



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

Please do your part to conserve water during summer dry season!
Think about back to school safety — watch for kids and drive carefully and slowly on school routes.

Check out our new climate change website at:

<http://www.cob.org/pw/environment/climate/index.htm>

Learn about your neighborhood at:

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

Exercise your right to vote by August 21 for City and County primary races

Mayor Douglas appoints new Executive Director of the Whatcom Museum and new interim Administrative Officer

Mayor Tim Douglas has made two important City management appoints, Patricia M. Leach as Executive Director of the Whatcom Museum of History & Art and Linda Storck as interim Administrative Officer.

Whatcom Museum's new director Patricia Leach comes to the Museum with over 25 years of experience in the field of nonprofit museum administration, including serving as CEO and President of the Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, located in Nashville, Tennessee. The Hermitage is one of the nation's largest and oldest historic site museums containing 1,120 acres and a campus of 38 buildings. Under her direction, the Hermitage became Nashville's first Smithsonian Institution Affiliate Museum and a member of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Leach has a Bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of California at Davis and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, California. In California, Leach directed six museums, including the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, the Redding Museum of Art & History, and the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas. Leach begins October 1st at an annual salary of \$105,024.

Mayor Tim Douglas has appointed **Linda Storck**, current Judicial and Support Services Director, as **Administrative Officer**. Linda will serve in this capacity until the end of the year, assisting city management during the transition period to a new Mayor. Linda has a strong business administration background and 22 years of service with the City. She served first in our Finance Department, and then in her current role, where she is administrator of the Municipal Court and manages various administrative support functions for the City.

Linda's primary responsibilities will be helping the city's leadership team stay on top of their 2007 work plan and advance the priorities identified by the City Council in its Goals and Objectives. Linda will help us complete the 2008 preliminary budget and present it to City Council. She will guide the creation of a strategic economic development plan for consideration by the City Council. This will reflect our survey of local businesses and the City's desire for living wage jobs and a sustainable economy.

Linda will continue some of her current project work as part of the management team such as work on city space needs analysis. She will prepare a transition plan to meet the information transfer needs of both a new Mayor and the City Council. She also will support the work of neighborhood outreach and citizen involvement, including attending Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meetings.

With significant experience working with people throughout city government, Linda offers a wealth of knowledge, leadership and exceptional organizational skills. This is a great opportunity for our neighborhood leadership to become acquainted with another important member of the city's senior staff.

School is starting: Think safety!

Vehicle congestion around schools is one of the biggest safety issues for kids. If fewer parents drove their kids and more kids walked and biked - kids would be safer! Here are a few tips:

Teach children to be safe pedestrians:

- Walk on the sidewalk.
- If there is no sidewalk, always walk facing traffic.
- Cross only at corners or marked crosswalks.
- Stop, look, and listen before crossing the street.
- Look left, right, left before crossing the street.
- Look and listen WHILE crossing the street.
- Always walk, do not run, across the street.
- Make sure drivers see you before crossing the street.

Parents need to lead by example:

- Use crosswalks.
- Follow pedestrian safety rules.
- **When driving:**

- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Don't park on or within 20 feet of a crosswalk.
- Obey speed limits (school zone speed limit is 20 mph).
- Hang up your cell phone.
- Be patient.
- Don't idle your engine for longer than 30 seconds (cleaner air for kids to breathe, less wear and tear on your car).
- If you are dropping your child off at school and park on the side of the road, always have your child exit the car on the side away from traffic - don't let your child dash between cars to get across the road.
- Remember: children are not adults - they see and hear differently than adults - children have only two-thirds the peripheral vision as adults and have difficulty judging distances and speeds.

Historic preservation grant assistance for Lettered Streets, York, and South Hill neighborhoods

The City of Bellingham recently received a *Preserve America* Grant, a highly-competitive federal grant promoting community efforts to preserve and enjoy our cultural and natural heritage. First Lady Laura Bush designated Bellingham as a “*Preserve America*” community and awarded the \$150,000 grant at a Capital Hill ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The grant will be used for professional preservation consultant services to conduct a survey of historic homes and to help train and coordinate student and neighborhood volunteers to take photographs, describe architectural elements, and complete historical research. Information and photos from the survey will be entered into the State's Historic Property Database, the City's Geographic Information System, and the Whatcom Museum/Bellingham Public Library's on-line database of historic images.

The project will involve community volunteers as well as staff from the Bellingham Public Library, Western Washington University's Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, the Washington State Archives, and the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

We recently updated our historic preservation ordinance and became a Certified Local Government (CLG). We have offered public preservation training workshops and other outreach programs to involve neighborhoods in preservation planning.

For more information about the project contact Katie Franks, Planning & Community Development: 676-6880, or kfranks@cob.org. Additional information about the grant project can be found at www.cob.org/pcd/cd/historic/index.htm.

South Hill historic home tour raises interest in preservation

South Hill is one of Bellingham's oldest and most architecturally diverse neighborhoods. Over the last two years, the South Hill Neighborhood's **Historic Preservation Committee** investigated the histories and architecture of several South Hill homes and developed the idea of a home tour to raise community interest in historic preservation.

With help from a City Small and Simple Grant, the July home tour, “Restorations, Renovations and Rehabilitations” featured five homes, built between 1890-1938. These homes illustrate how renovations to meet current living styles can be accomplished while

retaining the home's original design and historic character. Effective publicity and creative marketing efforts resulted in ticket sales to over 250 people. Proceeds will help fund historical research in South Hill.

Sue Hynes, chair of the tour committee and the Historic Preservation Committee, reported that committee work and more than forty volunteer tour docents were the keys to the tour's success. "We also hope to work with other neighborhoods and the City to further historic preservation in Bellingham, as well as sponsor another tour next year," said Hynes. Great work, South Hill!

Planning and Community Development news

MNAC briefed on development code project

Marilyn Vogel, Senior Planner, presented an overview of our development code update project at the July meeting of MNAC. Marilyn explained that we need to reorganize and classify the various code provisions so that all stakeholders can easily find and identify relevant regulations and requirements. After the code is reorganized, staff plans to take a look at the substantive provisions of the code. We will solicit ideas from the neighborhoods and public about what they would like to see changed and work with all stakeholders to revise in accordance with the needs and values of the community and with state law.

This is a multi (three) year project for staff. Marilyn explained that the gains from having an accessible, understandable, and updated code make this project worth the commitment of time.

City Council Continues Review of Draft Shoreline Master Program

Following the public hearing on July 16th, the first issue-specific City Council work session on the Shoreline Master Program update was held Monday, August 6th at the regular City Council afternoon meeting. Further City Council work sessions are scheduled for August 20th, September 10th and a final work session tentatively scheduled for September 17th. The August 20th work session will address the issues of nonconforming uses in the shoreline areas as well as new boundaries for new buffers and shoreline jurisdiction areas that may result from future restoration projects, also referred to as "hold restoration harmless." For the latest information, see the city's website at <http://www.cob.org/pcd/planning/environment.htm>, or email: smpupdate@cob.org.

An Urban Village for Old Town

Old Town, the area from Bay to Broadway along Holly and adjacent streets has been the subject of several community planning efforts over the years. 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.

Old Town already has a number of components for the creation of an urban village such as transportation, walk-ability, open space (Maritime Heritage Park), and a mix of residential and commercial uses. Needed, however, is a master plan (Sub-Area Plan) and supporting development regulations to encourage and guide development towards the community's vision for Old Town. This vision was developed in 2005 through a series of neighborhood and community meetings on the Old Town area, which includes parts of the Lettered Streets and Central Business District neighborhoods.

As the area evolves over time, the idea is to maintain a number of characteristics in Old Town. These include view corridors and vistas, natural features, historic resources such as the landmark buildings of the area, as well as small businesses. Also, the plan would provide for a range of housing and pedestrian amenities.

Staff is in the process of presenting an overview of the Sub-Area Plan (developed after the community work of 2005) to various stakeholder groups for feedback. This presentation is posted on the City's web-site at <http://www.cob.org/pcd/planning/OldTownSub-areaPlanning.htm>. The proposed Sub-Area Plan and development regulations will be brought forward to the Planning Commission for their consideration in November.

For more information, contact Tara Sundin, Planning & Community Development Department, 360-676-6880.

Lettered Streets Plan Amendment combined with Old Town Sub-area Plan

On August 2nd, the Bellingham Planning Commission voted to continue discussion of the Lettered Streets Neighborhood Plan Amendment proposal to downzone a portion of the neighborhood from Multi-Family to Single Family in order to combine the review with the Old Town Sub-area Planning now underway. This will allow a more integrated approach to the neighborhood's rezone request when considered in conjunction with the proposed up-zone of the Old Town area. Old Town is scheduled to come to the Planning Commission this fall. Contact Kurt Nabbefeld at knabbefeld@cob.org for more information.

National Night Out 2007 is a HUGE success!

On Tuesday, August 7th, nearly 50 celebrations took place across the city to promote safe neighborhoods and take a stand against crime. The official numbers are not yet in, but despite the weather, hundreds of citizens gathered on what proved to be a successful evening.

Events ranged from salmon feasts and BBQs to Ice Cream and Root Beer Floats as neighbors met for food, socializing and good old-fashioned neighborly chit chat. As usual, some events were small and took place in backyards, while others commandeered large parks and blocked off cul-de-sacs.

The theme of NNO 2007 was "Map Your Neighborhood" with several groups discussing the benefits of organizing for disaster preparedness block by block, much like a neighborhood Block Watch is organized. Other neighborhoods requested guest speakers from the Bellingham Police Department, Fire Department, Whatcom Humane Society, Department of Homeland Security and Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center. Volunteers from these organizations gave their time to answer questions about their role in the community and the resources that they provide to citizens.

The success of this year's NNO is largely credited to the collaborative efforts of neighbors such as yourself, Block Watch Captains, and the Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods. Hats off to everyone who came out that night to show support for the health and well being of great neighborhoods that make Bellingham so unique!

More on Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) Disaster Preparedness Program—Train the Trainer coming up!

On Sept 27, our Emergency Management Office is cosponsoring with Whatcom County Department of Emergency Management a MYN Train-the-Trainer class by program author LuAn Johnson. LuAn is an inspirational and practical speaker. We encourage you to sign up your MYN leadership to take this class, which will be on Thursday, Sept. 27th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., site to be announced.

The MYN program breaks neighborhoods into groups from 5 to 30 households to train and prepare for and work together during a disaster. To book a MYN training session for your “micro-neighborhoods”, contact Don Davis, Emergency Management Specialist, City of Bellingham Office of Emergency Management, 360-676-6933 or ddavis@cob.org

Q: What’s happening on Whatcom Creek?

A: Many volunteers at work!

Walking along Whatcom Creek Trail this summer you may have seen many folks at work along the creek. They are part of an on-going effort to improve salmon and other wildlife habitat, by removing invasive plant species and planting “natives”.

- March and June brought the Bellingham Kiwanis to their adopted area behind City Hall to weed and mulch.
- In April, Mike & Elaine McRory led the Koma Kulshan Chapter of the Native Plant Society in removing bindweed and other invasive plants between Dupont and Grant.
- In July, City of Bellingham Washington Conservation Corps crews were working up-stream from Holly, removing invasive plants. Crews are continuing to maintain and clean up riparian restoration sites along Whatcom Creek and other City streams. (See Inside Bellingham on BTV10 for a wonderful feature on the Red Tail Reach project!)
- In late July, Parks staff, joined by Parks & Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) volunteers, removed invasives such as clematis, ivy, and bindweed (morning glory) and created view and safety corridors along the southwest side of the creek near the Environmental Learning Center in Maritime Heritage Park as well as further up the creek near Grand. This group has also been cleaning, relocating, and replacing plexiglass on the interpretative signs originally designed by Columbia Elementary students.

Wondering what wildlife could live along such an urban stream? Take a little time to walk the trail and you will see and hear the creatures that reside or visit the restored riparian habitat along Whatcom Creek. Look for signs of beaver activity between Dupont and Grand. In the early evening you will see swallows swooping and diving over the creek, feeding on flying insects; bushtits making sack-like nests in the spring; Caspian terns squawking loudly overhead throughout the summer; chickadees and kinglets feeding on insects in the trees much of the year. Cavities in the dead snags along the stream provide nesting sites for Hairy, Downy and Pileated woodpeckers. These are just a few of the riparian visitors that can be found along the creek, and you might even catch sight of a river otter.

Look for the first returning salmon starting with Chinook salmon late this month, followed by Chum and Coho in November and December. Seals and gulls forage in the lower

reaches of the creek. The estuary (across from the old ReStore Building) is the place to observe Great blue herons and occasionally smaller Green herons hunting the shoreline year round, while Belted kingfishers dive for smaller fish. Goldeneyes feed in the winter, Canada geese can be seen in the spring and summer and steelhead trout return in the spring.

Would you like to help Whatcom Creek? Call Rae Edwards, Bellingham Parks Volunteer Coordinator at 676-6801, ext. 24 or Lindsay Taylor, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association Volunteer Coordinator, 715-0283.

New climate protection web pages

Bellingham is becoming a model community for our response to climate issues. Our focus is to involve the entire community in actions that will effectively address Bellingham's contribution to global climate changes. Bellingham citizens have the ability to directly affect the sources of pollution linked to global warming and climate change, including energy use, transportation and waste. City government is leading the way by taking action that reduces global warming pollution from our operations and by building partnerships that can help the community create solutions. Visit the new Climate protection website at <http://www.cob.org/pw/environment/climate/index.htm> to learn more about Bellingham's climate protection efforts and much more.

City partners with NWCAA at Northwest Washington Fair

Each year the City of Bellingham hosts a booth at the Northwest Washington Fair in Lynden to raise awareness about Lake Whatcom issues and the importance of protecting our precious water resource. Sharing the booth this year is Northwest Clean Air Agency with information about energy conservation and climate change. Visit the booth Monday morning, or Tuesday or Thursday evening and say hello to the new Director of the Northwest Clean Air Agency and former Bellingham Mayor, Mark Asmundson. Visitors to the booth can receive a free compact fluorescent light bulb and learn ways to reduce energy consumption at home. The Northwest Washington Fair runs from Monday, August 13th through Saturday, August 18th. Gates open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 10:00 p.m. each day.

Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom Community College Library Partnership Begins

Patrons of the Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom County Library System may begin returning their checked out materials to the Whatcom Community College starting August 1st. A 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 at the library building, either in the lobby or inside the library. The WCC library is located on Cordata Parkway and the closest short-term parking lot is the visitor parking in front of the Laidlaw Center on W. Kellogg Road. Parking is also available in any of the adjacent campus lots.

Whatcom Community College Library will be closed August 17th through September 24th between summer and fall quarters. During this time, patrons may continue to return their items to the book drop located in the campus parking lot.

Beginning September 24th, patrons of the Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom County Library System will be able to designate Whatcom Community College Library as one of the several community locations for holds pickup when using the online catalog.

After being notified of the availability of materials, patrons may pick up their holds during the hours the campus library is open. Using self-check equipment, patrons will be able to check out their own materials. Campus library hours are Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (during the Academic year) and Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (during the summer).

“This partnership saves energy, and provides convenient access to your public library materials,” said college library Director Linda Lambert and public library Director Pam Kiesner in a joint statement.

For more information or to comment, contact the Bellingham Public Library at 360-676-6860 or log on to their website at www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org.

Public Works in the Neighborhoods

Once again we express our appreciation for the public’s patience with the considerable street overlay work going forward on some of our major arterials such as Woburn, James, and Holly as well as within various neighborhoods. The result should be well worth the inconvenience in both safety and aesthetics.

Birchwood: Our projects in design and planning in Birchwood include the West Illinois Street Extension, curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements for the north side of Birchwood Avenue west of Meridian Street.

Central Business District:

- The groundbreaking “block party” including a street dance and music by the Atlantics was a fitting way to break ground for our new Art Museum and Children’s Museum. Significant efforts by citizen volunteers have contributed immensely to moving this project forward.
- 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: A reminder that 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: Work on the repair of the secondary outfall pipe at the Post Point Sewer Treatment Plant is to the point where we have fenced off the trail to provide security to the treatment plant from the construction area. In addition, transplanting the eel grass from the pipeline area to the Post Point Lagoon proceeded smoothly last month. Work is proceeding on the "land" portion of the pipe leading from the plant to where it is being "bored" under the railroad tracks.

Guide Meridian/Cordata: We continue the design work for an upgrade of the Horton Road Sewer Pump Station to accommodate flows from north Bellingham. This month, work on water main improvements and construction on Meridian Street by the Washington State Department of Transportation will be done at night.

Lettered Streets: We'll be bidding a small project to improve storm water facilities at C and Astor Street. We also are overlaying the street surface at Dupont and F Street intersection (part of our annual overlay program).

Mt Baker: Stay tuned for updates on the major reconstruction of Sunset Drive from Woburn into a multi-lane roadway with sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and bike lanes.

Puget: Council awarded the bid for our project to improve pedestrian and bike safety, enhance storm water treatment and resurface the roadway on Puget Street South of Fraser. Street overlay projects include these Puget Neighborhood Streets: Orleans Street, Lakeway north to Potter; Potter Street from Lincoln west to King.

Roosevelt: *(Learn more about Roosevelt Neighborhood on August Inside Bellingham on BTV10).* The Woburn at Alabama project to construct dual right turn lanes and storm water treatment facilities will improve traffic circulation and safety at this busy intersection. The bid was awarded to RAM construction. Pavement overlay work is on Moore Street from Illinois north to Indiana.

Samish: Right of way and design work proceeds for a new Yew Street 2.5 million gallon water reservoir, an important infrastructure enhancement for this growing neighborhood. Design work is proceeding on San Juan Boulevard, Phase I will provide a transportation connection between Yew Street and Interstate 5 and divert some traffic off Lakeway.

Sehome: Thanks for your patience as we do asphalt overlay work on 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. The Holly Street Gateway project is also part of the continued neighborhood work.

Silver Beach: Water quality projects going on in the watershed to deal with storm water run off include 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 work and the construction of storm water facilities on East Maryland will need to be delayed until the 2008 watershed construction window (May to September).

Sunnyland: Work on asphalt overlay on the east side of James Street from Iowa north to Alabama and sidewalk replacement proceeds ahead. Thanks for driving carefully and safely there.

York: In addition to all the work going on in the Holly Street Gateway (downtown approach) area to create an improved streetscape, the following streets are receiving 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.

For information on these and other projects, contact Ravyn Whitewolf at rwhitewolf@cob.org. 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 still needed for parks 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.

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 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 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 Coconut Grove into the new parking lot of Little Squalicum Park. Wed, August 15th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.*

BTV10 Inside Bellingham: August program highlights Roosevelt Neighborhood, Red Tail Reach restoration, pesticide-free gardening, new Downtown street sweeping program, and more!

Visit the Roosevelt Neighborhood, including the new Red Tail Reach restoration project, "Get Movin'" at Civic Field, learn to garden without pesticides, make way for street sweeping downtown, and find out about the City's Crime Prevention Fair, and more by watching the August 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.