



Town of Hunts Point Newsletter

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Town of Hunts Point

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Sue Ann Spens

Town Attorney

Margret King

Hunts Point Town Meeting At Tully’s on Points Drive

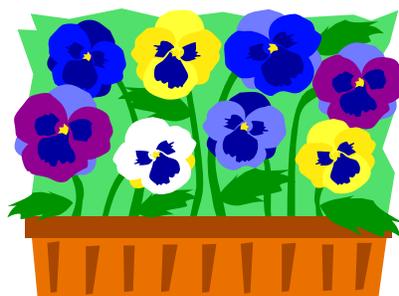
**All Hunts Point Residents are Invited
Wednesday, April 22, 2009
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

All Town residents are cordially invited to attend the 11th Annual Town Meeting at Tully’s. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about what is happening in your town, and to ask questions. The meeting provides feedback to your elected officials and staff to help formulate decisions and Town policy.

This year’s topics include:

1. Final eastside design presentation by WSDOT team for SR520 and 84th Ave NE LID.
2. Open discussion on topics from residents
3. Block Watch Program
4. Emergency Drill Practice Day

~Free Tully’s Pastries and Coffee for All Hunts Point Residents~





Local News

Message From Your Mayor...

Dear Residents,

Spring is finally here, after a long, late winter. The cherry trees are out in bloom, and kids are playing at the park. It's time to enjoy the outdoors again.

In the past few years, several new homes have popped up on Hunts Point Circle. The Circle residents have made great strides to upgrade their homes and landscaping. The pride of ownership is very apparent on the Circle.

We hope to see you at the Tully's Town Meeting and for Clean Up Day. You will meet some wonderful people, the residents of Hunts Point.

Sincerely,

Fred McConkey
Mayor



THE SPIRIT OF HUNTS POINT

Often times I am called in to settle differences between neighbors. It usually happens when someone new moves in next door to an established resident, and a change is planned. The most common controversy has to do with trees. The new resident wants to cut some down, and the old resident wants to preserve all of the trees on the other guy's lot. I am not singling anyone out, as I have worked on over 15 tree issues in the past few years under the new tree code.

Our tree code is rather restrictive, yet we still seem to come up with unpopular outcomes. The tree code is being reviewed again by The Park Commission to smooth out the sore points. Our overall goal is to maintain a 60% tree canopy town wide, which we have thus far maintained since 1955.

We ask that our new residents respect and appreciate what makes Hunts Point so special, and that the older residents accept the fact that a new home will be built next door to them about every 75 years. We can all get along if we work at it.

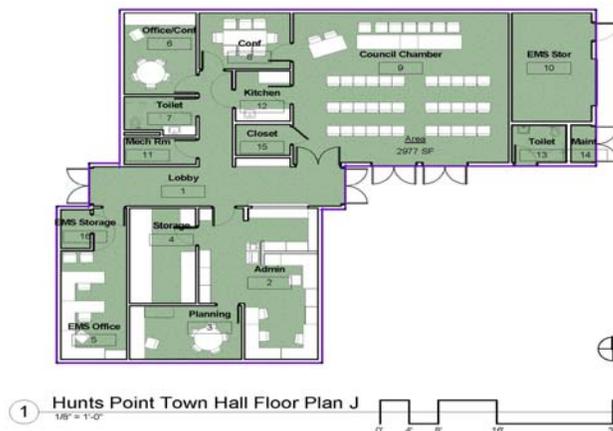
At the Council Retreat in 2002, we tried to define the "Spirit of Hunts Point". It is:

- A small town feel with a strong sense of community
- A place where neighbors are kind and respectful to one another
- A respect for natural beauty and the preservation of trees.
- Understated elegance
- A balance of new and older homes
- A tendency toward long-term, multi-generational ownership
- Where privacy is respected
- Self governed and independent.

We concluded that the "Spirit of Hunts Point" is a powerful emotion that quietly overcomes its residents in due time, and serves to protect and perpetuate the unique qualities of this same town. These are the guiding principles of our tree code.

NEW TOWN HALL

The Council and Planning Commission have completed the preliminary design for a new Town Hall. The current Town Hall does not meet the structural requirements for a public building, so we are saving up for a new building, rather than adding on to the old one. The new Town Hall location and design is incorporated into the plans for the new lid. We hope to build a new Town Hall in 2012 in conjunction with the freeway lid. The plan and renderings for the new Town Hall will be displayed at the Tully's meeting, and at Town Hall.



SR520 UPDATE

The Points Communities Mayors have worked all session with our legislators to pass House Bill 2211. This bill would authorize early tolling on SR520, and would provide funding to get the project underway. The passing of this bill would also trigger an additional \$140 million of federal grant money.

The bill caps total expenditures at \$4.65BN, and if Montlake wants a tunnel, they would have to identify additional funding by June 2010.

Recently the Indian Tribe has announced that they are opposed to the Montlake "tunnel". To build the tunnel, the engineers would have to dam up or freeze the earth under the Montlake cut in order to build a tunnel. Neither of these options are particularly fish friendly.

The tunnel option will likely wash out during the EIS comment period. A parallel Montlake bridge is the more likely option.

With any luck HB2211 will pass, and the controversial issues deferred for another year or two. If the bill passes, construction will begin in 2010. If the bill doesn't pass, pontoon construction will begin with gas tax funds, and the main project will be tabled for yet another year.

The SR520 team will be at the Tully's meeting to present the final design for the eastside corridor and lids.

TOWN FINANCES

The Town's annual expenses are about \$900,000, and we have always been able to balance the budget. This year our revenues are projected to be \$700,000. This deficit will draw down our reserves by \$200,000 to \$1,300,000.

The real estate taxes we collect pays for the Police and Fire Service. All other Town expenses are covered by sales tax on construction and excise tax from property sales. We have not had a house sale on Hunts Point for over 14 months, and the few construction projects we do have are wrapping up, with nothing new in the pipeline.

Consequently, we have turned off all discretionary capital expenditures for this year, and have reduced all variable expenses.

Our budget issues are small and manageable compared to other cities. We are seeing increased real estate activity that indicates the economy is slowly getting back on track. We are confident that we will be able to balance the budget in 2010.

BLOCK WATCH

We are now in our third year of no home invasion burglaries in Hunts Point! This is because our residents have batted down the hatches, and from the excellent work of The Medina Police Department. Our winning streak is not a random event; we have earned it. The town has a long range plan to further increase security. Our future security investments are:

1. To install more street lights to all of Hunts Point (Hunts Point Lane and 80th Ave. NE are completed).
2. To install more surveillance cameras
3. To build a Medina Police sub-station in the new Town Hall. This will provide a strong police presence at our entrance.
4. To continue educating our residents, and to implement a town wide "Block Watch Program". This will be explained at the Tully's meeting.

Our goal is to keep Hunts Point a crime free neighborhood.



TOWN OF HUNTS POINT

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**89th Annual
Clean Up Day
Sunday, May 17, 2009**

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 9:00 am | Continental Breakfast - Town Hall
<i>(Free coffee, juice, fruit, muffins, bagels)</i> |
| 9:30 am | Update from the Mayor, Announcements & Presentations |
| 10:00 am | Work Parties Begin from Town Hall |
| 12:00-2:00 pm | Picnic Lunch at Town Hall, Hot Dogs, Pop and Chips
<i>(\$5 Adults; \$2.50 Kids)</i> |
| 1:00-3:00 pm | Kids Games on Town Hall Lawn
<i>- Tug-of-War, sack races, fun for all ages</i> |
| 1:30-3:00 pm | Softball Game at the Park (all ages) |
| 5:00-7:00 pm | Cocktail Party at Pat and Laurie Finnelly's new home at 8326 Hunts Point Circle. (\$20 per person at the door) |



- **High School workers that participate on the clean up projects get a letter from the Mayor for 8 hours of Community Service (now required to graduate).**
- **Projects available for Scout Troops too!**