



City of Bellingham
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION
"JUST SO YOU ARE AWARE" – Information of Interest
July 2007

Located on the Web at:

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

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Reminders

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>

July 16th, 7 p.m. Public Hearing – 2007 draft Shoreline Master Plan—City Council Chambers

Kudos! Guide Meridian/Cordata picnic promotes neighborhood disaster preparedness

Over 320 residents attended the Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood Association's first annual neighborhood picnic to promote disaster preparedness and build community. With many new residents to the City, the Guide Meridian/Cordata is a rapidly developing and diverse neighborhood of significant commercial areas, condominiums, and multi- and single-family housing, bordered by I-5 and the Guide Meridian (next to Bellis Fair Mall).

With nearly \$1,300 in donated door prizes, wonderful entertainment from the Northern Lights Jazz Orchestra and the City of Samba Drum Line, great weather and venue, this was a major accomplishment. Over 35 area merchants donated services, door prizes and almost all of the 500 hot dogs and strawberry shortcakes.

Chair of the event, Pamela Sorensen, reported that "this was our neighborhood's way to introduce our residents to the idea of disaster preparedness and the upcoming Map Your Neighborhood (M-Y-N) disaster preparedness program. The word is out and we are looking forward to empowering our area residents to be prepared for anything." Flyers representing 13 facets of disaster preparedness were spread around the vendor booths, along with 500 first aid kits provided by Madrona Medical Group.

Pam reports that there are many folks to thank, given almost 200 volunteer hours, thousands of dollars of in-kind donations and the support of the City of Bellingham through a Small and Simple Grant, the Bellingham Office of Emergency Management, and Whatcom Community College which provided an excellent outdoor venue in the heart of the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Committee moves ahead

At their second meeting, volunteers representing most of our 23 neighborhoods shared their progress on initiating the Mapping Your Neighborhood Program (MYN) through their neighborhood association. Like Guide Meridian/Cordata, many will initiate at their summer picnic or at National Night Out events in the neighborhood. Others have already begun mapping and identifying sections of their neighborhood from 5 to 30 households deep, to form “MYN pods” to prepare households to work together during the disaster and its aftermath. Such preparation is essential for wellbeing and quick recovery, when first responders have very limited ability to help because of the magnitude of the disaster (weather, earthquake, etc).

City, college libraries form partnership to serve community

The Bellingham Public Library (BPL) and Whatcom Community College Library (WCCL) are working jointly for better library service to the community. Beginning in August, community members and WCC students, especially those on the north side of Bellingham, will be able to

- Pick up library materials they have reserved from the BPL during the hours the campus library is open. They simply designate WCC as their pick up venue when reserving.
- Drop off returned public library materials at book drops on the college campus as well as in the college library itself. The drive-up book drop is conveniently located in the campus parking lot and is available 24 hours a day. When the campus library is open, materials may also be dropped off inside the building, either in the entry or inside the library.

This new service is of special benefit WCC students who will be able to use the considerable library resources of BPL from their own campus library.

The goals of this partnership are threefold: to provide more convenient access to public library materials for community members on the north side; to develop an ongoing joint partnership between the academic and public libraries in the community; and, to provide a joint service that will support community energy savings.

“Red Tail Reach” restoration project

Our Environmental Resources team is working on a significant fish and wildlife restoration project located along Whatcom Creek in the Puget Neighborhood, across the creek from Roosevelt. The 5.7 acre project site is located east of I-5 on the south bank of Whatcom creek behind Haskell Business Park.

Human alterations in the Whatcom Creek watershed have had the greatest impact on habitat for juvenile Chinook and coho salmon, as well as steelhead and coastal sea-run cutthroat trout. Therefore restoration efforts are targeted towards improving conditions

for these species. However, Whatcom Creek also provides habitat for pink and chum salmon, resident rainbow and cutthroat trout, sculpin, stickleback and lamprey. This project, like most other restoration projects, will also replace invasive, non-native plant species with a diversity of native shrubs and trees.

The project involves excavating over 25,000 cubic yards of fill to develop oxbows, side channels, flood plain area, wetlands and uplands for this section of the creek. The design is meant to mimic two overlapping "historic" channel alignments that have been cut off by the existing channel, creating "off channel" rearing habitat for juvenile coho salmon. A three-acre flood plain wetland habitat which will be inundated during floods will provide riparian habitat. Large woody debris on site such as downed trees and other debris will be incorporated into the creek to create scour pools primarily for Chinook and steelhead. Although the Red Tail Reach project is designed to restore and protect habitat it will share the site with a new section of the Whatcom Creek Trail.

The project funding and property dedication come from the Olympic Pipeline settlement. For more information contact Renee LaCroix at 676-6961 or rlacroix@cob.org.

Shoreline Master Program ready for public hearing July 16th – City Council Chambers – 7 p.m.

An update to the regulatory plan for our shorelines of significance (Bellingham Bay, Chuckanut, Whatcom, Squalicum Creeks and the mouth of Padden Creek, Lake Padden and Lake Whatcom) continues through the summer. The draft master plan is the result of numerous public meetings, work sessions, and extensive public comment, and is based 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.

You can review the draft SMP on the website, along with the extensive comments received to date on the "Public Comment Tracker" which charts how and where that comment was incorporated and if not, why. See 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. Comments will be accepted up until the Public Hearing on July 16, 2007.

Neighborhood Night Out Against Crime – August 7, 2007

For the seventh year running our Police and Fire Departments and our neighborhoods will be involved in the National Night Out Against Crime program on August 7th. National Night Out is celebrated in communities nationwide to promote safe, healthy neighborhoods. Activities are designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate participation in local anti-crime programs, and strengthen neighborhood spirit and community partnerships.

From 6 to 10 p.m. August 7th, residents throughout Bellingham and across the nation are asked to turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods throughout Bellingham will be hosting events such as block parties, cookouts or ice cream socials.

Also please mark you calendar and plan to join us for the 3rd annual Crime Prevention Information Fair on July 21st at Lowe's Home Improvement Center 1050 E. Sunset. The

event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be displays from a variety of Law Enforcement and business organizations, an on-site shred truck and a bicycle rodeo for kids.

To schedule an event in your neighborhood or for further information concerning this event, contact Officer Tara Fleetwood at 676-6924 or email at 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/mayor/boards_commissions/neighborhood/mnac.htm

Public Works in the Neighborhoods

Birchwood:

- The West Illinois Street Extension project to divert truck traffic from residential areas requires ongoing coordination with Whatcom County, Bellingham Technical College, and Morse Steel. It involves a creek crossing and a railroad spur relocation. We're working on design and funding issues.
- Pedestrian improvements including curb, gutter, and sidewalk on Birchwood Avenue west of Meridian Street. This will improve pedestrian safety at this location. Our next steps are to complete the design and bid the project.
- Similar pedestrian improvements for Birchwood Avenue adjacent to Morris Drive In are being planned; mitigation of impact on parking for local business and right of way acquisition are challenges.

Central Business District:

- The construction of a new Art and Children's Museum in coordination with the Public Facilities District is proceeding with a bid awarded to Ebenal General Construction. A groundbreaking "block party" is being planned for early August to celebrate this milestone.
- Historic Buildings Work:
 - We are designing an upgrade to the electrical/HVAC systems and making acoustic improvements of the Mount Baker Theater. Our current planning focus is on timing, storage and construction staging. The theatre will need to be closed for the construction in 2008.
 - Using a federal grant, we are working on the historic Federal Building to improve life safety elements of the building and make it more attractive to potential new tenants. This requires coordinating our work with the National Park Service and to follow Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.
- Bay and Holly Streetscape Improvements: This project to improve citizen safety, mobility, improve lighting and enhance the downtown is in the design and review stage. Stay tuned for public input opportunities.
- West Champion Streetscape and water main replacements: This project will include lighting, sidewalk and landscaping improvements on a half block of Champion Street between Grand Avenue and Prospect Street as well as water main replacement and street resurfacing through the corridor.
- Annual street overlay program includes these downtown streets: North State Street from Ivy to Cedar; South State Street (Boulevard) from Bryant to 12th (South Hill and Fairhaven); West Champion Street from Cornwall to Prospect

Columbia: The following sidewalks are scheduled to be replaced in the Columbia neighborhood: Walnut Street - Connecticut to Illinois; Connecticut Street - Meridian to Peabody. Northwest to Elm, and Walnut to Elizabeth; Utter Street - North to Connecticut; Jefferson Street - Lynn to Jaeger; Lynn Street - North to Jefferson; Kulshan Street - Monroe to Jefferson; Elizabeth Street - Washington to Jefferson; Monroe Street - Elm to Jaeger; Washington Street - Henry to Victor and Elm to Utter; Park Street - Madison to Broadway.

Fairhaven: Our project to repair the secondary outfall pipe at the Post Point Sewer Treatment Plant is under way. The City is coordinating with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad for the first step of the pipe crossing when it is "bored" under the railroad tracks.

Guide Meridian/Cordata: A number of major projects are proceeding in this neighborhood including the design for an upgrade of the Horton Road Sewer Pump Station to accommodate flows from north Bellingham to the Sewer Treatment Plant. Construction of water main improvements has begun for Meridian Street in coordination with the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Happy Valley: We've completed repair of a failing section of pavement near a storm water vault location on Donovan Street. The City also completed some streetscape enhancements to the road end at 32nd Street and Old Fairhaven Parkway. Additional plantings at this location will take place this fall.

Lettered Streets: Design continues for a small project to improve storm water facilities at C and Astor Street and overlaying the street at Dupont and F Street (part of our annual overlay program).

Mt Baker: The Woburn to McLeod reconstruction of Sunset Drive into a multi-lane roadway with sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and bike lanes is quite complex, requires much right of way acquisition work as well as some wetland mitigation measures.

Puget: Bids were opened on July 13th for our project to improve pedestrian and bike safety, enhance storm water treatment and resurface the roadway on Puget Street South of Fraser. Our annual street overlay program includes these Puget Neighborhood Streets: Orleans Street, Lakeway north to Potter; Potter Street from Lincoln west to King.

Roosevelt: This project to construct dual right turn lanes and storm water treatment facilities at the corner of Woburn and Alabama was bid with the Puget project above. This project will improve traffic circulation and safety at this busy intersection. We are also doing a pavement overlay as part of our annual program on Moore Street from Illinois north to Indiana.

Samish: San Juan Boulevard, Phase I will provide a transportation connection between Yew Street and Interstate 5 and divert some traffic off Lakeway. The terrain for the roadway involves various environmental analysis and permits because of wetlands and other topographical features subject to the City's Critical Areas Ordinance regulations. Also proceeding in Samish neighborhood is right of way and design work for a new Yew Street 2.5 million gallon water reservoir, an important infrastructure enhancement for this growing neighborhood.

Sehome: The following Sehome streets are scheduled to receive asphalt overlay as part of our annual roadway maintenance program: Chestnut from Garden to Ellis which includes sidewalk replacement; Laurel Street between Indian and Jersey; North State Street from Ivy to Cedar; South State Street (Boulevard) from Bryant to 12th.

Silver Beach: We have a number of important water quality projects going on in the watershed to deal with storm water run off: A storm water facility for Hayward drive to include a filtering system, and East Oregon and East North Street storm water quality treatment facilities are expected to be done in 2007, as are Pullman Road drainage improvements. A retrofit of the Northridge Detention Basin to deal with outfall from an existing pond will need to be delayed until the 2008 watershed construction window (May to September) as will the construction of storm water facilities on East Maryland to improve the quality of runoff going into the lake.

Sunnyland: The east side of James Street from Iowa north to Alabama will be overlaid and this work includes sidewalk replacement.

York: *(learn more about York Neighborhood on July Inside Bellingham on BTV10)* The following streets are scheduled to receive asphalt overlay as part of our annual roadway maintenance program: Ellis Street from Lakeway to Gladstone; Humboldt Street, Potter north to Gladstone; Ellis Street from Lakeway to Gladstone. Garden Street from Magnolia to Holly will have sidewalks replaced.

SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT

S&S Concrete is the contractor for our annual Sidewalk Replacement Program noted above. \$255,208.00 is budgeted for 2007.

PAVEMENT OVERLAY

Each year the City conducts a survey of streets to determine those with the greatest need for maintenance. Streets scheduled to receive asphalt overlay in 2007 are noted above by neighborhood. The 2007 budget for this work is \$1,522,461.00. Wilder Construction is the contractor. For information on both the Sidewalk Replacement and the pavement Overlay programs, contact Project Engineer Derek Holzl by phone 676-6961 or email dholzl@cob.org.

Summer volunteers needed in parks for summer work parties

Lend a hand keeping Bellingham Parks green. We provide the gloves, tools and direction. For more information call Rae, Tracy, or Joe at 676 6801.

Fairhaven Park

Give new planted areas some TLC; help Keller Williams Realty staff & clients weed out invasive plants to improve the riparian habitat along Padden Creek, a salmon bearing stream. *Enter Fairhaven Park at the entrance off Chuckanut Dr. and park by the tennis courts at the back of the park.*

Wednesday, July 18th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Woodstock Farm

Woodstock Farm is still in need of help to remove invasive plants, such as English ivy and holly. Help bring this historic site to its full potential. *Walk or bike to the farm from North Chuckanut Trailhead. Car access to the site is restricted.*

Wed, August 1st from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Wed, August 22nd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Boulevard Park

Join a weeding and brush cutting work party to prepare for future plantings near the rocky headlands between the docks at Boulevard Park. *Park at the lower parking lot at Boulevard Park near the south end.*

Wed, August 8th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Wed, August 29th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Little Squalicum Park

Help weed, remove blackberries, and mulch. *Take a right off Eldridge before the Cocoanut Grove into the new parking lot of Little Squalicum Park.*

Wed, July 25th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Wed, August 15th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Paddle to Lummi — Canoe Journey Celebration

On July 30th, the Lummi Nation is hosting an annual long distance canoe event in which members of more than 70 coastal Native American Nations from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington and Oregon travel by canoe for a five-day-long celebration of native traditions. The Canoe Journey may take several weeks, especially for those paddling from as far away as the Aleutian Islands and Queen Charlottes.

The canoes will arrive on July 30th, and through August 4th, the Lummi community will house and feed 6,000 to 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. If you're interested in volunteering to help with the Paddle to Lummi, please contact Beth Brownfield (738-8899, bethbrownf@aol.com) or Kara Black (676-2300, kara@treefrognight.com)

BTV10 Inside Bellingham: July program highlights York Neighborhood, waterfront cruise, trails and more

Visit the York Neighborhood, cruise Bellingham Bay, trek the Coast Millennium Trail, make plans for National Night Out Against Crime, and more by watching the July 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 www.cob.org. Inside Bellingham, produced by the City of Bellingham, gives viewers an inside peek into city government programs, services, activities and people.