

07-10-08

I've been in contact with a variety of county residents, several high profile, regarding the possibility of including their perspectives on a range of county issues, and their thoughts on solutions. These things take time, as quality usually does, but I trust our guests will provide editorials as time permits for them to do so. This website has only been live for about one week and I'm not going anywhere, so we'll wait patiently. I'm also researching several aspects of our unique circumstances, including county finances, and will be providing what I believe will be interesting and informative reporting on these issues. Stay tuned.

In lieu of a guest editorial this week, I'll address a little about the aim of this website's intended weekly media pursuit and a little about current events. The primary goal of this website is Whatcom County Government accountability (of *our tax money*), factual reporting of local issues which always seem to escape the major news outlets here, and the occasional stick poking at those in power who seem to forget that *they work for us* and that they put their garments on the same way the rest of us do. The time of kings and queens has long passed and no one is above scrutiny. There's plenty of room for stick poking opportunities for all political parties here.

As a US Armed Forces veteran, of which I devoted a significant amount of my life to, I get a little tired of hearing from those who have never served, what that sacrifice meant and what it was worth, usually in a marginalizing and demeaning way. Obviously, we're going to be very supportive of our sons and daughters who serve today, to whom the torch was passed by my generation, as it had been to me and my buddies way back when. Today's American warriors have my eternal gratitude and I pray for God's blessings, peace, and safety to those currently in harms way defending our time honored traditions and ideals.

The biggest current event this week, as was last week and the week before that is primarily a national issue. Fuel prices and our dependence on foreign oil. I've listened intently as this issue continues to be debated in national media outlets. I'm keeping an open mind about this as most things, but a few things emerge to me as boilerplate issues in the debate. #1: We are now reaping what we have sown in our collective failure to recognize the cues, the lessons of the past, and the economic and strategic importance of our energy sources. #2: We must immediately change the ways in which we acquire and expend energy. Lastly #3: It will be a struggle for a time until we can adopt new methods of acquiring and using energy.

This issue, along with others like the mortgage crunch, is really hurting people in Whatcom County. \$5 for one gallon of fuel? With no end in sight? Good grief! I don't know how some people are making it. I remember paying 48 cents to fill a one gallon fuel can. I don't blame SUV owners or the even oil companies. It's our

failed energy policies at a national level, at the hands of those who have sold us out to big money and eco-Nazi interests, along with a radically different post 9 - 11 world political scene, which has brought us to this point. We have no one to blame but us. We voted for those in power who have failed to protect us from this problem.

Where is our nuclear energy program? France operates almost entirely on nuclear power now. We can't do what France did? Where is our alternative fuels program? The entire nation of Brazil can operate fossil fuel free and we can't? What happened to all those wonderful technological developments over the years that didn't need a single drop of oil? Sadly, we're not where we need to be at this critical time. We took our eyes off the ball. We've lived on borrowed time. We've been free and easy with our energy for many years and now it's time to pay the bill and all the late fees.

I don't know all the answers, but I do know we have several times more fossil fuel resources in the United States than that of the entire Middle East. It's time to tap those resources and help hurting people here, now. Our people are more important than any Caribou or exotic fish and they need help now. That will buy us time, if we do it wisely, to solve (fix) our energy policy problems (politicians) and develop better future plans that will get us off of foreign oil. Please, please, please, sign the petition for the Drill Here, Drill now, Pay less campaign and get us back on track to a future of energy independence.

[Drill Here, Drill Now, Pay Less drive](#)

One last thought to consider. We haven't experienced another terrorist attack in nearly seven years. Or have we? I've been hearing how "energy speculators" are causing our current oil price problems. Who are they? Could they be big Middle Eastern interests? Could they be affiliated with terrorist organizations? Remember, the attacks on 9-11 were carefully planned and intended to cause economic collapse within the US, more so than loss of life and property damage. Are we experiencing another "attack" right now and just not recognizing it? Hopefully someone will tell us who the "speculators" are, soon.

~editor~