



# ISSAQUAH ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

PO Box 921 • ISSAQUAH, WA 98027

## Election 2005 You can't buy Issaquah!

So how did YOU feel about Issaquah's 2005 election? Did you understand the issues? Did you talk to the candidates? Did you figure out who represents YOUR concerns?

There was a lot of smoke blowing around this particular election. The Issaquah Press early on described the candidates separating into 2 slates: the "Chamber of Commerce" slate and the "Environment" slate. Yet the so-called Chamber candidates were talking about the environment, and the so-called Environment candidates were talking about annexation, development, and a local hospital.

Then there were thousands of dollars flowing through the Republican party to Chamber candidates and anonymous mailers full of misinformation. Where did it all come from? This was a high-stakes election, to be sure. The Chamber candidates received big bucks from big business and development while the Environment candidates were supported by primarily local individuals.

What were the results? The voters were great! See Council article inside.

## IEC News Updates for 2005

It has been quite a year and the IEC has been so busy that a few newsletters have been skipped! Between the rapid happenings with the SE Bypass, the election and the annexations, critical area ordinances and transportation concurrency\*...well the City has certainly turned up the heat! (\*See "Issaquah Can Build Again," page 3)

**Kees Creek:** The IEC completed the Kees Creek restoration project well under budget, returning several thousand dollars to the granting agency! Remember this is the project that removed invasive vegetation around Kees Creek then replanted with native vegetation. The majority of grant money was used to pay for a new culvert under Issaquah/Hobart Rd allowing for much easier fish passage. A big round of applause goes to Barbara Shelton the workhorse behind this project!

**Issaquah Trail:** Progress continues on the invasive removal project for Issaquah Trail. This is the trail that runs directly behind Issaquah High School. Thousands of hours have been spent over the last two years pulling Scot's Broom and non-native blackberries. One amazing stormy day was spent by the High School students during Campus Clean-up Day evicting the broom from around the softball fields! We can use all the help we can get on this trail as it has seen many years of neglect! Call Connie at (425)392-4908.

**SE Bypass:** The environmental review of the SE Bypass continues. It was almost voted down late this year, but the Chamber and key Council members applied substantial pressure and Joe Forkner changed his vote. Now, the City has re-submitted Concurrence Point #3. This is a process of getting agreement from 6 federal & state regulatory agencies that the City's Preferred Alternative is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA). The first submittal was returned with a unanimous 6 letters of non-concurrence from the permitting agencies. We have submitted information requests for these documents and expect to begin our review of them shortly.

**Critical Area Ordinance Update:** The updates for the Issaquah CAO's have also been a fascinating thing to watch. The River and Streams Board worked on a very moderate update focusing only on wetlands and creeks, especially in areas where the current code was not supported by best available science. Their draft code went to Planning Policy Commission (PPC) for review, had some public comment and came out a much different concept. This newer draft is based on the Department of Ecology standards using some basic mitigation in order to offset the impacts of narrower buffers in an Urban setting. Is this better or worse?

## What We Had & What We Want

The City Council election in 2005 is setting up 2006 to be a fascinating year. Two Councilors, Fred Butler and Russell Joe tend to show a lack of support for the environment. Newly elected Maureen McCarry and John Rittenhouse join Dave Kappler to show strong environmental support. Eileen Barber is an unknown, having stated during the election that she is a strong environmentalist then accepted large \$\$\$ from those with strong development interests. Did she just say she was an environmentalist or is she really? It will become clear. Nancy Davidson is the swing vote. With a tendency to hold her cards until the vote is cast she has placed herself in the power position on this Council. Remember to watch channel 21 or go to some meetings...the cheapest drama you can get!

### **Fred Butler** (fredb@ci.issaquah.wa.us) :

Councilor Butler has not been a supporter of protecting our environment in 2005. He has consistently promoted the SE Bypass, consistently attempted to block Sole Source Aquifer protection and worked diligently to put Republican and Master Builders Association candidates on the Issaquah City Council. He also strongly supported a revote for the Klahanie Annexation Area, a move that would have cost current residents substantially. We wonder who this Councilor is representing. We appreciate that Fred has worked on the Sound Transit Board to ensure the placement of a new Transit Center in Issaquah. Our wish list for 2006: Please bring your agenda into the open; the City does not benefit from hidden motivations.

### **David Kappler** (davidk@ci.issaquah.wa.us) :

Councilor Kappler has, as usual, been a strong supporter of Issaquah's environment. He has held firmly against the Bypass and attempted to support the protection of our aquifer and critical areas. Councilman Kappler consistently works to represent the people of Issaquah. Our wish list for 2006: Don't compromise too much; the people of Issaquah are as interested in protecting the trees, hillsides and water as you are.

### **Bill Conley/Maureen McCarry** (maureenm@ci.issaquah.wa.us) :

Councilor Conley was defeated by Maureen McCarry. Good luck in your next venture, Bill. Maureen has stated, "As a newly elected Issa-

quah City Councilmember, I welcome the plan to protect the environment. As we live along a scenic highway and work with Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, I see the protection of the scenic hillsides, wildlife (including salmon), and air quality as a high priority. The protection of the watershed, wetlands, and aquifers all are critical to supporting these priorities." During the campaign, Maureen stated that she needed to thoroughly review all the information before making a decision on the Bypass. Our wish list for 2006: Tackle the job of an Issaquah vision for I-90 for the future.

### **Nancy Davidson** (nancyd@ci.issaquah.wa.us) :

Councilor Davidson has been the Councilor to watch in 2005. She thinks independently and has shown courage in taking heat from the development interests in Issaquah. We like a Councilor who tries to do the right thing, even if periodically it differs from our own point of view. Nancy's goal: "My environmental goal for 2006 is to pass a sensitive areas ordinance that protects and assures quality sensitive areas in and around our community." Nancy voted against the Bypass both in June and July. Our wish list for 2006: Please get a new Stormwater Management Plan in place and review the Clearing and Grading Code...the city having regained traffic concurrency\*, the time is now. (\*See article, page3)

### **Russell Joe** (russellj@ci.issaquah.wa.us) :

Councilor Joe continues to vote with the administration recommendation. We find his lack of engagement distressing. Our wish list for 2006: Go doorbelling. Talk to the people that you are supposed to be representing and then do it. (The Chamber is not

"the people". Kiwanis is not "the people". The administration is not "the people".)

### **Joe Forkner/Eileen Barber:** (eileenb@ci.issaquah.wa.us)

After a tough year, Joe Forkner decided not to run for reelection. We hope that Joe remains active in City government. Eileen Barber did not respond to our requests for an environmental goal for 2006. Our wish list for 2006: That Eileen shed the shadow of Chamber- and developer-funding from the election and work to represent all of the people of Issaquah. We could use another bright, independent thinker on the Council.

*City Council gets a little greener in the 2005 elections!*

### **Hank Thomas/John Rittenhouse** (johnr@ci.issaquah.wa.us) :

Councilmember Thomas will no longer be on the Council. He fought the good fight for 4 years attempting to defeat the Bypass and protect our aquifer. We hope that Hank will continue his efforts! We asked John for his environmental goals for 2006. His answer: "I would like to see a couple of environmental issues dealt with this year. First, I want to see us adopt a Critical Areas Ordinance that is scientifically and legally defensible. The CAO must provide additional protection to our dwindling wetland resources while guaranteeing an appeals process for local property owners. Second, I would like to further investigate the potential benefits of a sole source aquifer designation for Issaquah." John also came out strongly against the Bypass. Our wish list for 2006: Get going on Sole Source Aquifer protection BEFORE any potentially polluting "improvements" are proposed for I-90.

## Had/Want (cont. from pg. 2)

**Mayor Ava Frisinger (mayor@ci.issaquah.wa.us) :**

Mayor Frisinger was elected for another four-year term over former Councilor Thomas. Years ago while on City Council she was an environmental advocate. How things change! She has repeatedly directed her administration to implement plans which compromise Issaquah's wetlands, creeks and neighborhoods. Her focus has been on accommodating regional interests ahead of the best interests of the city and its residents. The culture she has fostered in the administration is one of secrecy and giving the Council and citizens only the information needed to support administration recommendations. Our wish list for 2006: Generate a more transparent administration ethic, examining all sides of an issue prior to decision.

### Issaquah Can Build Again!

**Issaquah Passes Traffic Concurrency Ordinance:** Issaquah's development has been constrained for many years by the lack of road capacity (as projected through computer modeling). Thanks to Hank Thomas who figured out how to use the "planned capacity" segment of the model (the part that is supposed to provide for multi-modal transportation), Issaquah has regained concurrency. This means that developers other than Rowley Enterprises and the two Urban Villages can begin using their property. In a strange turn of events, or maybe not so strange, the Chamber of Commerce spoke against adopting the new concurrency ordinance. Why?

### Ruth Kees Award

Ruth Kees is Issaquah's role model as a mentor, teacher and activist advocating for environmental sustainability in our community. The Ruth Kees Award for a Sustainable Community honors her legacy and recognizes the efforts of individuals who work to protect and preserve Issaquah's natural resources. Qualifications for selection are explained in the nomination form available for download at [http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/files/2006\\_kees\\_award\\_nomination.pdf](http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/files/2006_kees_award_nomination.pdf) or by calling the Resource Conservation Office at 425-837-3442. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. February 16, 2006.



### IEC Work Plan for 2006

Issaquah Environmental Council held its annual meeting on December 15, 2006. Officers elected were Connie Marsh, President, Barbara Shelton, Secretary, Jim Brady, Treasurer.\*

\*Please see our website for complete minutes. [www.issaquahaction.org](http://www.issaquahaction.org)

- **Community Education, Advocacy and Comment**
- **Contribute to the establishment of an updated vision for Issaquah**
- **Sole Source Aquifer Protection**
- **Continued Issaquah Trail Restoration**
- **Explore Salmon Hatchery restoration with other local groups**
- **Quarterly Newsletters**

What are your skills & interests? Are you an outside person? Do you prefer computer work? Do you like phoning people? What would you like to contribute to our efforts to assure your quality of life in Issaquah?

### Pickering Farm Struggles for City Landmark Status

Pickering Heritage Society (PHS) has petitioned the City to have Pickering Farm designated as an official City of Issaquah Landmark. PHS collected over 350 supportive signatures from local citizens. PHS has also prepared the application required for landmarking. Nevertheless, the City Administration has decided against official landmark designation for the Farm..

PHS is not giving up its efforts to gain this recognition for a piece of property that has played such an intrinsic role in the history of Squak Valley. Since the time (before pioneers) when Native Americans lived on the shores of Lake Sammamish, fished and traveled through the lands of Pickering Farm, the farm has figured prominently in the evolution of this area. Pickering Farm is on the National Registry of Historic Places, The State Registry of Historic Places, and the King County Inventory of Historic Places. The lands of Pickering Farm deserve Issaquah's recognition and protection, too. If you want to help PHS efforts, please contact Hank or Jackie Thomas at (425) 392-2272 or email [jacklyn.thomas@comcast.net](mailto:jacklyn.thomas@comcast.net).

## **Join IEC/Renew Your IEC Membership**

Issaquah Environmental Council gives you up-to-date information through approximately 3 newsletters per year and an email every 2-4 weeks. We advocate on your behalf with local jurisdictions and regulatory agencies. We coordinate/cooperate with other environmental nonprofit organizations to conduct projects and events which benefit our community's quality of life. We work on a shoestring budget and need your support to continue these activities.

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Regular - \$25  Sponsor - \$50  Business - \$100  Other - \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

What neighborhood do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

[Http://www.issaquahaction.org](http://www.issaquahaction.org)

**Check out our website!**

**Contact:**

**Connie Marsh, 392-4908**

### **WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?**

SE Bypass  Olde Town Preservation  Transportation Issues & Alternatives  Development in Issaquah

Water Resources  Salmon & Habitat  Protecting Green Spaces  Pollution  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Habitat/Trail Restoration  Computer assistance  Phoning  Issue Research  Public Advocacy  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your donation check to IEC, PO Box 921, Issaquah, WA 98027. THANK YOU!

### **ISSAQUAH ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL**

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THE MISSION of Issaquah Environmental Council is to protect and enhance the air, soil, water, flora, fauna, visual, recreational, and cultural resources of the City of Issaquah and surrounding areas for the long-term benefit of its citizens.

OUR PURPOSE is to affect the future of Issaquah through the promotion of intelligent and sensitive land-use planning and government policy.