

Town of Hunts Point Newsletter

Message from the Mayor	2
Loop Ramp vs. 1/2 Diamond	2
Emergency Preparedness	2
Mailbox Pagodas	2
Block Watch	3
Milfoil Control	3
Mail Thefts	3
Hunts Point Road Gravel	3
Town Finances	3
Newsletter via Email	3

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Fairweather Basin

WSDOT has committed to plant larger trees to better screen the retaining and sound walls.

The SR520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Program has lots of momentum right now. WSDOT has short-listed three design-build teams to bid on the Eastside portion of the SR520 program. The estimated value of the Eastside improvements is \$325 million to \$425 million. A contractor will be selected this fall and construction begins early next year. The floating bridge pontoons will be under construction next year. On October 1, 2010 SDOT (Seattle) and WSDOT (Washington) will submit a recommendation on Montlake area design refinements and transit connections that build on the preferred alternative announced in April. The preferred Montlake design can be viewed at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr520bridge. To view a simulation of the Eastside project, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1ZQF6UIKos.

In Hunts Point, a group of residents have formed a committee to take a closer look at the proposed traffic patterns, retaining and sound walls, and landscaping. WSDOT has committed to plant larger trees to better screen the retaining and sound walls at the end of Fairweather Basin. Other discussions continue. At the Council Meeting on August 2nd, at 7:00 PM, we will have a public meeting where WSDOT and an independent traffic consultant will provide technical presentations and the Town Council will hear public comments. This committee of residents is asking good questions that will result in an improved project for all of us.



Local News

Message From Your Mayor.

Dear Residents:

Summer has finally made it to Hunts Point, and everyone is out enjoying the sunshine. This is a beautiful place to be in July.

With the SR520 construction approaching, several residents are taking a much closer look at the plans. We appreciate all of your questions, concerns and input on the freeway project. With all of the brilliant minds in Hunts Point, we can work together to refine a better product. We have provided links for those that want to drill down for more information, go to <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/EastsideEA.htm> to see details of the project. Our portion is the "Medina to SR202: Eastside Transit and HOV Project".

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Town Council Meeting August 2nd at 7:00 PM.

Fred McConkey
Fred McConkey
Mayor

LOOP RAMP vs. HALF DIAMOND INTERCHANGE

Most of the current SR520 controversy has come down to the proposed design of the 84th Ave NE westbound on-ramp. The proposed configuration is a Half Diamond, as opposed to the existing loop ramp. The primary benefits of the Half Diamond are:

1. The Half Diamond reclaims two acres of land from the loop ramp. This creates a new five acre landscaped Lid that is contiguous to Town Hall and Hunts Point Park, with tennis courts, a play structure and a grass playfield. The Lid will add a soccer and/or lacrosse playfield directly in front of the new Town Hall. This is not possible with the loop ramp design. See Town Hall website at www.huntspoints-wa.gov/town_hall.htm and click on Site Plan, to see the Site Plan for the new Town Hall.
2. The Half Diamond pushes the freeway interchange 200 feet further to the south. On-ramp traffic does not flow into Hunts Point. All freeway traffic will turn left prior to the loop trail and traffic circle. It will be much easier for our security cameras to identify and screen vehicles after a robbery.
3. Access to Town Hall will be from the traffic circle, directly to a driveway leading to Town Hall. Contractors, vendors, solicitors and other non-resident traffic will no longer travel down Hunts Point Road, Hunts Point Lane or Hunts Point Circle. We will require all solicitors, contractors, and contractor employees to park at Town Hall. Solicitors will need to obtain a solicitor's permit, pay a fee, and have their background checked at Town Hall before being issued a solicitors permit to wear around their necks.
4. After intense review in 2007, the four Points Communities Mayors decided on the Half Diamond. We relied on WSDOT studies and computer models which show that traffic performance and sound levels are the same under either on-ramp alternative.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The town now has its own channel for the hand held radios. This channel easily covers all of Hunts Point. We have ordered new batteries and will re-distribute 20 upgraded radios to our emergency volunteers this September. Most of the mailbox pagodas have a white plastic box mounted under the shelf. This box contains red, yellow and green emergency cards. In the event of an emergency, go to the pagoda, take out a card to display at the top of your driveway (under a rock). This helps the emergency team prioritize search and rescues. RED = Extreme Emergency; YELLOW = Emergency that can wait; GREEN = All is okay. The Town website has more on emergency preparedness.

MAILBOX PAGODAS

A few of the aging mailbox pagodas will get new roofs this fall. We are on a long-term maintenance project to upgrade the mailbox pagodas.

BLOCK WATCH

The Block Watch system is now fully implemented. Everyone should have a map and list of contacts in your immediate neighborhood. For a Block Watch instruction sheet, [click here](#). If you need a Block Watch map, send a reply to this email, with your street address, and we will email a Block Watch Map to you. For full information on the Block Watch Program, see the Hunts Point Website at www.huntspoint-wa.gov.

MILFOIL CONTROL

The Town sprayed for milfoil on June 8th and for other aquatic weeds on July 22nd. As a result, the milfoil and aquatic weeds will dissipate during August. We are pleased to report that some Yarrow Point residents are spraying for milfoil and aquatic weeds along with the City of Bellevue at their waterfront parks. We are slowly bringing our neighbors on board to control milfoil and aquatic weeds.

MAIL THEFTS

On July 21st, between 10 PM and the following morning, several locking mailboxes were pried open and vandalized in the 4200 block of Hunts Point Road. Fortunately nothing of value was stolen. We still have not experienced any home invasion burglaries since January 2006. We have stopped three burglaries in process and scared off the robbers. No one was caught. If you see suspicious activity, immediately call 911. Medina also reports a significant drop in crime after installing their surveillance cameras. Our cameras are now fully integrated with Medina's.

The cost has come way down for security cameras and we plan to install several more cameras in the next three years.

HUNTS POINT ROAD GRAVEL

The landscaping just north of the stop sign continues to get run over by large trucks. We have continually fixed it and it has gotten expensive. A portion of this area will be replaced with gravel to prevent deep ruts from forming. We will also gravel a few shady spots where grass will not grow on Hunts Point Road.

TOWN FINANCES

We are happy to report that home sales and permit activity have returned to normal. Town finances and reserves are back up to pre-recession levels. We made the last debt payment on the Hunts Point Road Project, and the Town is now debt free.

The Council has directed the remaining \$150,000 of Hunts Point Road LID income to start a capital fund for the new Town Hall fund, with construction in 2013—2014, to coincide with the LID. To see the new Town Hall Floor Plan, go to www.huntspoint-wa.gov/town_hall.htm and click on Floor Plan.

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

We now have about 80% of the Town residents on email distribution for the newsletter. This will be the last time we send by U.S. Mail and email to everyone. If you received this letter by mail and not email, check your Junk In-Box, if the newsletter is there, right click to Add to Safe Sender List, then drag it to your In-Box to open. If the Town does not have your email, send your contact information to fred@mconkeydev.com. In 2011, we will save about \$10,000 in mailing and printing costs by using email. We will continue U.S. Mail to the 40 or so residents that don't have email, and for those that didn't want to provide one to us.



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