

We've had a lot of company in the City of Milton in the month of March. Starting with a **Town Hall Meeting**, in which All of our state legislators asked to come to Our City to meet with You. Representative Linda Kochmar, Representative Carol Gregory (who is new to our city), and Senator Mark Miloscia. Senator Miloscia has been a great supporter of our city in the past as a house representative, but even more so now as our new Senator. We had a great turnout, and our representatives all gave their impression on how this legislative session is going. All three spoke on the completion of Highway 167, as well as their concern on funding schools. I'm personally hearing a lot more positive cooperation than I have heard in the past; I really believe our legislators want to see good work get done, and I think they will.

It was especially nice for Representative Kochmar to see the completion of the roof on the Milton Activity Center, as well as the delivery of the ADA bathroom structure to the park. She was extremely instrumental in helping us get the **grant money** for both projects. We have asked for more grant money to do the roof on City Hall, and it helps for them to see it in person. Grant money to maintain our very old facilities is so appreciated! Thank You, Representative Kochmar!



Senator Miloscia, Representatives Kochmar and Gregory, Mayor Perry

Next, Congressman Reichert asked to host the **Pierce County Mayor's Meeting** in our city. This was a very exciting honor, and the staff spruced things up so nice for our honored guests. I was quite proud! The Sun even came out. Congressman Reichert also said there was a sense of cooperation in this legislative session. He spoke on his concerns about making our ports competitive in today's market. I really enjoy hearing from Congressman Reichert; he is such an advocate for our youth and our schools.



Congressman Reichert hosted his “Pierce County Mayor’s Meeting” at the City of Milton.



It hasn't all been happening in the City of Milton – I've attended some fantastic meetings outside of our city last month, also. One that I'm most excited about was held by our new **school** superintendent, Kevin Alfonso. I've never seen such **community outreach** to the extent that Mr. Alfonso has done. We all care so much about our schools and our youth. Even if you currently don't have children in the school system, it's easy to see how it affects our entire community, now and in the future. Caring isn't enough, though – we need a good plan with measureable goals. This is where these outreaches are so important. A plan in a vacuum seldom works. I see a lot of positive things coming out of this new administration.

I also attended the **Port of Tacoma's** Annual Breakfast and heard Port CEO John Wolfe speak. Again I heard echoed that cooperation is the key. I think Mr. Wolfe is an amazing leader, and if anybody can put us in front in this competitive market, the current leadership at the Port of Tacoma will get it done. The new-found cooperation with the leaders at the Port of Seattle is helping to make it happen, too. One of the things I heard over and over is that these ports are publicly owned – they are the gateways to our region. We need to be thinking much more regionally, cooperating with ourselves. We were left with this thought: "We can write our own story."

**Our story** isn't written only by the leaders. It starts in our own communities. This is the time to get involved. With the passing of our very own Bart Taylor, Council has appointed Susan Johnson to fill Position 2 until the next election. Council also appointed Councilmember Lois Zaroudny to be Mayor Pro Tem. I have the utmost confidence in Lois and know that she will do a great job.

Finally, we have a lot of **new faces** around the City right now. I'd like to welcome our new Public Works Director Michael Mecham. Michael comes to us with a lot of experience, as well as a "let's see how we can get this done" attitude. We also have several other new employees. Our future is looking very bright – might need to reach for those sunglasses.