

**Mayor's column for  
The Beacon  
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***"Beacon Soundbites"***

Instead of writing about just one subject, I thought I'd do what the television networks do...just give you a quick soundbite and then move on to something else. More headlines and less substance! So here goes!

We have been overwhelmed by the positive reaction to our quarterly newsletter. Watch for it in your mailbox in mid October. We welcome your thoughts and ideas for content.

The September 20 memorial for the Brier police officer who died in the line of duty was as powerful a service as I have ever witnessed. American flags lined Edmonds streets as the procession made its way from Beck's Funeral Home to Westgate Chapel for the service. It was a day that Edmonds could be proud of for being able to host the memorial.

It's budget time again, and I'll be presenting my 2007 budget to the City Council on October 17. During October and November, the Council will hold public hearings on the draft budget, so let your voice be heard.

The City has closed the real estate transaction with the school district for 5.5 acres at the site of the old Woodway Elementary. We will now begin to formulate the plans to build a new park there, complete with sports fields. The community will be invited to help in the planning process.

The committee studying the role of Paine Field will resume its meeting schedule in October after a several-month hiatus while a law firm could be selected by the County to assist the committee in its deliberations.

The City has taken possession of our new fire boat, which we obtained with a Homeland Security grant. It will be jointly operated by police and fire personnel, depending on need. It will be dedicated some time this fall and will be named the Charles W. Cain in honor of Chuck Cain who passed away earlier this year.

A sad anniversary takes place this week as we remember the crash of the Airlift Northwest helicopter into Puget Sound just off Talbot Park on a very stormy September 29 night last fall.

The hot topic in land use downtown seems to be the remake of Old Milltown. A recent decision by the Architectural Design Board has been appealed by a citizen, and the appeal will be heard by the City Council in the upcoming months.

Citizen interest in my neighborhood meetings last spring was encouraging enough that we are scheduling 2007 meetings already. Rather than do two per week for a month, I've decided to hold them monthly. Six will be held before summer and two in the fall. The first one will be on January 11 at Seaview Elementary School.

As we head into the dark and rainy season (sadly), please remember to watch for kids going to school. And if you see storm drains plugged up with leaves, take a moment to sweep the leaves away in order to allow the drains to do their work.

Moving back to the new park issue that I addressed earlier, it's significant to note that we applied for a \$500,000 state grant to assist in the purchase of that property, and we finished in the middle of the pack of 72 applications. Only the top ten received any funding. We also were shut out in our grant request for funds to help pay for the wetlands purchase earlier this year. Grants are becoming an extremely competitive process with more and more cities applying.

Continuing with the grants discussion, we have applied for grants to do some sidewalk projects in the city, and let's hope we fare better than we did in the parks applications.

I have formed a committee to study what we can do to slow global warming and climate change. Updates will be coming your way as we progress.

Next year is an election year for four City Council seats and the Mayor's office. It is also an election year for County Executive and County Council. Speculation always runs rampant about who is running for what position. I continue to be asked if I am running again for mayor. I also hear through the grapevine that I'm running for Executive and for County Council. While I'm not ready to announce if I'll run for mayor again, I can say with certainty that I am not running for either of the other two positions.

I have said many times that being mayor of this wonderful city is the pinnacle of my political career, and I continue to feel that way. So for me, it will be either run for mayor again or retire from politics.

I'm pretty sure I can't make a living as a writer, but thanks for reading!