

City Manager Report

July 7, 2020



Postponing National Night Out

Newcastle Police Chief Jason Houck is asking communities to postpone their National Night Out Against Crime block parties due to COVID-19. Chief Houck says he hopes the gatherings can be rescheduled for October. The official National Night Out organization encourages communities to reschedule for Tuesday, October 6.

A Message from Chief Houck on Face Masks

Newcastle Police Chief Jason Houck shared this message to the community, explaining how NPD will enforce the statewide mask orders:

“NPD has received several questions regarding Governor Inslee's recent order regarding masks that indicated it would be a misdemeanor crime punishable by 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine if they were not worn. As we did during the initial stay at home order, NPD will continue to take an educational approach to this and focus our crime fighting efforts on other areas of concern.

NPD feels that the residents in Newcastle have done an exceptional job navigating through this very tough time with COVID-19 and see no reason that you will not continue with this effort as you are able to, allowing yourself and those around you the best chance to be safe and healthy.”

Newcastle Businesses Awarded State Grant

VERDE Organic Body and Coal Creek Family Vision will receive \$5,000 awards from the state's highly competitive Working Washington Small Business emergency grant program. If you'll recall, this is the state program that was announced back in April and required the City to play a role in helping to verify completeness and minimum state qualifications for our community's applicants. Congratulations! Any little bit helps as our business community recovers.

Recycling Event Rescheduled

COVID-19 forced us to postpone our highly popular spring recycling event. Luckily, we've rescheduled the program, and it will now be held at Hazelwood Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 18 with strict COVID-19 protocols in place. Attendees are encouraged to wear masks when they come to drop off items. All of the usual items will be accepted, with the exception of Styrofoam and packing peanuts. We could not secure that particular vendor for this date, but we anticipate they'll be back for our fall

collection event. If we've learned anything from other King County cities that have held recent collection events, expect long lines as citizens look to unload things they've held on to since spring.

General Updates

- **Avalon Parking:** The City received a complaint regarding the lack of parking for customers at businesses in the Avalon Bay area. The City has met with concerned businesses, as well as the developer, and we're developing a plan to help alleviate their concerns.
- **New Fire Engine:** Weighing in at 48,500 pounds and measuring 364.5 inches, Bellevue Fire's Engine 109 is officially here to serve and protect Newcastle citizens. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and I had the honor of participating in the traditional push-in ceremony for the new engine at Station 9.
- **Rock Painting Kits:** The City was absolutely overwhelmed by the turnout for our community rock painting kit giveaway on June 20. We ran out of the 100+ kits within the first 20 minutes. The line to pick them up wound through the Lake Boren parking lot and all the way out to Coal Creek Parkway. We had to turn away quite a few disappointed attendees after we ran out, but community members who were able to snag one were so, so appreciative. As a reminder, we funded this \$1,000 project via a 4Culture grant. It was so successful, the CAC will discuss the possibility of doing another round with additional grant funding that would've been allocated to Newcastle Days.
- **Free Chalk and Masks:** We passed out about 1,000 cloth masks and 300+ packs of chalk to Newcastle community members over two distribution days. With Fourth of July fireworks canceled, we instead asked residents to decorate their sidewalks and driveways with chalk to celebrate the holiday.
- **East King County Community Fund:** The new East King County Community Fund was launched to support vulnerable workers and families who have been impacted by COVID-19 in East King County, including Newcastle. Over the next few months, the East King County Community Fund aims to raise \$2 million. Learn more [here](#).