

CITY CURRENTS



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'THE BIG CATCH' PLAZA OFFICIALLY DEDICATED

The City's newest landmark, the "Big Catch Plaza," was officially dedicated Dec. 10 before a crowd of about 150 Des Moines business leaders, City Council members and City officials, and citizens.

The centerpiece of the plaza, located at the north end of the downtown district on Marine View Drive, is the "Big Catch" sculpture by artist Richard Beyer. The life-sized sculpture depicts a smiling man dancing with a giant fish and is intended to reflect the character of the waterfront community.

Beyer, who lives and does his art work in Pateros, gave a short talk about the sculpture at the dedication ceremony. Speakers also included Mayor Richard

Kennedy and Don Halterman, incoming president of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce.

The Big Catch Plaza was a joint project between the City and Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber raised money for the project by selling 627 personalized tiles that will be permanently laid in the plaza when the weather warms. Chamber officials presented a check for \$10,400 to the City at a recent City Council meeting to help pay for development of the plaza. The Chamber and the City also split the cost of the sculpture.

The dedication ceremony also included the official lighting of the downtown Christmas tree and holiday music by the Kent Brass Ensemble.



The centerpiece of the plaza, located at the north end of Marine View Drive downtown, is "The Big Catch" sculpture by Richard Beyer.

PRATT RETIRES; OBERMILLER APPOINTED POLICE CHIEF

Assistant Police Chief Don Obermiller took over as Police Chief on January 1 following the retirement of long-time Police Chief Martin Pratt.

Obermiller is a 25-year veteran of the Des Moines Police Department, starting as a full-time patrol officer in 1971. Since then he has served as patrol sergeant, operations sergeant, detective, lieutenant and assistant chief.

He said when he started as a patrol officer the department had six officers and one clerk; today there are 30 full-time officers. "I've watched Des Moines go through the growing pains of becoming a larger city," he said.

Obermiller said his goal as chief is to get the police department closer to the community. "After living here for 25 years, I see the need for the police and community to work closely together."



Don Obermiller



Marty Pratt

He added that another goal is to ensure that police personnel work in a quality environment. "I want this to be a place where people can enjoy coming to work," he said.

The former chief, Martin Pratt, was with the department for more than 25 years, serving as chief for the last 19 years. He said when he first started as chief the department often had to rely on outside police help for assistance with major crimes and in other areas. His greatest

accomplishment was in training and developing a department that could handle the majority of the crimes itself.

"Another high point was the people I've met, not only employees but business people and citizens," he said. "I've made a lot of good friends. I'm going to miss them." Pratt said he has a lot planned for his retirement, including working in his wood shop, golf, fishing and "playing the ponies."

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**DES MOINES
DIRECTORY**

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878-4595

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Field House870-6527
Library824-6066
Marina824-5700
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NEW DOWNTOWN ZONING

The City Council has approved new zoning for the downtown area that allows more flexibility for property owners and a wider range of land uses, while still maintaining the small-town atmosphere of downtown.

The new Downtown Commercial zone was proposed by members of the business community, citizens and the city planning staff who worked together to establish new guidelines for downtown development.

"The overall intent is to take advantage of the strong interest in the revitalization of downtown, to help maximize the city's potential while still maintaining a small-town, waterfront environment," said Corbitt Loch, planning manager.

The new zoning allows light manufacturing if accompanied by retail space, and encourages boating-related uses. Further, residential and commercial uses are allowed in the same building after approval by the Community Development Department. Previously, combined residential/commercial uses required City Council approval.

Property owners will have the choice of where to place a new building on a site. For instance, some buildings that depend on pedestrian traffic could be placed close to the street, while those that need storefront parking could be placed back.

The new zoning affects the area bounded by South 216th (north), South 230th (south), 8th Avenue South (east), and Puget Sound (west). The new zoning does not affect the multi-family zoning already in place in the downtown area.

**MEETING FEB. 15 ON
TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS**

Cell Therapeutics Inc., a biopharmaceutical firm, has signed a tentative agreement with the Port of Seattle to build a major manufacturing facility at the Des Moines Creek Technology Campus in the north part of Des Moines.

The roughly 90-acre technology campus, at South 216th Street and 24th Avenue South, is on noise-impacted land that has been acquired by the Port in recent years. Since it is within the Des Moines city limits, Cell Therapeutics must obtain necessary permits and approvals from the city, including a rezone, environmental review and street vacations.

The City of Des Moines and the Port are working together on an environmental impact statement that will analyze development alternatives for the campus. A

Meeting is scheduled for

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1995

5:30 - 7 p.m. OPEN HOUSE

7 - 9 p.m. PUBLIC MEETING

City Hall Council Chambers

public meeting on the project is scheduled for Feb. 15, between 5:30 and 9 p.m., at the City Council Chambers. Interested citizens should call the Community Development Department at 878-8626 for information.

Cell Therapeutics hopes to manufacture a new drug used to offset the side effects of chemotherapy. The drug is currently undergoing FDA trials, targeting approval in 1995 or 1996. Construction of the manufacturing plant would start following FDA approval.

The facility, once operational, could employ up to 200 people in a 100,000 - 150,000 square-foot facility. Cell Therapeutics currently is located in Seattle and had been looking nationwide for a manufacturing site.

A spokesperson for the Port of Seattle said it is hoped the firm will attract other similar businesses to the campus and surrounding region. The Port is looking for other tenants who provide family-wage jobs and benefit from a close proximity to a major airport. The campus has room for three to five more firms like Cell Therapeutics.

1995 BUDGET MAINTAINS LEVEL OF SERVICES

The City Council has approved a 1995 budget that maintains and improves existing levels of city services but includes no new taxes.

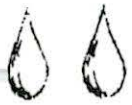
The \$17.66 million budget includes funding for three new police officers and two police community service officers. The officers are being added to maintain the 680 - 1 ratio of residents to police officers. A new street worker, electrical inspector and personnel clerk also are being added.

The budget includes an additional \$300,000 over the 1994 allotment to fight the proposed third runway at Sea-Tac

Airport.

The overall budget represents a 7 percent increase over the 1994 budget and is based on increased revenue from sales tax receipts, higher assessed valuations and increased development.

City residents will pay a lower city tax rate in 1995 because library taxes will no longer be collected by the city following the voter-approved annexation of the library to the King County Library System. The city tax rate for 1995 is estimated at \$1.68 per \$1,000 assessed valuation compared to the \$1.89 per \$1,000 in 1994.



Surface Water News



WINTER 1995

NUMBER 5

RECENT DRAINAGE PROJECTS

A total of 15 asphalt street berms were installed to help convey surface water to catchbasins. These berms, which are like small curbs, are a cost-effective way to solve many minor (but troublesome) drainage problems. This is an on-going project performed by Public Works throughout the city.

To relieve flooding at three residences in Huntington Park, Public Works replaced 11-1/2 feet of pipe that was plugged and damaged by willow tree roots.

On South 230th Street between Kent-Des Moines Road and 10th Avenue South, water seepage through the road surface was creating damage to the road and presenting a hazard to motorists in freezing conditions. Public Works found and cleaned a buried drainage pipe while maintaining the roadside ditch, which solved this problem.

In the last three months, crews installed 229 feet of pipe at the request of property owners (as part of the city's Pipe Program). An additional 265 feet of pipe were installed in various locations throughout the city to remedy local drainage problem areas.

LOCAL SERVICES

For reporting illegal oil dumping, spills or local flooding please call Frank Olson of Street Maintenance at 870-6559 or Loren Reinhold of Engineering at 370-6524. For additional information regarding the Surface Water Utility please call Loren Reinhold.

Stream Workshop a Success!

Our first stream workshop was held October 22 at the Senior Center at Des Moines Beach Park. Participants of all ages listened to presentations given by Trout Unlimited and Herrera Environmental on stream health, fish habitat protection and current activities in the City's streams (and Miller Creek). All agreed that a lot of work needs to be done to restore fish runs in Des Moines Creek and Massey Creek. Trout Unlimited reported that of 75,000 salmon fingerlings planted in Des Moines Creek only a few returned. The fish habitat appears to be degraded by oily substances, soap foam, garbage debris and erosion of stream banks caused by flash floods.

Following the presentation, attendees were able to observe and participate in the collection of microinvertebrate (stream "bugs") from Des Moines Creek, just outside of the Center. After careful collection, the bugs were placed under microscopes for identification. Many were surprised to see a large count of leeches ("yuck") - yet another indication of poor stream health. After the workshop, attendees were invited to the Marina to look at Trout Unlimited's fish pen where Coho and Blackmouth salmon are currently being reared.

We would like to give a special thanks to Mount Rainier High School for the use of their microscopes, to the several volunteers who are busy reading our newly installed stream gauges, and to Trout Unlimited for the valuable input at the workshop. With help like this, our goal to clean up and restore our streams will soon be realized!



A Vactor truck is used to clean out catch basins and storm lines to improve surface water drainage.

PLANS FOR IMPROVING MASSEY CREEK

The "Lower Massey Creek Alternatives Analysis" study was recently completed. There were three primary objectives of the study:

- 1) To reduce the peak flows, thus reducing flash flooding hazard.
- 2) To improve the water quality in the creek.
- 3) To improve the channel fish habitat.

Four alternatives were evaluated in order to come up with the lowest cost plan which will meet the objectives. The preferred alternative is to construct three regional detention facilities, increase the size of a number of key culverts, and make channel improvements, particularly in the lower portion of the creek between 10th Avenue South and Marine View Drive.

The improvements will take place as Storm Water Utility capital project funding becomes available. The first project which is expected to be completed in 1995, is the City Park regional detention facility. It will be located adjacent to Kent-Des Moines road east of 21st Avenue South. It is expected to provide 6.7 acre-feet of storage during flood events. Additional information regarding the "Lower Massey Creek Alternative Analysis" study can be obtained by contacting the Des Moines Public Works office at 878-8626.

NEW PUBLIC WORKS CHIEF

Tim Heydon took over Nov. 21 as the new Public Works Director for the City of Des Moines. Dale Schroeder, former Public Works Director, this fall took a position with the City of SeaTac. Heydon comes to Des Moines from the City of Kent where he was Public Works Operations Manager for seven years. Previously, he was Director of Public Works for the City of Snohomish.



Heydon

Among his greatest challenges in his new position in Des Moines is to administer the storm water drainage utility, including completing a number of drainage projects. He said that even though much of the storm water system is underground and not visible to everyone, people will notice some improvements as the projects are completed. Heavy rains this fall caused only minor flooding in areas where flooding has been much worse, showing that improved storm water system maintenance does make a difference. "We're working hard to make things better," he said.

Heydon said another challenge will be to undertake future street improvement projects at a time when state and federal funding is being drastically reduced.

WOODMONT ANNEXATION

The City of Des Moines has received a petition from residents of the Woodmont and Redondo areas for annexation to the city.

The annexation would increase the population of the city by 30 percent, or 7,000 to 8,000 people.

The proposed annexation area is bounded by South 272nd Street (south); Puget Sound (west); Pacific Highway South (east); and the Des Moines city limits (north).

The Des Moines City Council is studying the annexation proposal and the potential impacts on the city. The Council will vote in January whether or not to accept the annexation petition and place the measure on the ballot. Registered voters in the annexation area would vote on the proposal with a simple majority needed for passage.

✈️ AIRPORT COALITION UPDATE ✈️

The Airport Communities Coalition fought hard on many fronts in 1994 to stop the Port of Seattle's plans to add a third runway to Sea-Tac Airport. Here's a thumbnail look at some of the steps ACC officials took during the year on behalf of the citizens of its member communities – the cities of Des Moines, Burien, Tukwila and Normandy Park and the Highline School District.

In 1994:

- Testified before the House and Senate Transportation committees of the Washington Legislature, and prepared briefing materials for legislators and other key Olympia officials.

- Met with representatives of neighboring communities also affected by growing airport noise, including Federal Way, SeaTac and Mercer Island.

- Coordinated efforts with citizens' groups battling Sea-Tac expansion at the grassroots level, including the Regional Commission on Airport Affairs.

- Provided testimony and written comments to a special arbitration panel appointed by the state Transportation Secretary to evaluate the Port's progress on noise control and efficiency at Sea-Tac Airport. The panel's refusal to rubber-stamp Port claims – demanding instead in December that the Port produce noise reduction that is noticeable and meaningful to ordinary citizens – was a huge victory for runway foes.

- Contributed op-ed page articles and letters-to-the-editor and appeared before the editorial-page boards of several major newspapers in the region to explain the plight of area residents and make a case for finding alternatives to Sea-Tac expansion.

- Conducted interviews for countless TV, radio and newspaper stories about the third runway controversy. By keeping the heat on in the media, third runway foes succeeded this year in crushing the Port's hopes to stymie opposition by portraying the third runway as a done deal. A good example was the coverage following the Puget Sound Regional Council executive board's October vote to abandon its search for a supplemental airport site. Instead of singing the Port's song, virtually every major news account made clear that the opposition of local

governments and grassroots citizen groups in South King County had stiffened over such a blatantly political maneuver, and that a third runway was no closer to reality.

- Lobbied lawmakers and policy-makers in King County and Olympia with the aid of South King County's representatives in the Legislature.

- Laid the crucial groundwork for potential legal challenges to the third runway.

In 1995:

The fight against the third runway will redouble in 1995. While citizens' efforts have succeeded in putting the Port on the defensive and turning many fence sitters' minds against Sea-Tac expansion, there is no doubting the political and financial resources pro third runway interests will muster. For ACC communities to remain giant killers, here are some of the expanded efforts planned:

- Prepare a host of challenges to the third runway and the terrible effects its construction would have on the region's environment. Before one shovel of dirt can be turned, the Port will have to justify why it will destroy precious wetlands in Des Moines and Miller creeks, pollute the waters of Puget Sound and streams that feed it, destroy historic archeological sites and endanger the region's wildlife.

- Respond to the Environmental Impact Statement the Port must file in April 1995 as it affects air, water, noise, health and safety in South King County communities.

- State ACC's case more aggressively on the many environmental issues from which the Port may run, but can't hide.

- Organize a speakers' bureau to make the case against Sea-Tac expansion and for alternative transportation solutions before business and civic groups throughout the region.

- Expand ACC's influence by increasing the ranks and commitment of member communities.

- Reach out to the South King County business community, many of whose interests will suffer as badly from third-runway construction as will ACC communities residents.



CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Richard Kennedy
Mayor

Scott Thomasson
Mayor Pro Tem

Lew Anderson
Council member

Terry Brazil
Council member

Jeanette Burrage
Council member

Dan Sherman
Council member

Gary Towe
Council member

SEPTEMBER 1994

Approved the following Ordinances:

- Ordinance No. 1100 adopting landscaping standards for proposed public utility facilities.
- Ordinance No. 1102 relating to sound transmission requirements for additions and remodels.
- Held a public hearing to review funding allocations for 1995 Block Grant program projects.

OCTOBER 1994

- Acknowledged "Best City Project for 1994" award for the downtown project by the State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

- Reviewed the 1995 preliminary budget.
- Approved the Interlocal Emergency Dispatch Agreement with Valley Communications.
- Awarded the contract for small overlay projects to Lakeridge in the amount of \$32,710, plus sales tax and authorized the City Manager to sign.
- Awarded the contract for the Big Catch Plaza construction project to T.C. Quinn Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$67,962.50 plus sales tax, plus a contingency and authorized the City Manager to sign.
- Held a public hearing regarding a textual code change adoption a Downtown Commercial

- (DC) zone.
- Approved the following ordinance:
 - Ordinance No. 1104 establishing a downtown commercial (D-C) classification or zone, with accompanying land use regulations; amending landscaping and parking regulations applicable to the downtown commercial zone; providing for appeals of administrative decisions; amending the definition of "mixed use".
- Approved the following Resolution:
 - Resolution No. 777 endorsing the efforts of the National League of Cities to inform citizens about the impact of unfunded federal mandates and resolving to educate members of the Washington State

Congressional Delegation about the impact of unfunded federal mandates.

NOVEMBER 1994

- Approved the following ordinances:
 - Ordinance No. 1105 regulating the use of bicycle paths, prohibiting the use of bicycle paths for vehicular traffic, prohibiting parking in bicycle paths, authorizing the impound of unattended vehicles found in bicycle paths, and providing penalties.
 - Ordinance No. 1106 amending sections of the zoning code and adding new provisions to provide revised regulations for family daycare providers and adult family homes.
 - Directed Administration

to prepare amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, North Neighborhood Element to study inclusion of siting of a sports park facility

- Authorized the City Manager to sign the amendment to the Conservation Futures Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between King County and the City of Des Moines for open space bond acquisition projects.
- Approved the following resolution:
 - Resolution No. 778 declining to ratify the countywide planning policies adopted by King County pursuant to the Growth Management Act and stating the objections of the City of Des Moines.
 - Held a public hearing

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