



Pierce County



District 2 e-newsletter



A message from your Pierce County Councilmember

Joyce McDonald
District 2

Serving the communities of

Alderton, Auburn, Browns Point, Dash Point, Edgewood, Fife, Fife Heights, Milton, Northeast Tacoma, North Puyallup, Pacific, Puyallup, and Sumner

December 2014

It's been a busy year and we just finalized the 2015 budget. I have kept the promises that I made to you and balanced Pierce County's budget without added tax burdens to our citizens and without compromising public safety. In fact, we will devote more resources to public safety and corrections by funding two new positions in the sheriff's department and hiring eight additional corrections deputies at the Pierce County Jail.

Also, at my recommendation, families will enjoy a new play area for their children. The council approved spending \$180,000 to construct a playground at Meridian Habitat Park on South Hill.

I will host an in-district meeting this month in the City of Puyallup. I hope that you can join us.

2nd District Council Meeting

December 2, 2014 at 5:30pm

Puyallup City Hall
333 South Meridian
(William Stoner Council Chambers-5th
Floor)
Puyallup WA 98371

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www.piercecountywa.org/district2



In this December issue you will find the budget update, tips for keeping your property safe from flooding, suggestions for fun family outings, Parks and Recreation Events, and more. I hope you find the information useful.

As 2014 comes to an end, I wanted to take a moment to let you know that it has been an honor to serve as your council member and I look forward to the next two years. Please remember, if there is anything in Pierce County government that I can assist you with or if you would like to share your concerns and ideas, my staff and I look forward to hearing from you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Have a safe, stress-free and enjoyable month.

Warm Regards,



The 2015 operating budget is complete

After months of negotiation and discussion, members of the Pierce County Council voted unanimously Monday, Nov. 17 to adopt the county's 2015 budget. The new budget takes effect Jan. 1 and, among other things, will devote more resources to public safety and corrections.

Specifically, the new county budget allocates an additional \$200,000 to the Sheriff's Department to hire two more full-time deputies. During negotiations, Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor said he wanted to devote more resources to patrol and property crime prevention. Additionally, the council retained two deputy prosecutor positions that were set to expire due to the loss of grant funding. Those individuals are expected to focus their efforts on identity theft and human trafficking cases.



The budget funds the hiring of eight additional corrections deputies at the Pierce County Jail. Council members earmarked \$100,000 to implement performance audit recommendations aimed at reducing the Corrections Bureau's high cost of overtime. The Council also added language to the budget that asks the County Executive to attempt to incorporate the performance audit recommendations for the Corrections Bureau into future labor agreements to the extent possible. The budget also creates an ad hoc committee to evaluate jail operations on an ongoing basis.

The Council also added language to the budget that directs county departments to begin shutting down illegal marijuana dispensaries and collective gardens as of July 1, 2015, unless the Legislature acts to change state marijuana laws before then.

Other highlights in the budget include:

- \$75,000 for the new Parkland-Spanaway Sheriff's Precinct, including \$25,000 for Safe Streets programs.
- Adding four case managers in response to the growing need in the Aging and Disability Resources program.
- Keeping the total number of county staff positions at 3,000, the same as 2014 and 14 percent less than 2009 levels (the county eliminated vacant or grant-funded positions elsewhere in the budget, which is why it's able to add some while keeping the total number flat).
- Funding for an additional ferry run to Anderson Island, pending the results of a study currently being conducted.
- Numerous road improvements to Canyon Road East between Frederickson and Waller.
- Improvements to Crystal Mountain Boulevard between SR-410 and mile marker 3.25.

General Fund spending would increase by 3 percent, to \$281.8 million, thanks to an improving economy that results in higher collections in sales tax revenues and higher property values. That fund is the most discretionary and covers most general government services.

Total county spending – including specific funds for roads, the airport and ferry system, stormwater and sewer systems, and more – drops by 5.72 percent, to \$928.7 million, mostly due to lower spending on the multi-year expansion of the Chambers Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The final budget meeting can be viewed on Pierce County TV's website, www.piercecountytv.org, or on PCTV's [mobile app](#).

County urges residents to prepare now for flood season

Pierce County residents should prepare now for flood season to keep their family and property safe.

Residents can prepare by purchasing flood insurance, keeping storm drains clear of debris and leaves, and storing valuables and household chemicals above flood levels.

Individuals also encouraged to create a family plan that identifies a safe route from their home, school and work to high ground, a meeting place for family members in case they are separated, and an out-of-state contact to call if local phone lines are busy or down.



An emergency kit should include at least a seven-day supply of food and water, first aid supplies, extra clothing and blankets, prescription medicine, and hygiene and sanitation supplies. Additional information can be found at www.piercecountywa.org/prepare.

Flood postcard mailed out

Residents who live or own property near flood hazard areas within unincorporated Pierce County will soon receive a flood preparedness postcard. The card directs residents to the www.piercecountywa.org/flood, where they can find information on:

- The county's Flood Warning System and emergency contact information.
- Actions property owners can take to avoid flood disaster – before, during, and after a flood.
- Flood insurance facts and how to purchase flood insurance.

Other available resources

Several other websites offer important information about flooding:

- Information on emergency kit supplies: www.piercecountywa.org/prepare.
- Information on flood insurance: www.floodsmart.gov.
- Sign up to get emergency alerts by phone, text message, email, or TTY/TTD: www.piercecountywa.org/alert.

Information about winter weather in Pierce County: www.piercecountywa.org/winterwise.

Wash your hands often...

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water, rubbing them for at least 20 seconds. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.

- [Cover Your Cough](#)
- [Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1600 Clifton Road Atlanta, GA 30329-4027, USA
800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: (888) 232-6348 - [Contact CDC-INFO](#).



City of Puyallup's Lighted Santa Parade

Saturday, December 6th, at 5:00pm
Downtown Puyallup

Bring the kids down to welcome Santa! See the jolly old elf arrive on one of Puyallup's finest fire engines! Included in the festivities is the [Holiday Market](#) (9:30am – 4:00pm) in the Pioneer Park Pavilion and the lighting of the Community Tree in the Park! This wonderful community tradition is a great way to kick off the holiday season! Nibble on cookies and sip on hot cocoa as you watch the lighted delights pass by.



For more information please call (253) 840-2631 or Chris Kucklick at (253) 845-2345.

The City of Fife's Santa Run

The Fife Police Department and Fire Department, along with Santa Clause, will be running through Fife handing out holiday cheer in December.

There will be three Santa Runs at three different locations:

- December 13th at 10:00 a.m. from the railroad tracks, south,
- December 14th at 10:00 a.m. from the railroad tracks to I-5, and
- December 20th at 10:00 a.m. to everything north of I-5 (including Fife Heights).

For more information contact the Fife Community Center at (253) 922-0900.



Parks and Recreation's December events

FANTASY LIGHTS AT SPANAWAY PARK

Pierce County Parks and Recreation is pleased to present the 20th annual 'Fantasy Lights at Spanaway Park,' the largest holiday drive-through display in the Northwest, featuring nearly 300 elaborate displays and thousands of sparkling lights. The beautiful two-mile drive along Spanaway Lake has become a memorable lakeside tradition for the entire family.



Visitors of all ages will be treated to the magical world of animation and imagination where bears fly kites, Santa and Rudolf sail a tall ship, snow boys kick field goals, penguins slide down an igloo, and reindeer leap over your car. You will also marvel at more LED lighting throughout the park along with new displays including a NASCAR race car, butterflies, dragon flies, and a snowman warming by the fire.

As you drive, dial your car radio to FM 95.3 to listen to a selection of special holiday music performed by a local high school to add to the festive atmosphere of the park.

Operation Schedule
Thanksgiving through New Year's Day
Nov. 27, 2014 - Jan. 1, 2015
5:30-9 p.m.
Spanaway Park

Fantasy Lights will operate every night including Christmas and New Year's Day, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Since this is a very popular event, please anticipate long waits of up to one hour to enter the park on Friday and Saturday evenings. Enjoy Fantasy Lights Sundays through Thursdays for a more relaxed experience.

[Print out this coupon to save \\$3 off regular car/van admission.](#) Redeem the coupon at the ticket booth in Spanaway Park, November 27, 2014- January 1, 2015. Please note you must print out the coupon and hand it to the cashier. Coupons shown on your smart phone are not valid. Paper format coupons, only, are accepted.

ALSO IN DECEMBER...



Saturday, December 13
9 am - 4 pm
Sprinker Recreation Center



Crafter's Creations find great ideas for the upcoming holiday season!

Sellers must pre-register. Seller fee is \$35. Pre-registration begins September 2. Call (253)798-4000 to reserve your spot.

Upcoming public meetings and events

PUYALLUP RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL FORUM

Thursday, December 25

A monthly forum that is open to the public to discuss and learn more about things related to the Puyallup River watershed.

Time:

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Address:

Puyallup City Hall, Council Chambers 5th Floor
333 S Meridian
Puyallup, WA 98371

Contact:

(253) 798-6158

Email:

[Lisa Spurrier](mailto:Lisa.Spurrier@puyallupwa.gov)

Links:

[Puyallup River Watershed Council webpage](http://www.puyallupriverwatershedcouncil.org)

Central Pierce Fire & Rescue District 6 events and meetings

SANTA PANCAKE AND PHOTO OP

Location: Station 66 9318 128th ST E; Puyallup 98373

Start:12/6/2014 8:00:00 AM | **End:**12/13/2014 10:00:00 AM

Small fee for pancake breakfast which includes sausage and juice. Donation for photo with Santa accepted.

SANTA OPEN HOUSE

Location: Station 67 8005 Canyon Rd

Start:12/6/2014 5:00:00 PM | **End:**12/6/2014 8:00:00 PM

Take your photo with Santa at the Fire Station! Non perishable food donation accepted.

SANTA PARADE

Location: Downtown City of Puyallup

Start:12/6/2014 5:00:00 PM | **End:**12/6/2014 8:00:00 PM

After the parade Santa will be available in the Pavilion for photos. Come and join him!! Donation accepted.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Location: 17520 22nd Ave Ct E, Tacoma WA 98445

Start:12/8/2014 6:00:00 PM | **End:**12/8/2014 7:30:00 PM

The Board of Fire Commissioners meets every second and fourth Monday of the month at our Headquarters location

SANTA OPEN HOUSE

Location: Station 60 17520 22nd Ave E 98445

Start:12/13/2014 5:00:00 PM | **End:**12/13/2014 8:00:00 PM

Take your photo with Santa at the Fire Station! Non perishable food donation accepted.

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County-City Building

930 Tacoma Ave. S.

Tacoma, WA 98402

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