

City Happenings

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

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June 2006

Town Center: Plan For Success

A Town Center for Mountlake Terrace—a vibrant downtown where people live, work, shop and play. What that means and how to get it is the topic for community meetings this summer and fall.

Mountlake Terrace has a historic downtown or “town center” that includes 56th Avenue West and the surrounding area from just south of 228th to 236th Street Southwest. Downtown began to decline when the Alderwood shopping mall opened a few miles away. In 1990, downtown’s decline continued as arson fires destroyed much of the central shopping area. Only part of it (West Plaza) was eventually rebuilt for retail. Another part was rebuilt as a gymnastics center. A newer section extends along 56th and 55th Avenues West from 236th Street to 244th Street Southwest. (See map.)

Interest in the Town Center is mounting and the City Council is very committed to achieving its goal of revitalizing our Town Center commercial corridor. Mountlake Terrace’s strategic location along I-5 between Seattle and Everett along with its strong demographics, significant purchasing power, and excellent community amenities makes development and redevelopment in the community’s Town Center and continued investment in other commercial areas very attractive.

What’s the future vision in 5 years, 10 years and 20 years? Is the current

downtown district too small? Too big? How can it be more walkable? Where should the core or “main area” be? Where should municipal facilities such as a new city hall, new library or senior center be located? Should mini-casinos be allowed in the Town Center? How can the Town Center be redeveloped to be better than it is now? What benefits or attributes can the revitalization of the downtown bring to the community? How do we accomplish this, but still find the necessary balance to preserve and protect our single-family residential neighborhoods?

Ideas on these questions are being sought by the City Council as a Town Center Plan process gets started. The Council wants broad input from all community stakeholders on developing a vision and strategy to create an economically viable and sustainable downtown, well situated for growth and prosperity, and an attractive community for all to enjoy.

Community meetings for sharing ideas are being scheduled. Planning updates and opportunities will be posted on the City website, www.cityofmlt.com, as the process continues throughout 2006.

The City Council and its appointed Planning Commission are eager to get started. The Council has identified economic development and the redevelopment and revitalization of the downtown as one of their key goals for 2006-2008. In addition, the City Council is commit-



ted to providing the leadership and strategic guidance concerning economic development.

They are clear that not only do they want a good plan; the plan must be quickly put into action. A Town Center Plan should be like an architectural blueprint for a building—something that guides what will be built and how it is used. The plan will guide the kinds of business, mixed uses, and community services that should be encouraged, the locations for key amenities, how traffic should be managed, and ways the City can invest in making the vision happen.

Council Corner



By Councilman
John Zambrano

It has always been my belief that what really determines peoples' perceptions about the state of the community and local economy is what they see in their neighborhoods and workplaces. As an elected leader and long-time citizen of Mountlake Terrace, I have been concerned about the economic vitality of our city. This concern was the primary

reason I ran for city council — to energize economic-development.

Now I am honored to be a part of a group of visionary Councilmembers and leaders, who have developed goals and action strategies for 2006 thru 2008. These goals are:

1. Protect and Enhance the City's Financial Health and Stability.
2. Generate Economic Development through out the Community.
3. Review and prioritize Capital Infrastructure Needs and Implement Projects.
4. Develop and Implement more effective Communication and Outreach with the Community.
5. Maintain appropriate and essential Public Services in a cost-effective manner.

Where are we now on achieving our goals? Our financial health is very good. The City Council has passed interim downtown design standards and we look forward to working with all community stakeholders to develop and implement a vision for our downtown that will result in an attractive and revitalized area that further strengthens and maintains our quality of life. The Council has reviewed and agreed in principle on our infrastructure needs and projects. Our communication and outreach to the community has increased and we are improving our public service to our community daily. Yes, it is an exciting time to be a citizen of Mountlake Terrace, the "*Front Porch of Snohomish County.*"

Council Highlights

March

- Adopted New Code Enforcement Ordinances
- Approved 2006 Lodging Tax & Community Grant Funding
- Approved Agreement for Town Center Grant
- Public Hearing on Interim Town Center Design Standards
- Adopted Moratorium on Gambling Establishments in the Town Center
- Authorized Amendment to Golf Course Lease Agreement

April

- Approved 2006-2008 Council Goals
- Adopted Interim Town Center Design Standards
- Approved Montesa Final Plat
- Approved EPA Byproduct Disinfectant Rule Project

May

- Adopted Continuation of Moratorium for Certain Gambling Establishments in Town Center
- Awarded Contracts for Citywide Signal Modification Project and Water Service Replacements
- Approved Agreements for Traffic Improvement Funding and Maintenance
- Authorized Lease Agreement for Police Motorcycle and Purchase of Equipment
- Approved Extension of Current Golf Course Agreement

Warm Weather Invites Safety Hazards

A Safety Message from Snohomish County Fire District 1

If you have young children in your home, your firefighters remind you to exercise caution around open windows. Every year when the weather gets warm, your firefighters respond to tragic calls where children are injured after falling out of open windows.

Toddlers are most at risk from window-related falls. The majority of window fall related deaths (70 percent) occur during the spring and summer months, according to Snohomish County SAFE KIDS.

Unattended children run the greatest risk of falls and injuries, so the best first step is to watch your children as they play. Nothing can substitute for careful supervision. Here are some tips from your firefighters at Fire District 1 to help keep your family safe around windows and patio doors:

1. Keep children away from open windows and patio doors. If you need ventilation, open windows that a child cannot reach.
2. All windows above the first floor should have locks/guards; never rely on screens to protect your child. Screens are designed to keep bugs out, not prevent a child from falling.
3. Never leave a window open more than 4 inches
4. Do not place furniture under windows. Children can use furniture as a climbing aid to reach an open window and fall.
5. Keep window blinds, cords, draperies, and curtains away from cribs and playpens and out of a child's reach. A child may use window treatments to climb to an open window, may be injured when climbing, or be strangled by the cords.
6. Closely supervise toddlers when they are around open windows.

For more information about window locks and what you can do to help prevent window falls contact Kristen Thorstenson at Fire District 1 at (425) 551-1250.

City Manager Message



By John J. Caulfield

I want to express my appreciation to the City Council, staff and community for the warm welcome I have received since being appointed as City Manager. It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you during my "Listening Tour" which has allowed me the opportunity to obtain a more clear understanding of the important issues that affect us all. As City Manager, I believe in fostering an atmosphere that encourages excellence in all public services. By working together, we will keep our community a truly special place to call home.

The City of Mountlake Terrace is at a crossroads in its evolution, entering one of the most exciting times for achievement and improvement in our 52-year history. Our City is vibrant with an excellent quality of life and a unique sense of community. Our citizens are involved by serving on volunteer advisory boards and commissions, coaching youth sports, beautifying our community with the Garden Club, and promoting community events such as Tour de Terrace and National Night Out. The Crime Watch Volunteers cruise our streets to support the public safety work of the Police Department. These are only a sampling of the

volunteerism and tremendous sense of community pride that exist in Mountlake Terrace.

While embracing our historic past, the City Council is poised to accept the challenges of the future as is exemplified by their 2006-2008 goals and objectives: promoting financial health and stability; generating economic development; prioritizing capital infrastructure needs (like streets, utilities, parks, and facilities); implementing more effective communication and outreach; and maintaining essential public services in a cost-effective manner.

These goals clearly delineate priorities such as controlling expenditures and maximizing the allocation of City resources. This strong strategic focus of the Council enhances the City's organizational responsiveness and performance.

The City Council is committed to an effective and accountable local government through strong leadership, management excellence, and open and honest communication. We are fortunate to have a caring and involved citizenry and a dedicated and professional City workforce. Honesty and integrity are the values through which the City is prepared to continue delivering the highest level of municipal services to residents and businesses in the 21st Century. Please contact my office by phone at (425) 776-1161 or by email at cityhall@ci.mt.wa.us for any information you might need about our great community.



Is Your Sidewalk Safe?

Being able to safely walk is an important part of a healthy community. Seniors, children walking to school, disabled citizens, those taking public transportation, and others depend on clear sidewalks to safely go from place to place. So how can you, as a property owner, help make walking enjoyable and safe? The most important way is for every property owner to control vegetation. While City code requires that property owners keep branches, shrubs and other types of greenery cut back from the sidewalk and provide at least a seven-foot high clearance, it is important that we all think of others and do our part in providing a safe walkway for our community.

Branches hanging over a sidewalk or out into the street could cause serious eye damage – especially when walking at night. For physically impaired individuals and especially those with sight impairment, vegetation blocking or hanging out over the street can make for a very unpleasant walk. The City is in the third of a five-year program to remove trip hazards on sidewalks. With the help of property owners, we can all provide a safer walking experience for our community.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How many garage sales can I have per year?

A. Generally you can have four per year for three consecutive days each. In addition, you may participate in the citywide garage sale held each year in May during the spring clean up. No permit is required.

Q. Where is the frisbee golf course park?

A. Terrace Creek Park, also known as Candy Cane Park, due to the red and white striping on the playground equipment, has a disc golf course. The park is located at 23200 48th Avenue W. For more information, please contact Lowell Shields from the Seattle Disc Golf Association at (425) 670-2548.



Fun Summer Events

Mountlake Terrace is THE place to be for summer fun. In addition to the 87-degree indoor leisure pool, golf courses, and nature trails, the City's biggest crowds gather in the Town Center for Tour de Terrace and National Night Out.

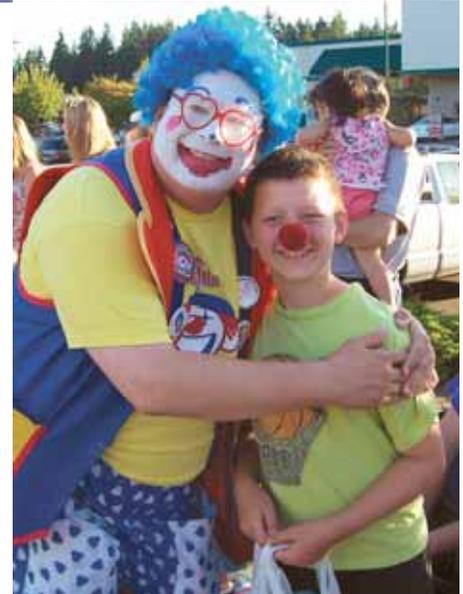
Tour de Terrace, July 28, 29, 30

Planned and produced by Mayor Jerry Smith and his dedicated volunteer organization, Tour de Terrace features a carnival, parade, live music, vendor booths, classic car show, and pancake breakfast over the last weekend of July. Families plan their vacations around this opportunity to see the Seafair Pirates and Vigilantes close up at the parade down 56th Avenue on Friday night. The Seattle Police Department Motorcycle Drill Team will also participate and as usual, Elvis should make an appearance at Evergreen Park (22205 56th Avenue W.) where the festival is held. For more information, call Tour de Terrace at (425) 776-7331.

National Night Out, August 1, 6pm

Join City staff and local business and community groups for National Night Out Against Crime at the Civic Center Campus at 232nd Street and 58th Avenue on Tuesday, August 1, at 6:00 p.m.

National Night Out attracts up to 1,000 Mountlake Terrace residents and friends for an evening of live music, free food, crime prevention tips and displays, games, and other entertainment. This event has become a major outreach opportunity where neighbors get to know each other and their local government. National Night Out is sponsored by the City of Mountlake Terrace in partnership with numerous local businesses. Residents on the City's Community Policing Advisory Board have taken on the task of planning the fun. Come and check it out!



Major Street Improvement Projects Planned for Summer & Fall

The City of Mountlake Terrace is undertaking several notable street improvement projects this summer as part of the 2006 Street Overlay and Chip Seal Project. The project, funded in part from grants provided by the Federal Highway Administration and Community Transit, is the most extensive street investment in the past decade. About 22% of the City's arterials, or 4.5 miles of roadway will be improved. These projects address the Council's goal of reviewing and prioritizing capital infrastructure needs.

The key areas scheduled for overlays are 236th Street SW near the I-5 Park

and Ride Lot eastward to 56th Avenue and along 56th Avenue West from 244th Street to 236th Street SW. In addition to repaving, the project includes installation of ADA compliant corner access ramps, sidewalk and driveway repairs, and water and stormwater system upgrades.

Chip sealing, a process that prolongs the lifespan of our streets at half the cost of new pavement, will also be done over the summer on 3.7 miles of City roads. Chip sealing is a sandwich process consisting of oil, rock, and more oil. The surface is not as smooth as

new pavement, but provides better traction. The streets planned for chip sealing are listed below, and the City will provide more information to those neighborhoods who will be affected by the project.

Depending upon weather conditions, the projects are likely to commence in July and continue throughout the summer and early fall seasons. For more information on these projects, please contact Public Works Director Larry Waters at (425) 670-8264, x101 or click on the City's website at www.cityofmlt.com/news.htm.

2006 Capital Improvement Projects

Signal Modification Project

Schedule: July

216th & 66th - new left turn phases
 236th & 66th - improve signal visibility with 5-section heads.
 Includes changing signal bulbs to more energy efficient LED modules, installing small, blue "tattle-tale" lights to aid traffic enforcement, and conversion of pedestrian push buttons

Street Overlay Project

Schedule:

Late Summer & Early Fall

236th St. from 56th Ave. to I-5
 56th Ave. from 236th St. to 244th St.
 Intersection of 48th Ave. & 244th St.
 New ADA Sidewalk Ramps
 Pedestrian Crossing @ 58th & 236th
 Water Service Replacements
 Storm System Repairs

Water Main Replacement Project

Schedule: Fall

Replace existing 4" steel water main
 Replace 8" water main in 237th St.
 Replace 12" water main in 238th St.
 Replace 12" storm main in 237th, 200 feet west of 56th Avenue

Chip Seal Project

Schedule: Summer

66th from 220th south to 232nd St.
 58th from 220th south to 230th St.
 56th from 220th south to 228th St.
 52nd from 221st south to 225th St.
 48th from 221st south to 233rd St.

Terrace Creek Park Storm & Water Main

Schedule: Fall

Replace failing 8" steel storm line and provide a new 12" water main connection for fire flow & stormwater infiltration

Terrace Ridge Lift Station

Schedule: Summer & Fall

Install dry well "package station", above ground controls, and new wet well; and reconstruct sewer between 243rd cul de sac & 244th

Storm & Sanitary Sewer Reconstruction Project

Schedule: Late Summer & Fall

Projects to address erosion, flooding, backups & high maintenance areas. See www.cityofmlt.com/news.htm for more information

Watch What You Flush!



What should NOT go into your sewer system.

Over the past several months, the City has had to work on sewer pipes and pumps much more often than normal to remove rags, towels, shirts, pants and many other foreign objects that are being flushed down toilets or otherwise find their way into the system. This is very damaging, costly and illegal.

The sewer system, as with the City water and storm system, is actually YOUR system. Your utility rates pay for the system to function correctly. When foreign materials are put in the system, it costs money to make repairs, and ultimately this increases your rates.

In addition, your Public Works Department asks you not to pour grease down any drain or toilet. Toxic or hazardous wastes or chemicals are dangerous and can upset the wastewater treatment plant, which can lead to environmental problems.

Thank you for helping to keep our City's systems working better at a lower cost.

City Council Discusses Possible Fireworks Ban

Town Meeting Held on May 3

The City Council has been discussing the issue of fireworks since last fall and on May 3, the Council held a Town Meeting at Mountlake Terrace High School to provide education from public safety personnel and solicit input from citizens on whether or not to ban fireworks in Mountlake Terrace.

As of press time, the Council plans to hold another work/study session in June on whether or not to ban fireworks. If an ordinance banning fireworks is adopted prior to July 4, per

State law, it would not go into affect until 2007 so please heed the following information from the City's Fire Marshal.

"Every year, firefighters see serious injuries and property loss caused by fireworks. The safest way for families to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display put on by trained professionals," said Deputy Chief Steve Sherman, Fire

Marshal for Snohomish County Fire District 1.

Children are at the greatest risk from fireworks, whether as spectators or active participants. Fire departments and hospitals across the state report an average of more than 100 fireworks injuries each year. Il-

legal fireworks are responsible for the bulk of injuries, but legal fireworks can cause serious injuries too. "Just because fireworks are legal, doesn't mean they are safe," Sherman

said. "Sparklers can heat up to 1,200 degrees, posing a serious danger in a child's hand. As parents and adults, we have a responsibility to protect our children," he added.

In unincorporated Snohomish County, Mountlake Terrace and Brier, fireworks can only be discharged on July 4 from 9 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Fire and police officials are reminding residents that fireworks are not allowed in parks or on school property. This year, Mountlake Terrace firefighters and police will be teaming up to patrol parks and city property on July 4. The police department will have additional staffing on the 4th of July and will be taking aggressive enforcement action on those who are discharging illegal fireworks and for discharging legal fireworks at times other than the hours permitted by law.



The subject of fireworks was an emotional issue at the May 3 Town Meeting at Mountlake Terrace High School.

Code Enforcement Gearing up for 2006 City Pride Survey

In the past few weeks, citizens started to receive brochures in their water bills explaining the changes in the Code Enforcement laws. These addresses will be the first area to be surveyed for code compliance, which is starting in mid-June. Until then, Code Enforcement Officer Rob Jenkins will continue to close out his current caseload and make preparations for the survey to begin.

Officer Jenkins has 22 cases left from the previous survey that are the "worst of the worst" or the resistant few that require the City to take every available action to remedy the problem. Most of these cases involve properties where the owner either has or shortly will be going to a hearing, at

which an order for the violations to be corrected will be issued. Additionally, there are five recently opened cases that could not wait for the new survey due to the nature of the infractions.

When a new survey is about to begin, we generally will wait to start a new case on a property that is reported to us until we are working in that area. This keeps the inspections organized and efficient, and it is only done when the complaint is on going and not an immediate threat to health and safety. The citizens who report these violations are historically very understanding of this process. They know that we will add the information reported to us into the file even though we do not open a case on that particular property yet.

To make sure that the survey runs smoothly, Officer Jenkins is updating a number of forms and the database system with the new code amendments. He will also be training our Cadets to assist with the survey and help keep up on parking enforcement while he is concentrating on properties.

This survey will end around mid-September, and the last quarter of the year will be spent following up with property owners who did not comply after receiving their first notice. This City Pride survey is expected to generate more cases than last year due to the changes in the codes, but the results will be apparent in the overall condition of the City. We appreciate your cooperation in reaching this goal.

Volunteer Efforts Help Make Mountlake Terrace Shine!



Several non-profit organizations such as the Mountlake Terrace Garden Club (above) and Church of Christ (upper right) attended the May 20 Volunteer Community Clean Up.

up City parks, trails, and facilities. Parks Services Supervisor Ken Courtmanch noted that about 80 yards of debris was trimmed back at Evergreen and Veterans Parks while Ballinger Park and Evergreen Playfield restrooms and picnic facilities were given a fresh coat of paint. Seattle Disc Golf members helped improve the trails at Terrace Creek Park while City employees worked to tidy up the entrance areas at City Hall.



The skies cleared by mid-morning and after working up an appetite, the volunteers were treated to a barbecue by Mayor Jerry Smith and the City Council, who also participated in the clean up and then dished up fried chicken and hot dogs. "I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who help make this City a great place to live and work. Several local churches, scout troops, and the Mountlake Terrace Garden Club helped out in addition to our dedicated citizenry," remarked the Mayor.

Volunteer organizations, residents, elected officials, and City staff partnered together for the 6th annual Community Clean Up event in Mountlake Terrace on May 20. Approximately 120 volunteers donned their gardening clothes and gave up their Saturday morning to spruce



Creekside Church volunteers enjoyed a barbecue lunch following the clean up.

The Council appreciates the collaborative effort put forth by the community, and they look forward to everyone participating again next May.

**Thank You
Volunteers!**

More Events

**Seniors Group Community
Barbecue & Bake Sale**

**Saturday, June 24
10:00am - 2:00pm**

**Bethesda Lutheran Church
23406 56th Ave. W.**

**For More Information
Call (425) 672-2407**

**Mountlake Terrace Library
Summer Reading Kickoff**

**with the Reptile Man
Thursday, June 22, 7pm**

**Pavilion BBQ & Market
August 19, 11am-3pm**

Summer Camps

Continued from page 8

themed sports camps offered throughout the summer including tennis lessons, tennis team, tennis camp, coach pitch softball and t-ball, golf camp, and soccer camps.

Is your child more of a performer? How about dance camps? Our high performing dance camps offer great summer enrichment and fun. The first week of Summer Dance Camp (Ages 4-6) is themed "Peter Pan" and will explore creative movement and storytelling. We also offer Theatrical Dance Camps (Ages 7-11), Hip Hop/Jazz Camp (Ages 7-11), Cheer Camp (Ages 7-11), and Advanced Dance Intensives. Does your child have a penchant for acting or maybe snapping pictures around the house? Try one of the wide array of specialty camps such as Fine Arts Camp, Culinary Creations, Leadership Camp, Sports Adventures, Textile Arts, Drama Camp, and Photography Camp. If you are looking for a great place to be and a place "where the fun never ends", check out the Recreation Pavilion and its many program opportunities, for kids and adults! Call (425) 776-9173 for more information or check out the recreation department pages on our website, www.cityofmlt.com.

City Directory

Mountlake Terrace City Hall

23204 58th Avenue W.

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 670-0678

Michelle Angrick 280-1363

Michelle Robles 776-5794

Jerry Smith 774-7335

Laura Sonmore 776-8837

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 p.m. at City Hall. If the meeting date falls on a National holiday, the Council meeting will take place the following day.

Summer Camps at the Pavilion

“Where the fun never ends!”

The Recreation and Parks Department summer programs leap into high gear with a myriad of kids’ camp activities offered throughout the upcoming summer months. Whether you have an interest in themed field trips, aquatics, sports camps, dance, or specialty camps such as photography and textile arts, there is something for everybody at the Pavilion, your recreation destination!



Adventurers, ages 3-5, enjoy creative art activities.

Navigators (ages 7-11) and Teen Navigators (ages 12 & up) will hit the speed of sound the first week of camp with a “Fun in Flight” theme, which includes a field trip to the Museum of Flight! We also offer a camp for Young Adventurers (Ages 3-6) to have fun together at the Recreation Pavilion, without field trips. For an additional fee, the Pavilion offers before and after camp care for the convenience of working parents.

The first week of camp also holds many adventures for kids who love to swim. The Summer Swim Team, affectionately referred to as the “Marlins”, dives into the pool on June 26 as do the Aquatic Camps — Aqua Kids (Ages 4-7), Sharks (Ages 6-10) and Rangers (Ages 10-15).

Are your kids sport nuts? Our Summer Basketball Camp with Mountlake Terrace High School basketball coaches Nalin Sood and Deidra Ducheane helps kick off the summer as well, beginning on June 26 at the high school. There are also

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City Happenings

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