

City of Bellingham
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION
"JUST SO YOU ARE AWARE"—Information of Interest
March 14, 2007

Located on the Web at:

http://www.cob.org/mayor/boards_commissions/neighborhood/just-so-you-are-aware.htm

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- **Neighbors work to prevent mail theft**

Reminder

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS REVISION WORKSHOP—TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE / Q & A
April 3^d, 4PM to 6:30PM, Fireplace Room, Municipal Court Building
(Halleck and C Streets, enter on Halleck)

Remembering Joan Beardsley

Hello!, I'm Joan Beardsley, and I'd like to talk to you about.....

Joan Beardsley was an undaunted and committed advocate for neighborhoods. When she believed it was necessary to put a broader community goal above a neighborhood's particular concern, she was also an undaunted and committed advocate for what she believed to be the greater community good.

In the days immediately prior to leaving for her treatment in Little Rock, even though her energy level was challenged, Joan was at the Silver Beach Neighborhood Association talking about Lake Whatcom Watershed stewardship. She explained her mission with these neighbors:

- *I only want to congratulate them for recognizing that the city can't solve this problem without all its citizens working together on it.*

Her watershed stewardship commitment extended throughout the City:

- *My message is, we all live in a watershed!*
- *I would hope as any neighborhood in the city works on their plans that they will clearly mark their watershed boundaries and to help neighbors start to be watershed conscious. I am not suggesting redrawing neighborhoods, but adding this new level of topographical and environmental meaning to neighbors' awareness by including watershed maps for each neighborhood plan.*

Joan advocated for neighborhood based planning processes, regardless of how controversial these might be, for example, height and bulk issues.

- *This issue has bedeviled all neighborhoods with worry because they are not sure just how much control they will have..... I was terrifically pleased to talk with Tim (Stewart) and get his perspective that neighborhoods do have the right to include such guidelines (in their neighborhood plan proposals) provided they advance the goals of the city for reasonable infill within maintaining neighborhood character*

On these issues, and on the many others she worked to address, we can all honor and respect her life by continuing our good work for our neighborhoods and for our broader community. Services for Joan have been announced in the Bellingham Herald.

Bicycle Patrols enhance enforcement efforts in the CBD

New police officers added to the Bellingham Police Department have increased emphasis on addressing chronic issues downtown, and those efforts already are paying off. Bicycle patrols, reintroduced downtown at the end of December, are a patrol strategy that allows officers more agility and quicker access to problems.

In the first two months of 2007, we already have seen a dramatic increase in enforcement of the kinds of nuisance crimes that affect the quality of life for downtown shoppers, workers and residents. For example, in the first two months of 2007, police have issued more citations for liquor law violations than during the same period in 2006. The Bellingham Police Department has received numerous compliments from business representatives and citizens in appreciation for this additional police presence.

Neighborhoods work on traffic issues

- **Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP):** Each neighborhood association has now named a Transportation Contact ("point person") to work with the City on neighborhood transportation issues, specifically the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program. Neighbors can let

their neighborhood traffic contact know their residential street traffic concerns. The neighborhood will then review these concerns and advise our Public Works department of their "Top 3 Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program" priorities for residential (**not arterial**) streets. Staff will study the traffic issues at the locations indicated and work with the neighbors to either solve the problem through education and enforcement, or, if a street qualifies, to design an appropriate traffic calming improvement.

You can look on our website for information about the program at <http://www.cob.org/pw/NTSP.htm> or on the Neighborhood Page on our website at <http://www.cob.org/pcd/planning/neighborhoods/neighborhoods.htm>.

- **Six Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):** 18 Neighborhood Associations submitted their number one TIP priority projects to the City for consideration for inclusion in the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program. This list of transportation capital improvement projects is revised every year. The neighborhoods' priorities will be helpful to staff, the Public Works Advisory Committee, and the City Council as they update the TIP for 2008 and seek funding for those projects. TIP projects typically cost between \$200,000 and several million dollars each.

Parks and Trails work parties

An opportunity for exercise and neighborhood park and trails improvements:

Connelly Creek with NSEA

March 17th, 9:00 – noon

Parks and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association join forces to free native plantings from invasive reed canary grass. *Parking at the west end of the Food Pavilion parking lot; walk west along Fairhaven Parkway and follow signs to site.*

Whatcom Creek Trail

March 17th, 10:00 - noon

Join the Bellingham Kiwanis on the Whatcom Creek Trail behind City Hall. The club holds regular work parties at the site, removing invasive plants and planting native plants. *Meet at the site, along the creek between Grand and Commercial.*

Civic Field Trail

March 31st, 10:00 – noon

Join Carl Cozier Elementary families as they mulch and restore a natural area they've been working on along the Civic Field Trail. *Park on Civic Field Way behind Joe Martin Stadium.*

Work with a Park Steward

* Park Steward Niki Thane holds monthly work parties at **Robin's Hollow on Old Village Trail** (between H & I Street) the **first Saturday** of the month from 10-12 noon

* Neighbors join forces at **Franklin Park**, working on the natural area at the west end of the park, the **second Saturday** of the month from 9-12 noon

* Spring is a busy time at **Gossage Garden**, located at Cornwall & Alabama. If you have some spare time give Judy Buchanan a call at 734 -6639; she could use your help with pick up, planting, mulching, weeding, and pruning in Gossage Garden.

For more information contact our Greenways Volunteer Coordinator, Rae Edwards, at 676-6801 or email at redwards@cob.org.

The” wearing of the green”— Bellingham style

How proud we are of all our community does to protect the environment

- ***Neighbors protect watersheds through safe gardening practices***

It is almost spring and for many of us that means yard work! As you prepare your gardens and flower beds for spring planting, please remember that most soils do not need additional phosphorus for healthy plant growth. **And for those in the Lake Whatcom watershed, please remember there is a ban on the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus.** Instead, look for the “Lake Whatcom Blend” and other phosphorus free fertilizers at select garden supply stores in Bellingham and Whatcom County.

Please help us protect our drinking water source, don't use phosphorus on your lawns and gardens and do use the Clean Green facility for disposal of your yard waste. Contact Clare Fogelsong at 676-6961 for more information. Speaking of the Clean and Green facility.....

- ***Green and clean neighborhoods—transfer station for yard waste open***

Let your neighbors know that the Clean Green Transfer Facility for residential yard waste is now open. Bellingham and Whatcom County citizens can bring their residential yard waste to the corner of Lakeway and Woburn Streets on Saturdays and Sundays between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. The fee for disposal of residential yard waste at the transfer station is \$2 per load.

Acceptable yard waste includes:

- Grass clippings, leaves and garden trimmings
- Shrub and hedge trimmings
- Limbs less than 4 feet long and 8 inches in diameter

We will not accept:

- Contractor or commercial loads
- Rocks, garbage, roots or root balls
- Lumber, construction or land clearing debris
- Hazardous materials
- Sod

Safety tips when accessing the Clean Green facility:

- Enter the site from Woburn Street just north of Lakeway Drive
- Be careful while driving and backing-up on site
- Watch out for others
- Passengers and pets must remain in the vehicle
- Please keep your loads free of nails and other unacceptable materials
- Be aware of traffic conditions at the intersection of Lakeway Drive and Woburn Street

Materials accepted at the site are processed and converted to compost. This is a widely used public program so please be efficient, courteous and careful when using the facility. For more information, call the Bellingham Public Works Department at 676-6850.

- ***“Green light bulb campaign”—we’re winners!***

We walk our environmental talk in Bellingham, We rank among the top cities in the nation for purchases of energy-efficient light bulbs, according to recent light bulb sales tracked by organizers of 18Seconds.org. To view Bellingham's ranking, visit <http://green.yahoo.com>

- ***Green Power winners to be announced***

The two neighborhood association winners of \$1,000 each for the Green Power competition will be announced on Earth Day, April 21. These are the two neighborhoods with the highest percentage of neighborhood residential electric power users buying “green power” from Puget Sound Energy. Thanks to the volunteers from more than 12 neighborhoods who encouraged their residents to sign up for Green Power!

Green Power (electrical power generated from renewal energy sources) costs as little as an additional \$4 a month. To sign up, call a PSE energy advisor at 1-800-562-1482, or visit the website at www.pse.com/solutions/greenpower_signuphome.aspx

Planning and Community Development updates

2007 Neighborhood Plan Amendment Process—April 3^d Technical Assistance Workshop

- For those of you working on your neighborhood plans two Question & Answer sessions will be scheduled during the year with city staff from Planning, Parks and Public Works to provide an efficient and informative venue for asking and answering questions.

Workshop 1: Tuesday, April 3, 4 PM to 6:30 PM (snacks provided). Fireplace Room, Halleck and C Streets (enter through the Halleck Street side).

Workshop 2: To be scheduled for early September

Please contact Nicole Oliver (noliver@cob.org, 676-6982) for ideas or with questions you wish to have answered in the session so that we can make sure the help you need is available.

- Any neighborhood that has scheduled public meetings, or wants to distribute updated information regarding their 2007 neighborhood planning activities, is invited to send to Nicole Oliver (noliver@cob.org) documents for publication on the city's neighborhood pages.

Shoreline Master Program – The Planning Commission will complete their review of the final draft update document in April and send their recommendations on to the City Council in May. This has been an enormous undertaking and Bellingham is one of the first cities in the state to update their Shoreline Master Program under new Dept. of Ecology guidelines.

Waterfront Redevelopment Project – The project is gearing up again following a period of “reality-testing” of the Draft Framework Plan, in anticipation of formulating alternatives to study in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS scoping is set to start in April. The Waterfront Advisory Group meets March 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the Harbor Center Conference Room to get updated on the progress and the upcoming project schedule.

County Council approved EDI funding for Waterfront – on Tuesday, March 13th, the County Council voted 6-1 to confirm a recommendation from the Economic Development Investment board to grant at least \$1.1 million of EDI funds over five years for the waterfront project. This funding will likely be used for a specific project, yet to be determined.

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

Birchwood

- Working with Whatcom County, we have selected a consultant (Wilson Engineering) to design an extension of Illinois street to Marine Drive along Timpson Way to divert truck traffic from Oeser Cedar and Morse Steel from residential area to a designated truck route (Marine Drive).

Birchwood and Columbia

- We are in the final stages of testing a new replacement water line under the Eldridge Street. 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.

Birchwood and Guide Meridian

- Northwest Avenue/I-5 Pedestrian Improvements: We have distributed a summary of the public comments received after a well attended neighborhood meeting earlier this month. We continue to work with our consultant and WSDOT on the design for pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Northwest between McLeod and Bakerview Roads. This is a major walking route for school children traveling to and from Shuksan Middle School. We also hope to improve traffic flow in the area, especially at the I-5 interchange.

Central Business District

- Arts District Projects: We have several projects in the Central Business District including:
 - “Streetscapes” in various areas
 - Art and Children’s Museum
 - Mt Baker Theater Lighting improvements
- Holly Street Corridor (Ellis to State) Improvements per the City Center Master Plan: Our contractor, Strider Construction will soon begin work on this project after a public meeting on March 19.

Columbia

- West Street (between Squalicum Parkway and North): Landscape restoration is in progress. Look for another 1 1/2 inches of asphalt to be placed on the road as soon as weather permits. This will bring the pavement up to the level of the catch basin grates and will complete the paving.

Guide Meridian:

- Meridian Street Water & Sewer Extension:
As a part of the WSDOT upgrades on the road way between Horton and Ten Mile Road, we will install water and sewer extensions. We are in the process of requesting construction bids.

Happy Valley

- We are still waiting for dry weather to complete pedestrian improvements at Donovan and 21st Street and at Bill MacDonald Parkway and Birnam Wood student housing facility. The flashing warning system for pedestrian crossings (similar to those installed on Lakeway, Samish and Bill McDonald Parkway) will be installed as soon as the concrete and pavement marking work is complete which requires a period of dry weather.

Mount Baker

- Pedestrian improvements at Barkley Boulevard and Chandler Parkway—still waiting for dry weather to allow for cross walk pavement markings after which the flashing warning system will be installed.
- We're preparing to survey for the replacement of three culverts on James Street to make a wider and safer crossing to accommodate future road improvements.

Puget

- Phase I of our Fraser Street Improvement Project (Between Puget and Lincoln Streets) is now complete. We presented the designs for Phase II (Puget Street south of Fraser) to the neighborhood association earlier this month. This project is to improve pedestrian and bike safety as well as to enhance storm water treatment. We will also resurface the roadway.

Roosevelt

- Woburn and Alabama turn lane improvements: With the completion and clean up of the demolition of Dixon Grocery, we're designing the turn lanes for this busy intersection to improve circulation and safety.

Samish

- As reported last issue, the City is proceeding with the design of the first phase of a new connector street, San Juan Boulevard, with our consultant, HDR Engineering of Burlington. This is a badly needed and long awaited connector street between Yew Street and I-5 over the Samish Hill (work with the neighborhood to identify and purchase the street corridor began in the '80s).

After receiving public input, we have decided that Phase I of this project will be the design of a minimum two lane street through the established hillside right of way corridor (with its many topographical challenges). The City will be obtaining permits for the full footprint of the street to construct bicycle and pedestrian facilities at a later date. This allows us to use the limited funding available to open this transportation corridor and thereby be able to leverage future grant funding for phase II construction. And, as development occurs, the street would be completed to full standards including the facilities for pedestrians and bicycles. We had considered building part of the street to full standards, but this would not have been a practical or useful street for residents. As part of the design, the public will have the opportunity to provide input prior to construction.

Silver Beach:

- Northridge Detention Basin Retrofit: This project includes retrofitting the outfall from an existing pond site located on Northridge Way within the Brentwood Subdivision in order to improve the quality of runoff and storm water entering Lake Whatcom from this residential area.
- Pullman Road and Drainage Improvements: We're doing the design work for the replacement for a failing storm water system and for a structural overlay of the street

See City Public Works Department website for more information about capital projects under construction: http://www.cob.org/pw/curconst/index_current.htm.

Lettered Streets neighborhood, Library, Lake Whatcom and more, on Inside Bellingham, BTV10

Take a whirlwind tour of the Lettered Streets neighborhood, hear more about library planning, see what firefighters do in between emergencies, and more, on Inside Bellingham.

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

The latest Inside Bellingham features:

- A whirlwind tour of the Lettered Streets, Bellingham's oldest neighborhood;
- A look at Lake Whatcom, the precious source of our drinking water;
- A peek at what firefighters work on in between emergencies;
- A visit to the library to learn about plans for a new building and expanded services;
- The oldest brick building in all of Washington State and plans to protect it,
- And more!

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

Bellingham Public Library special programs of interest—BTV10, read your favorite poem, learn about Tai Chi, library planning, Fairhaven Branch facility study.

March into spring with these programs from our public library:

- ***On BTV10 -- Bellingham Public Library: the Rest of the Story!***

A site has been chosen to build a new central library, and the citizen members of the Library Board are discussing plans for comprehensive citywide library services. Why does Bellingham need a new central library? Be sure to watch the new BTV10 feature, *Bellingham Public Library: the Rest of the Story* to learn more.

The schedule of airing this program is posted on our website at <http://www.cob.org/documents/btv10/btv10-program-schedule.pdf>

You can also find the latest news about facilities planning at the Bellingham Public Library on the library's website under "Library Planning News" at <http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org>

- ***Bellingham Reads... Your Favorite Poem!***

In honor of National Poetry Month, we invite you to select a poem that moves you and share it with those attending our Library's book club, Bellingham Reads on April 25. Everyone is welcome. Contact Suzanne Carlson-Prandini at (360) 676-6860 for more information.

Wednesday, April 25th, 2007 at 7pm in the BPL Lecture Room

- ***Library Planning News Brown Bag Lunch Series***

Want to learn more about Library Planning in Bellingham? Bring your lunch and join us Tuesdays in March for information and conversation regarding the library planning process!

March 20th: **Fairhaven Condition Assessment** and improvement plans

March 27th: **Citywide Library Services study** and a north side presence

Each session is from 12:15 to 12:45 in the Lecture Room at the Bellingham Public Library. Sessions will include a presentation by library administration and an opportunity for questions and input from the public.

- ***Community Partnership Series***

Introduction to Tai Chi : Strength through Relaxation. Instructor is Bob Lau, a Certified Tai Chi Arthritis Instructor with the Worldwide Chinese International Martial Arts Association.

Wednesday, April 11th from 2:00 - 3:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Fairhaven Branch
Tuesday, May 1st from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Fireplace Room of Fairhaven Branch.

Contact the Fairhaven Branch Library at (360)676-6877 or Donna Grasdock, Fairhaven Specialist, at dgrasdock@cob.org, for more information.

- ***Fairhaven Branch Library Condition Assessment Public Presentation***

What are the plans for improvements to the Fairhaven Branch Library? Come to the Public Presentation at the Fairhaven Branch Library and find out! BOLA Architecture + Planning, Library Administration, and City Facilities staff will present the latest information and take your questions about plans for improvements at the Fairhaven Branch Library.

Thursday, April 5th at 6:30pm in the Fireplace Room at the Fairhaven Branch Library

Neighbors work to prevent mail theft

One of the useful purposes of neighborhood “Block Watch” groups is to monitor for mail theft. Neighborhood Associations and their Block Watch groups also help to educate their neighborhood about prevention of mail theft. (For more information on Block Watch efforts –to join or to form a block watch team—contact Officer Tara Fleetwood of the Bellingham Police Department, 676 6924 or tfleetwood@cob.org)

Advice from the Bellingham Police Department Crime Prevention Unit on minimizing risk of mail theft:

Sending mail:

- Use mail slots at your post office to mail letters, or give them to a letter carrier.
- Don't send cash in the mail.

Receiving mail:

- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight.
- Do not have books of checks mailed to your residence; pick them up directly from your bank.
- Tell your post office when you will be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.

- If you do not receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- Consider a mail slot, locking mail box at your residence, or a post office box.
- If you change your address, immediately notify your post office and anyone with whom you do business via mail.

Consult with your local postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside boxes:

- Prospect office: 752-9825
- Barkley office: 752-9824

If you believe your mail was stolen, report it immediately to your local postmaster or nearest Postal Inspector. You'll be asked to file a formal complaint using *PS Form 2016, Mail Theft and Vandalism Complaint*.

By analyzing information collected from the form, Postal Inspectors may determine whether your problem is isolated or part of a larger mail theft problem in your neighborhood—and it may help Inspectors locate and apprehend the thieves.

The postal inspection service office that serves Bellingham can be contacted at:
Postal Inspection Service, PO Box 400, Seattle, WA 98111-4000

Phone: 206-442-6300
Fax: 206-442-6304