

City of Bellingham  
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION  
"JUST SO YOU ARE AWARE"—Information of Interest  
January 10, 2007

Located on the Web at:

[http://www.cob.org/mayor/boards\\_commissions/neighborhood/just-so-you-are-aware.htm](http://www.cob.org/mayor/boards_commissions/neighborhood/just-so-you-are-aware.htm)

- *Bellingham community celebrates the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- *Neighborhoods work on plan amendments using Planning Academy grants*
- *Waterfront Redevelopment update*
- *Old Town urban village community planning moving forward in 2007*
- *Park and Recreation updates*
- *Environmental information and programs for neighborhood meetings*
- *Silver Beach neighborhood focuses on Lake Whatcom issues*
- *Important joint meeting on Lake Whatcom*
- *Public Works projects in the neighborhoods*
- *Reminders: Small and Simple Grants and Green Power Initiative*
- *Blow'n in the wind...ways to keep your neighborhood free of recycling litter*
- *Hear Mayor's priorities, visit Columbia neighborhood, on January Inside Bellingham*

### ***Bellingham community celebrates the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

January 15 is a holiday for the City of Bellingham, in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A ceremony in celebration of his life and his message is planned for noon to 1 p.m. Monday, January 15 at Bellingham City Hall. The event will be aired on BTV10.

Bellingham Mayor Tim Douglas said it is essential that this day not be "just another shopping day." "This day is intended to be a celebration, with community gatherings, speeches and music, all intended to inspire and elevate the human spirit with the ideas Dr. King stood for," he said.

"Imagine if all of us who are worried about injustice all over the world could do something to change it. This celebration is for us to imagine together a world of compassion, honesty and fairness, and inspire us to take the very steps that will make those dreams a reality."

Douglas spear-headed this annual celebration at City Hall in 1993 during his earlier term of office. Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the ceremony features remarks by community leaders and youth and the Kulshan Community Chorus.

This event is for the whole family, hosted by the City of Bellingham, and sponsored by the Northwest Central Labor Council, the Whatcom Human Rights Taskforce, the Community Food Co-op, the Kulshan Chorus, the Bellingham YMCA, Egress Studio and Stratton Kehl Publications. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this celebration so special and meaningful for all!

#### ***King celebration airs on BTV10***

9:00 p.m. Mon. Jan. 15  
1:30 p.m. Tues. Jan. 16  
9:30 p.m. Wed. Jan. 17  
8:30 p.m. Thurs. Jan.  
18  
9:30 p.m. Fri. Jan. 19

### ***Neighborhoods work on plan amendments using city grant funds***

Eighteen Bellingham neighborhoods have opted to use the Planning Academy for Neighborhoods grant of \$2,500 to develop and propose a neighborhood plan or code amendment at the end of 2007. In addition, several proposals submitted by neighborhoods for review in 2006 have been initiated by Planning Director Tim Stewart. Notice regarding those proposals will be sent out as soon as possible, along with more information on how all of this work will be supported by city staff and resources.

## ***Waterfront redevelopment update***

In January and February, Port and City staff will be working with the newly hired consultant team led by Collins-Woerman of Seattle. The staff and consultants will conduct various market analyses, transportation impact tests and other “reality” testing of the land use and financial assumptions contained in the Draft Framework Plan for the New Whatcom Redevelopment area. This work will fine-tune the land use, density, transportation and other assumptions that will be tested by the Environmental Impact Study anticipated to begin in March.

## ***Old Town urban village community planning moving forward in 2007***

Redevelopment opportunities for Old Town have been the subject of several community planning efforts including the American Institute of Architect’s Regional Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT), Whatcom Creek Waterfront Action Program, the City Center Master Plan, and the Community Forum on Growth Management. Old Town is a vital link between the Central Business District and the waterfront and has been identified as a future urban village in the Comprehensive Plan, a strategy for accommodating growth.

In 2005, the City came together with the community, with strong participation from the Lettered Streets and Central Business District Neighborhoods, to develop a plan for Old Town. This planning effort looked at the broader Old Town area, which includes parts of the Lettered Streets and Central Business District neighborhoods. As the area evolves over time, the community has identified a number of characteristics in Old Town they wish to maintain. These characteristics include view corridors and vistas, natural features, historic resources, small businesses, as well as opportunities for a range of housing and pedestrian amenities.

Building on the feedback received in 2005, staff will recommend amendments to both neighborhood plans (CBD and Lettered Streets) and propose development regulations for the creation of an urban village in Old Town. These proposed amendments will be brought forward for Planning Commission and City Council consideration in 2007. For more information, contact Tara Sundin, Planning & Community Development Department, 360-676-6880.

## ***Parks and Recreation updates***

- The Park Operations Grounds Division has been hard at work cleaning up after storm damage. Over 100 trees in Lake Padden alone fell over near trails during the wind storms in the fall of 2006. See the January issue of *Inside Bellingham* on BTV10 to learn about this damage and listen to Steve Nordeen of our Parks and Recreation Maintenance Division talk about precautions to take during such storms (like not using wooded trails during severe wind storms).
- Special thanks to the Columbia Neighbors for doing a Squaticum Beach clean-up after the storms
- The first of several city-wide outreach meetings presenting information about the acquisition process for **greenways, parks and trails**, and soliciting input from citizens was once again postponed for bad weather. Several such community meetings are planned that will involve the public in discussions with Parks and Recreation Department staff, Greenway Advisory Committee, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and City Council members. Participants will have the opportunity to share their opinions about what projects are most needed in their neighborhoods and city-wide, what land might be available and appropriate for such projects, and what other ideas and suggestions they have for maximizing the value of new Greenway Levy funds as well as money from park impact fees and other sources. Stay tuned for the dates of these community meetings.
- The Winter Leisure Guide is out and registration for Winter recreation programs has begun. You can also view our Parks program offerings and register online at <http://www.cob.org/ezreg>
- The new playground at Lake Padden Park is completed and open to the public!

## ***Environmental information and programs for neighborhood meetings— call us for speakers!***

The work of the Environmental Resources Section of our Public Works Department is focused in three areas related to the environment: Policy, Education and Restoration. These are of great interest to neighborhood residents. City Staff from the Environmental Resources Section are available to speak to neighborhood groups on these work areas as well as on a variety of topics such as the Lake Whatcom Program, Lake Whatcom Land Acquisition, how our waste water plant and storm drainage systems work, as well as restoration of City streams, climate protection, and other topics of interest. For information on topics and speakers, contact:

### ***Silver Beach neighborhood focuses on Lake Whatcom issues***

The Silver Beach Neighborhood Association has renewed its efforts to learn about and develop stewardship strategies for their neighborhood regarding Lake Whatcom. They are considering how their work on their neighborhood plan can address lake issues since Silver Beach is the City neighborhood that is completely within the watershed. Lake Whatcom, the source of drinking water for over 85,000 Bellingham and Whatcom county residents, is important to all our citizens, and work to protect lake health is a top priority for city government in 2007. We thank the Silver Beach neighborhood for their efforts on this issue that is essential to the future of our community. For more information, contact Mike Johnston: [mikejohnston617@hotmail.com](mailto:mikejohnston617@hotmail.com) or call 360-393-8408. City liaison for this effort is Clare Fogelsong, Environmental Resources Manager: [Clare G Fogelsong/pw/cob](mailto:Clare.G.Fogelsong/pw/cob) or call 676 6961.

### ***Important joint meeting on Lake Whatcom***

On January 24, 2007 the City Council will join with the County Council and Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District Commissioners to hear staff presentations and to then discuss issues related to the Lake Whatcom Management Program. The meeting begins at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chambers. For an agenda, contact Clare Fogelsong, or go to our website: <http://www.lakewhatcom.wsu.edu/display.asp?ID=7>

## ***Public Works Projects in the neighborhoods—new and updated project info***

### **Alabama Hill**

- The installation of a traffic circle on Texas Street at Michigan Street is nearing completion. Work that remains is landscape restoration.

### **Birchwood and Columbia**

- Work on a new water line under the Eldridge Street Bridge is near completion. This water line will replace an older section of line that crosses under Squalicum Way. This section of line represents the last piece in a long-term water system upgrade that will help improve fire flow to the area.

### **Columbia**

- West Street: Construction of pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements is nearing completion. The pervious asphalt trail, median and the start of the landscaping is complete. The final lift of pavement will not be placed until next spring due to weather concerns.

[Take an opportunity to get to know the Columbia Neighborhood—tune in to December's Inside Bellingham on BTV10]

### **Columbia/Cornwall**

- Pedestrian improvements at Victor and Meridian are under way. The poles have been installed and the flashing warning system will be completed by the end of January.

### **Happy Valley**

- The project located at Donovan Avenue and 30th Street to provide curb, gutter, and sidewalk arterial improvements is substantially complete.
- Pedestrian improvements at Donovan and 21st Street: Public Works is installing a flashing warning system for a Pedestrian Crossing similar to those installed on Lakeway, Samish and Bill McDonald Parkway. The poles have been installed and the warning system will be installed as soon as the concrete and pavement marking work is complete. This work is weather dependent but should happen by late winter.

### **Happy Valley/WWU**

- Pedestrian improvements at Bill MacDonald Parkway and Birnam Wood Apartments are under way. The poles have been installed and the flashing warning system will be installed as soon as the concrete and pavement marking work is complete. This work is weather dependent but should happen by late winter.

### **Mount Baker**

- Pedestrian improvements at Barkley Boulevard and Chandler Parkway are under way. The poles have been installed and the flashing warning system will be installed as soon as the pavement marking work is complete. This work is weather dependent but should happen by late winter.

### **Puget**

- Construction work on Fraser Street (between Puget and Lincoln Streets) project involving pedestrian and bike, drainage, and roadway surface improvements is substantially complete. Pavement markings will be installed as soon as the pavement dries out enough for placement.
- New traffic circles on Nevada Street are near completion. All that remains are punch-list items.

### **Roosevelt**

- Demolition of the store at the intersection of Woburn and Alabama will allow for traffic flow improvements at this busy intersection, enhancing safety and providing better circulation. Demolition is complete and the site should be cleaned up and stabilized for the season this month.
- Installation of traffic circles in the 1600 block of Texas Street is near completion. Work that remains is landscape restoration.

### **Samish**

- Work on a new traffic-calming pedestrian crossing and sidewalk extension for Connelly Road just east of the Interstate 5 ramps is almost complete. Weather has delayed our completion on this segment; however, pavement markings will be installed as soon as the pavement dries out enough for placement.

See City Public Works Department website for more information about capital projects under construction: [http://www.cob.org/pw/curconst/index\\_current.htm](http://www.cob.org/pw/curconst/index_current.htm).

## ***Reminders***

### ***Small and Simple Grants***

Applications for the next round of the City's Small & Simple Grant Program will be available on **January 16, 2007**. The **deadline for grant applications will be March 15, 2007**. Small & Simple Grants fund up to \$2,500 for neighborhood sponsored projects that have a general public benefit. Some fund matching is required. In 2007, grants will only be available to organizations (not individuals). Grant application packets and information will be posted on the city's website at [www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org). For additional information contact Travis Cary @ 676-6880, [tcary@cob.org](mailto:tcary@cob.org).

### ***Green Power Neighborhood Challenge—Still time to sign up!***

Columbia Neighborhood is still in the number one spot, but Fairhaven has moved into second place in the percentage of electricity customers signed up to buy "green" electricity with Puget Sound Energy.

When the campaign is over, the two neighborhoods with the highest percentage of electricity accounts signed up for Green Power will receive \$1000 each.

**Green Power** is electricity produced from **unlimited** sources such as the sun, wind, and biomass. Don't miss out on the opportunity to win \$\$ for your neighborhood association. At the same time, you will be supporting the development and use of renewable energy resources. The campaign ends in February.

To sign up to buy Green Power call PSE at 1-800-562-1482. Contact Alex Ramel from Public Works with questions about the challenge: 676-6961.

### ***Blow'n in the wind...ways to keep your neighborhood free of recyclables litter***

A York neighborhood resident asked us to provide our readers with information on how to secure your recyclables on pick up day. Wind can blow bins and "toters" over and blow newspapers and other recyclables around the neighborhood. These are a mess to clean up. Here are some practical suggestions from the Sanitary Service people:

- Avoid putting out bins on windy days if you can wait for the next pick up.
- If you need to put them out, place the bins in a row; don't stack.
- Place the bins away from toters for easier collection by the automated trucks.
- Place a **rock or brick** on top of the paper bins; **don't use bungee cords!**
- For increased security, put the papers in a brown paper bag, lay on its side in the bin, and then put the rock or brick on top
- Place a rock or brick on top of all toter bins....make sure it is heavy enough to hold down the lid in the wind.
- Important: Bag all garbage, especially Styrofoam popcorn and peanuts

For more help with recycling questions visit [www.ssc-inc.com](http://www.ssc-inc.com),

### ***Mayor's priorities, Columbia neighborhood, on January Inside Bellingham***

Hear Mayor Tim Douglas' 2007 priorities, visit the Columbia neighborhood, find out about storm damage in our parks, see how your tax dollars are being spent on capital projects, and more, on the January episode of *Inside Bellingham*.

*Inside Bellingham* airs on BTV10 several times each week and is available to watch on line, too. For BTV10 schedule information and access to on-line television programs, visit the city's website at <http://www.cob.org/>.

The January episode features:

- Mayor Tim Douglas lists City priorities for 2007
- Visit the historic Columbia neighborhood
- View Public Works' Capital Projects and see how your tax dollars are being spent
- Andy Rowson is one important guy to City staff... find out why
- See the storm damage and clean up in city parks
- *Inside Bellingham* revisited: clips from our favorite stories last year.

*Inside Bellingham*, produced by the City of Bellingham, gives viewers an inside peek into city government programs, services, activities and people.