Inside this issue:

Local News—Mayor's Message  
Tree Cover  
Emergency Management  
Milfoil Control  
SR520 New Bridge Report  
House Numbers on Docks  
Hunts Point Road  
Tennis Courts  
Round About Manners  
Town of Hunts Point

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Fred McConkey

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Jack McKenzie
Sue Israel

Town Attorney
Mike Kenyon

THE HUNTS POINT CIRCLE OF OVERLAKE SERVICE LEAGUE (OSL)

Cordially invites you to attend our annual

Fall Feast and Cocktail Party Fundraiser

Sunday, October 29, 2006
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

At the spectacular new home of Rod and Janice Olson
3645 Hunts Point Road

Fall Feast – Sunday, October 29

Please mark your calendars and Save the Date! This is an event not to be missed! Our annual Hunts Point Fall Feast Fundraiser event will be held on Sunday, October 29 from 5:30 – 8:00 PM at the beautiful home of Janice and Rodney Olson. Invitations were mailed out in early October to all residents of Hunts Point. This is a very fun evening of wine, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and socializing with all of your Hunts Point neighbors. Adults only please; Valet parking provided. This is the largest fundraiser of our Hunts Point Circle of Overlake Service League. All proceeds benefit children and families in need within the Bellevue School District. We hope you will plan to attend this wonderful evening! For more information, please contact Circle Chair, Marilyn Herzberg at (425) 455-1245.

Hunts Point Circle—Overlake Service League

The Hunts Point Circle of Overlake Service League has their monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month from 9:30-11AM at one of the member’s homes. All Hunts Point Circle members either live on Hunts Point or used to live on Hunts Point. Our Circle consists of about 75 Hunts Point women, and we are always looking to welcome new members. Circle meetings are fun, social, and a great way to meet and keep up with your friends and neighbors, while doing something very worthwhile for the larger community that we live in. The November 1st meeting is at Laurie Ashbaugh’s home in Vuecrest. For more information about membership, please contact Circle Chair, Marilyn Herzberg at (425) 455-1245.
Local News

Message From Your Mayor…

Dear Residents:

It was a great summer at Hunts Point and we hope everyone enjoyed the outdoors and the weather. Now with October and the rain upon us, we are planning the fall activities. One of the many benefits of living on Hunts Point is the sense of community with your neighbors. It is easy to know your neighbors, socialize, get the kids together, and have a good time. We invite you to attend the Fall Feast and the Halloween activities this year. Hunts Point is a special place because of its people. We hope to see you at the fall functions.

I especially appreciate the performance of a fellow Cougar, Jack McKenzie, a superior Town Administrator. The Town is humming like a top.

Sincerely,

Fred McConkey
Mayor

Has Tree Cover Declined Over Time?

To test the effectiveness of the Hunts Point tree removal code and to see if Hunts Point is losing tree cover over time, a study was undertaken. This is a study of the percentage of tree cover change from 1953 through 2004. For the study, we focused on the years 1995 to 2004.

The conclusions for this study were that an evenly aged stand of mostly Douglas Fir and Western Red Cedar had risen from a 1903 clear-cut by Leigh J. Hunt; to improve the view from his home on the tip of Yarrow Point. This stand has stayed in essentially the same area and has filled in over time. There were more trees on Hunts Point in 1953, but this fifty-year-old stand of trees are matured and now are much bigger trees. We now have a similar percentage of canopy cover compared to the past. The average percentage of land in canopy cover throughout Hunts Point, according to our study, was maintained at sixty percent or greater over time.

This would indicate that canopy cover has been conserved and maintained with the planting and management practices contained in the tree code, and tree appreciation from residents.

The last section of this study will be a tree inventory done on the ground; we have already completed the public right of way section of this study. Now we are asking your help so we can inventory all the significant trees on Hunts Point. If you want to help us find and catalog the trees we have, give us a call at (425) 455-1834 and let us know when we can access your property for the inventory. This Intern Study is being conducted by John Kenney, a student at the University of Washington College of Urban Forestry.

Emergency Management

The CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training classes, headed by Bruce Swenson, have begun. The next class starts in November. They are eight 3-hour sessions on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 9:30 pm at Medina City Hall. Classes are limited to 25 persons. November class is filling up. It is highly recommended everyone in The Town’s Emergency Organization Plan take this course. Town officials should also take this course. To sign up call Medina Police at (425) 454-1332. Contact Bruce Swenson, CERT Team Captain at bru@nwlink.com for more questions.

Milfoil Control

This past summer was a bad year for milfoil. The main problem is that even though we spray for milfoil in mid-July, no one else does, and so the milfoil spreads back into our waters. Additionally, the north winds blow milfoil fragments into our bays. Additionally, there was a late algae bloom, producing green particles on the surface. We can improve these conditions, but it is an uphill battle. On The Town’s side, we will continue to spray for milfoil, and we are lobbying neighboring towns to treat their waters too. In addition to Town funded programs, we are also working with the State for lake-wide DOE Milfoil Treatment. There are various private pay options available to neighborhood groups. The Fairweather Basin Homeowners Association heard a presentation from Aquatic Weed Control. We are evaluating various measures for next year including:

1. Cutting and removal of milfoil
2. Removal of dead floating milfoil
3. Bottom barriers
4. Canal Screens with weed removal
5. Additional chemical treatment (DOE approved, and safe)

If other neighbors or neighborhood groups are interested, please call Jack at Town Hall, (425) 455-1834 for program coordination. The website for Aquatic Weed Control (AWC) services is www.awc-america.com. Check them out to see if you want to participate. Contact Tim Jewell, AWC, at (206) 772-6036 to provide individual and group pricing quotes.
SR520 New Bridge Project

The latest crisis for the 520 project has been a dramatic increase in the cost of building materials. Over the last three years, the price of concrete, steel and copper has skyrocketed. The same $2.9 Billion bridge is now estimated at $4.2 Billion. The same 30-40% cost increases apply to the Viaduct and other projects causing a huge funding gap from prior plans. The State plans to bridge that gap with various user fees and tolls. The tax increase funding proposals go to the voters in November 2007.

The SR520 Draft EIS was released early this summer, with comments due by the end of October. The Points Communities have formed a joint statement in response to the EIS with the preferred alternative shown below. The Points communities are evaluating traffic patterns at the 84th Ave. ramp to reduce cut-through and back-up traffic in our neighborhoods. Overall, everything is going well, and all of our local towns and cities are on the same page. If funding is approved in November 2007, the project will begin in 2009 to 2012. For more detailed information, go to www.wsdot.gov/projects/SR520Bridge.

House Numbers on Docks

The Mercer Island Marine Patrol would like Hunts Point waterfront owners to install six inch house numbers on the end of your docks. In the event of an emergency, the Marine Patrol will then know the location of an accident. This request follows up on a double drowning in Cozy Cove where address house numbers would have pinpointed the location. Also, with this tragic drowning, it is important to wear life jackets when swimming in the open lake. The wind and boat wakes can cause extremely rough water, making swimming dangerous. We commend an 18 year old Hunts Point resident who survived and tried to save his cousins, but couldn’t. Our sympathy to the families.

The City of Medina offers free swimming lessons at their City beach in the summer. It is a good idea to teach children to swim early in life.

Hunts Point Road

The Hunts Point Road grass is doing fairly well. For those that haven’t, we encourage you to extend your sprinkler system to the road side grass areas, and mow the grass. For shaded areas where the grass just won’t grow, we will add gravel in the spring. Overall the road looks very good, and we appreciate everyone taking care of their landscaping on the road frontage.

Tennis Courts

We are completely rebuilding and re-fencing the tennis courts at our park. The rain began before we could finish, so the final top surface and paint will be completed this spring. It will be a first class tennis court, with Hunts Point residents having priority with an entrance key pad. See you on the new tennis courts in May.

Round About Manners

The traffic circle works well, but occasionally there is confusion and near misses, mainly by those from out of town. Proper traffic circle etiquette is to always go to the right, and when entering, yield to cars already in the circle. When in doubt, go slow and watch out for other drivers that are clueless.
We encourage everyone to turn out to vote this November 7th at Town Hall or by mail. There are several important elections and initiatives on the ballot. Voters Pamphlets have been mailed to you, or are available at the libraries. None of the Hunts Point elected officials are up for election this year.

Fall Vote

We are proud to report there have been no house break-in burglaries during 2006. The only activity is construction site tools missing, one mail theft, and a check forgery. We have added the security cameras and have increased police patrols, as well as parking a manned or unmanned police car by the traffic circle. We are on a two year plan to implement more security measures as outlined in our security consultant report, commissioned in Spring 2006. Our target is zero home break-in burglaries per year.

Toddler Group

A group of parents have organized to get together so neighborhood kids can meet and play together. The group meets the first Friday evening of every month at different homes. The next meeting is Friday, November 3rd at Janet Daly’s home, 3028 Hunts Point Road at 6:00 pm. If interested, please email Heather Smith (Eleanor’s mom) at hahooper@comcast.net.

Hunts Point Resident