



## April 2015

The old saying is that April showers bring May flowers. I believe that this northwest winter will go down in our record books as one of the mildest that we have ever seen. There were several “balmy” March days with sunshine and temperatures soaring well into the 60s.

### **April also brings awareness with it; it’s the month of the Military Child.**

Families are at the heart of military service and I applaud each family member that stands united with their service member. [Pierce County Community Connections](#) is here to help our military families with their greatest needs as well. Please see the information in this letter.

One of the main roles of government is to provide solid infrastructure for its citizens so spring is also a time to turn our attention toward those pesky potholes and road maintenance. See below for a list of road projects located around the county.

In this issue you will also find information on the 82nd annual Daffodil Parade, the U.S. Open, and classes on edible gardening. Community Connections' [Aging and Disability](#) program is initiating community input for the creation of the 2016-2019 Area Plan. Also, there are Easter egg hunts and other suggestions for fun family outings and Wednesday, April 1st, is National Walking Day, so I have included trail information from Parks and Recreation. Enjoy!

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.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce".

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**Pierce County Veterans Bureau  
roles and responsibilities**



The [Pierce County Veterans Bureau](#) provides emergency assistance with food, rent and utilities to qualified indigent veterans and family members. Limited assistance with medical and other miscellaneous services is also available on an emergency need basis. The Pierce County Veterans Bureau also offers the Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration program in partnership with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.

View additional information under [Services and Resources](#).

### Services for County Veterans

- Burial
- Food
- Incarcerated Veterans Services
- Medical
- Rent
- Utilities

Here are some frequently asked questions about the Veterans Bureau:

- [Where do I apply for my veterans disability compensation benefits?](#)
- [How can I order my DD-214 or other service records?](#)
- [How do I reach the Veterans Administration and Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs?](#)



## Pierce County roads: What are the government's responsibilities?

The county's [Road Maintenance Division](#) maintains approximately 3,054 lane miles of roadway in unincorporated Pierce County.

### Road Maintenance Activities

- [Pothole repair and other road maintenance](#)
- [Chip sealing and pavement management](#)
- [Snow and ice removal](#)
- [Cleaning public drains and culverts](#)
- Sweeping public roads and removing obstructions
- [Grass and weed mowing/brush cutting in county rights of way](#)
- [Contact Pierce County Road Maintenance](#)

### Other Topics Of Interest

- [Canyon Road median landscaping](#)
- [Adopt-A-Road program](#)
- [Our commitment to the environment](#)
- [Owner Maintain Program](#)

**The County Road Maintenance Hotline is (253) 798-6000.** Requests will be acted on within 24 hours or the next business day, or you can use our [Online Maintenance Request Form](#).

Contact us for:

- Pavement repair and resurfacing
- Drainage system and culvert maintenance
- Grading and graveling shoulder areas
- Clearing roads of snow, downed trees, and debris
- Street sweeping and litter removal
- Roadside brush cutting and mowing
- Illegally placed signs

### **After Hours Road Emergencies**

Emergency maintenance, call (253) 798-6000.

For after-hours road emergencies (except downed signs), call Signs and Signals 24-Hour Response at (253) 531-6990.

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## **Special events in the City of Fife**

### **Teen Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 11-16)**

A unique twist on the traditional Easter Egg Hunt! Teens are invited to bring a flashlight, a basket and a friend or 2 for a crazy evening of Easter Egg hunting in the dark!

Tons of treats in eggs to be found and who will be the lucky one who finds the Golden Egg?? If you do, you'll win the Grand Prize! Preregistration advised by the day of.

Registration starts at 8 pm on the 3rd. Race starts at 8:30 p.m.

- Date: Friday, April 3rd
- Check-in Time: 8 p.m.
- Event Time: 8:30 p.m.
- Location: Dacca Park, Fields 3 & 4
- Cost: \$2



### **Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 3 -10)**

Sponsored by the Fife Lions Club & City of Fife. Children of all ages will enjoy searching for candy-filled eggs, pictures with the Easter Bunny, face painting, balloon making & cool prizes! Activities run at Dacca Barn from 9:30-10:45 A.M.

- Date: Saturday, April 4th
- Group Egg Hunt Times:
- Ages: 3 & U 9:45 a.m.
- Ages: 4-5 9:55 a.m.
- Ages: 6-8 10:05 a.m.
- Ages: 9-10 10:15 a.m.
- Location: Dacca Park & Dacca Barn

For additional information, visit the [Teen Flashlight/Annual Easter Egg Hunt](#) website.

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## **82nd Annual Daffodil Parade**

Come see this year's Daffodil Parade on Saturday, April 11. Parade start times are:

- Tacoma – 10:15 AM
- Puyallup – 12:45 PM
- Sumner – 2:30 PM
- Orting – 5:00 PM



The Daffodil Festival Grand Floral Parade is an annual celebration of the community, history, traditions, and growth, of its home of Pierce County.

Traveling through the four cities of Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, and Orting, the Parade consists of over 180 entries, including floats, bands, marching, and mounted units. Linking one generation to another in tradition, floats are decorated with thousands of fresh-cut daffodils, just like the daffodil flowers that grew in the Puyallup Valley since over 80 years ago.

For more information go to <http://thedaffodilfestival.org/events/daffodil-parade/>.

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## Washington State Spring Fair

**April 16 - 19, 2015**

Get ready to shake off your winter blues at Washington's biggest celebration of Spring, the Washington State Spring Fair in Puyallup, April 16 - 19, 2015. Welcome in the spring with baby animal exhibits, delicious fair treats like scones and elephant ears, tons of free entertainment including racing pigs, leaping DockDogs and free music, and learn new gardening tips and tricks at Northwest Living & Garden. Plus, see cars smashing at the Slamfest Demolition Derby and Monster Truck shows, and whirl and twirl on some of your favorite rides!

For more information go to <http://www.thefair.com/spring-fair/>.

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## Kiwanis Kids Spray Park

The new spray park, which broke ground in December 2014, is scheduled to be completed and opened to the public in May 2015. "The Spray Park will be the first for the City of Puyallup and will be an exciting addition to our wonderful Parks system. It will feature 6 above ground features and numerous ground sprays," said Parks and Recreation Director Sarah Harris. The project is funded by Puyallup Parks Capital Improvement Project funds and a generous donation of \$50,000 from the Kiwanis Club of Puyallup.



More information on the project can be found on the [City of Puyallup website](#).

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## Workshop series teaches gardening from seed to table

Pierce County residents can learn how to grow their own food during the 2015 Edible Gardens workshop series, which runs from February through November. The free series of monthly workshops, which are sponsored by Pierce County and the Pierce Conservation District, teach beginning gardeners how to plan a garden, prepare the soil, plant seeds, and harvest the food they've grown.

### Class information

- **Puyallup** – First Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. at Washington State University Extension Puyallup, 2607 W Pioneer
- **Lakewood** – Second Wednesdays (except Feb and Nov) from 6-8 p.m. at Lakewood Community Center, 9112 Lakewood Dr. SW
- **Parkland** – Second Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. at Parkland/Spanaway Library, 13718 Pacific Ave. S
- **Orting** – Third Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. at Washington Soldiers Home, 1301 Orting Kapowsin Highway E
- **Tacoma** – Third Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at Tagro Conference Center, Cleveland Way near Portland Ave.

Additional schedule and registration information along with class descriptions are available at [www.piercecountywa.org/ediblegardens](http://www.piercecountywa.org/ediblegardens).

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## Family caregivers have resources to ease their work

Caregiving is the “new normal” in American families. People who need help – whether because of age, accident, debilitating disease, chronic health conditions or simple frailty – much prefer to remain in the familiar (and affordable) surroundings of home rather than move to formal care facilities. Fully one in four families will fall into this role.

“Conversations on Caregiving” will be offered four times:

- **April 11** – 11 a.m. to noon at the University Place Library, 3609 Market Place W. in University Place
- **April 13** – 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. at the Pierce County Annex, 2401 S. 35th St. in Tacoma
- **April 15** – 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. at the County City Building Rainier Conference Room 7th Floor, 930 Tacoma Ave. S. in Tacoma

**April 15** – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Puyallup Library, 324 S. Meridian in Puyallup

“Conversations on Caregiving” is sponsored by Pierce County Community Connections [Aging and Disability Resources \(ADR\)](#) in collaboration with local community partners.

The information-only event is free and open to the public. No RSVP is required.

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## **Community input sought for aging and disability priorities**

Pierce County Community Connections Aging & Disability Resources (ADR) is initiating a process to gather community input for the creation of the 2016-2019 Area Plan. The Area Plan establishes funding priorities and the array of services that will be provided to support older adults and adults with disabilities who are living in the community.

Input can be provided at six community forums, an Internet survey, by e-mail and by mail. Information gathered will be used to help shape the “Area Plan” that will be created by ADR.

**April 16 (1 to 3 p.m.) at the Lakewood Senior Activity Center, 9112 Lakewood Drive SW, Lakewood**

An Internet survey is also available to provide input. The survey is available at [www.PierceCountyWA.org/ADR](http://www.PierceCountyWA.org/ADR). Comments can also be provided by mail to Pierce County ADR, 1305 Tacoma Ave. S., Suite 104, Tacoma, WA 98402. Email submissions can be made to [PCSeniors@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:PCSeniors@co.pierce.wa.us).

For additional information about the Community Input Forums or the Area Plan, call (253) 798-7376.

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## **National Walking Day**

The first Wednesday in April is National Walking Day. The American Heart Association sponsors this day, a day for people to get out and take a walk. Wear your sneakers (or take them with you) to work and at some point in the day, you are encouraged to take a 30 minute walk.

The Foothills Trail sits atop a historic railroad bed and snakes through the river valley southeast of Tacoma. This 25-mile-long trail is a popular commuter route and recreational destination for bicyclists, while hikers enjoy shorter, more manageable segments of the trail. One of the most scenic sections for the unobstructed views of

nearby Mt. Rainier begins in Orting and follows the Carbon River upstream through farmland and forest.

### Foothills Trail Sections & Trailheads

- [Meeker to McMillin](#)
  - [McMillin to Orting](#)
  - [Orting to South Prairie](#)
  - [South Prairie to Buckley](#)
  - [Wilkeson to Carbonado](#)
  - [Cascade Junction](#)
  - [Buckley Trailhead](#)
  - [Foothills Trail Map](#)
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### Puyallup Farmers Market starts April 18th

2015 season begins April 18<sup>th</sup> and runs through mid October. Saturdays from 9 am until 2 pm at the Pioneer Park and Pavilion.

Featuring your favorite farmers bringing their best hanging baskets, veggie and fruit starts, flowers and more – all grown right here in Washington. Add a variety of distinct artisan crafters, specialty food vendors, unique and respected non-profits and top notch entertainment and see why the Puyallup Farmers' Market is a premier regional weekend celebration!

Visit <http://www.puyallupmainstreet.com/events/puyallup-farmers-market/> for more info.

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### Rent a Game Bag for great fun at Pierce County Parks!

Are you planning a picnic or special event? Pierce County Parks and Recreation can provide the recreation equipment you need to ensure the success of your activity.

They have five different game bags available to rent and each bag requires at \$50 damage deposit.

**Bag #1**  
**Wiffle Ball**  
**\$15/day**

A fun twist on the game of wiffle ball. Bag includes pickle ball rackets, wiffle balls, bases and bag.

**Bag #2 Volleyball**

**\$15/day**

Bag includes portable volleyball standards, net and two volleyballs.

**Bag #3 Parachute**

**\$15/day**

Bag includes a 24 foot parachute, 6 game balls and activity guide.

**Bag #4**

**Kickball**

**\$15/day**

Bag includes bases, playground balls, rules and bag.

**Bag #5**

**Old Fashioned Picnic Pack**

**\$25/day**

Bag includes an old fashioned picnic pack, which includes a 75 foot tug-o-war rope, potato sacks, flying disks and cones.

To make a game bag reservation:

- Call the Parks Administration Office at (253) 798-4176 to verify availability.
- Complete and sign the [Game Bag Rental Form](#)
  - Mail or fax the form / payment to:

Pierce County Parks and Recreation  
9112 Lakewood Dr. SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499

Fx: (253) 582-7461

Email: [pccparks@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:pccparks@co.pierce.wa.us)

**Pierce County Council District 2  
County-City Building  
930 Tacoma Ave. S.  
Tacoma, WA 98402**

**CONTACT:  
Joyce McDonald  
(253) 798-6694  
[joyce.mcdonald@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:joyce.mcdonald@co.pierce.wa.us)**

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