



# The Woodway Whisper

March 2005

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Carla A. Nichols

The year 2004 was a productive time for our community. Here are the highlights:



### Transfer of Town's Sewer Utility

After four years of negotiations, the Town transferred the ownership of our sewer system to Olympic View Water and Sewer District effective April 1, 2004. The opportunity to reduce residents' monthly sewer bills coupled with wanting to minimize the Town's long term liability for a capital asset were key decision points. Since the transfer, residents have received a savings in monthly sewer fees.

### Fire Contract with City of Edmonds

Our Town's highest expenditure is our payment to the City of Edmonds for fire suppression and basic life support services. It represented 37% of our 2004 operating budget, and if based upon increased property valuations, that figures would double. Negotiations focused on limiting Woodway's annual contract to inflationary increases tied to firefighters' salaries rather than basing the contract on Woodway's property evaluations. This change represents a significant savings to the Town.

### Financial Forecast for Woodway

Since 2003, the Town has tracked actual expenditures within the context of a seven year forecasting model that provides elected officials with a "big picture" status report for planning financial decisions. This is an excellent tool for maintaining fiscal conservancy and safeguarding the Town's substantial asset reserves.

### Comprehensive Plan Revisions

Per State requirements, the Town embarked on a project to update our current Comp Plan. The

Planning Commission held ten meetings to prepare revisions and provide policy guidance for community priorities. A subarea plan for Point Wells lands was adopted as part of this document.

### Administrative Project Manager

The 2004 budget included a new position to provide the Town's elected officials with a part time resource assigned to track issues that may affect Woodway's future. Many public services are staffed by large agencies, making it difficult for Woodway elected officials to be effective given the pace and complexity of the issues. Since May 2004, the Town contracted with Jack Collins for 12 hours per week of professional administrative services.

### Point Edwards Condominium Community

The City of Edmonds approved a land development proposal submitted by a private development company, Pt. Edwards LLC, to install a 295 unit condominium community on the former Unocal site. The Estates neighborhood within Woodway was the closest community affected by this proposal. Pine Street improvements and potential increased traffic became the focus for both the Estates neighborhood and the Town's elected officials. Concerns for projected traffic increases caused the Town to close the ingress traffic lane on both Nootka and Chinook Roads. This action was viewed as an effort to keep Woodway's neighborhoods local and safe.

### Community Priorities

Our community's standard of *self reliance* was demonstrated when the Public Works Department conducted road prep work and installation of storm water facilities on Wachusett and Timberlane Roads. By completing the project using only Town staff, (not private, contracted labor) and coordinating with Snohomish County for asphalt, the overall project realized a 33% savings.

*Small Government* is a priority. The Town Clerks have been responsive to conservative budgetary actions which reduced the staffing by .5 FTE. Work tasks have been reassigned and absorbed by existing personnel.

## Community Fair

Our third annual fair was enjoyed by approximately 300 residents of all ages. Information booths, complimentary lunch, the Edmonds-Woodway High School jazz band and numerous activities for children were the highlights. A City of Edmonds Fire Truck led a colorful parade of youthful bikers on a parade route near Town Hall. A reception for Town volunteers was also part of the festivities.

### PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

#### Police Services

2586 hours provided by Woodway Officers

84 call outs provided by Edmonds Officers

#### Building Dept.

17 new home permits

29 home remodel permits

#### Land Use

24 grading & drainage permits

2 short plats

#### Environmental Protection

214 tree permits

251 trees removed / 78 replaced

#### Legislative Support

600 hours for Council Meetings.

70 hours for Planning Commission Meetings

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mayor Carla A. Nichols**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The Town is organizing a great opportunity for Woodway students to fulfill their requirements for Community Service.

**DATES: Sat. April 9<sup>th</sup> & April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**TIME: Between 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.**

**LOCATION: Town Hall**

**FOR: Woodway Reserve cleanup**

Everyone is welcome so bring gloves and appropriate hand tools. This is a community wide project, open to all residents. If you would like additional information contact: Randall Burns at 206-542-0183.

## FUTURE OF TOWN LEADERSHIP

*Mayor Carla Nichols*

It may seem awfully early to be thinking about Town elections scheduled for this fall, but these decisions take time so here's early notice. There will be 3 Council positions up for re-election as well as the Mayor's position. At this point, I am not planning on running for re-election due to private travel plans.

The Mayor's role is primarily one of being the chief administrative officer for Town government. This position sets and manages the semi-monthly Council meetings and carries out policy which has been established by the Council.

If any of you are interested in giving back to your community, this volunteer role may be the right fit for you! If you are interested in more detail, feel free to call me at my home, 425-670-2372 or e-mail me at the Town's website.

The Snohomish County Auditor's office schedule for filing is July 25-29. A short paragraph highlighting your policies and/or qualifications must be written for inclusion in the Voters' Pamphlet. Candidates are selected in November, taking office in January for 4 years.

## Protection of Yard Setbacks

The Town Council recently passed an ordinance that reaffirms our community's historical efforts to keep Woodway's large lots buffered with adequate setbacks. Maintaining homeowner privacy and the need to maintain open space areas between properties were the primary decision points.

The revised code indicates that variance applications for adjustments must first meet all of the criteria for granting a variance and then is limited to 10% of each prescribed setback area. For example, a request to reduce a front setback in the two acre zone could receive an adjustment of no more than 10% or 10 feet; or if the variance is for the side yard in the same two acre zone, 10% or 5 feet would be allowed. This applies only to the larger lots within the Town. The distances are different for the one acre lots. Please contact Town Hall if you need further information.

## **TOWN COUNCIL CORNER**



*SCHILLBERG, SALTONSTALL, STEELE, ABEL, BLOCK*

### **Council Corner**

**November 2004** – Held a Public Hearing & adopted the proposed 2005 Budget; passed resolutions to increase the EMS Levy & Property Taxes by 1%; introduction of draft Comprehensive Plan Update; discussed coyote problems in Woodway; explored options for the undeveloped rights-of-way on 236<sup>th</sup> Street between 112<sup>th</sup> Place and Woodway Park Road;

**December 2004** – Discussion continued on proposed walking path on 236<sup>th</sup> Street, decided to abandon proposal; signed an amended Interlocal Fire Contract with the City of Edmonds; HDR, Town engineers, provided a presentation on the proposed Stormwater Comprehensive Plan to Council; Council approved proceeding with the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan in 2005;

**January 2005** – Discussed uniform speed limits in Woodway and installing appropriate yellow advisory signs; reaffirmed policy that all streets in Town would be 25 mph with some areas having advisory signs for lower speeds. Mayor reappointed Robert Allen to another term on the Planning Commission, and Jennifer Ange to fill a vacancy on the Commission; discussed proposed revisions to the Tree Ordinance; discussed limiting variances in setbacks to an appropriate percentage; signed amended Interlocal Agreement with SNOCOM, with the addition of the City of Mukilteo as a new member; submitted a draft litter grant to Snohomish County.

The January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting was held at the Dominican Reflection Center for an informational discussion on coyotes in urban areas. Kevin Christiansen, US Dept. of Agriculture, and David

Pehling, Snohomish County Extension Analyst, gave a presentation and answered questions from the audience regarding coyotes and other wildlife.

Mayor & Council held a special meeting to discuss local government priorities for 2005.

**February 2005** – Held a community workshop on the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan, and sent a questionnaire to residents to identify stormwater problems & priorities; discussed the proposed revisions to the Tree Ordinance; held a Public Hearing on limiting variances in yard setbacks; presented summary of the Town Stormwater Survey; discussed strategies for purchasing the option lots; passed an ordinance amending the 2004 Budget; re-confirmed Councilmembers Kent Saltonstall & Robert Schillberg as official representatives to the SNOCOM & SERS Boards.

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**TOWN CLERKS** *Lorraine Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer, CMC*  
*Jill Massa, Deputy Clerk*

### **UTILITY TAXES**

We have had some problems with Woodway utility taxes being paid to Edmonds due to the two cities having the same zip code. We have been working with the utility companies to correct errors but need your help too. Please take a moment to review your utility bills to make sure that Woodway is getting the credit for your taxes. If not, please call the utility company so they can correct their records and let them know that your address is in the Town of Woodway .

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.**  
*Randall Burns, Director*



It seems that spring has already sprung even though the calendar indicates that we have a little winter left. Anticipating the coming of spring and the increase of activity on the road side, the Public Works Department would like to ask that everyone give a little extra consideration to their wellbeing as you drive through Town. To coin a phrase “**Give ‘em a Brake**” and a little extra room is always greatly appreciated.

Another attribute of spring is the onslaught of invasive plants and noxious weeds. Some of these

characters are recognized as common enemies. Things like Thistle and Morning Glory are generally accepted as being undesirable. Other plants like Ivy and Gorse may be looked on by some as desirable. Snohomish County (<http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/publicwk/roads/Roadsprogram/Weeds%20home.htm>) as well as the State of Washington (<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/>) are both good references for listings of noxious weeds as well as methods of control.

The one invasive plant, listed by the State as a Class C weed, that has a major impact on Woodway is the English Ivy. The Ivy is found almost everywhere including the public lands and Rights-of-Way (ROW). As a general policy the Public Works Department discourages the planting of Ivy in the ROW. As an ongoing effort, the Public Works department will be working on removing the Ivy from the ROW whenever possible.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*Police Chief Doug Hansen*

*Recently the media has covered two kidnappings from chat room usage.*

### **Tips for Parents to Help Children be Safe on the Web**

Keep the lines of communication with your child open. Discuss with him/her both the benefits and the risks of the Internet.

Keep the computer in a busy area of the house, such as the family room or den. Agree on a list of rules.

How much time should be spent on the Internet?

How late at night?

Are there certain parts of the Web that your child cannot visit?

Will you allow your child to purchase things on the Internet? The term "free" doesn't always mean what it seems to mean. Con artists use the term to attract more business. Teach your child to ask you before signing up for anything over the Internet.

Choose an online service that allows parents to limit children's access to certain sites (some services have a "kids only" section)

Consider using a filter, blocking, or ratings system for your computer.

Parental involvement is a must. Go online yourself and take a look at a variety of sites your child might visit.

If your child tells you about an upsetting event that happened to her on the Internet, don't place the blame on her. Remember that how you react to the incident will affect what she shares with you in the future.

For more information go to:

[www.safekids.com/kidsrules.htm](http://www.safekids.com/kidsrules.htm).

## **PLANNING COMMISSION** *George Stead, Chairman*



**L to R: Planner Bill Trimm, Bob Allen, Chair Stead, Joe Fattizzi, Henry James, Tom Whitson. In Back, L to R: Charlie Fontaine, Henry Veldman. (not pictured) Jennifer Ange**

A special thanks to departing member Charlie Fontaine for sharing so much of his time, effort, expertise, and refreshing humor.

"Welcome" to our newest member Jennifer Ange. The Commission has been enjoying a short respite after dueling with revisions and additions to the Comprehensive Plan; land use alternatives for Point Wells; right of way policies; and approval of several short plats.

The 2005 agenda includes discussion and approval of:

- 1) Point Wells Interlocal Agreement with Snohomish County including Design and Development Guidelines for the upper bluff of Point Wells;
- 2) Updating selected sections of the Woodway Municipal Code and review of Home Occupation regulations



- 3) Appropriate zone changes for the Olympic Park and Woodway Reserve per the Park Plan.

As always, residents are welcomed to attend and participate in our public meetings; and you are encouraged to share your thoughts and concerns by letter or email to the Town.

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

*Tom Phillips, Building Official*



### **Benefits Of A Building Permit**

The Town's Building Department is responsible for issuing building, mechanical and plumbing permits as required by State law. Electrical permits are issued by the State Department of Labor and Industries office in Everett at (425) 290-1300. Building permits are required when you build a new home, add an addition or remodel your existing home. This also includes items such as moving structural and non-structural walls and re-roofing. Plumbing permits are required when you alter your plumbing system and mechanical permits are required when you alter your heating or cooling system. Obtaining a permit offers the following benefits:

- **Verification that the work was done properly.** If work is done with a permit, the Town's building inspector inspects the work for compliance with the appropriate codes.
- **Permits are required by mortgage lenders.** Often mortgage lenders will not approve a loan on a home until they are sure proper construction practices were utilized. Proof that a permit was obtained for certain work may be needed before you sell or refinance your home.
- **Permits are required by insurance companies.** Insurance companies typically

won't insure any part of your house if they find there was work done without permits.

- **Ensure that contractors are properly licensed.** Many unlicensed contractors will tell homeowners that a permit is not needed for a small project. Unlicensed contractors work illegally and should be avoided at all costs. They may cause you legal liabilities if they are hurt at your home or may not finish the project after it's been paid for. All contractors are required to be licensed with the State Department of Labor and Industries. Before you hire a contractor make sure they have the appropriate license. You can check a contractor's license by Labor and Industries at 1-800-647-0982 or at their web site at <https://fortress.wa.gov/lni/bbip/>.

Although permits may add an extra expense to your building project, in the long run they can save you thousands of dollars and offer cheap piece of mind. The Town's Building Department will guide you through the permit process and make it a pleasant and positive experience. If you have any questions or are not sure if a permit is required, you may ask the building department at 206-542-4443.

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### **TOWN ARBORIST** *Elizabeth Walker*

I am pleased to announce that the Town has been awarded a Community Forestry Assistance grant from the Forest Service and WA DNR for a Backyard Forester Education Program. Utilizing the Woodway Reserve as an outdoor classroom, I will be conducting workshops throughout the year on how to manage your part of the Woodway Community Forest. Each participant will learn about the components of a healthy forest and understand how to landscape for wildlife, maintain native species diversity, control invasive weeds, maintain tree health and safety, and enhance the benefits of natural landscape design.

Please contact Town Hall if you are interested in participating in the program. The introductory session is scheduled for **Saturday, May 21, 9:00 a.m. to noon** at the Town Hall. The workshop will include an overview of the program, tentative dates of future workshops, discussion of forest issues in your backyard, and a tour of the upper

Reserve. Upon completion of the program, you will be a certified Woodway Forest Steward and will receive rewards such as a free one-hour backyard consultation.

**Coyote Update**

Wildlife consultants have defined aggressive behaviors in coyotes as activity or actions that cause an immediate threat to people or animals. They caution that coyotes that have lost their fear of people may have a potential to express aggressive behaviors. If you or your family members observe aggressive coyote activity, please contact Ralph Olsen at 206-546-9708 or via email [ralpholsen@comcast.net](mailto:ralpholsen@comcast.net). Mr. Olsen will summarize all information and alert Town government of any marked pattern or increase in aggression by coyotes in our community.

Please note that the Council will be considering a draft policy on coyotes at their March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**CERT TRAINING AVAILABLE**

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Professional emergency services personnel will not be able to help everyone immediately so citizens like you can make a difference by using your CERT training to protect and save lives. With training and practice, you will be able to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people after a disaster, while helping prevent yourself from becoming a victim.

The next course is scheduled for Thursdays April 14 – June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please contact Chandra Fox at ESCA 425-776-3722 to learn more about this important course.

**HOW CAN I HELP?**

As we have seen in recent years, emergencies, disasters and terror related incidents can happen at any time. Although we would rather not consider the likelihood of such things, planning and readiness are essential to reduce chaos and save lives.

The Town of Woodway’s emergency service providers include our own Police Department as well as fire protection and life support services through the City of Edmonds. We are also a member of the Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (ESCA) of Snohomish County who provide disaster assistance to various cities.

It has been suggested that we go a step further to help protect and prepare our community. In keeping with the Town’s history of volunteerism at all levels, we would like to form a community resource list. This list would be comprised of all residents with specific skills that may be valuable during a crisis. We encourage residents with medical skills, electricians, engineers, heavy equipment operators, utility workers, phone/computer specialists, etc. to get involved and sign up on the form below to become a part of our database. You can also email us with your information: [woodway.townhall@comcast.net](mailto:woodway.townhall@comcast.net)  
Thank you for your commitment.

*Cut here*

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK DAYS & HOURS \_\_\_\_\_

SKILLS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please drop off or mail to 23920 113<sup>th</sup> Pl. W. Woodway 98020**

## Stormwater Comprehensive Plan

*Jack Collins, Administrative Project Manager*

In the last *Whisper*, we mentioned that the Town obtained a loan to develop a plan to deal with stormwater. Residents may have noticed survey crews from INCA Engineers who are locating control points using static GPS measurements and conventional traverse procedures. INCA is also documenting the location of all storm drainage features within the public rights-of-way. The Town has contacted a number of residents to advise that surveyors may need to access their private property, and Town officials gratefully acknowledge this cooperation. Survey work is scheduled for completion by March 15.

Residents were personally surveyed in January to help identify stormwater concerns such as flooding and drainage problems. Forty two residents responded (10% of Woodway households). Residents also exhibited a marked concern for water quality. The Town obtained a great deal of useful information and thanks respondents for their thoughtful work.

HDR Engineers, the Town's consultant on this project, will use the survey information as well as the data that Public Works Director, Randall Burns, has collected to analyze the storm drainage system. This will be followed over the summer with recommended capital projects, a system for paying for them, and finally an overall comprehensive stormwater plan. The Mayor and Council will then be asked to establish a stormwater utility to finance these projects with stormwater utility rates to be paid by homeowners. Residents are encouraged to call Town Hall and to meet formally or informally with Town officials to discuss progress on the plan and their interests in it.

## Parks, Open Space and Recreation Planning

*Jack Collins, Administrative Project Manager*

Eight Woodway residents have been appointed to a new Parks, Recreation and Open Space Committee: Chair Steve Abel, Bill Anderson, Hank Landau, Leslie Parrish, Kent Saltonstall, George Stead, Tom Whitson

and John Wright. The Committee's job is to create a new comprehensive plan that will lay out the Town's long term vision for its valuable open space lands.

At their first meeting in February, the committee adopted an ambitious schedule beginning with a detailed inventory of current lands. In addition to the well known Woodway Reserve and somewhat less well known Olympic View Park, the Town has three small parcels that could be included in the plan. The Committee is very sensitive to the important role our walkways play to provide a wide range of interesting walking and bicycling opportunities.

Committee members will be examining trends and resources, identifying problems and opportunities, developing goals and priorities, assessing needs, evaluating plan alternatives and selecting a preferred plan. They will wrestle with questions such as the appropriate nature and degree of public access to the Woodway Reserve. Residents are urged to contact Committee members with their ideas.

The Committee also will be administering a community survey to determine the interests of residents in parks, open spaces and recreation. We hope that as many residents as possible will take the time to thoughtfully complete the survey.

The Committee will be meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM at Town Hall. The community is welcome to attend and to contribute to the discussion.

## Saving Energy & Water in your Landscape *Current* newsletter, Snoh. Cty. P.U.D.

**Water-Wise Plants.** Try to incorporate drought-tolerant plantings throughout your yard. In addition, try to group plants with similar water needs in the same area so you don't water plants more than needed. The proper watering of plants and lawns reduces disease and pest risk, and the need for harmful pesticides and chemicals.

Remember that all plants require plenty of water during their first growing season. Don't let new plants dry out before they're established. Examples of drought-tolerant plants include: Cypress, Smoke Tree, New Zealand Flax, ornamental grasses, Herb Groundcovers – Thyme, Oregano, and Lavender.

### **Build Better Soil...Use Less Water**

Create healthy soil by spreading a one- to two-inch layer of compost around your trees, shrubs and garden beds in the fall. Also try to use organic fertilizers to improve your soil. Healthy soil helps plants' roots, requires less watering and cuts down on weeds.

### **Use Trees for Shade & Sun**

Deciduous trees planted near the south and west sides of a home provide shade in the hot summer months to help cool your home. When the leaves fall, the trees allow the winter sun to help warm your home during the cooler months.

### **Trees & Plants Under Power Lines**

Large trees create problems not only for power lines but for walkways and streets. Consider planting smaller trees and shrubs that mature at 25 feet or less. Here are a few examples:

**Vine Maple** – a deciduous northwest native, known for brilliant fall color.

**Japanese Maple** – a popular deciduous garden tree with colorful horizontal branching.

**Leatherleaf Viburnum** – striking evergreen shrub with spring flowers and fall fruit.

**Laurustinus** – a narrow evergreen shrub with fall flowers and summer fruit.

### **BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

*Elaine Jorgensen, Chair*

The Town Hall garden will be filled in this spring with some new plants and three Columnar Sargentii cherry trees to add some early color against the front wall. A few heathers and some azaleas will be planted around the public spaces as well.

We urge all residents to weed, prune, and clean property facing the public streets so that we can be proud of our Woodway beauty. It doesn't take much to make our properties attractive for all. Happy Gardening!



### **MOTORIZED SCOOTERS**

*Kent Saltonstall, Councilmember*

The Snohomish County Board of Health has notified city governments of their strong recommendation to adopt laws regulating motorized foot scooters. Edmonds, Lynnwood and Brier have already done this. Your council has discussed regulating motorized foot scooters on public property, but the subject has been tabled for now.

My view as a physician is that these scooters are inherently dangerous because of a small wheel base, especially if operated by juveniles without formal driver's training. The Health District's regulation #04-17 states: "thousands of childhood injuries and a number of deaths of children as a result of riding motorized foot scooters have been documented by the Consumer Product Safety Commission."

Nobody questions the authority of local governments to regulate vehicle traffic, but in this case should regulation be done by the Town, or left up to the parents of the children at risk? Please let your Council know what you think.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Sale of Point Wells**

After 54 years of ownership, the Chevron-Texaco corporation has sold its Portland and Pt. Wells properties to Paramount Petroleum Company of Los Angeles, California. The new company took formal ownership on March 1<sup>st</sup> and Paramount officials stress that no new activities are planned; the asphalt distribution activities will continue. For questions, please contact Mr. Brian Wuellner, Plant Manager for Pt. Wells, 206-546-0503.

#### **??Have You Ever Wondered About?**

Are there things that are confusing about Woodway? What's the Town's policy about this and that? I've got a dumb question and don't know who to contact? Are these familiar questions? In an effort to reach out to residents, Mayor Nichols will meet with small groups of residents in their own homes for an informal conversation about any issues residents are concerned about. The following dates are available: March 30 & 31<sup>st</sup> (day or nighttime), April 3<sup>d</sup> (Sunday afternoon). Gather a few neighbors or Woodway friends, pick a date and then contact Town staff for an appointment.



### **STAY IN TOUCH ELECTRONICALLY**

Keep up with current Town issues and concerns by receiving the Town Council minutes twice a month. Send your email address to [woodway.townhall @comcast.net](mailto:woodway.townhall@comcast.net)

You can also access the minutes and much more information at the Town's website: [www.townofwoodway.com](http://www.townofwoodway.com)