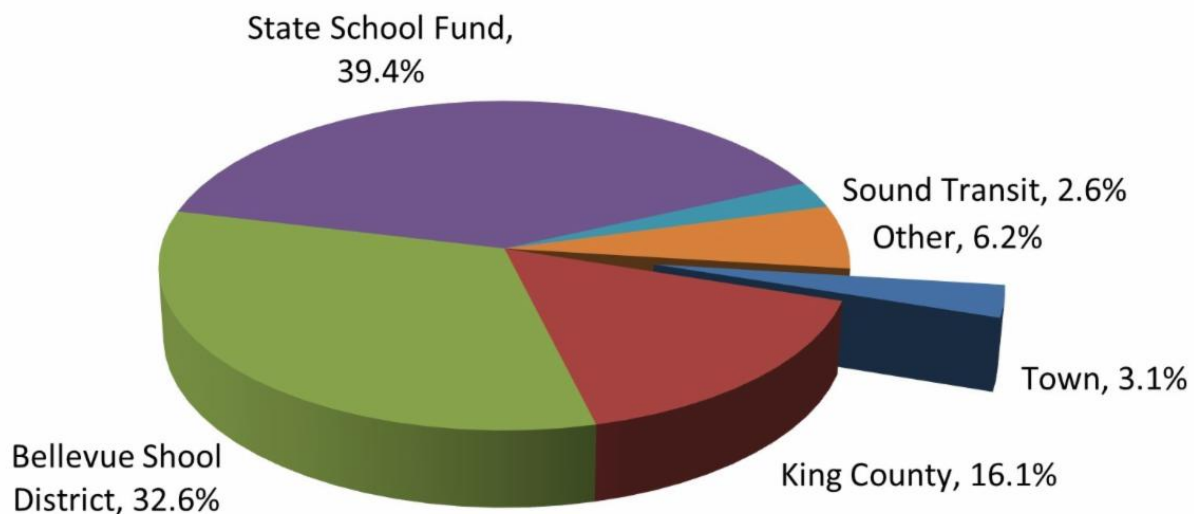


Town of Hunts Point

Newsletter – WINTER – 2021

A Primer on Property Taxes

The Town of Hunts Point has not increased the city's property levy for several years. Unlike many cities in Washington, Hunts Point's finances remain in good order, and the Council believes that diligent care in controlling costs and managing the Town's reserves despite the unknowns of the current economic climate will continue to protect these reserves. In addition, Councilmembers understand that some residents have been hit harder than others by the effects of the pandemic shutdowns. This chart depicts how your property-tax payment is split among the various taxing agencies.



If the Town did not increase the property-tax levy, why did my tax bill increase?

Taxes on individual properties continue to increase for several reasons:

1. Increases in the levy rates assessed by other taxing agencies, e.g. King County.
2. Increases due to voter-approved levies, e.g. EMS 911.
3. Changes in the assessed value of your property relative to the total assessed value of property in Hunts Point.

My home's assessed value just skyrocketed!

The King County Assessor's office determines each property's assessed value. For more information about property assessments, please visit the Assessor's website at www.kingcounty.gov/Assessor/QuickAnswers/Levies.aspx.

How does the Council set the property-tax levy?

Each Fall, the Mayor and Council develop a budget that accurately reflects the Town's

anticipated revenues and expenditures for the coming year. An important part of that review is a look at how those revenues and expenditures may be affected over the next three to five years and at what level the Town should maintain its reserves to ensure that the Town remains financially healthy and viable. Nearly 90% of the Town's revenue comes from property taxes, sales taxes, and construction-related fees.

A Message from Medina Police: Parking

The Medina Police Department wanted to address parking concerns and questions, which range from where to park on certain streets, to construction parking complaints. Since parking in Hunts Point is rather strict, here is a friendly reminder about parking:



- All parking ordinances can be found on the Town of Hunts Point website under the Municipal Code Title 10 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC at <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/HuntsPoint/>. We suggest looking at this information to familiarize yourself with the parking codes specifically Chapter 10.15 PARKING.
- If you are having a party, event or any sort of gathering where there will be overflow parking onto streets, please call the non-emergency police line and let us know the date, time and approximate number of cars that will be utilizing the roadway. We can inform you in advance the proper ways to park the vehicles and which streets are approved for parking. Also, officers are made aware of the event a head of time and can communicate more efficiently with the host and guests regarding any parking issues that might arise.
- As always, please feel free to contact the Medina Police (nonemergency phone number 425-233-6420) with any questions or concerns you have about parking issues, possible violations, or complaints.

Be Visible, Be Seen, Be Safe

Please remember to be visible and alert when out walking/running/biking in the neighborhood especially during low light hours. Although motorists have more responsibility under the law when operating a vehicle, pedestrians have more at stake. Flashlights, headlamps, reflective clothing, light up dog collars, and flashing beacons are all great accessories.



Recognizing and Avoiding Phishing Scams

Scammers use email or text messages to trick you into giving them your personal information. They may try to steal your passwords, account numbers, or Social Security numbers. If they get that information, they could gain access to your email, bank, or other accounts. Scammers launch thousands of phishing attacks like these every day — and they are often successful.



Phishing emails and text messages may look like they are from a company you know or trust. They may look like they are from a bank, a credit card company, a social networking site, an online payment website or app, or an online store. Phishing emails and text messages often tell a story to trick you into clicking on a link or opening an attachment. Be very cautious of emails that:

- say they've noticed some suspicious activity or log-in attempts
- claim there's a problem with your account or your payment information
- say you must confirm some personal information
- include a fake invoice
- want you to click on a link to make a payment
- link to some website where you need to register to receive a state government, federal government, or insurance benefit

If you receive a suspicious email or phone call:

- DO NOT forward a suspicious email to others, unless it is to your IT specialist to scan for phishing or viruses. Sharing a phishing attempt with others could spread the virus.
- When in doubt, **call** your provider or the company to confirm if the outreach actually came from them.

If you think a scammer has your information, like your Social Security, credit card, or bank account number, go to [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov). There you will see the specific steps to take based on the information that you lost. If you think you clicked on a link or opened an attachment that downloaded harmful software, update your computer's security software. Then run a scan.

Winter Storm Preparedness

Storm season is upon us! The best time to prepare for a storm is before it even forms.

Prepare Your Home

- Make sure your home is well insulated and that you have weather stripping around your doors and windowsills to keep the warm air inside.
- Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide detector.
- Check smoke detectors and replace batteries if needed.
- Learn how to [shut off water valves](#) (in case a pipe bursts).
- Use rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways.

Prepare Your Vehicle

- Fully winterize your vehicle: Have a mechanic check antifreeze, brakes, heater and defroster, tires, and windshield wipers to ensure they are in good shape.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Keep an extra emergency kit specifically created for your car.

Need Assistance?

- If you have a life-threatening situation, call 911
- To report a fire or fire hazard, call 911
- To report hazardous road conditions, or down or damaged stop or yield signs, or down trees call the Medina Police*
- To report gas leaks, power outages, or down power lines, call Puget Sound Energy at (888) 225-5773 or visit <https://www.pse.com/outage>

**to speak directly with Medina Police Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm via their non emergency line, call (425) 233-6420. For all other days, times and holidays, call 911.*



TOWN OF HUNTS POINT
3000 Hunts Point Road
(425) 455-1834 | [WEBSITE](#)

Town Hall Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Permit Intake Days: Tuesday & Thursday only