

**Mayor's column for
The Enterprise
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Happy New Year! What will 2005 bring us? It certainly has started out cold and . . . well, colder! One thing for certain is that the City Council will be dealing with land use issues, again! Just like last year, and the year before, and the year before. This year will be special, however, in that they will be reviewing the City's comprehensive plan. This is a great opportunity for you, as residents, to create the Edmonds of the future—at least the near future. There will be discussions and public hearings as they move through the process. This is your time to tell the Council how you feel about a wide variety of topics. Building heights, condos, and development concerns are all fair game. The Council needs to hear what is important to you. Don't miss your opportunity!

Something very exciting has already happened in 2005 in the Mayor's Office, my Executive Assistant, Linda Carl, has written a novel and had it published. It is the story of teenage boy and his internal struggles with growing up. The title is "Headstrong" and is available at the Edmonds Bookshop and by special order, or online at Borders, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.com. You can also purchase it directly from the publisher at iUniverse.com. We are all very proud of her and wish her the best. No worries about her leaving the City, however. She does too good a job here to let her go!

I recently attended a presentation by the Director of Paine Field in which he spoke of the possibility, again, of expanded commuter flights at the airfield. He had been given a directive by the County Executive to begin "Community Outreach" on his plan. His presentation was a good one; clearly slanted to his point of view. He spoke extensively about the quiet nature of jets these days—versus the "old 727s"—that currently fly air freight in and out of Paine Field today. I'm still of the opinion that if this service was so lucrative, the airlines would be knocking down doors to get here. Those who have tried have not lasted too long. The question remains: "What will it take to lure carriers to Paine Field?" And then the follow up question is, "Who will pay?"

This year is also an election year for the City Council. There are three seats up for election in November, and those seats are currently held by Councilmembers Dawson, Wilson, and Plunkett. So, as I say every election year, if you don't feel that Council policy reflects your views, this is your every-other-year opportunity to do something about it. Your next shot will be in 2007!

As I said early on, the City Council will be taking up the City's comprehensive plan this spring, and this is your chance to mold the community's growth plans. Once the Planning Board has finalized their recommendations, the City Council will be studying them and eventually will hold public hearings for you to have your say. If you have questions about the proposal, I urge you to contact a Councilmember, City staff member, or the Mayor's Office. I also urge you to do your homework. If you hear someone say that "high-rise" buildings are going to be built in Edmonds, check into it; find out if that's the truth or just a scare tactic. Usually there is a rational explanation that gets stretched beyond its intended meaning.

Again, Happy New Year to all!