

FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY JENNIFER WILLS

We can't do it alone. It takes a village to make a village.

Longview is a great place to live, work, and play. We know it has faults and issues, but there is far more good than bad if you are willing to shift your focus on the positive - you might just be surprised by how awesome it actually is if you take the time to notice.

So that's why we get so upset when people complain about Longview. We will ask them to be more specific about why they feel our city is "so terrible".

Once they finish complaining about this problem or that problem, our next question is "what have you done to change that?" Sadly, very rarely have I had anyone have an answer. We usually get "well.... Ummm.... Yeah....." or even worse - silence - blank stares - crickets...

COMPLAINING IS LIKE A ROCKING CHAIR, IT GIVES YOU SOMETHING TO DO, BUT IT DOESN'T GET YOU ANYWHERE.

If we could institute a city wide rule it would be: if you are not willing to step in and do something to help change, you are no longer allowed to complain. Our city would either be a lot quieter - or we'd have more advocates stepping up to the challenge willing to be a part of the solution.

Whether its time, talent, resources, networking, or money - everyone has something to give. There are just as many ways to give as there are needs to be met both locally and globally.

Where we think people get scared or hung up is the tendency to focus too much on what we feel we must "give up" to give, instead of focusing on the benefit it provides. We can speak from experience that giving not only benefits those on the receiving end, but it is intrinsically rewarding to the giver.

So when you think about our amazing little town and you identify an opportunity for change - get involved, join a task force, volunteer, make your passion your purpose.

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

We know that Parks and Recreation can't do it alone - but we can do it together.

