

City HAPPENINGS



MOUNTLAKE
TERRACE

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Volume XXIV, NO. 2

April 2007

Spring Cleaning Events Planned in May

Spring is approaching and as the temperature begins to warm, many Mountlake Terrace residents turn their attention to sprucing up their homes, garages, and yards in anticipation of the community's annual spring cleaning events. For those of you who look forward to partaking in this annual rite of disposal and cleanliness, the official dates for the events are Friday, May 11 through Sunday, May 13 (three days) for the City-Wide Yard Sale; Wednesday, May 16 for



Several members of the Garden Club participated in last year's Mountlake Terrace Volunteer Clean Up Day.

the Free Curbside Pick-Up Day; and Saturday, May 19 for the Community Volunteer Clean-Up Day.

This year's rendition of the Community Volunteer Clean-Up Day marks the seventh year that residents, City staff, and the local community have joined forces on a Saturday morning to help beautify the City's parks and public areas. During previous events, volunteers have donated their Saturday morning to put rakes, shovels, pruning shears, and paintbrushes to work as City flower beds, parks' trails, shrubbery, and facilities receive additional attention and caretaking. Individuals or groups wanting to be a part of the volunteer efforts on May 19 are asked to contact

Ken Courtmanch, Parks Services Supervisor, at (425) 776-1811. The City Council invites all volunteers to attend a barbecue following the event in appreciation of the collaborative effort to help make our community sparkle!

Permits to have major appliances such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, and microwaves hauled away during the Free Curbside Pick-Up Day on May 16 can be obtained at City Hall. The removal permit fee for appliances with chlorinated fluorocarbons (CFCs), including refrigerators and air conditioner units, is \$22. The removal fee for appliances without CFCs including washers, dryers, microwaves and hot water heaters is \$17. Elderly individuals or persons

with disabilities needing assistance during the Free Curbside Pick-Up Day event should contact the Police Department at (425) 670-8260. All assistance requests will be screened and reviewed by the Mountlake Terrace Police Department and all items for removal must be placed outside of homes.

New!! If you would like to have a refrigerator or freezer picked-up through the Snohomish County P U D / J A Y C O

Appliance Recycling Program, units must be in working condition and between 10 to 27 cubic feet in size. Units must also be 1995 models or older. The program is for Snohomish County PUD customers only and customers must own the unit(s) being recycled, with a pickup limit of two units per account. A \$30 incentive check will be mailed to the customer within 4-6 weeks after the appliance collection. Call 1-877-577-0510 for more information and pick-up.

For more information about the City Wide Yard Sale, Curbside Pick-up and Community Clean-up, please call (425) 744-6203 or access the City's website at www.cityofmlt.com/news.htm.

Council Corner



**By Councilmember
Angela Amundson**

What is one of our City’s greatest assets? Lake Ballinger, our course! People come from all over for its swimming and year-round fishing (no boats with motors, please) and what a wonderful thing we’ve done with the beach. We’ve gotten rid of the tires, which used to be the bulkhead, and replaced them with a huge area of freshwater sand and indigenous plant life. It’s beautiful and healthy, which is so important to the life of the lake.

Over the years, the lake has gone through many changes but through it all, it has stayed alive and Mountlake Terrace intends to keep it that way.

In 1942, a Superior Court order was put in place to regulate lake levels and control the amount of water that flows downstream but it wasn’t until the 1980’s that storm water design regulations were a requirement. These

storm water regulations, unfortunately, were too late for much of the basin that had already been developed. Little did anyone know the complications this would make for the development, which occurred through the 60’s and 70’s. With Edmonds, Shoreline and Mountlake Terrace allowing more and more buildings and paved surfaces (better known as impervious surfaces), we created more and more storm water, which creates flooding. With continued increases of impervious surfaces and rainfall, possibly due to global warming, flooding around the lake has been, and still is, an issue. It has been a major problem for the golf course, over the years, but through our work with the Department of Ecology, and its reconfiguration, much of that problem has been alleviated but not yet so for those waterfront homeowners.

Not too long ago, a group called the Lake Ballinger Community Association started meeting with Mountlake Terrace and Edmonds about water levels and water quality concerns. Because of these meetings, and a passion shared by several of your Councilmembers, there are studies being done that may result in a lowering of the lake. But right now, we, the City of Mountlake Terrace, are already working to improve the water quality even before it reaches Lake Ballinger.



Above is an example of flooding caused to homes around Lake Ballinger.

We are developing an overall watershed strategy, which will involve installing structures in several areas of the Lake Ballinger basin and using catch basin inserts to filter pollutants from the storm water runoff.

This is such a great step forward for the quality of Lake Ballinger, which will result in a great step forward for the quality of our lives, as residents. So, I hope that you will find time to enjoy this great asset of our’s as the weather gets nicer. After all, the lake needs you. Every time you swim in the lake, you’re creating oxygen, which helps keep the lake alive and breathing with its plants, fish and water fowl. So enjoy! And, by the way, don’t forget your binoculars — after all, the island is a bird sanctuary.

You Are Invited!

Town Center Impact Study Open House: April 24

A Town Center Plan has been adopted to encourage a lively, walker-friendly downtown that will include more shops, restaurants, services, and outdoor areas. Before development can happen under this plan, an environmental review must be done and new downtown zoning standards must be adopted. An open house will be held April 24, 7 pm, at Mountlake Terrace City Hall for the

public to learn about a Town Center impact study and how to provide input.

The environmental review will focus on managing impacts of future downtown development as envisioned in the new plan. The review will analyze traffic and other factors as part of an “environmental impact statement” or EIS for new downtown zoning regulations. It will include ways to avoid or reduce

possible problems to the neighborhood. The review will also show what development should do to help pay for needed street or park improvements.

As part of the EIS effort, a “planned action ordinance” will be prepared and considered at public hearings, probably in late summer. Please check for updates at the City’s website under: www.cityofmlt.com/towncenter.

City Council adopts Traffic Calming Guide



Mountlake Terrace is a community of neighborhoods, and traffic conditions on local streets are a key measure of neighborhood livability. When our streets are safe and pleasant, the quality of life is enhanced. When traffic problems are a daily occurrence, our sense of community and personal well-being are threatened.

The Mountlake Terrace Traffic Calming Guide was developed at the request of the City Council to assist residents and staff in responding to traffic issues in a consistent and uniform manner. The traffic calming program focuses on solutions to persistent speeding and cut through traffic on local

streets in residential neighborhoods.

The program works in two phases. Phase 1 focuses on passive, less restrictive measures like educational programs, police enforcement, pavement markings, and signage. Should the Phase 1 measures prove ineffective at reducing excessive speeds or cut through traffic, Phase 2 of the program is implemented. Phase 2 solutions generally involve modifying the physical geometry of the roadway and are much more expensive and more restrictive to traffic than Phase 1 solutions.

Traffic calming is a collaborative effort of local residents and the City that requires citizen participation through the process. It involves identifying the problem, gathering data, studying the

traffic speeds and patterns, evaluating possible solutions, understanding the tradeoffs, implementing selected traffic calming measures, and evaluating their effectiveness. The process begins when neighbors identify a traffic issue and petition the City to begin an evaluation.

The complete "City of Mountlake Terrace Traffic Calming Guide" and a four page "Summary of the City of Mountlake Terrace Traffic Calming Guide" can be viewed on the web at www.cityofmlt.com or at City Hall. Printed copies the Traffic Calming Guide can be purchased for \$5.00 each. The printed summary is free. If you would like more information or have questions about the City's Traffic Calming Program, please contact Traffic Engineer Kirk Roberts at (425) 744-6275.

Residential Development Code Considered

The City Council will hold a public hearing on May 7 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to consider amendments to the residential development code. As recently directed by Council, the amendments will not include cottage housing.

Consideration will still be given to requirements for mother-in-law

apartments, along with design standards for any future multi-family development and minor changes to other residential requirements, such as setbacks and lot coverage. The code amendments have been recommended by the Planning Commission.

Comments about the zoning code

amendments may be given at the May 7 public hearing or submitted ahead in writing to the City Clerk at Mountlake Terrace City Hall, 23204 58th Avenue W, or by email to volsen@ci.mlt.wa.us. For more information, please check the Breaking News section of the City's website at www.cityofmlt.com.

Spring Safety Tips

With the weather warming up, here are a few safety tips from your fire safety professionals at Fire District #1:

Bike Safety - When your family is out riding bikes, everyone should wear a helmet. Studies have shown that using a bicycle helmet can reduce head injuries by up to 85%. You don't have to be going fast or far to risk serious head injuries. Custom-fitted, low cost bike helmets are available at your fire stations. Try these tips to get kids to always wear a helmet.

- Help your child practice putting on the helmet until he or she can buckle the straps easily.
- Always insist your child wear the helmet. Make the rule - no helmet, no ride.
- When you ride together, wear your own helmet as a good example.
- Begin the helmet habit with the first tricycle or bicycle and praise your child each time he/she wears it.

Window Safety - When you open windows to let in the fresh air, make sure curious kids don't play near them. Screens were made to keep bugs out, but they won't keep kids in.

- Set and enforce rules about keeping children's play away from windows or patio doors. Falling through the glass can be fatal or cause serious injury.
- Keep furniture - or anything children can climb - away from windows. Children may use such objects as a climbing aid.
- If you are considering installing window guards or window fall prevention devices, make sure that anyone who may need to operate them knows how so that they can be opened for escape in a fire emergency.

State of the City: MLT Comparisons Prove Noteworthy

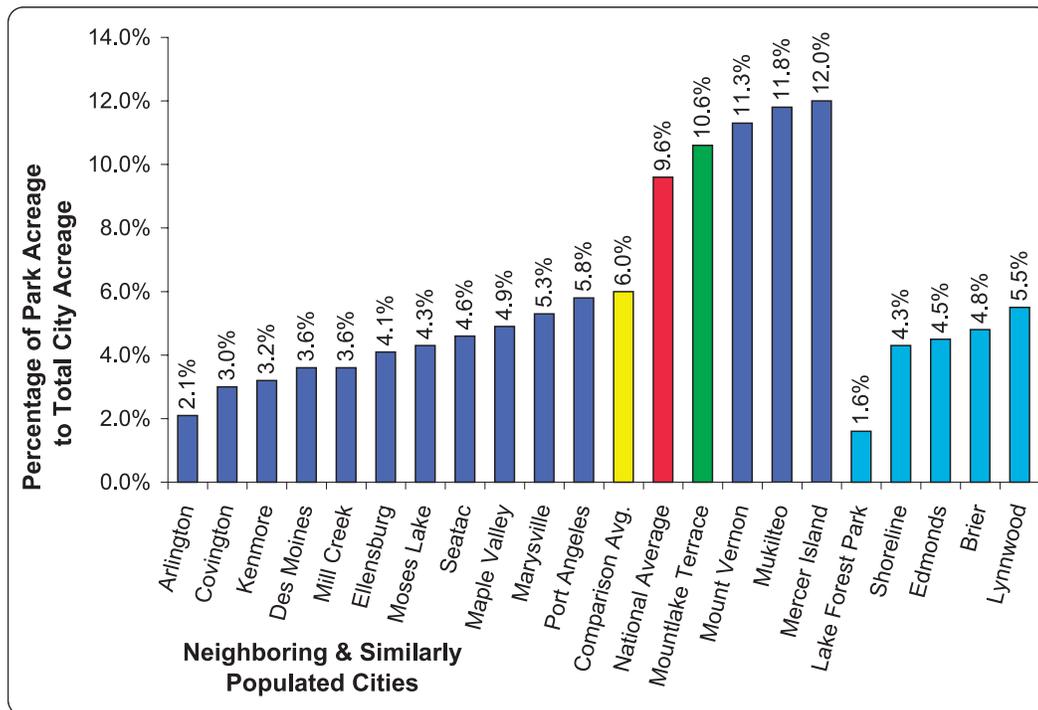
Recreation and Parks

Mountlake Terrace’s recreational and parks facilities are extremely important parts of quality of life, livability and neighborliness, which enhance and preserve the health and vitality of this community. The Recreation and Parks Department is responsible for maintaining and managing 266 acres of property in playgrounds, parks, open space, athletic fields, forested areas, trails and building landscape areas.

Combining these valued public assets with a nationally recognized and enthusiastically supported recreation program, residents enjoy a wide array of leisure time opportunities and facilities that enhance the quality of life within the community.

The City Council has allocated additional resources to increase the level of maintenance service to our parks and building grounds. These additional

resources are being used to remove over grown brush and vegetation, limb-up trees, prune brushes, pressure wash paths, repair picnic tables and park equipment, install new irrigation systems and apply bark and wood chips. Along with making parks visually appealing, these improvements have also encouraged positive uses with fewer incidences of vandalism, litter and broken glass experienced in parks.



2007 Recreation and Parks Highlights

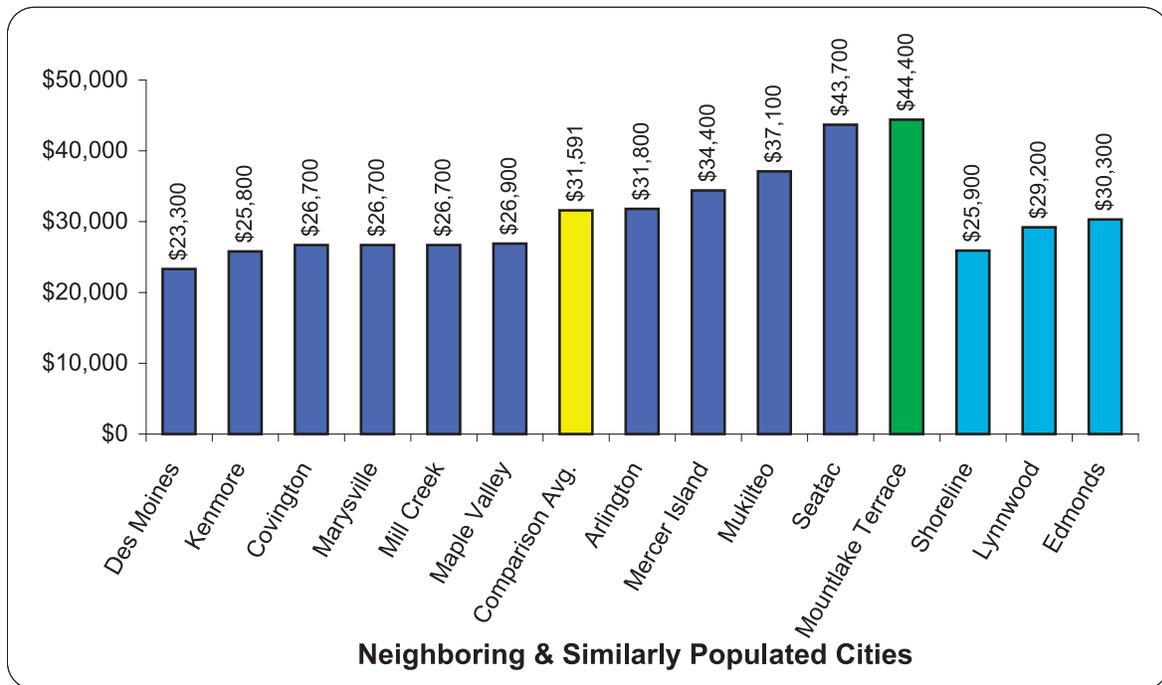
- Coordinate 1,800 hours of park volunteer opportunities
- Evaluate Off-Leash Dog Park
- Increase resources for neighborhood parks and athletic facilities
- Develop Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan
- Host 4th of July community fire works show and celebration
- New adult sport leagues/programs
- Expand childcare programs
- Increase ballfield time for organizations & programs
- More programs, activities and events for 350,000 annual attendees

Community and Economic Development

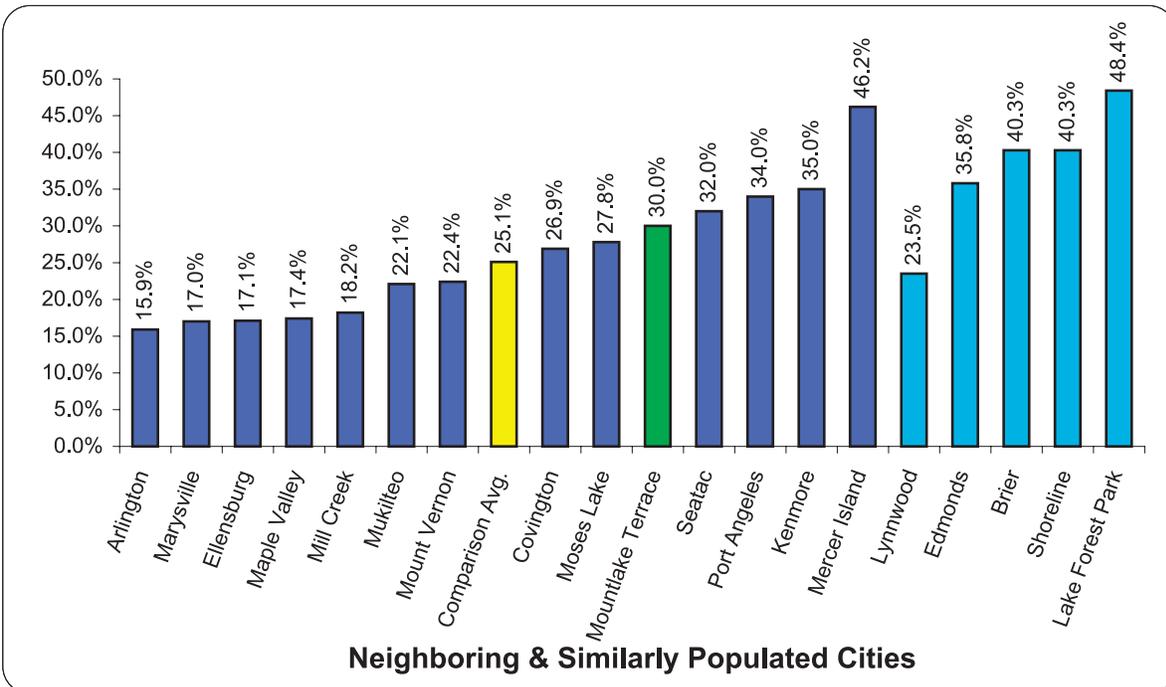
One of the roles of the City is to work with the community to plan for the future through coordinated goals, policies, maps, and strategies regarding the community’s development, investment, and quality of life. The goal is to enhance community livability while preserving the qualities that people value. For this reason the City of Mountlake Terrace engages in activities and creates strategies designed to strengthen the physical, social and economic conditions of the community with a view toward making it a more healthful, prosperous and gratifying place to live.

The City Council has taken a leadership role in partnering with the community to provide strategic direction to promote and guide redevelopment throughout the City, particularly in the downtown area. Under this objective, they have initiated an economic development strategy that will create jobs, bring more shopping choices locally, and improve the community’s tax base. An example is the recent adoption of the Town Center Plan, which will not only result in an economically viable and sustainable business environment well situated for growth and prosperity, but also an attractive community in which to live, work and play.

Average Annual Wage of Jobs within City



Percentage of Residents in Same House for 10 years or more



2007 Community and Economic Development Highlights

- Develop Transportation Plan and Downtown Planned Action Ordinance
- Gateway Intersection Improvements
- Pursue Federal and State funding for needed street and park investments
- Implement Traffic Calming Program
- Update Water System Comprehensive Plan
- Develop Storm Water Comprehensive Plan
- Implement Town Center Plan
- Streamline Development Services Process
- Update the Street Standards (Pavement Restoration) Code
- Update the Zoning Code

Council Corner



**By Mayor Pro Tem
Laura Sonmore**

Our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is an investment in the future of our community. As we emerged into the 21st century, we have developed a CIP to reinvest in the City's infrastructure. Much of Mountlake Terrace was built during the middle of the last century. As Mountlake

Terrace matured as a community 50 plus years later, the time has arrived for reinvestment for the next generation.

A major City Council directive this past year was the development of a proactive approach to assess existing and future capital needs. In support of this, attention was given to identifying and prioritizing capital improvement projects. CIP projects are major additions and/or improvements to City streets, sidewalks, parks, open space, facilities, and water, sewer and storm water utilities.

At its essence, the CIP is a long-range financial planning tool to address the community needs in the long-term future for improving our infrastructure. These investments are needed to provide for the adequate replacement and repairs of our infrastructure as much of it approaches 30 to 50 years old.

The current CIP totals \$41 million through 2012 and includes: \$20 million into water, sewer and storm water utilities; \$9.7 million into streets, roads, sidewalks, and traffic

calming; \$8.5 million toward Town Center-related improvements; and \$2.8 million into recreation and park improvements and information technology investments.

One very successful street improvement project is the 2006 Street Overlay and Chip Seal project, brought back after a 10 year hiatus. The project was the most extensive street investment in the past decade. About 4.5 miles of the City's roadway were improved. We can expect this same level of street improvement over each of the next six years.

We recently began developing a city-wide Transportation Plan, which will assist us not only to identify where future street improvements need to be made, but also the development of a sidewalk placement and replacement program.

Later this year, the City will be embarking on the development of a Recreation and Parks Master Plan to evaluate future recreation and park needs. One example includes the identification of a park for the Melody Hill neighborhood, which is envisioned as having an array of recreation and park opportunities. These public benefits provide Melody Hill neighborhood residents with a sense of preserving the environment and a peaceful place to relax. It also encourages healthy lifestyles and provides a safe place for residents to foster a sense of community.

The fiscally sound CIP provides for an affordable six-year plan to meet commitments to the community and it provides for a safe and well-maintained community for the enjoyment of all residents. Mountlake Terrace has made prudent decisions in its reinvestment strategy and has developed the steps necessary to support a 21st century community – especially in the reinvestment of our streets, parks and utilities. The time has now arrived – especially given high construction inflation – to implement this reinvestment strategy over the next six years.

Council Highlights

February

- Adopted Town Center Subarea Plan
- Adopted Ordinance Reducing Gambling Tax Rate for Non-Profit Organizations
- Report on 2006 Crime Statistics
- Update on Emergency Operations Plan
- Update on Street Standards
- Adopted Resolution to Implement Proposed Traffic Calming Guide
- Public Hearing and Approved Foxwood Ridge PUD and Plat

March

- Presentation on Brier Skatepark
- Presentation on Six-Year IT Plan and Policies
- Reviewed 2007-08 City Council Goals and Workplan
- Allocated 2007 Tourism Promotion Funds
- Allocated 2007 Community Grant Funds
- Adopted Revised City Council Goals and Workplan
- Adopted Resolution To Update Business License Fees
- Adopted Ordinance Repealing the Establishment of

- Right-of-Way Acquisition Procedures and Policies
- Update on Six-Year Financial Forecast
- Appointed Additional Off-Leash Dog Park Task Force Members
- Awarded Contract for Swimming Pool Deck Resurfacing
- Reviewed Preliminary 2006 Financial Report
- Reviewed Residential Development Regulations
- Presentation of 2007 Capital Improvement Plan Projects
- Briefing by Snohomish County Tourism Bureau Director

April

- Approved Agreement with Department of Agriculture for Waterfowl Management Program
- Awarded Professional Services Agreement for Town Center Planned Action Ordinance & Transportation Plan
- Adopted Ordinance to Renew Gambling Moratorium in Town Center
- Adopted Resolution in Support of a Four-Year Polytechnic University in Snohomish County
- Update on Lake Ballinger Watershed Strategy

City Manager: Mountlake Terrace Moves Forward

Spring is now upon us, a time of boundless energy and new growth. Winter (we hope) is finally behind us and we look forward to those activities that bring us together as a community, whether it is the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Seniors Group, our annual Volunteer Clean Up Day, Tour de Terrace or our nationally recognized National Night Out event, there is something for everyone. This year, the City will also be sponsoring a July 4th celebration that will include food, music, and of course, a fireworks display.

This is also the time of the year that the City begins to move forward with major capital improvement projects, including our annual street overlay and chip seal program, continued park improvements, and significant investments towards our aging water, sewer and storm water system. These improvements are but a small example of the commitment the City provides to supporting citizen interests through a wide range of municipal services.

As the City Manager, a big part of my job is to ensure that the City maintains services, programs and facilities that meet the needs of the community and are provided in a fiscally responsible manner. Our City employees and I take special pride in all the work that we do and we believe in fostering an atmosphere that encourages excellence in all public services. Confirmation of this was recently revealed when the City completed a comparison of its services to other

communities called “Measuring Mountlake Terrace”, which showed we rate above average in many categories, including public safety and key social, demographic and economic indicators.

Later this spring, we will launch an improved website as well as making available online audio streaming of Council meetings. We are also partnering with Edmonds Community College to provide information about City services on Channel 21. These projects are examples of our commitment to the rapidly evolving information needs of our community.

There are also a wide variety of opportunities for residents to participate in civic and community affairs. We rely on volunteers to help provide services and there are also a number of boards and commissions that serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council.

Whether you are a local resident, a visitor, or an employee at a local business, take the time to enjoy all that Mountlake Terrace has to offer. With a proud heritage and a reputation of superior public services, Mountlake Terrace is an excellent place in which to live, work, play, and visit. We are steeped in history and poised for the future; a community with high expectations. By working together, we will keep our community a truly special place to call home.

As always, if you would like to contact me, you can call my office at (425) 776-1161, or email me directly at Jcaulfield@ci.mlt.wa.us.

2007 Construction Update

Current Construction

Sewer and Storm Replacements in 48th Avenue W., near 234th - The project provides for storm and sanitary repairs and replacements in advance of this summer’s pavement overlay of 48th Avenue W, between 233rd and 236th. The majority of the work consists of replacing a deteriorated sewer main that conveys sewage eastward from 48th Avenue near 234th, through the Lion’s Creek Condominium site, to the trunk sewer along Terrace Creek. The new sewer will be constructed on a new alignment within 48th Avenue and the driveway to the condominium. The storm system construction consists of replacing a portion of a 15-inch diameter pipe located within 48th Avenue W between 234th and Hedlund Drive.

Upcoming Summer Projects

2007 Street Chip Seal Program - The streets to be chip sealed are those within the area bounded by 236th, 244th, 56th and 60th, totaling 2.17 miles.

48th Avenue West Overlay Project - Nearly one-half mile of street segments along 48th Avenue West will be repaved including 212th to 216th and 233rd to 236th, along with the intersection of 48th & 244th. The work includes a two-inch asphalt overlay, sidewalk ramps meeting ADA design standards, and new pavement markings.

Terrace Creek Storm and Water Main Project - The improvements include the construction of a 12-inch diameter storm drain and a 12-inch diameter water main in Terrace Creek Park. The pipeline drain will extend easterly from 53rd Avenue, near the Pavilion, down the steep slope to the flat area adjacent to wetlands and Terrace Creek. At that location, a storm water infiltration facility will be constructed.

Interurban Trail Connection - This project provides for the construction of the final segment of the City’s Interurban Trail, that portion between route between 226th Place SW and 228th Street SW. When complete, the City’s portion will provide a continuous off-street link between Lynnwood’s existing trail and Edmonds’ future trail.

City Directory

Mountlake Terrace City Hall
 23204 58th Avenue West
 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
 Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00am-5:00pm
 Phone (425) 776-1161
 Fax (425) 778-6421
 Website: <http://www.cityofmlt.com>
 Email: cityhall@ci.mlt.wa.us

Mountlake Terrace City Council
 Angela Amundson 772-6553
 Michelle Angrick 280-1363
 Michelle Robles 776-5794
 Jerry Smith 774-7335
 Laura Sonmore 231-9176
 Douglas Wittinger 778-3376
 John Zambrano 744-0174

Mountlake Terrace City Manager
 John Caulfield 744-6205

Other Useful Phone Numbers
 Animal Control 670-8260
 Building Permits 744-6267
 Business Licenses 744-6211
 Code Compliance 670-8260
 Emergency 911
 Engineering 744-6273
 Fire Business 551-5100
 Information 776-1161
 Library 776-8722
 23300 58th Avenue W.
 Pet Licenses 744-6210
 Planning 744-6266
 Police Business 670-8260
 Public Works 670-8264
 Recreation Pavilion 776-9173
 5303 228th Street SW
 Street Lights Out 670-8264
 Traffic Ticket Info 744-6211
 Utility Billing 744-6214
 Utility Billing Fax 775-0420
 Email: utilitybilling@ci.mlt.wa.us

Council Meetings

The City Council holds its regular meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 pm at City Hall. If the meeting date falls on a National holiday, the Council meeting will take place the following day.

Family 4th of July Event

Fireworks banned beginning June 28

As an early reminder to citizens and visitors to Mountlake Terrace, the Police and Fire Departments would like to outline changes to the City Municipal Code regulating fireworks that go into effect of **June 28, 2007**.

On June 19, 2006 the Mountlake Terrace City council passed an ordinance banning fireworks in the City of Mountlake Terrace. The ordinance states, in part:

It is unlawful for any person to sell, possess, use, transfer, discharge, ignite or “explode any fireworks” within the City of Mountlake Terrace.

During the 4th of July holiday last year, the police department and firefighters from Fire District 1 sought to educate the public concerning the upcoming ban. Beginning this year, the City will have a zero tolerance policy for those violating the fireworks ordinance. Citations will be issued and all fireworks will be confiscated from violators. During the upcoming 4th of July holiday, the community can expect that both fire and police officials will have additional personnel on-duty and they will be taking an aggressive enforcement approach to all violations.

As an alternative to individual fireworks, the City will be sponsoring a community fireworks display in the area of Evergreen Playfield, 22205 56th Avenue West, during the evening hours of July 4. Starting at 4:30pm, 224th St. SW will be blocked off between 54th and 56th. There will be vendors selling food and wares in the area, along with musical entertainment from 6pm until the fireworks display at 10pm. The display will last approximately 15 minutes. The best place to view the fireworks will be from the track directly south of the city tennis courts on 224th. For more information about fireworks, please contact the Police Department at (425) 670-8260.

City Happenings

is an official publication of the City of Mountlake Terrace

Editor ~ Virginia Olsen

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