

## ANNEXATION UPDATE 03-04-09

It has been some time since we have had a conversation with you concerning annexation and I suspect some of you might think we have fallen off the edge of the world. Ray McGovern's move to Portland had a major impact on our communications, but we have stayed the course. We have been busy collecting annexation petitions and that has been our sole focus.

As you may have read in Thursday's Kitsap Sun, we have achieved the 75% valuation threshold for annexation! The following is a link to that article: <http://kitsapsun.com/news/2009/mar/04/mccormick-woods-annexation-145pretty-much-a-done/> We will continue to solicit petitions for 2-3 weeks to ensure that we reach as many residents as possible, and to create an insurance pool in the event we experience any invalid petition submissions, such as a change in ownership. Based on our experience with over 500 signed petitions already submitted, we don't anticipate any significant problems.

Once we have submitted our final petitions to the City, there will still be a number of procedural steps with both the City and County before annexation can become a reality. We will be meeting with City officials to move this along, and will report again when we have a better idea of the time frames involved.

Annexation has been supported by an overwhelming majority of the residents. That is a testament to the interest we have in our community. We have focused on a resident driven strategy and you have vastly exceeded our expectations. Only lately have we solicited and received the participation of builders like Pioneer, Yurg, Yee and Chaffey/Hawkstone and developers like Feigley Road Partners LLC. Their entry was helpful to say the least. We hope that Horton and GEM1 will come aboard to join our "insurance" pool.

We now can begin to focus on what the dog does after he catches the pickup truck. We can begin to think about how we participate in civic life and what kinds of contributions we make to the community at large. There are commissions and boards we can populate. We can run for city council and mayor. We can attend city council meetings and make our new found significance heard.

Port Orchard is going to experience a transformation over the next decade and we can be significant players. Please give some thought concerning what you might be able to add to the mix.

It's been a long road and I cannot say enough about those volunteers who stepped up in the beginning to chart our course and those who joined in to make the petition gathering effort the success it has become. If you know someone who has participated please give them a bit of applause. They have earned it.