

City Insider

A NEWSLETTER BY THE
CITY OF QUINCY

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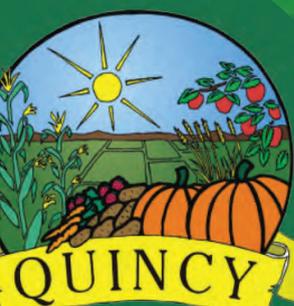
► Summer of Fun

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City reminder:

Remember to
get your permit
before you
have a
garage
sale.

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Bike patrol to cruise Quincy streets

The Quincy Police Department this summer will restart its bike patrol unit, adding another crime prevention tool to the local police force while also giving officers a more personal approach to interacting with the community.

Officers on specially equipped mountain bikes soon will be riding through the downtown area as well as residential neighborhoods and city parks. Expect to see them at community events such as National Night Out and Farmer-Consumer Awareness Day, too.

Officer Stephanie Valencia is among those Quincy officers who volunteered to train for the patrol.

"It's going to be a better way to make contact with people and talk to them," she said of why she's excited to trade in some driving time for peddling. "And it's a good workout."

The city has not had a bike patrol unit for a number of years; the short-lived program fizzled out with changes in administration at the QPD in the last six years or so. However, when Chief Bob Heimbach was hired nearly three years ago, the Quincy City Council emphasized it wanted a more community-minded police department. Among the council's goals was to bring back the bike patrol.

Heimbach, who was trained for bike patrol as an officer in Portland, is a supporter of putting officers on bikes. That's because they're more accessible to the public;



The Quincy Police Department expects to have its new bike patrol unit up and running in July.

many residents find it easier to approach an officer on a bike than one in a patrol car, he explained.

"The bike patrol can help build upon the relationship between a community and its police," Heimbach said.

The department spent \$5,700 on the bike patrol unit. Costs include the bikes and uniforms.

Three officers at QPD have bike patrol training. The Seattle Police Department, which has a full-time bike patrol program, has offered to train a Quincy officer at no cost. That officer then will train the Quincy officers.

Officers will learn some basic skills, such as how to ride a bike down stairs or over curbs, as well as more tactical skills, including how to use the bike as a defensive tool, Heimbach said.

While on bike patrol, officers will wear a different uniform; they will wear a polo shirt with pants that can zip off into shorts. The uniform and bike helmets will be clearly marked "police."

The department purchased four new bikes from a company that specializes in building police bikes. The mountain bikes, which also have "police" written on them, have small sirens and flashing lights.

Heimbach stressed that the bikes can go just about anywhere a patrol car can go. They can be used to patrol alleyways or parking lots for burglars or car prowlers. Bike patrol officers can chase down fleeing suspects or cruise the neighborhoods to introduce themselves to homeowners.

"The bikes can be extremely effective," Heimbach said.

And there's no doubt the bikes also are fun for the officers, the chief added. The bikes give them an opportunity to be outside while still doing police work.

People should begin to see the new police bikes on Quincy's streets sometime in July. Heimbach encourages people to talk to bike patrol officers when they see them.

"Don't be afraid to approach us," he said. "Come up and talk with us."

City preparing for next phase of construction project

As construction of a new police facility nears completion, the City of Quincy is making plans to begin the second and third building phases of its updated Municipal Office Complex.

In early June, the first phase of the project, which includes the construction of a new Quincy Police Department facility, was nearly 85 percent complete, said Ariel Belino, city engineer. The police department, which has met some delays, should be done by late August.

That means sometime in early fall the city's administrative functions, including the mayor's office and finance department, will be moved out of City Hall to prepare for the remodeling of that building and the old library adjacent to it.

Phase two of the Municipal Office Complex involves the remodeling of the old library into the new City Hall. It also includes expanding the Quincy City Council Chamber and creating a new public entrance on B Street Southwest.

The existing City Hall then will be remodeled into an evidence and training room for the police department in the project's third phase.

Staff originally discussed keeping City Hall open during these final two construction phases; however, the city decided to move its offices to have the least impact on citizens.

"The finance department's goal is to keep customers safely away from the construction zone with minimal impact on customer service," said Nancy Schanze, city clerk. "Because we know the construction project will be messy and loud, we were trying to determine the safest possible scenario. The answer led to our decision to move across the street."

This fall, offices for Mayor Jim Hemberry and City Administrator Tim Snead will be moved temporarily to the new police department. All other



Workers finish up the tile work in the men's locker room of the new police facility. The current facility has no locker room.

city functions currently run out of City Hall then will be moved across the street to the Public Services Building.

At the Public Services Building, a conference room will be reworked into an area for the city finance department. A window then will be built into an office space up front that is currently closed off to the public. Two city receptionists will work from that space, taking payments and answering questions from the public.

The moves will last the full duration of construction, which may take up to a year, Belino said.

"It isn't going to affect the public as much as the staff," he said.

Meet Yoli Orozco, city receptionist

There's a new face greeting the public at Quincy City Hall.

City receptionist Yoli Orozco is the first face most people see when they come to the customer counter. Hers is the voice they hear when they call asking for help.

It's Orozco's job to answer phone calls to City Hall, giving information when she can or transferring callers to other city employees who may hold the answers. The job is a great fit for the people-oriented Orozco, who admits sometimes she gets "a little chatty" with the public.

"I like people," she said. "I like to make people laugh. I like to be happy."

The receptionist's job at the front counter is a newly created position at Quincy City Hall. The city council last year, during the budgeting process, allocated money for the new position because of the increased workload on the front office that's come with the city's recent growth, City Clerk Nancy Schanze said. The position was started at the first of the year.

"Having Yoli at the counter has minimized interruptions during training for utility bill-

ing and processing the bills monthly," Schanze said. "Yoli has been very quick to take on new projects when the counter traffic is slow, which in turn helps the entire department. She is definitely an asset to the city."

As for Orozco, she's been working in customer service-oriented jobs most of her life. From working as a waitress and a bank teller to teaching at a preschool, Orozco has found she enjoys working around people.

"Yoli brings a positive and upbeat personality, combined with her bilingual skills, to the receptionist's position," Schanze said.

Orozco, 26, was born in Mexico but was raised in Moses Lake. The mother of two young children, she is also a newlywed. Earlier this month, she married Quincy native Beto Nunez, who is an HVAC/boiler maintenance technician at Amway. The couple has lived in Quincy six years, moving away briefly to Las Vegas. Such a large city wasn't a good fit for her family, she said.

"When we moved to Vegas, I really missed this little town," she said. "It's calmer here. People know each other. People help each



City of Quincy receptionist Yoli Orozco.

other."

Orozco, who is new to working in city government, said her job has been an eye-opening experience in only six months. She learned quickly that citizens can have much say in how their local government operates.

"Being here (I learned) the city is pretty much run by the citizens, and it's a shame that a lot of people don't know that," she said. "If they did know that, they would be more involved with the community."

Young people have a voice in Quincy's future



Mayor Jim Hemberry

I was reading the Quincy School District newsletter last month and found Superintendent John Boyd's article of particular interest. Mr. Boyd described his experience judging senior projects this year and how impressed he was with the students in his group.

I too had the honor of judging senior projects this year and found the experience very rewarding. This was my first time as a judge, and I did not know what to expect.

What I found were young people who are prepared for their future. I was impressed that

students viewed their projects as an opportunity to tell their stories, not as an assignment required for graduation.

The senior project experience prompted me to think about students who I have had interaction with in my role as an elected official.

Three years ago, the Quincy City Council created a position called student representative. A senior fills that position each year. A junior also is chosen to serve as an alternate representative. The alternate representative, who then moves into the primary rep position his or her senior year, attends City Council meetings in the primary representative's absence and also serves on the City Recreation and Arts Commission.

The student representative has the opportunity to enter into discussions the City Council has on a variety of issues but is not allowed to cast a vote. The three students who have served in this position are Luis Perez, Joanna Santana and Kaitlin Ramsey. I was very pleased with the article written by Ms. Ramsey and printed in the local newspaper, detailing her experience as the student representative. Her experience working with the City Council and learning about city government will undoubtedly help her and previ-

ous representatives to become effective leaders in the future.

Our newest representative, Carlos Guadarrama, began his term June 1, and I am looking forward to working with him. Carlos has served as the alternate student representative for the past year so he is familiar with what lies ahead. The City is currently working with the school district to recruit an alternate representative.

I also recently attended the annual Let's Draw the Line event, presented by Youth Action Interact, Quincy Communities That Care and the Quincy Community Health Center. The event is planned and carried out by youth in our community who are committed to "drawing the line" between young people and substance abuse. I have attended this event every year and I am impressed with the young people involved who have chosen to stand up for their beliefs. Their willingness to take a leadership role in promoting awareness of the issue of substance abuse and how to deal with peer pressure surrounding it is admirable.

Before becoming involved with City government, when my children were living at home, I was a Cub Scout leader and Little League, youth soccer and AAU basketball coach. It was a privilege to work with many amazing young people. Today I am pleased to see the children of many of those young people becoming involved in our community.

It is obvious to me that the youth in Quincy are being well prepared to become future leaders. These leadership skills are taught by parents, teachers, mentors, employers and others who take the time to work with them. I believe that the more we include youth in decisions that affect tomorrow, the better off we will be.

The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. From my experiences working with our youth, I can say that the future is in great hands.

Mayor Hemberry can be reached at 787-3523, extension 201, or at jhemberry@quincywashington.us

Quick Facts: Summer To-Do List

Yard Sales: Any person, including nonprofits, holding a yard sale within the city limits is required to get a permit at City Hall. The \$2 permit is limited to three consecutive days. (The fee is waived for nonprofits.) Each location is limited to two yard sales a year and no more than five families can participate in any yard sale. For information about how many signs you can put up, and where they can be placed, read the full code at www.codepublishing.com/WA/Quincy/.

Park Reservations: Park reservations are available for all gazebos, softball fields, soccer fields and tennis courts within the city's parks. Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. It costs \$15 to reserve a gazebo for the day and either \$10 an hour or \$50 for the day to reserve a softball or soccer field or a tennis court.

Dog Licenses: Any dog that is over a year old and resides in the city limits must be spayed or neutered, unless it is a certified purebred dog. Dog licenses are required for all dogs over 4 months old. The cost to license a dog that's been altered is \$5. For dogs certified purebred, the cost is \$12. To license your dog, bring a copy of its current rabies vaccination and proof of alteration and/or purebred certification to the Quincy Animal Shelter, 213 6th Ave. N.E.

Compost Facility: The City Compost Facility's hours have changed. Summer hours are 7:15 to 11:15 a.m. and 12:15 to 3:15 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Bike License: Free bike licenses are available at the Quincy Police Department. Bring your bike down to the QPD, where a police clerk or officer will take the bike's description and information to log into its system. If your bike is stolen and recovered by the police, the QPD then will be able to notify you that it's been recovered.

Quincy Municipal Code can now be found online at www.codepublishing.com/WA/Quincy/

City Directory

City Hall: 787-3523

Police Department
(non-emergency):
787-4718

Building Department: 787-3056

Recreation Department:
787-3523, ext. 251

Public Works: 787-4131

Animal Shelter: 787-8010

Quincy Public Library: 787-2359

Quincy Aquatic Center: 787-4158

The Quincy City Council meets at
7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday
of every month at City Hall.

Swimming, day camp & bus tours – it's gonna be a busy summer

Could there be any better time than summer to check out what the Quincy Recreation Department has going?

From spending an afternoon cooling off at the Quincy Aquatic Center to joining in a bus tour of a lavender farm, there are many opportunities through the rec department to pack your summer with fun.

"We've got something for everyone, from family events to day camps for the kids," said Russ Harrington, rec director. "I encourage families to get active this summer."

The Quincy Aquatic Center, at East Park, is the perfect place to stay cool on a hot summer day. Opening on June 17, the aquatic center features two large slides, a zero-depth wading pool, fountains, a deeper wading pool and a traditional lap pool. It also has changing rooms, a concession stand and a picnic shelter.

Open swim at the pool is daily, 1 to 5 p.m. during the week and 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Half-price family swims are 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Here are some important dates this summer at the pool:

- June 20: The first round of swimming lessons begins. Swimming lessons run about two weeks and are held daily Monday through Thursday. Sessions also start July 5, July 18 and Aug. 1. To register, go online to www.qtownrec.us. Or, beginning June 17, you can register at the pool.

- June 23: Family Splash. On this day families get into the aquatic center for half price (season ticketholders get in for free). The event includes games and prizes as well as water safety education. The splash is a family event; it is not a drop-off time for children.

- July 14: Second Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta. Start getting those boats ready because the regatta is back. The curious can attend to see which boats sink or float. All ages welcome to participate. The event is 6:30 to 8 p.m.

- Aug. 15-19: Junior lifeguard training. This three-hour class, 9 a.m. to noon, is for young swimmers 12 to 14 years old. It's a must-do for anyone

considering being a lifeguard in the future.

- Aug. 28: Doggie swim. The aquatic center closes to the people on this day and opens its pool up to the dogs. After all, even man's best friend needs a day to himself.

While the aquatic center is the place to cool off this summer, the Quincy Activity Center,



Quincy pool lifeguards train for the summer season.

105 2nd Ave. S.E., will host the summer day camp programs.

The rec department has four week-long, half-day camps planned. The camps are for ages 5 to 12 years old and cost only \$15. Camps run 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; campers can be dropped off at 7:45 a.m.

The day camps include a free lunch served by the Quincy School District's summer feeding program. In fact, the weekday lunch program is open to all children 17 and younger. Parents can register children for the day camps up until the Thurs-

day before the first day of camp. The four camps planned this summer are:

- June 27: STEM Camp. This is a new camp for the rec department. Kids will dabble in science, technology, engineering and math through games and other activities.

- July 11: GREAT Camp. Back by popular demand, the Quincy Police Department will be leading this day camp, which centers on its GREAT curriculum.

- July 25: Wild About Sports. Be prepared to get active in this summer camp favorite.

- Aug. 8: Science Camp. This camp isn't only for young science enthusiasts; it's for anyone with a sense of curiosity and a penchant for fun.

The rec department also is organizing several summer events that the entire family can participate in together.

Among those events is the annual Relay for Life on June 25. The relay, held annually at the track at Quincy Junior High School, is a fundraising event put on in communities around the country. Money raised goes to help in the fight against cancer.

This year, the relay starts at 5 p.m. and runs to midnight. Teams will be doing laps around the track while other activities are going on. The evening includes music by a D.J., a silent auction and the emotional survivor walk. Concessions also will be available.

And don't forget to check out the schedule for the free Quincy bus tours, now a longstanding summer tradition. The bus tours, held on eight Saturdays this summer, are an opportunity for people to get to know a little more about Quincy. From geology and historical tours to visits to unique local businesses, the bus tours appeal to a variety of interests.

Tours begin at the Reiman-Simmons House parking lot, 415 F. St. S.W. They start at 11 a.m. and seats are reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis. You will want to be at the parking lot by 10:30 a.m. to get a seat on the 18-passenger city bus.

For a full list of the tours, as well as other events hosted by the Quincy Recreation Department, go to www.qtownrec.us.

On your mark. Get set. Read!

The Quincy Public Library has kicked off its summer reading program – and that means a full calendar of activities for not only young readers but also teens.

Go to the library, 208 Central Ave. S., to sign up preschoolers and elementary school students for the

free reading program. Teens and adults can sign up at www.ncrl.org. Readers will earn prizes while they enjoy reading.

For a full list of summer library events, follow the Quincy Washington Public Library on Facebook.

