

City of Bellingham  
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION  
"JUST SO YOU ARE AWARE" – Information of Interest  
June 13, 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)

- *City CAO accepts job in Colorado*
- *Neighborhood disaster preparedness program moves ahead*
- *Planning and Community Development news — annexation, waterfront, shoreline master program*
  - *Notes from our hardworking neighborhoods*
  - *Neighborhood Night Out Against Crime—August 7<sup>th</sup>*
    - *Public Works in the neighborhoods*
  - *Coast Millennium Trail Squalicum connector opens to the public*
    - *When to park on a sidewalk: Never*
- *Share the trail...tips for making our wonderful trails safe and friendly for all*
  - *Share the journey—Paddle to Lummi*
    - *Protecting our Watershed*
    - *Living with wild animals*
- *BTV10—downtown, Lummi healing pole, wild animals, fireworks, and more!*

**Reminders**

4<sup>th</sup> of July: Fireworks are **only** legal from 9 a.m. to midnight on July 4<sup>th</sup>!  
See **Inside Bellingham** on BTV10 for more information

July 16<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.: Public Hearing on 2007 draft Shoreline Master Plan in City Council Chambers

**City CAO accepts job in Colorado**

City of Bellingham Chief Administrative Officer Malcolm Fleming has accepted the position of City Manager for the City of Louisville, Colorado, just outside Boulder. The move brings the Fleming family closer to parents and other family nearby. In a note to his city colleagues, Fleming expressing mixed feelings about leaving a city he has grown to love.

"This year will bring major transitions for the City of Bellingham and we are in the midst of numerous major projects. I love working with all of you on these challenges. This is the strongest (and most fun!) team I have ever worked with and I feel that together we have and you will continue to make a huge, lasting and positive difference in Bellingham's future," he said.

During Fleming's two years, he has worked extensively on waterfront redevelopment, including ensuring that plans are consistent with the community's vision, as well as helped stabilize the city's financial status, and improved public involvement and the city's relationship with neighborhoods.

Topping the list of priorities in his new position are tackling fiscal challenges, encouraging public involvement in Louisville downtown development, diversifying the city's economy and managing population growth. He also faces familiar political transitions in Louisville, where the Mayor and three City Council positions are up for election this fall.

Fleming said he will begin his new position August 15, and expects to remain with the City of Bellingham through the end of July.

## ***Neighborhood disaster preparedness program moves ahead***

Nineteen neighborhoods sent representatives to participate on a city-wide steering committee charged with developing a strategy for implementing "Map Your Neighborhood" (MYN). MYN provides straightforward instructions to a contiguous group of residents to prepare for and work together during a disaster to get through the crisis. Remember that a disaster is when all systems, including communications and first responders, cannot function effectively because of the magnitude of the event such as a devastating earthquake. MNAC had reviewed MYN and recommended that the City adopt this neighborhood-based disaster preparedness program.

The City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is working with the steering committee. In May, the Committee recommended:

- Neighborhood Associations lead the effort, with support from OEM, determining how to organize their neighborhood geographically and implement a training program for residents.
- Use a team approach to training, building on already trained neighborhood residents, expanding that cadre, and using OEM assistance as needed.

Some of our neighborhoods, notably Guide Meridian/Cordata and Columbia, are early out of the starting gate. We expect their early implementation work to provide helpful information for other neighborhoods on how to get MYN to every household. For more information about MYN, contact the Office of Emergency Management at [oem@cob.org](mailto:oem@cob.org) or 676-6933.

## ***Planning and Community Development news of interest***

### **Annexation – Presentation to City Council**

City staff will present an overview of annexations and urban growth area (UGA) planning in Bellingham on Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at Council's regular evening meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. The presentation will include a look at the legal and policy framework around annexations, and the status of land use, transportation and parks planning efforts in the UGA. Additionally, staff will present the results of a financial impact model that estimates the cost of providing city services to UGA areas over time. For more information, contact Nicole Oliver in the Planning and Community Development Department, 676-6982, [noliver@cob.org](mailto:noliver@cob.org).

### **Waterfront Advisory Group**

The WAG meets Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Harbor Center Conference Room, 1801 Roeder. The agenda will include the latest schedule for the waterfront redevelopment project, and other project updates. This meeting is open to the public. For more information, contact Andi Dyer in the City's Waterfront Redevelopment office at 738-7408.

### **Shoreline Master Program Ready for Public Hearing July 16**

Updated regulations affecting all development within 200 feet of significant shorelines in Bellingham were introduced to the Bellingham City Council on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Those shorelines include Bellingham Bay, Chuckanut, Whatcom, Squalicum Creeks and the mouth of Padden Creek, Lake Padden and Lake Whatcom within the city limits. The draft is based on numerous public meetings, work sessions, and extensive public comment. The SMP builds on the planning efforts of the Waterfront Futures Group, the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, the Critical Areas Ordinance, the waterfront redevelopment planning effort, and recommendations from the Planning Commission. The public can view the extensive comments received to date on the document on the Public Comment Tracker which charts how and where that comment was incorporated and if not, why. The Draft 2007 SMP and Tracker are available on the City's website at <http://www.cob.org/pcd/planning/environment.htm>, Hard copies are available at City Hall,

Planning Department. Contact Steve Sundin, (360) 676-6982. Please send written comments to the Planning Department at 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, 98225 or via email at: [smpupdate@cob.org](mailto:smpupdate@cob.org). Comments will be accepted up until the Public Hearing on July 16, 2007.

### ***Notes from our hardworking Neighborhoods!***

Our neighborhoods do wonderful work for their community. To learn more about your neighborhood's activities, contact your Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Representative listed on our "Neighborhoods" web page at

<http://www.cob.org/pcd/planning/neighborhoods/neighborhoods.htm>.

**Alabama Hill:** Alabama Hill is developing their process for neighborhood involvement in their neighborhood plan update work. They have added the implementation of the City initiated neighborhood disaster preparedness program, Mapping Your Neighborhood (MYN), to their agenda. Alabama Hill is also working to improve their communications with the neighborhood stakeholders – updating yard signs, improving their website, use of group emails, etc. The association will have their annual picnic and National Night Out Against Crime on the same evening.

**Birchwood:** On May 22 over 40 stakeholders attended Birchwood's first neighborhood plan update meeting. The committee recorded participants' input on various topics. This information will be combined with input from past general membership meetings. Deadline for comments is June 15<sup>th</sup>. The committee is looking at a 2-year process which will likely deal with formatting and housekeeping for this December and more extensive proposals for next year. To comment or receive more information email Kurt Baumgarten at [bw\\_plan@northernneighbors.org](mailto:bw_plan@northernneighbors.org). The next meeting will be announced as soon as scheduled (see [www.northernneighbors.org](http://www.northernneighbors.org)). Birchwood is also moving forward with MYN and has two volunteers leading the effort.

**Central Business District:** The Downtown Renaissance Network serves as the neighborhood association for the central business district. With many new residential facilities in the neighborhood, DRN has worked to include residents on their board and in their deliberations on their mission: Enhancing, promoting, and advocating for the healthy maintenance, improvement and development of Bellingham's City Center. They will be busy this summer with the third "Downtown Sounds" summer alley concert series, held every Wednesday beginning mid-July from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the alley between Holly Street and Bay/Champion.

**Columbia:** In cooperation with the Cornwall Park Neighborhood Association, Columbia has met with business and property owners of the Fountain District, as well as residents of neighboring streets to begin a dialogue for pursuing their vision for the Fountain District, an important area for both neighborhoods. In partnership with ReStore, they also are working on the Fountain Park itself (Broadway at Meridian). ReStore is recruiting volunteers for a collaborative process to develop plans this year for improving the park. The goal is to implement the improvements the following years. Columbia has two volunteers heading up their neighborhood disaster preparedness (MYN) program. Also, Birchwood and Columbia neighborhoods organized a photo opportunity and walk along the newly completed Coast Millennium Trail link from West Street at Squalicum Way to Birchwood Park through the soon to be built Squalicum Creek Park

**Cornwall Park:** In addition to the focus of neighborhood planning efforts on the Fountain District and Fountain Park, Cornwall Park Neighborhood Association has a dedicated group of volunteers working on historical designation of the Broadway Park Plat. This is an area of the neighborhood around Broadway Park that was platted and built out in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Cornwall Park received a Small and Simple Grant from the City to care for the trees on the Broadway traffic medians and, among other things, plant about 1,000 bulbs. They are looking for volunteers to help with this effort and with their MYN project for neighborhood disaster preparedness.

**Edgemoor:** The Edgemoor Neighborhood Association's Neighborhood Plan Update Committee is ready to mail their survey to neighborhood stakeholders for input into the neighborhood plan update process. The Association has formed a new and official committee to work on their neighborhood disaster preparedness project implementing MYN. Edgemoor representatives also participate in the Coalition for Southside Neighborhoods to work on issues of common concern.

**Fairhaven:** Fairhaven Neighbors association has several active subcommittees working on their neighborhood plan. Their website is updated regularly with their progress, draft language, input and comments from stakeholders. They continue to work towards an effective means for developing a consensus on development code changes regarding building height and bulk. Fairhaven is an area of Bellingham near and dear to many; their efforts have drawn lots of attention in the media and from other associations. In that regard, as members of Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods (CSN), they are co-hosting a neighborhood meeting with the Planning Department in June and a candidates' forum in July. They are also beginning to formulate their approach to MYN (neighborhood disaster preparedness).

**Guide Meridian/Cordata:** Suffice it to say this neighborhood association might rest on their (advocacy) laurels with the City's acquisition of a 20 acre parcel for development of a major park on the City's north side. But this group does not rest! They have their first big neighborhood picnic on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4 p.m. at Whatcom Community College. They will kick off their neighborhood disaster preparedness efforts and have fun and fellowship including food, frivolity and live music featuring the Northern Lights Jazz Orchestra and the Carnival Drum Line. A City Small and Simple Grant is helping with these expenses. Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood Association has an active neighborhood plan committee which will distribute a neighborhood-wide stakeholder survey in June. After compilation and analysis, the neighborhood survey data will help inspire ideas when forming the Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood Plan proposal. A neighborhood plan amendment correcting out of date information in the Guide Meridian Neighborhood Plan was submitted and docketed and has already been heard by the Planning Commission.

**Happy Valley:** The HVNA is working to develop a "low impact development overlay" to their neighborhood plan to deal with issues related to development, land use, as well as restoration and preservation of our infrastructure, and conservation of neighborhood functionality and character. After two neighborhood wide meetings, they continue work to develop neighborhood input and consensus in order to propose language and a map to revise/add to the current Happy Valley Neighborhood Plan. They completed a successful project with the school district and City on a safe route to school for Larrabee Elementary. This neighborhood needs volunteers to head up their neighborhood disaster preparedness (MYN) efforts.

**Lettered Streets:** The Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association has been busy! On the neighborhood plan side, they have held a series of neighborhood meetings for input and review of draft proposals. Their 2007 docketed proposal goes to the Planning Commission for Public Hearing on Thursday, August 2, at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Lettered Streets volunteers work on many neighborhood parks and green spaces. After obtaining City permission, they have put in a "temporary" park ("Parklette", according to Mayor Tim Douglas) at C and Holly, using donated materials from Parberry's and Northwest Recycling. Their dedicated volunteers also prepared Gossage Garden for the Whatcom in Bloom contest, cleaned up the Old Village Trail, and cleaned out blackberries from the B Street Wayside Park. We hope they will be able to find time in the coming months to recruit volunteers for neighborhood disaster preparedness (MYN).

**Meridian:** We are seeking volunteers to start a neighborhood association for the Meridian Neighborhood. Meridian Neighborhood is the only neighborhood in Bellingham without a neighborhood wide association. It is the area of Bellingham that includes the area North of I-5

from Bellis Fair Mall North to Kellogg Road and East to Landon Way. Contact Kathryn Hanowell, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, at 676-6979 or [khanowell@cob.org](mailto:khanowell@cob.org) for further information.

**Mt Baker:** This large neighborhood begins at the Rail Road Trail and includes territory both South and North of the Sunset Drive/Mount Baker Highway from I-5 to the City limits. Barkely Village and the residential neighborhoods around Northridge Park are major features of the neighborhood as well as the commercial, light industrial, and multi family residential areas near Sunset Drive/Mt Baker Highway. As a way to grow membership and interest, their leadership hopes to initiate a vigorous neighborhood disaster preparedness program.

**Puget:** After a successful general membership meeting in May, the Puget Neighborhood Association's neighborhood plan update committee is meeting regularly through the summer, educating themselves about the current plan, and working on a process to gather broader neighborhood input. A neighborhood committee on disaster preparedness is getting organized for this significant work.

**Roosevelt:** Along with various neighborhood churches, Roosevelt Neighborhood Association is co-sponsoring a Fourth of July picnic at Roosevelt Park. Roosevelt is starting a summer reading program for children of the neighborhood. They are discussing potential neighborhood plan amendments as well as their "National Night Out" event on August 7<sup>th</sup>, also at Roosevelt Park. They will begin their work on Neighborhood disaster preparedness (MYN) at their June meeting as well as a service program called "Time Banking".

**Samish:** The Samish Neighborhood Association submitted a plan amendment proposal for docketing in 2007. The neighborhood's first public meeting was held in May with over 50 stakeholders in attendance. The City planning staff took comments on the proposal. The planning staff is considering these comments as they review the proposal. They will share the results of the review sometime in late June or July along with whatever recommendations they will be making to the Planning Commission. This amendment is scheduled for public hearing before the Planning Commission on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Sehome:** Sehome has four active neighborhood plan update committees: Samish Way Urban Village, Architectural Design Guidelines, Traffic & Parking, and Historic Preservation. They will present committee progress at their next general meeting in mid-July, date to be announced on [www.sehome.org](http://www.sehome.org). The Sehome Association's work on the Samish Way urban village visioning process includes collaboration with York and Samish neighborhoods. As part of this they are investigating starting a local Samish Way business association in order to bring these stakeholders to the visioning process. Also, the neighborhood association is recruiting volunteers to work with other trained members on implementing the new disaster preparedness efforts.

**Silver Beach:** At their general membership meeting in May, neighborhood association members were treated to a comprehensive history of the Silver Beach Neighborhood. Alfred Arkley, working with Museum Archival staff and an enthusiastic neighborhood committee, assembled a power point of Silver Beach facts and pictures from before the arrival of Europeans to the present time. They learned about the White City Amusement Park, the Bloedel Mill, the original Silver Beach School house among other interesting facts. This active neighborhood association has committees working on their neighborhood plan update proposal as well as neighbor to neighbor Lake Whatcom Stewardship efforts. They also have volunteers to head up their neighborhood disaster preparedness work with MYN.

**South:** Following a successful annual meeting in April, the South Neighborhood Association (SNA) is working on a neighborhood stakeholder survey to distribute in late summer. Their focus is on the land use and parks and open space element of their neighborhood plan. Board members have been hosting mutually informative neighborhood tours with Planning staff. Their

leadership is in close contact with staff regarding the consultant being chosen to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Fairhaven Highlands, a development proposed for an area of the South neighborhood that includes a forested wetland. South Neighborhood Association is gathering input to submit for the scoping process of this EIS. SNA continues to play an active role in the Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods (CSN) inviting City staff to talk with them about neighborhood association roles and responsibilities on June 19<sup>th</sup> and organizing a candidate forum on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Later in the fall, CSN plans to sponsor workshops on topics contained in the EIS of Fairhaven Highlands.

**South Hill:** Responding to the input from over 95 neighbors attending their special public meeting, South Hill Neighborhood Association has strengthened the language in their 2007 neighborhood plan amendment proposal. The association has formed a subcommittee to work on issues of trees and view, also in response to the input at that meeting. Their historic preservation committee is organizing a public tour of historic homes in the South Hill neighborhood on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. They have recruited volunteers to work on neighborhood disaster preparedness as well as on an inter-neighborhood design review issues committee, organized by Allen Matsumoto, of the Sehome Neighborhood. South Hill is helping organize a candidate's forum in July along with other members of the Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods

**York:** In June, York Neighborhood Association's volunteers organized and carried out their annual "Dumpster Day" — a day for residents to discard large trash and furniture in a central dumpster provided at no charge by Sanitary Services Corporation (SSC). Volunteers scour the neighborhood with a truck, load unwanted items discarded by departing students and other residents, and haul them to the dumpster. Other current York activities include work on the master planning for Franklin Park, utilizing a Neighborhood Improvement Grant from the City; updating the neighborhood plan (a survey will soon gather residents' and business owners' input) and work toward historic designation of parts of the neighborhood. York is collaborating with Sehome and Samish neighborhoods on visions for a Samish Way urban village concept. Two York volunteers head up their neighborhood disaster preparedness implementation. In August, York will host their annual Neighborhood Night Out Against Crime on August 7<sup>th</sup>. We congratulate this association for all their years of fine work for their neighborhood and community!

### ***Neighborhood Night Out Against Crime – August 7, 2007***

Many neighborhoods and block watch groups will be celebrating National Night Out Against Crime to promote safe and healthy neighborhoods, strengthen neighborhood spirit and community partnerships with public safety agencies. Neighborhoods organize cookouts, potlucks, or ice cream socials.

To schedule an event in your neighborhood or for further information contact Officer Tara Fleetwood at 676-6924 or email at [tfleetwood@cob.org](mailto:tfleetwood@cob.org) or your neighborhood association leadership. You can find their contact information at our website for the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission: [http://www.cob.org/documents/mayor/boards-commissions/neighborhood/2007%20MNAC%20Roster\\_Public\\_ABN.pdf](http://www.cob.org/documents/mayor/boards-commissions/neighborhood/2007%20MNAC%20Roster_Public_ABN.pdf)

### ***Public Works in the Neighborhoods***

We want to make sure you knew that City Council has approved the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) where major arterial street, sidewalk and bicycle lane needs get prioritized and funded. Most neighborhoods reviewed the current TIP and advised us on their number one transportation improvement priority. Since these priorities usually cost between \$100,000 and several million dollars, they must be looked at from a community wide standpoint and prioritized. This process involves a number of review steps before Council makes its final decision on projects. Please see the Public Works Website for the Council's approved 2008-2012 TIP at <http://www.cob.org/pw/transportation.htm>, or, contact Chris Comeau, of our Public Works Department at [ccomeau@cob.org](mailto:ccomeau@cob.org).

## **Holly Street Gateway Improvements**

Holly Street is truly the “gateway” into downtown Bellingham and the need for repair of sidewalks and uneven pavement has been increasing yearly.

The Holly Street Gateway Improvements will be made along the entire corridor from Lakeway/Ellis to State Street and will include replacement of all curb, gutter and sidewalk, the addition of new traffic signals and street lighting, as well as new street plantings and road resurfacing. Sidewalk bulb-outs will be provided at several intersections, improving pedestrian safety at street crossings.

**Fairhaven:** At our Post Point Waste Water Treatment Plant, we are beginning repair and maintenance work on the emergency outflow pipe which is in poor condition. Our contractor will be sequencing the work to avoid impact on the treatment plants operations and use of the Port of Bellingham’s Marine Park.

**Guide Meridian/Cordata:** The Meridian Street – Water and Sewer Extension Project: will be part of the Washington State Department of Transportation Work to improve this very busy arterial and State Highway.

## ***Coast Millennium Trail Squalicum Connector Opens to the public***

Our Parks and Recreation Department has completed construction on the Coast Millennium Trail Squalicum Segment and the trail is now open to the public. This segment completes a trail link from West Street at Squalicum Way to Birchwood Park through the soon to be built Squalicum Creek Park. The Birchwood and Columbia Neighborhood Presidents have organized a walk and photo opportunity to help celebrate this important milestone in the history of their two neighborhoods.

This project is one of three trail connections recently completed by the City as part of the Coast Millennium Trail route. The other trail connections are located on the north end of the City at Little Squalicum Park and at the north end of Arroyo Park near Chuckanut and Samish Roads.

The master plan of the Coast Millennium Trail is comprised of a corridor of on-and-off street pedestrian/bicycle facilities extending northward from northwestern Skagit County to White Rock, British Columbia. The planned main route is roughly fifty miles in length, much of it along quiet back roads and existing multi-use trails. The CMT route passes through three state parks (Larrabee, Birch Bay and Peace Arch) and a number of city and county parks and natural areas, as well as running close to the Bellingham Bay shoreline in many locations.

The CMT project master plan was developed as a countywide planning effort of representatives of Whatcom County, the Cities of Bellingham, Ferndale and Blaine, the Port of Bellingham, Washington State Parks, Whatcom County Council of Governments, the Trillium Corporation and others. Representatives from Lynden, the Lummi Nation, Whatcom Transit Authority, Bellingham/Whatcom County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and other organizations also contributed to the effort.

## ***When to park on sidewalk: never!***

A frequently asked question is whether it’s okay to park on sidewalks in a neighborhood with “rolled” curbs. Parking on the sidewalk is illegal and creates an unsafe situation for pedestrians – especially for people in wheelchairs or parents with strollers — and it damages the curb and sidewalk.

What about where there is no sidewalk but a shoulder used by pedestrians? Answer: Unless the shoulder is marked, "NO PARKING", shoulder parking is permitted.

### ***Share the trail....tips for making our trails safe and friendly***

- ❖ All Trail Users:
  - Be aware and respectful of other trail users.
  - Represent your sport/activity well to the community.
  - Keep trails clean.
  - Stay on trails; do not create informal paths into sensitive areas.
  - Use crosswalks with caution.
- ❖ Yield:
  - Bicyclists yield to pedestrians and horses.
  - Pedestrians yield to horses (clearly alert horseback riders when approaching from behind).
- ❖ Walkers:
  - Stay to the right of an imaginary line down the center of a trail.
  - Allow room for other trail users passing, do not go three or more abreast on trail.
  - Move to the right when a passing trail user shouts "Passing on your left". If walking your pet, pull him close to allow safe passing.
- ❖ Runners:
  - Alert trail users when passing from behind.
- ❖ Bikers:
  - Alert trail users by voice ("passing on the left") and/or bell before passing from behind.
  - Travel at a speed that respects the safety of others.
- ❖ IPOD/headphone/cell phone users:
  - Adjust volume to hear alerts from passing trail users.
- ❖ Dog Owners:
  - Dogs should be under control in *off-leash* areas.
  - Dogs should be on-leash and under control in *on-leash* areas.

### ***Share the journey—Paddle to Lummi***

Every year, members of more than seventy coastal Native American Nations from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington and Oregon travel by canoe to participate in a five day-long celebration of native traditions. The Canoe Journey may take several weeks and involve many tribal members.

This year, the Lummi Nation is hosting the event. The canoes will arrive on July 30, and through August 4, the Lummi community will house and feed 6-13,000 attendees each day. It is a huge undertaking for a relatively small tribe.

The Paddle to Lummi Community Connections Committee is supporting tribal efforts and seeks volunteers to assist with the event. This is a great cultural event for the whole community. Consider participating in these activities:

**Whatcom Museum**, Sunday, July 1, 2-4 p.m. Lummi Nation members will share the history and cultural significance of the journey.

**An Honoring Event**. Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, Boulevard Park, noon-5 pm. Canoes from local tribes will make landings followed by an honoring ceremony of first inhabitants with Bellingham's Mayor and other dignitaries. There will also be entertainment, a Native art sale, and talking circles.

**The Canoe Journey Celebration**. July 30-Aug 4. Lummi Reservation.

If you're interested in volunteering to help with the Paddle to Lummi, please contact Beth Brownfield (738-8899, [bethbrownf@aol.com](mailto:bethbrownf@aol.com)) or Kara Black (676-2300, [kara@treefrognight.com](mailto:kara@treefrognight.com))

## ***We can protect our watershed!***

Whether we live in the Lake Whatcom Watershed (our precious source of drinking water) or on Squalicum Creek or Padden Creek or any other drainage area, we need to do our part to protect our particular watershed. One of the most important measures is to prevent excessive phosphorus from finding its way to the water body (lake or stream), where overgrowth of algae can occur, blocking sunlight from other plants and aquatic life, killing them or limiting their growth.

- Lawns and gardens: Fertilize only when necessary and with a phosphorous-free fertilizer; use native ground covers not requiring fertilizer, plant or leave vegetated buffers along water ways and lakeshores.
- Your car: Wash using on pervious surfaces using only phosphorus free products. Better yet, take your car to a car wash that recycles the water and sends to the wastewater plant.
- Waste: If you have septic, maintain it properly. Use only phosphorus-free detergents.

Individual decisions on ordinary tasks can have a significant effect on our environment. Thanks for doing your part!

## ***Living with wild animals***

We often enjoy the wildlife that wanders into our yard. However, wildlife can become a problem for gardens or because of noise from barking dogs doing what comes quite naturally when they respond to intruders of any species. In Washington State, trapping and relocating wildlife is illegal. (See Washington Fish and Wildlife regulations: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=232-12>).

There are a few fairly simple things you can do to help keep wildlife out of your yard and gardens.

- Fencing: For large gardens, a fence is the best option. Basic chicken wire and posts will do the trick as long as the wire is sunk into the ground to keep animals from digging under the fence to get at the young growing plants. For deer, the fence needs to be a minimum of 6 feet tall.
- Repellents: Flower beds can be protected by a product called KritterRidder. It is a safe non-toxic pellet that can be sprinkled in and around the garden or anywhere an animal, including cats and dogs, is a problem. The pellets smell bad to animals (not humans!) and also stick uncomfortably to the bottom of their feet. These and other products are readily available at hardware and farm stores.
- Catching them in the act: A hose works well. You can make a clapper out of 2 pieces of wood hinged together that sounds like a gun when clicked together vigorously. The clapper can work well with coyotes. **Note: discharge of a firearm in the City is illegal!**
- Garbage: Keep garbage cans securely closed and cover compost piles.
- Secure pet doors: Lock pet doors at night if possible to keep out skunks, raccoons or possums.
- Foundations and Porches: Secure foundation and other openings to areas of the house that offer protection to pets.
- Pet food: Avoid feeding pets outside, if possible or feed and retrieve any uneaten food and the food bowl. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.
- NEVER EVER feed wildlife. They will become dependant and territorial, which can put you, your family and pets in danger.

A great resource is the book, "Living with Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest" by Russell Link, a Fish and Wildlife officer. See also this month's edition of Inside Bellingham on BTV10!

### ***June Inside Bellingham—Downtown, Lummi healing pole, urban wildlife, and much more***

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

- A visit to Bellingham's central business district
- A Lummi master carver introduces a new healing pole
- Keeping cars off the road to help keep pollution out of Lake Whatcom.
- Holly Street - the gateway to Bellingham's downtown
- A local agency helps handle urban wildlife
- Bellingham's fireworks laws
- Check the Leisure Guide for a summer of fun!

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 [www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org).