organization.

“Third, if at your annual meeting in October you would appreciate a short, succinct address on ESGR and USERRA for your attendees, kindly make request to the Camp Murray office and Bryon Burgess, the Executive Director, at 253 512 8648 or at his email listed above. If you have any questions with regard to this email, do not hesitate to contact me.”

Mr. Rabideau can be contacted at (509) 547- 6694.

New Workplace Leave Laws

During the 2008 legislative session, the Legislature enacted two new family leave laws. The first requires employers to grant a “reasonable period of leave” for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This bill went into effect on April 1. Domestic violence leave can be paid or unpaid. An L&I Fact Sheet on domestic violence leave can be accessed at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/WorkplaceRights/LeaveBenefits/FamilyCare/DomViolence/default.asp>.

The second leave law the requires employers to grant up to 15 days of leave for spouses of armed services members called to deployment, on deployment, or on leave from deployment. This bill goes into effect on June 12. This leave can be paid or unpaid. An L&I Fact Sheet on military family leave can be accessed at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/WorkplaceRights/LeaveBenefits/FamilyCare/Military/default.asp>.

Also included in the legislation to create the military family leave was an expansion of the existing paid military leave for state, county, city, and other political subdivision employers. Currently, state and local government employees are provided 15 days of paid leave to report for active duty, when called, or take part in active training duty. Beginning June 12th, this leave is extended from 15 days to 21 days. This leave is paid at the person's normal pay.

Public Records Act Case Deserves Your Attention

In *Clarke v. Tri-City Animal Care & Control Shelter*

(<http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/index.cfm?fa=opinions.showOpinion&filename=252221MAJ>), the state Court of Appeals for Division III, ruled that Tri-City Animal Control acts as a public agency and is subject to the Public Disclosure Act. The decision stemmed from a 2005 case in which Leonora Clarke of Kennewick requested euthanasia logs from Tri-City Animal Control. Tri-City Animal Control denied Clarke's request for the records, claiming it didn't have to comply with public records laws because it wasn't a public agency. Clarke sued Tri-City Animal Control, a private corporation that contracted with The Animal Control Authority, an interlocal cooperative of Pasco, Kennewick and Richland, to provide animal control services for the cities.

The Court held that Tri-City Animal Control was "a functional equivalent of a public agency," and therefore was subject to the Public Records Act (PRA). The court used a four-factor "functional equivalent" balancing test to determine if an entity is to be regarded as a public agency for purposes of the PRA: (1) whether the entity performs a governmental function; (2) the level of government funding; (3) the extent of government involvement or regulation; and (4) whether the entity was created by the government. In finding that animal control was a governmental function and Tri-City Animal Control employees were animal control officers and regulators, the Court stated that government agencies cannot avoid the PRA by contracting with private entities to perform these functions. In light of this decision, it would be wise for counties to review their third-party contracts to determine if this holding may apply.

Association News

Become a Member of the WSAC/WACO Advocacy Network Deadline – May 16, 2008

The Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) recognize the power and influence of grassroots advocacy and want to work to harness this for the Associations' advocacy efforts. WSAC and WACO are in the process of compiling a database that will track the relationships its members and affiliates have with the Governor's Office and the State Legislature.

This tool will be used to help WSAC and WACO members work more cooperatively with the State Government while also providing a rapid response mechanism to respond to actions of the Governor's Office and the Legislature.

To participating in the WSAC/WACO Advocacy Network, please fill out the Member Legislative Contacts survey by clicking on the link below. And thank you for helping to make WSAC and WACO more dynamic and engaged organizations.

[CLICK HERE for the WSAC/WACO Member Legislative Contacts Survey](#)

TO: WSAC Affiliates & Partners
FROM: LSC Co-Chairs: Councilmember John Koster – Snohomish County
Commissioner Todd Mielke – Spokane County

We would like to sincerely thank you and your staff for your assistance during the 2008 legislative session. We rely heavily on your input to determine the impact legislative proposals have on counties. And while WSAC is pleased with the overall outcome of the session, we are hoping that the 2009 legislative session is even more successful.

To that end, we are asking all of our WSAC affiliates and partners to help us identify legislative proposals to improve the fiscal health of counties. Specifically, we are asking you to identify:

- Statutory requirements on processes and procedures that could be eliminated or simplified/modified to be more cost-effective. (e.g. *elimination of studies or reports, elimination of barriers to providing services electronically or other methods, eliminating statutory redundancies or conflicts, opportunities for more uniform processes such as in contracting/bidding*)
- Changes to existing authority to allow for greater flexibility and multi-county collaboration. (e.g. *increasing day labor limits, indexing bid limits to inflation, changes to cooperative purchasing or service authority*)
- Services and programs counties are required to perform that provide limited public benefit and could be eliminated.
- Services and programs that could be better or more cheaply performed by the state or other governmental entity.

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) members are developing legislative proposals to generate more local revenue and/or seek additional state revenue for county services. WSAC President Mary Hunt has appointed a committee of Commissioners to assist the LSC with this effort. Kitsap County Commissioner Josh Brown is chairing the committee.

At this time, we are looking for ideas that will change the way counties do business by making the delivery of county services more efficient and effective. Your on-the-ground experience makes you particularly knowledgeable of changes that can benefit counties.

If you have a legislative proposal that would help improve the fiscal health and effectiveness of county government please [CLICK HERE](#) to fill out and submit you idea. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Murray, WSAC Policy Director, at (360) 753-1886 or jmurray@wacounties.org.

Thank you in advance for your time and effort towards this important goal.

WSAC President Mary Hunt Invites you to Submit your Application for Membership on the 2008-09 Legislative Steering Committee (LSC)

The WSAC legislative Steering Committee (LSC) typically meets every other Thursday throughout the Washington State Legislative Session at the Washington Counties Building in Olympia. The next Legislative session begins January 12, 2009 and is scheduled for 105 days in length. *Please note, that even if you served on the 2007-08 Committee, your term has expired; therefore you too will need to submit your application if you wish to be considered for the 2008-09 Committee.*

The application deadline is May 16, 2008 – [CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Applicants will be reviewed and appointed by President Hunt and appointees will be notified by letter.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact [Brad Banks](#) and thank you in advance for your interest and time.

Boards & Commissions

Openings for Statewide Boards & Commissions

The following seats for county representation are open to WSAC members (County Commissioners, Councilmembers or Executives). To be considered for nomination, please send your name, contact information and a short statement of interest to Michelle Zahrlly at mzahrlly@wacounties.org by the indicated deadline.

Please note: Some members currently serving on the entities below are requesting reappointment to the position they hold. Per WSAC policy, we advertise all openings to our full membership.

Statements of Interest due by May 14, 2008:

Climate Change – SEPA Environmental Review of Proposals

Dept. of Ecology is convening a stakeholder group to guide and clarify how considerations for climate change should be incorporated into revised rules on environmental review and decision making under SEPA.

www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange

Northwest Energy Efficiency Task Force, a new regional group co-sponsored by the Bonneville Power Administration and the Northwest Power Conservation Council. The first meeting is June 18. For more information about this Task Force, go to <http://www.wacounties.org/WSAC/neet.asp>

Statements of Interest due by June 3, 2008:

County Road Administration Board (three positions available)

Counties with populations greater than 125,000

Counties with populations of 20,000 – 125,000

County Engineer in Counties with populations less than 20,000 (for this seat, please send your statement of interest to WSACE President Kent Cash)

www.crab.wa.gov

Board of Health

<http://www.sboh.wa.gov/About/index.htm>

Pipeline Safety Committee

<http://www.wutc.wa.gov/webimage.nsf/2f29c3f9d17d13118825704a005773b6/ebde63879cb7d2ad88256b6f000387b1!OpenDocument>

Public Works Board

<http://www.pwb.wa.gov/BoardInformationaccess.asp?zindex=3>

The following positions are available to County Department Managers and staff, and to WSAC members:

Statements of Interest Deadline Extended to May 9:

- **Sex Offender Policy Board**, established under SSB 6596
- **Office of Public Defense (OPD) Advisory Board**, county position established under ESSB 6442

Due by June 3:

Commuter Trip Reduction Board

<http://www.ctrboard.org/about.htm>

Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board – County Engineer or Public Works Manager position; four year term beginning July 1, 2008
<http://www.fmsib.wa.gov/>

Employee Retirement Benefits Board – must be an active PERS Plan 3 member; three year term beginning July 1, 2008
<http://www.drs.wa.gov/Administration/ERBB/>

Dept. of Retirement Systems Advisory Committee – must be an active PERS member; three year term beginning July 1, 2008
<http://www.drs.wa.gov/Administration/advisorycommittee/>

NACO Steering Committee Appointments

Do you want a voice in creating the national legislative policies of the National Association of Counties? Then consider filling out a NACo nomination form to be appointed to one of their eleven steering committees, (Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Community and Economic Development; Environment, Energy and Land Use; Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs; Health; Human Services and Education; Justice and Public Safety; Labor and Employment; Public Lands; Telecommunications and Technology; and Transportation). Both WACO and WSAC members are eligible.

The nomination process for membership on NACo policy steering committees is underway. As a NACo steering committee member, you are responsible for debating and creating national policies and priorities affecting counties and serve as NACo's front line in their grassroots efforts. Committees meet at the NACo legislative and annual conferences and one other time during the year. You will be responsible for your own travel.

You may receive a form by calling your association. Please be as thorough as possible in completing the nomination and grassroots forms and send it to either WACO or WSAC by June 15, 2008. The nominations are processed here and will be forwarded to NACo by June 30, 2008 for approval by the incoming NACo President after the NACo Annual Conference in August. NACo will announce your appointment in September 2008.

Training & Upcoming Events

Washington Counties – [wacounties.org/Calendar of Events](http://wacounties.org/Calendar%20of%20Events)



Save the Dates for Upcoming County Training Institute Courses

- **Risk Management** with Jill Lowe, Mark Abernathy, Jennifer Hills and Randall Watts - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 3 - South Puget Sound Community College
June 5 - Big Bend Community College
- **Human Resources** with Bruce Shroeder - 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
June 11 - Cascadia Community College
June 18 - Wenatchee Valley College
- **Public Records and Open Disclosure** with Pat Mason & Paul Sullivan - 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
June 17 - Spokane Community College
June 24 - Tacoma Community College
- **"There Ought to be a Law"** - with Enid Layes - 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
June 17 - Spokane Community College

More details will be available next week at www.countytraininginstitute.org.

Courthouse Ramblings

Representative Joel Kretz has been appointed to the Farmland Preservation Task Force by Frank Chopp, Speaker of the Washington State House of Representatives. Representative Kretz replaces Representative Steve Hailey, who had served since the inception of the Task Force.

Representative Kretz, a rancher, is a Republican who represents the 7th Legislative District, which includes Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, and parts of Okanogan and Spokane Counties.

* * * * *

Our deepest sympathies to **Grant County Coroner Jerry Jasman**, whose son, Jason, 19, died on April 24. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jerry and his family as they struggle with the untimely death of their beloved son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend. For those who would like to share their thoughts with Jerry, his home address is 10510 Road W NE, Marlin, WA 98832-9735.

* * * * *

Congratulations to former **Clallam County Sheriff Joe Hawe** who has been appointed by the president as the U.S. Marshal in Western Washington! Hawe has also served as Sequim police chief, a member of the Diplomatic Security Service and worked on the school mapping project for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). The Marshals Service provides security for federal judges and federal courthouses, transports federal prisoners, serves federal arrest warrants and seizes assets from criminals convicted in U.S. District Court.

* * * * *

Congratulations to **Skamania County Auditor Mike Garvison** who has been appointed by the Governor to the Municipal Research Council! His term of office will be from May, 2008 through July 31, 2009. The Municipal Research Council was created for the purpose of providing cost-saving research and services to local governments through one centralized source, the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC). The Council's programs are designed to provide technical expertise that for the most part is not affordable to an individual local government and to eliminate duplication of effort that occurs when services are performed separately by individual local governments.

* * * * *

Councilmember Sam Crawford, Whatcom County, has been appointed by Secretary of Transportation, Paula Hammond, to the Transportation Improvement Board representing Counties with populations of more than 125,000. This is a four-year term commencing on July 1, 2008. Congratulations Councilmember Crawford!

Good Things

The Governor and Attorney General Honor County Deputy Sheriff

Governor Chris Gregoire and Attorney General Rob McKenna recently honored fallen officer, Michael O. Estes of the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office at this year's Washington State Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Ceremony on Friday, May 2. Estes' car was broadsided by a truck while crossing a highway in response to a 911 call on Feb. 6, 2007. He died of his injuries on Feb. 14, 2007. Estes was commissioned on July 15, 2005. The event was held at the Law Enforcement Memorial on Capitol Campus in Olympia.

Since 1855, more than 280 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty in the state of Washington. The Washington Legislature established the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor in 1994. This honor is reserved for those police officers who have been killed in the line of duty or have distinguished themselves by exceptional meritorious conduct.

Attachments



News Release

May 5, 2008

New County Department Formed; Commissioners Appoint Ken Stone as Director of Office of Asset Management and Sustainability

Kelso, WA – The Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners announced the creation of a new Cowlitz County department - the Office of Asset Management and Sustainability.

Ken Stone was chosen to fill the Director position and assist the commissioners in starting the work needed for creation of the department, including the budget and policies. Mr. Stone is currently the Director of the Department of Public Works, a position he has held since 2001.

Chairman George Raiter said "Ken Stone will be working on long-term planning for county facilities, county-wide transportation infrastructure and overseeing specific projects for the commissioners that are related to public asset planning. We are excited to be proactive in establishing this department to assure infrastructure availability and identify funding needs in advance, which should work for us by minimizing system failures and extending useful lives of physical assets."

"The commissioners' vision is to strive for the collaboration of public and private leaders to secure ongoing opportunities and supply essential services. This department will be responsible for the collaboration and integration of the financial, engineering, operations, maintenance, and administrative functions which are essential to properly manage the infrastructure assets," said Commissioner Kathleen Johnson.

Asset management is a planning process that ensures the county will get the most value from each of the assets and have the financial resources to rehabilitate and replace them when necessary. A plan would be developed to reduce costs while increasing the efficiency and reliability of the county's assets.

Ex-commissioner Yantis Dies at 92

By Christian Hill

The Olympian

George Yantis Jr., a former Thurston County commissioner who was instrumental in moving the county courthouse to its present location in the 1970s, died Wednesday. He was 92.

Yantis had a long history of community involvement. He served on the Thurston County Fair Board, was a longtime member of the Olympia Kiwanis, helped found Capital Lakefair and taught Sunday school at St. John Episcopal Church for 30 years.

"He just was always out looking for the good in people," said Steve Yantis, his son. "He had a great work ethic and was always wanting to help people."

Yantis was born in Olympia on Jan. 16, 1916, and graduated from Olympia High School in 1935. He enrolled at the University of Washington to become a lawyer but changed his major to engineering after three years. In 1942, two years after graduating with a bachelor's degree, he enlisted with the Army Corps of Engineers, and he served in the South Pacific from 1943 to 1945.

Returning home, he shaped the landscape of the region working as an excavating contractor and serving as a Thurston County commissioner from 1949 to 1950. (At that time, terms were two years, not four.) He served as a commissioner again from 1959 to 1976.

Yantis was responsible for creating the county planning department but might be best known for his role in the relocation of the Thurston County Courthouse from Capitol Way to its home atop the hill overlooking Capitol Lake.

The decision was unpopular and went against a recommendation by a committee to move Thurston County's seat of government to property east of Olympia City Hall, said Gene Dolan, who served on the committee. The committee had discounted the site atop the hill because of an inability to expand.

Yantis was ousted from office during the next election. The new courthouse opened in the late 1970s. Steve Yantis said his father had told him he regretted that he was never able to work in the courthouse he got built.

He was designated in 2001 by Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Thurston County as one of the first "living legends" in the county. He was elected to the hall of fame at Olympia High School in 2004. He served as grand parade marshal of Capitol Lakefair in 1993 and 2003.

Yantis is survived by his wife of 65 years, Elizabeth; seven children, Robert Yantis, Theodore Yantis, Dotty O'Neill, Steve Yantis, Dave Yantis, Peggy Pulse and John Yantis; 21 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. Memorial service Services were held last Saturday at St. John's Episcopal Church in Olympia.

Attachments

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