



To The Point Newsletter

Winter 2009

December 24, 2009

Upcoming Winter Events

Boy Scout Troop 600 Christmas Tree Recycling Event
Saturday, January 9
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Clyde Hill Elementary
9601 NE 24th St.

Town Hall Closures
Christmas Holiday
Dec. 25-Jan. 1
Martin Luther King Day
Monday, January 18
President's Day
Monday, February 15

Town Council Meetings
Second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Jan 12, Feb. 9, and March 9 at Town Hall.

Planning Commission Meetings
Held the Monday after the Council meetings at 7p.m. Jan. 19, Feb. 16 and Mar. 15 at Town Hall.

Town Park Board Meetings
Held Tuesday after Planning Commission meetings at 7 p.m. Jan. 26, Feb. 23 and Mar. 23 at Town Hall.

Your Elected Officials, Board Members and Staff

Town Councilmembers
Lisa Mushel, Roger Myklebust, Tim Dillon, Carl Scandella and Bruce Jones

Town Planning Commission
Amy Stanton-Pellegrini, David Feller, Dan Williams, Peter Braman and Richard Cahill

Town Park Board
John McGlenn, Kelly Almeleh, Carolyn Whittlesey, Doug Waddell and Mary Elmore

David Cooper, Mayor
Sara McMillon, Clerk-Treasurer
John Joplin, Fiscal Coordinator
Istvan Lovas, Public Works
Steven Wilcox, Building Official
Stacia Schroeder, Engineer
Mona Green, Planner
Wayne Stewart, Attorney

Longtime Councilmembers Step Down After Years of Service to the Local Community

After years of service to the public, Andy Valaas, Steve Rutledge and John DesCamp will no longer serve on the Town Council. The three community volunteers said farewell at the December Council meeting. Mr. Valaas has served on the Council for 16 years, Mr. Rutledge for 12 years and Mr. DesCamp for four years. Starting in January, Bruce Jones, Roger Myklebust and Tim Dillon will take seats on the Council.



Project to Improve Storm Water Lines on 47th Concludes, More Upgrades to System Needed

Contractors are putting the finishing touches on a major storm water system improvement on NE 47th Street and will finish all of the work during the first week in January. The project is the first within a larger plan for storm water improvements.

In addition to increasing the diameter of 550 linear feet of storm water transmission pipe, a measure that will prevent Road End Beach from washing out during heavy rains, overhead utility lines were buried along this roadway and the town fountain was made functional again.

The NE 47th Street storm water improvement is

part of a Comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan completed in January 2008 by ESM Consulting Engineers. It identified four capital improvements needed for the storm water system:

CIP #1: Replaces about 3,900 linear feet of existing pipe with larger diameter pipe to fully contain flows from existing and developed conditions. Improvements are located mainly in 92nd Avenue NE and NE 42nd St.

CIP #2: Replaces about 815 linear feet of existing pipe with larger diameter pipe to fully contain flows from existing and developed conditions. Improvements are located in 94th Avenue NE.

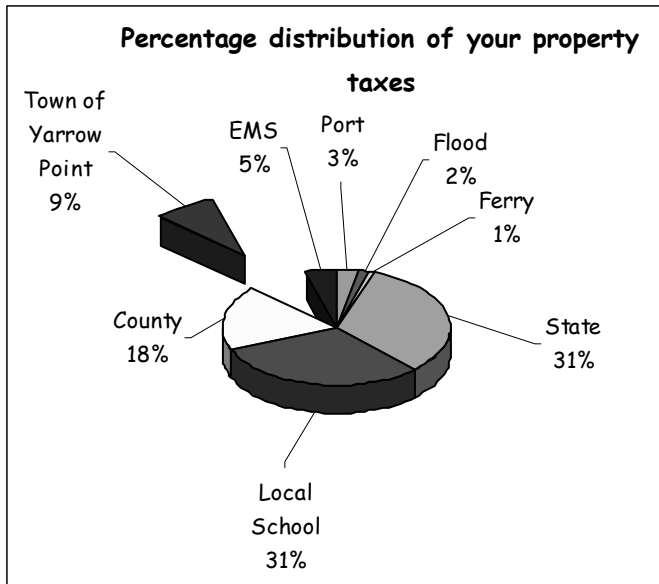
CIP #3: Completed.

CIP#4: Replaces approximately 85 linear feet of existing pipe with larger diameter pipe to fully contain flows from developed conditions. Improvements are located at the northern tip of 95th Avenue NE.

The Town Council has grappled with the question of how to fund these proposed Town improvements. At the time the study was completed, the cost of the remaining projects was estimated at about \$1.2 million.

Town staff has been actively pursuing grants and has been investigating other potential funding sources.

Where Do Your Property Taxes Go?



Yarrow Point citizens occasionally ask "what do we do with all the money I pay the Town with my property tax?" Fiscal Coordinator John Joplin provides the following answer:

As this chart illustrates, 91% of the property taxes you paid in 2009 went to entities other than the Town of Yarrow Point. In 2009, The Town of Yarrow Point collected \$.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value of your property. There are 41 cities and towns in King County. Thirty-eight of these cities and towns have higher local property tax rates than Yarrow Point. The 2009 median assessed property value in Yarrow Point was approximately \$1,500,000. For such a property, the Town of Yarrow Point would collect \$813.70. To put that in perspective the town paid \$1,395 per household this year for police and fire protection. Public safety costs in excess of property tax revenue is paid from other sources such as utilities and sales taxes.

New Site Development Permit Regulations



As of December 19, 2009, a new permit is required for construction activity. Property owners must obtain a Town site development permit for clearing, grading, storm drainage improvements and the installation of temporary erosion control.

Town Councilmembers enacted comprehensive site development regulations by passing Ordinance 607 at a regular meeting in December. The Town aims to protect public health and safety from the potential adverse impacts of clearing and grading land, and by providing for the planning, security, design, construction, use, maintenance, repair and inspection of the storm and surface water system.

Protecting the storm and surface water system also is important from an environmental standpoint. Earth and land resources and fish and

wildlife habitat will gain further protection through the local code.

A permit is required for: fill or excavation totaling 50 cubic yards or more, clearing 750 square feet or more, as measured at ground level, adding 120 square feet or more of new impervious surface, constructing retaining walls or rockeries over four feet in height as measured from the bottom of the base rock or block, any grading or paving of an area used for a storm water facility, or connection, extension, and/or modification of the public and/or private storm and surface water drainage systems including, but not limited to, detention and other runoff control facilities.

The Town's building permit regulations were limited in the types of activities that they applied to. Now almost any type of construction ac-

tivity in the Town will be evaluated by a professional, qualified Town representative.

Any storm water improvements within the public right of way will be subject to the Town's Comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan, and any site development on public or private land must adhere to the Town's Storm Water Guidelines. The new code also outlines the conditions that must be met for the Town to accept ownership of a privately built drainage facility.

For a full copy of the site development code, the Town's Comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan or Storm Water Guidelines, you may contact the Town Clerk by calling 425-454-6994. Town Engineer Stacia Schroeder also is available to answer any questions.

Special Committee Formulating Tree Ordinance

With assistance from Town Planner Mona Green, a special committee is working on a new ordinance regulating trees located on public right of way. It is expected that the planning commission will review an ordinance draft at a meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 19. This is an important step in becoming a Tree City.

2010 Census Work: Serve Your Community

Yarrow Point Applicants Needed to Support U.S. Census Goal of a Complete Count

The U.S. Census Bureau needs to hire temporary workers to ensure the 2010 Census is a success. Yarrow Point needs more applicants. The goal is to hire persons in every community to work near home. This is the best way to make a complete and accurate count of each person residing in the country.

There are a variety of temporary jobs, but the greatest need is for Enumerators to conduct in-person

interviews with community residents who do not return census questionnaires. Enumerators (also known as census takers) work a flexible schedule and are paid \$17.50 per hour. Census takers receive paid training and reimbursement for mileage.

Short-term 2010 Census jobs are ideal for retirees, college students, recent graduates, stay-at-home parents, and others seeking temporary,

part-time work. Applicants must be at least 18 years old. Preference is given to U.S. citizens, however, non-citizens will be hired if not enough U.S. citizens are available.

For more information go to this Web site: www.2010censusjobs.gov. Applicants need to attend an application/testing session. To choose one of various sessions held on the Eastside, call 1-866-861-2010. Article courtesy of the U.S. Census.

Accessory Dwelling Units Fill a Need for Families

If you've ever perused through the Zoning Code section of the Yarrow Point Municipal Code you may have come across the term Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). An ADU is an extra living unit either within the existing home or detached from the home, complete with kitchen, bathroom and sleeping facilities and its own separate entry.

The Town of Yarrow Point is one of many communities in east King County that now allows ADUs as a permitted use. Over the past decade, over 500 ADUs have been permitted in east King County communities with 40% of those in Mercer Island alone. Families have added ADUs to meet a family need, help look after a senior's well being or just to have some extra income to help cover expenses.

"ADUs are a great way for families with transitional or additional needs to contribute to the affordable housing component of our Comprehensive Plan," Mayor Cooper said. "Whether they are attached or detached, even lots of marginal size, if designed carefully, can fill a need."



Section 17.12.030.E of the Zoning Code spells out the requirements for adding an ADU to your home. Some key provisions are: the main home or ADU must be occupied by the owner; the ADU cannot be larger than 6% of your lot size (e.g. 600 square feet on a 10,000 square foot

lot) or 850 square feet, whichever is less; two off-street parking spaces are required for the ADU; and no more than two persons can occupy the ADU.

The Town of Yarrow Point is a member of A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH). As such, it has access to shared housing resources available through ARCH.

If the idea of owning an ADU sounds interesting to you, check out ARCH's ADU Home Owner Packet. The Packet also has links to other Web sites that can assist you with creating or operating an ADU. You can access this information at www.archhousing.org/adu2/index.html. Contact the Town Planner for permitting requirements. Article courtesy of ARCH.

Scouts Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Drive in January

Boy Scout Troop 600 will conduct its 13th annual Christmas Tree Recycling Drive on Saturday, January 9, at Clyde Hill Elementary School.

"This event makes Scouting possible for some boys who otherwise might not be able to afford it," said Scoutmaster Doug Backous. "Our recycling drive raises funds that cover

all sorts of things, from activity fees to camping equipment."

Trees will be collected in the West Bellevue, Enatai and Points areas, from I-405 west to Lake Washington and from I-90 north to SR-520, including Yarrow Point, Hunts Point, Medina and Clyde Hill.

The troop will also accept drop-offs

at the Clyde Hill Elementary School located at 9601 NE 24th St., from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 9. Trees will be chipped and delivered to the Kirkland Parks Department to be used at Juanita Park.

A \$10 donation is requested. For more information or to place an order, go to www.recyclemytree.com or call 425-452-5573.

TOWN OF YARROW POINT

4030 95th Ave. NE
Yarrow Point, WA 98004

Phone: 425-454-6994
Fax: 425-454-7899
E-mail: townhall@ci.yarrow-point.wa.us



If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please send a message to:

clerk-treasurer@ci.yarrow-point.wa.us

OSL's Old Timers & New Comers Fall Party a Great Success

The members of the Yarrow Point Circle of the Overlake Service League would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to the Yarrow Point community for coming out to be with your neighbors and enjoying the beautiful Sunday evening on the 8th! The weather held nicely, the fun, laughter and music helped make for great ambiance for a perfect community event. The huge amount of generosity of this community also helped us raise over \$7,000 for our programs that assist families in need in Bellevue by promoting stability, self-sufficiency and independence through programs that feed, clothe, shelter and help educate! It was a very special evening indeed and we hope all look forward to it next year!

WSDOT Bringing Smarter Highways to I-5, SR520 and I-90

Innovative traffic technology is about to make Puget Sound highways smarter and more efficient than ever. The new system, active traffic management (ATM) features a network of sensors and electronic signs on northbound I-5, SR 520 and I-90 that automatically respond to traffic conditions and give drivers information that will result in a safer and smoother trip.

"Smarter Highways technology will move traffic more effectively using our existing highways better, a key element of our three-part Moving Washington Strategy to reduce congestion," said Transportation Secretary Paula Hammond.

The overhead, electronic signs will automatically alert drivers to

change lanes when an incident blocks traffic ahead or to adjust their speed before they reach slower moving traffic. It will help reduce rear-end collisions, allow for earlier escape to alternate routes and smooth lane shifting caused by incidents like stalls or collisions.

"Washington is one of the first states to introduce this cutting-edge technology," said Washington State Transportation Division Director Craig Stone. "We're activating these high-tech signs starting next summer and want drivers to know what's coming so they'll be ready."

Drivers will use Smarter Highways on three of Washington's busiest corridors. The locations and activation dates are:

Northbound I-5 between Boeing Access Road and I-90 in summer 2010. SR 520 between I-5 and 130th Avenue NE in Bellevue in summer 2010 and I-90 between I-5 and 150th Avenue SE in Bellevue in spring of 2011.

Smarter highways technology and techniques are a vital component of Moving Washington, WSDOT's statewide strategy for improving mobility. The program uses new tools and technologies to better manage congestion by making our busiest freeways more efficient. For more information go to this Web site: www.smarterhighways.com. For more information about Moving Washington: www.wsdot.wa.gov/movingwashington. Article courtesy of WSDOT.

Yarrow Point Needs an Additional Wetherill Nature Preserve Board Member

Volunteer Today by Contacting Town Hall