



# Town of Hunts Point Newsletter

## Accomplishments and Objectives

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### Town of Hunts Point

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Fred McConkey

#### Council

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Jan Brekke

Ted Frantz

Jim Nordstrom

Jeff Wright

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Bridge Stuart

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Dan Temkin

Rick Tsang

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#### Town Staff

Jack McKenzie

Sue Israel

#### Town Attorney

Mike Kenyon

#### Building Department

The McAndrews Group

Every fall, the Town Council and the Planning Commission conducts a strategic planning session to review past accomplishments, and to set priorities for the future. Below, we have listed the 2004 Accomplishments and the 2005 Priorities:

### 2004 Accomplishments

1. The **Hunts Point Road LID** was formed and utility work began. The storm drainage and utility work was completed early this year.
2. A new drain field was installed to upgrade the **Hunts Point Playfield**. The grass field is now being used by the local residents for lacrosse and soccer practice.
3. The Planning Commission and Council completed an exhaustive study of the **Stringline Ordinance**, and decided not to change it, as the Hearing Examiner can issue variances to address special circumstances.
4. The **R-20 and R-20A zoning changes** were implemented, allowing for larger homes with proper setbacks. We began to see new construction in 2004 as a result of this zoning change.
5. The **2004 Clean-Up Day Cocktail Party** was a great success at Barney Ebsworth's home, with a spectacular display of modern art for all of the residents to enjoy.
6. The **Comprehensive Plan** was re-written and updated to current standards by the Planning Commission.
7. A **new Tree Code** was enacted to protect significant evergreen trees and to establish a Tree Fund for planting more large trees in the Town.
8. The Town continued **negotiations with WSDOT on SR-520** to design a freeway lid, sound walls, quiet pavement, and bus/light rail flyer stops which are beneficial to the Town.
9. The Town increased efficiency in the **Building Department**, and reduced plan review time to five days.
10. The Town upgraded and improved its **website at: [www.ci.hunts-point.wa.us](http://www.ci.hunts-point.wa.us)**

### 2005 Objectives and Priorities

1. To complete the **Hunts Point Road** project during the summer of 2005, and to minimize disruption to our residents.
2. To finalize Hunts Points' negotiations with WSDOT on SR-520, and to issue an **EIS Preferred Alternative**, confirming all mitigation measures.
3. To implement the **Emergency Preparedness Plan** to protect our Town in the event of a severe storm or earthquake.
4. To install four **Security Cameras** at the traffic circle to help identify suspects in the event of home burglaries.
5. To continue the **Milfoil Reduction Program** with a State grant and to eventually rid Hunts Point waters of milfoil.
6. To provide public comment to the **Shoreline Management Act guidelines**, and to inform residents of the new dock and bulkhead requirements.
7. To identify **volunteers** to serve on the **Planning Commission**, the **Town Council**, and the **Wetherill Nature Preserve Board** to insure full representation of the Town's residents.
8. To host an exceptional **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clean-Up Day Celebration**, and to recognize the long-term residents that have made this such a great community.



## Local News

### Message From Your

Dear Residents,

The Town of Hunts Point is in good hands. The Town Council and Planning Commission work well together in addressing issues and in making policy corrections. We work at lightning speed for a government entity as the goals are clear and we don't have much bureaucracy. We are grateful for all of the volunteers that dedicate their time and talents to this great community. We especially appreciate the former council members, planning commissioners, and the long-term residents that have preserved and protected this small and independent Town of Hunts Point.

We encourage all of you to find old pictures and tell to us stories as we prepare a history book, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town. We are hiring a summer intern to interview residents, collect pictures, and to document the history of the Town. This book will be prepared during the summer, and will be sold at the Overlake Service League Fall Feast this fall. This will be a fun year, and we sincerely welcome everyone to attend the special neighborhood events planned for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Sincerely,

Fred McConkey  
Mayor

## Tully's Town Meeting, Wednesday, April 20, 2005 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Town will host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting at Tully's Coffee Shop on Points Drive on Wednesday, April 20, 2005, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mark your calendars. This is an opportunity for residents to share their ideas and concerns with the Mayor, Town Council, Planning Commission, and Town staff. Many great ideas and action items have come from these meetings. The Mayor and Council will also give an update on the business affairs of the Town. Free coffee and pastries are served to all Hunts Point residents that attend.



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clean-Up Day, Sunday, May 15, 2005

This year will be a very special Clean-Up Day. All events will be upgraded and the Town Council members are heading up the various committees. At the Sunday evening cocktail party, we will be honoring the long-term residents of Hunts Point. Many of you will be contacted by phone or mail to provide interviews, stories, and pictures of the past 50 years on Hunts Point.

We plan to produce a memorabilia book this summer that will be sold at OSL Fall Feast. If you have any old pictures, please bring them to Town Hall. We will scan the pictures and will return them to you. More details will follow as we plan the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clean-Up Day for Hunts Point, 1955 – 2005.

## Security Surveillance System

The Town has been evaluating the installation of surveillance cameras to record who comes in and out of Hunts Point in order to identify burglary suspects. There were three burglaries in Hunts Point during November and December, and ten in Medina. All burglaries were conducted in the same manner. The burglaries occurred between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. The items stolen were high priced electronics and plasma TV's. The Medina Police have apprehended two suspects from these burglaries. Based on this recent activity, the Council has authorized the installation of four surveillance cameras at the traffic circle. We believe this new system will deter burglaries and will help us to catch criminals. In all of the burglaries, the homes had security alarms, but they were not activated. The safest program is to lock your doors and set your alarm system at all times, even during the day. It is important to note that Hunts Point has one of the lowest crime rates in the nation. The Medina Police apprehends more than 77% of the burglars. By taking proper safeguards, we hope to reduce the burglary rate closer to zero.

## Non-Conforming Uses

A home that has a variance is a legal non-conforming structure. There are many variances on Hunts Point due to our varied topography and lot sizes. In the past, a variance was required to do any work on the outside of a non-conforming structure, including replacing a roof, installing new gutters, or creating a new window. With all variances going to the hearing examiner, this requirement was costing our residents nearly \$5,000 per variance. The council recently passed an ordinance that non-conforming structures no longer require repeated variances; so long as the non-conformity is not increased. The applicant still needs to obtain a building permit for all jobs in excess of \$1,500.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

April 20, 2005, Wednesday

**Annual Town Meeting**

May 15, 2005, Sunday

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
and Clean-Up Day**

## Hunts Point Road Update

The Hunts Point Road project is progressing very well. Work now completed includes:

- a new storm drainage system with catch basins
- a new cable upgrade from Comcast
- a new gas pipeline from PSE
- new conduits (plastic pipes) along side and under the road for new utility crossings
- a new telephone line system is being designed by Qwest, and should be installed in the new conduits during 2005

The concrete replacement portion of the project will begin June 15, 2005, and will be completed in September or October 2005. At the completion of the project all driveway aprons will be repaved and landscaping will be planted. We appreciate your input on the project, and thank you for your patience during the construction.

## Hunts Point Address

We encourage all residents to please change your home address from Bellevue, WA 98004 to **Hunts Point, WA 98004**. On all retail purchases delivered to your home, the Town receives 1% of the 8.6% state sales tax, if your address reads "Hunts Point". If it reads "Bellevue" then Bellevue gets our sales tax money. This is especially important with new sales tax streaming legislation, where sales tax revenues from internet sales will be credited to the buyer's city rather than that of the seller. By making a permanent address change to Hunts Point, you can help Town finances so we don't have to raise the property tax levy rate. We are currently losing \$50,000 - \$100,000 to Bellevue, which Hunts Point needs to maintain services and our Town's independence.

## Open Positions

We are currently seeking back-up candidates that want to serve on the Planning Commission, the Town Council, and the Wetherill Nature Preserve Board. If you are interested, please call Town Hall, and the Mayor will discuss the various positions that may be available.

## R-20A Zoning

Since the R-20 and R-20A zoning changes were implemented a year ago, several new homes have been built in this zone, and more are planned for this year. The Planning Commission is evaluating the establishment of an R-20A Freeway Zone for the homes that back up to SR-520 on Hunts Point Circle. The Planning Commission will hold public hearings and gain ideas on how to promote new construction in this zone.

## Salmon Recovery Act by Ted Frantz, Councilmember

This is an update on the Endangered Species Act and Chinook Salmon Recovery legislation.

The process of salmon recovery in Puget Sound has been an extensive and complex undertaking involving local governments, Washington State, tribes, and federal government. As a region, we are approaching a major milestone of finalizing the Chinook Salmon Conservation plan in an effort to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Puget Sound Chinook Salmon was listed as threatened under the ESA in March 1999, which began a process for the region to respond to the listing. Hunts Point is part of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed, otherwise known as Watershed Resource Inventory Area #8 (WRIA8). A final draft of the WRIA8 conservation plan, including changes resulting from public comments, will be released on February 25, 2005 to be approved or remanded by the elected officials in WRIA8 by May 2005. If the plan is approved, it will be sent to the "Shared Strategies for Puget Sound" organization. Shared Strategies is the organization that will be coordinating the different WRIA plans around Puget Sound and negotiating with NOAA Fisheries on how the

## SR-520 Update

The Translake Executive Committee is set to select a preferred alternative for the EIS in June 2005. This will be the six-lane bridge, with future capacity for high capacity transit, as I have been describing for the last two years. The project is now well defined, and the State has \$40 million to complete the EIS study and preliminary engineering.

WSDOT has reprioritized SR-520 and the Alaskan Way Viaduct as the top two statewide priorities, mainly for safety reasons. The Viaduct is \$4.0 billion and SR-520 is \$2.9 billion. Much of the funding controversy comes from Seattle's desire for more high capacity transit, and Bellevue's desire for more freeway lane capacity. The King County Council is now attempting to amend the Regional Transportation Improvement District (RTID) to include light rail and high capacity transit. If the RTID is packaged with the public vote on Sound Transit Phase II (light rail on I-90, and to Northgate) the measure will likely pass a regional vote scheduled for fall 2005 or sometime in 2006. If the RTID proposal passes, SR-520 construction will begin in 2008 and will be completed seven years later. The Town has an excellent mitigation package in place that will enhance the entrance to Hunts Point. Specific information on sound walls, noise studies and artist renderings of the future improvements can be found at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520bridge](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520bridge) see February 2005, and click full "Presentation".





## TOWN OF HUNTS POINT

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## Hunts Point Resident

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## Salmon Recovery Act

(Continued from page 3)

salmon recovery plan will be implemented in our area.

The WRIA8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan addresses what actions the residents of Hunts Point can do in the effort to preserve and restore salmon habitat. Because Hunts Point shoreline is in the juvenile chinook migratory and rearing area of Lake Washington, the main focus for Hunts Point will be to restore shallow water habitats and creek mouths. Bulkheads, docks, small creeks, and land uses near the lake will be under greater scrutiny as the plan is implemented. The plan calls for reducing bank hardening by replacing bulkheads and rip-rap with sandy

Beaches with gentle slopes. For docks, the plan states, "The use of mesh dock surfaces and/or community docks would reduce the severity of predation on juvenile Chinook". Much of the plan is already being implemented through the permit process for a shoreline, dock, or bulkhead permit. Acceptance of the salmon conservation plan and the NOAA Fisheries response during this year will define the future policies of how we manage our shoreline at Hunts Point.

For further information  
[Dnr.metrokc.gov/wrias/8](http://Dnr.metrokc.gov/wrias/8)  
[www.sharedsalmonstrategy.org](http://www.sharedsalmonstrategy.org)