



# WOODWAY WHISPER

NOVEMBER 2004



MAYOR CARLA NICHOLS

## Community Fair Fun for All

*Jack Collins, Administrative Project Manager*

The Town of Woodway Community Fair held on Saturday, September 11 was a huge success. In spite of the threatening weather, this outdoor event drew lots of friends and neighbors, newcomers and old timers, Town officials, senior citizens and especially children. There is no way to accurately estimate the number of participants, but 350 lunch plates disappeared!

Adult activities included community information booths about Woodway's Comprehensive Plan and planning options for Point Wells, a Master Gardener, the Town's Arborist, Sound Transit, Sunrise of Edmonds and the Olympic View Water and Sewer District. Children were delighted with the inflatable Bouncy House (in use well after the crowd went home), a story telling clown, pony rides, face painting, tie dyeing, fish painting and a hunt for prizes in the straw. Adults and children enjoyed rides in an all-electric GEM car, the bike (and trike!) parade, the Edmonds Woodway Jazz Ensemble and lots of wonderful food. Everyone enjoyed meeting the Town police and firemen and seeing the specialized equipment on the police vehicle and the Edmonds fire truck.

Another highlight of the Fair was the recognition of the substantial contributions made throughout the year by community volunteers, including Town officials. Many of these volunteers and their spouses worked all day at the Fair and so were readily available to be recognized. Many thanks for the wonderful homemade cookies made by Elaine Jorgensen and her extensive volunteer crew and to Charlie Fontaine for the use of his tents and cooking equipment. The Town also sends a very special thank you to the Community Fair Committee: Ann Rhodes, Kathryn

Strecker, Jane Bloom, Darcie Thompson, Brenda Bush and Cheryle Hirst who worked very hard to organize and man such a successful event.

All in all, the Woodway Community Fair is becoming a significant community tradition and residents are urged to save the date for next year, Saturday Sept. 10, 2005.

### Touring the Woodway Reserve



Councilman Steve Abel & Sister Dorothy Berg

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### TOWN COUNCIL CORNER



SCHILLBERG, SALTONSTALL, STEELE, ABEL, BLOCK

**JULY 2004** The Town Council authorized the Mayor to sign the SnoCom Interlocal Agreement covering 911 services. A public hearing was held for comments on the Pt. Edwards development (Edmonds) traffic options. The Council heard a presentation by Tom Phillips, Building Official, on the new International Building Code and passed Ord. 04-447 adopting the same and amending Title 12 of the Woodway Municipal Code. Reviewed the proposed new animal control ordinance and heard



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quarterly department reports from the Police Chief, Clerk Treasurer, and Public Works Director. Authorized Mayor to sign the Mutual Termination Agreement with the City of Edmonds regarding sewer treatment.

**AUGUST 2004** Approved a plan for egress only at Nootka Road with a forced turn island and half closure at Chinook Road with egress only. Heard a presentation by Frances Chapin, Edmonds Community College, and adopted a resolution in support of ACCE, (Coming Together through Arts, Culture and Civic Engagement.) Elizabeth Walker, Town Arborist, reported on administration of the Tree Ordinance. Due to her suggestions, Council took action stating its desire to retain trees and that during development all consideration be given to appropriate siting of construction and impervious surfaces to accomplish that. Authorization was given to the Mayor to sign the Assignment of Agreements and Quit Claim Transfer with Olympic View Water District regarding the sewer transfer. Council also authorized signing of a Public Works Trust Fund Loan for Town stormwater planning. Voted to release Option Lots 6 and 7 in the Woodway Highlands under the terms of the agreement and notify developer Murray Franklyn.

**SEPTEMBER 2004** Adopted Ordinance 04-448, Animal Control and authorized hiring of a trapper to deal with specific coyote problems. Discussions were held on motorized scooters, trail policies in the Woodway Reserve, and the unimproved right-of-way on 236<sup>th</sup>. HDR Engineering presented their proposal for the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan and detailed the scope of work for the Council. Council also heard a presentation from Sound Transit regarding the Sounder commuter rail service expansion and environmental impacts.



**2005 BUDGET.** The Mayor & Council have been busy preparing the 2005 budget with staff. The Town will be having public hearings on the proposed 2005 budget on Monday, November 15 and December 6, 2004 at Town Hall.

Some of the items being considered are:

- Continuation of retaining the arborist as a consultant
- Increased police coverage – adding an additional officer
- Staff cost of living increase – 2.5%
- New copier for the clerk’s office
- Walkway improvements on Timberlane
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Please come to the meetings, we welcome your input and ideas!

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## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

*Randall Burns, Director*

**Welcome aboard.** Please join the Public Works Department in welcoming our new crew member Mark Murphy. Mark has been hired as a part time employee to replace Richard who is now employed full time by Olympic View Water and Sewer District. We wish Richard the best of luck and if you run across Mark in your daily routine, please give him a warm welcome.

**Coyote problems** Recently we have encountered a new problem in the Town with coyotes. In the past coyote sightings were a fairly regular occurrence but, typically the animals were very timid and caused little problem. More recently the animals have become more aggressive. This summer a large coyote and/or pack of coyotes attacked and killed two fully grown (180 lb) sheep as well as a family’s pet cat “while a young child outside was watching” in the northern part of Town near Dogwood Lane and Chinook Rd. There have been multiple encounters with what is described as an aggressive and unyielding coyote in this neighborhood. The coyote may have been displaced from its normal foraging area with the onset of the Pt. Edwards development. In response, the Town has researched the problem and has enlisted the services of a trapper to remove the nuisance animal.

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## TOWN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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### TOWN CLERK

*Lorraine Taylor  
Jill Massa*

**UTILITY TAXES.** We have received phone calls from residents that their utility taxes have been going to Edmonds instead of Woodway. Since the two cities have the same zip code it has lead to some confusion for the utility companies. We have been working with them and trying to correct errors, but we would like all residents to please look at your bills to make sure that Woodway is getting the credit for your taxes. If not, please call the utility company and let them know that you do live in the Town of Woodway.



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In the process of researching what should be done when coyotes interact with humans, we have found a wealth of information available from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Apparently urban coyotes have been responsible for several attacks on humans and their pets. Coyotes are very adaptive and have established themselves into the urban environment.

The following is an excerpt from the U.S.D.A. Wildlife Service pamphlet on Living with Wildlife Urban and Suburban Coyotes with recommendations of actions that can be used to reduce the chance of human – coyote conflicts.

- “Do not feed coyotes!
- Eliminate any source of water.
- Eliminate availability of bird seed to coyotes. They are attracted to the seed and concentration of birds and rodents that come to the feeder.
- Do not discard edible garbage where coyotes can get to it. Secure garbage containers and eliminate garbage odors.
- Remove any pet food from outside your house.
- Trim and clean near ground level any shrubbery that provides hiding cover for coyotes or prey.
- Fencing your yard could deter coyotes. The fence should be at least 6 feet high with the bottom extending at least 6 inches below ground level for best results.
- Don’t leave small children outside unattended.
- Don’t allow pets to run free. Always walk your dog on a leash. Accompany your pet outside, especially at night. Provide secure shelters for poultry and rabbits.
- Actively discourage coyotes from visiting your area. Don’t be submissive in your behavior. Whenever you see coyotes, make loud noises, throw rocks, etc., to make them leave.
- Ask your neighbors to follow these same steps.”

These steps may decrease the frequency of coyote sightings in your area if practiced continuously. However, coyotes are adaptable to change and quick to learn new ways of survival. Occasional sightings most likely will continue. By making life in your neighborhood difficult, chances are coyotes will search out an easier way to living somewhere else.

Underlying this issue is the fact that coyotes are wild animals and can be dangerous. Please be cautious.

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## WINTER FIRE SAFETY

*John Westfall, Fire Marshall*

Fire Prevention Week in October remembers the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed 250 people and burned thousands of buildings. Buildings and fire codes often evolve to reduce the future risk from disasters such as this. Since July, the State and Town have been using a new set of International Building, Residential, and Fire Codes. Codes and minimum standards of construction provide for a high beginning level of safety provided by your home.

As we live and recreate in combustible buildings with combustible furniture, comforted by electrical power and gas heating, I know of no house yet immune to the potential for fire. Residential fire sprinklers and detectors won't *prevent* fires, but help *protect* you from the results of fire occurrence. For a new home, residential fire sprinklers cost in the order of \$1-2 per square foot, close to the expense one might spend to carpet their home. Residential sprinklers *with* smoke detectors improve the survivability in a fire by 96%. Sprinklers are more expensive in a home already constructed and prices can vary depending upon water availability.

For most of us without fire sprinkler protection, we prepare for winter by following simple safety steps: **Change, Check, Count & Clean!**

**Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries!** Halloween is the day when you change your clocks back to Standard Time. Remember to purchase fresh, reliable batteries so you can change your smoke detector batteries on October 31 to protect you all year long.

**Check Your Smoke Alarms!** After inserting fresh batteries in your smoke detector, or alarm make sure the alarm is working by activating the safety test button. Test all of your smoke alarms at least once each month. Replace the alarm if you have any doubts regarding the working condition of a smoke alarm.

**Count Your Smoke Alarms!** It is recommended to have a smoke alarm in every sleeping room *and* in the hallway directly adjacent to those rooms. If sleeping rooms are on an upper level, a smoke alarm must also be installed in the center of the ceiling directly above the interior stairway.

It's best to have at least one working smoke alarm on every level of your home, including the basement and family room. To assure optimal protection and avoid false alarms, your smoke alarm must be mounted properly. You'll find simple instructions included with every smoke alarm you



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purchase. Should questions remain, I encourage you to contact me at 425.771.0213.

**Clean Your Smoke Alarms!** Help your Smoke alarm remain sensitive and ready to protect you by gently using a vacuum cleaner once a month to remove dust and cobwebs. If your smoke alarms have been accidentally painted or contaminated, replacement may be necessary.

**Retire your old Smoke Alarms** Smoke alarms work every minute of every day. After millions of sensing cycles, they should be retired. Replace your Smoke alarms with new devices every 10 years.

**Plan and Practice Your Escape** Children are at increased risk of dying in a home fire because they often become scared and confused when a fire erupts. Make sure your children recognize the sound of your home's smoke alarm and teach them to respond instinctively to its signal.

Create at least two different escape routes from every room and practice them with the entire family. Be sure all family members know the lifesaving practice of crawling below the dangerously thick smoke and intense heat of a fire. All capable members of the family must learn how to open windows and remove screens or security bars. Purchase, plan and practice using a collapsible emergency escape ladder that can be stored inside near upper floor windows.

Realism is essential in your family's practice, as is your clear designation of a meeting place for everyone to gather outside the home in case of a fire or other emergency. Remember, this may be the only practice and discussion you will have before tragedy strikes. When a fire occurs, don't delay! **Get out quick and stay out!!** Escape first, closing doors behind you if possible. Quickly gather at your meeting place and then notify the Fire Department by calling 9-1-1 from a safe location.

Your firefighters are specially trained and equipped to rescue your family and pets, as well as to protect your possessions. Help your firefighters by remaining together outside the home and directing them to endangered family or valuables.

**Install Fire Extinguishers** Install at least one fire extinguisher in or near your kitchen and know how to use it. We recommend multi- or all-purpose fire extinguishers that are listed by and carry the mark of an accredited testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratory. **Read all instructions carefully** and mount the fire extinguishers for easy access. Make sure adult members of your family

know the proper use as well as the limitations of these important fire safety tools.

**Change Your Flashlight Batteries** Make sure your emergency flashlights work when you need them by using fresh high-quality batteries. It is a good idea to keep a working flashlight and a whistle near your bed, in the kitchen, basement and family room. You can use them to signal for help or direct rescuers in the event of a fire or other emergency.

We wish you a safe winter and happy holiday season from Edmonds Fire Department!

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## **POLICE DEPARTMENT** **HOME SECURITY & SAFETY TIPS**

*Police Chief Doug Hansen*

### **EXTERIOR SECURITY**

**Main Entry.** Solicitation material and newspapers left outside the home may alert someone that the house is not occupied. House numbers should be clearly visible from the street (preferably in a contrasting color) and illuminated to speed emergency responders in locating your home. Your house numbers should be placed on both sides of your mailbox where applicable

If your home is on a large lot with a long driveway, and your home is obscured and cannot be seen from the road, your address should be posted where your driveway intersects with the road. Use **reflective letters and numerals**. Signs that indicate "private drive", "private property", in addition to your address marker, will deter curious visitors and undesirable traffic.

Replace worn or faded signs. Keep them clear and visible! In summer, clip back shrubbery from obscuring your address markers or signs. Keep them clear and visible!

**Exterior Doors.** When moving into a new house, or when keys are lost, locks should be re-keyed or replaced. Exterior doors (including the door between the house and the garage) should be of solid core construction with a deadbolt installed with a minimum throw of one inch (1").

A door viewer is also recommended where appropriate. It should be installed at the viewing level to accommodate the shortest person living in the house who is authorized to answer the door and should have a minimum view of 180 degrees.

If you are concerned with the vulnerability of glass in your door in the proximity of a deadbolt, a product called



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**Security Film** is available from local glass dealers. Properly applied, it may give added security.

**Exterior Lighting** Exterior lighting should be installed to allow you to see someone approaching your house from the front and/or the back, also for safety on slippery surfaces. Consider motion sensor or photo cell to save on electricity and to extend the life of the bulb.

Shrubby should be trimmed and maintained in such a manner as to prevent someone from concealing themselves from your view.

Items in the yard such as ladders, tools, and equipment should be secured as they may be used to enter your home.

**Garage** Do not leave your garage door opener in your vehicle. The opener along with your vehicle registration is another key to your residence. If you plan to be gone for an extended period of time, de-activate your garage door by unplugging it, or throwing the circuit breaker (caution: first check for freezers etc. which also may be on that circuit).

In addition, the garage door should be secured by placing a bar through the rail or using a 'C' clamp or other fixture to secure it.

## **INTERIOR SECURITY**

**Windows** Secure sliding glass doors and windows by "drilling and pinning" to prevent them from being compromised vertically or horizontally. Commercial pins for this purpose can be purchased locally or a wooden dowel may be used. Check all windows to ensure that they close tightly, no broken glass, and that the locks engage securely.

**Alarm Systems** There are many types of Home Security Alarm Systems. Your particular needs and lifestyles will help you determine the type you may want to purchase. There are local businesses that specialize in this product and offer the expertise you need to make an informed decision. Shop around!

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## **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**

## **PUBLIC HEARING: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

The Planning Commission devoted all recent meetings to amending the Comprehensive Plan and the essential elements of this plan have been concluded. An **Open Public Hearing is scheduled for 7 PM, Wednesday, November, 10, 2004 at Town Hall.** All residents are encouraged to attend this Hearing and comment on the various elements of the plan: Land Use, Conservation, Housing, Capital Facilities/Utilities, and the Pt. Wells Subarea Plan. Following public comment, all elements will be finalized and forwarded to the Town Council for final approval. The **Council** expects to review the Plan at their **Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>** meeting and take final action **Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Several positions on the Commission will be open for all interested applicants at the end of this year. For your information, the Planning Commission acts as policy advisors to the Town Council on land use matters and assists in maintaining and implementing the Town's Comprehensive Plan. They also follow duties prescribed by the Washington State Planning Enabling Act and the Growth Management Act. Commission meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. and last about 1-2 hours. Additional meetings or workshops may be scheduled and time allotted for reading, research and training opportunities. On a yearly basis, there are usually 10 meetings.

Applications are available at Town Hall or via fax or email. If you are interested in becoming involved in your community and planning for its future, please submit an application to Mayor Carla Nichols at Town Hall or mail to 23920 113<sup>th</sup> Pl. W. Woodway, WA 98020. This is a voluntary position.

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## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

*Tom Phillips, Building Official*



**New Building Code in Effect.** On July 1, 2004 the State of Washington adopted the new International Building Code (IBC). The State had previously used the Uniform Building Code (UBC) as its building code but it is no longer being published and has been replaced by the IBC. For years there were three building codes used across the country: the UBC, the Standard Building Code and the National Building Code. Since there were three codes, it was difficult to construct the same building in different parts of the country because each code would have slightly different requirements. It was even more difficult for building product manufacturers because they

had to make products that complied with three different sets of standards. The construction industry had asked the three codes to merge into one so there would only be one building code in the country. Thus, the IBC was created and is used in the United States as well as many other counties.

The first IBC was published in 2000 but wasn't adopted by Washington until last July. The IBC includes a separate code used only for residential construction called the International Residential Code (IRC) and is much easier to use than the UBC was. Now all of the residential provisions are found in one place where previously they were scattered throughout the UBC.

Cities are allowed to amend the code locally provided they do not lessen the standards. The only amendment Woodway has made is to the exceptions of when a permit is required. Woodway has chosen to retain the exceptions as they were written in the UBC. These exceptions include: decks not more than 30 inches above grade and sheds not more than 120 sq. ft. Look for these updates to the Town's code at [www.townofwoodway.com](http://www.townofwoodway.com) under "Recent Ordinances" or you can contact Town Hall for a copy of the new Ordinance.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **WOODWAY SEWER RATE REDUCTION**

*Councilmember Peter Block*

The Olympic View Water District Commissioners recently approved a rate reduction for all Woodway sewer customers in their effort to bring charges in line with their non Woodway customers.

Effective September 1, all Woodway sewer customers will pay \$29.04 per month, which is made up of an \$18.18 base rate and a \$10.86 "treatment differential" applied to Woodway. This is the second rate reduction since assumption (at which time the Town's rate was \$34.30), which represents an annual individual cost savings of \$63.12 or an aggregate cost savings of \$15,400 for the Town's 244 sewer customers.

These reductions are the result of the ability of OVWD to utilize their excess capacity in the Edmonds treatment plant. Further reductions in the treatment differential will depend on OVWD's success in negotiating with Metro.

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### **POINT WELLS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WRAP UP--** *Councilmember Peter Block*

Six maps representing the six land use alternatives for Chevron's Pt. Wells property were prepared and exhibited at the Community Fair in September. The PWAC met on October 11 to select their preferred alternative to forward to the Planning Commission. The PC met on October 13 to receive the PWAC's recommendation. At that meeting, it was decided to adopt the recommendation to accept land use alternatives and incorporate them into the draft Comprehensive Plan. **The Planning Commission Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan is set for November 10 at 7 p.m.**

The Town Council heard the economic impacts of each alternative at their October 18 meeting and will receive the PC's recommendation in mid November following the November 10 public hearing. **Interested parties may request email copies from the Town Clerk or view the maps at Town Hall.** A fact sheet is also available.

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## **Stormwater Capital Improvement Plan**

Jack Collins, Administrative Projects Manager  
Mike Blanchette, HDR Engineering

In an effort to address community concerns regarding flooding, water quality, and bluff stability issues, the Town is considering authorizing development of a storm water capital improvement plan to manage our storm water runoff. To meet these concerns, Mayor Nichols has recommended and the Town Council recently approved obtaining a loan, at no interest, from the Washington Public Works Trust Fund. The first step will be the preparation of a stormwater plan by HDR, the Town's engineering firm. The process for this nearly year long study will begin with surveying the Town's existing natural and manmade stormwater system. (Did you know that we have more than two miles of streams and more than 250 catch basins in our one square mile of Town?) After the existing system is inventoried, problems will be identified and a number of solutions will be developed for each problem. Recommended solutions including estimated costs and a financial analysis developed in conjunction with the Town will be provided.

A Capital Improvement Plan Report documenting the existing system, identified problems, developed solutions, recommendations and financial analysis will be sent to the Mayor and Town Council. There will be substantial benefits to the community in reduced flooding and improved water quality of our streams and Puget Sound. Additional benefits of the program include the possibility of creating an information system to help the Town manage planning and public works projects such as critical areas, street improvements and open space projects. The work will also lay the foundation to meet anticipated National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulatory requirements.

## **WEB SITES WITH INFORMATION ON EMERGENCY DISASTER**

Looking at what has happened in Florida with all the hurricanes and listening to Mt. St Helens rumbling, now is a good time to review your home emergency disaster plans. The following two sites offer a great deal of information to consider in your planning and preparation:

**AMERICAN RED CROSS:**

[www.redcross.org/](http://www.redcross.org/)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY:**

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

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## **TOWN ARBORIST**

Thanks to our Town Arborist, Elizabeth Walker, for the enclosed informational brochure on hazard trees. You may contact Ms. Walker for a tree consultation at 425-844-9038. There is an hourly fee for this service.

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## **SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT—FLU INFORMATION**

For flu vaccine updates check [www.findaflushot.com](http://www.findaflushot.com) or call the Snohomish Health District recorded flu information line, (425) 339-5224.

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**WOODWAY FAIR**  
September 11, 2004

