



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

Located on the Web at:

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

- **School is starting: Think safety!**
- **Keep your sidewalk travel friendly**
- **Cornwall Park Renovation Public Meeting Planned**
 - **Welcome back WWU!**
- **Bellingham's Comprehensive Plan compliant with Growth Management Act**
- **Associations continue neighborhood plan update work — Technical Assistance Workshop on September 18**
- **Other Planning and Community Development news — Old Town Master Plan, Samish neighborhood plan, draft Shoreline Master Program**
- **Inside Bellingham on BTV10 — September Program — Mayor Tim on City priorities, South Hill neighborhood, historic preservation, and more.....**
 - **Neighborhoods take part in disaster preparedness drills and education**
 - **Parks and Recreation news**
 - **Celebrate Arbor Day at Elizabeth Park**
 - **Volunteer for watersheds!**
 - **Public Works in the neighborhoods**
 - **Neighborhoods and RE Store partner on Fountain Plaza Design Charettes**
 - **September Events at Bellingham Public Libraries**

Reminders

September 18 Technical Assistance Workshop for Neighborhood Planners 6:30 p.m. at Municipal Court

Think school safety — watch for kids and drive carefully and slowly on school routes.

Learn about your neighborhood at:

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

League of Women Voters Candidate Forum — Wednesday, October 3, 6:30 p.m., Municipal Court Building at "C" between Girard and Halleck Streets

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

October 3rd is "International Walk to School Day" – a great opportunity to encourage kids and their parents to walk to school. For information about the event, or local "Safe Routes to School" programs, please contact Kim Brown, Transportation Options Coordinator at 676-6961.

Helpful websites:

"International Walk to School Day" - <http://www.iwalktoschool.org/>

"Safe Routes to School" - <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>

Keep your sidewalk travel friendly

In many of our neighborhoods we are seeing some lovely landscape and garden work in the front yard and parking strip, replacing traditional lawns. Well-thought-out and maintained plantings enhance the streetscape and make neighborhood walks more interesting. However, no one appreciates being smacked in the eye with a branch from a climbing rose, a holly, or even an evergreen; nor having to navigate around spill over dirt and beauty bark. Unmanaged sidewalk-side landscaping can also obstruct the vision of drivers and bikers, and make commuting home by foot after dark an uneasy walk. (Make sure tools and toys are off the sidewalk, especially after dark).

So, think through the maintenance issue with your front yard landscaping. Once in place, make sure it doesn't impede pedestrian passage, obstruct vision, or pose any kind of a hazard. Then we can all enjoy the fruits of your creativity and labor!

FYI: Bellingham Municipal Code requires that sidewalks be clear of obstructions to a height of 8 feet over the sidewalks, 15 feet over streets and to the edge of sidewalks. All trees, hedges, billboards, or other natural or man-made obstructions, such as fences, buildings, improvements, and landscaping, are not to interfere with visibility of traffic approaching an intersection in order that travelers have sufficient time to bring a motor vehicle driven at a reasonable speed to a full stop before the intersection is reached.

Cornwall Park Playground Renovation Public Meeting Planned

The public is invited to an informal meeting to view and comment on a preliminary plan of the proposed conceptual playground layout to replace the existing playground on the

south end of Cornwall Park. The meeting will be held on October 9th from 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Cornwall Park North Picnic Shelter near the Spray Park.

The existing playground equipment on the south end of is old, weathered, and does not comply with safety guidelines and ADA requirements. Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department has budgeted for, and is currently designing, a new playground for preschool children in Cornwall Park over the site of the old playground near the horseshoe pitching area.

Please call Jonathan Schilk, Landscape Architect, at (360) 676-6985 for more information.

Welcome back, Western!

The population of Bellingham will grow by 9,000 as students return to Western Washington University. Western typically has 13,000 students in the fall and 3,200 summer students. Many Western students live off campus. Thanks to the many of you who welcome them into your neighborhood and work with those who may need to learn how to live as good neighbors.

York, Sehome, and Happy Valley Neighborhood Associations have formal programs to engage with students in their neighborhood and to work together to prevent disruptive parties, avoid parking problems, etc. These neighborhood associations, the Campus Community Coalition, and City Neighborhood Services also contact landlords by letter, as Western comes back into session, to remind them of all they can and should do to help their tenants be good neighbors.

For more information on the work of the Campus Community Coalition, contact Lara Welker at (360) 650-6863 or email Lara at Lara.Welker@wwu.edu.

Bellingham's Comprehensive Plan compliant with Growth Management Act

The Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board has found that the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan is now compliant with the Growth Management Act (GMA).

In January of this year, the Board reviewed the City's Comprehensive Plan and found it was internally consistent except for a discrepancy between the ELOS standards used in portions of the City's Parks & Recreation Plan and those used in the Comprehensive Plan's Capital Facilities Chapter. On May 7th, the City Council approved an ordinance that corrected the inconsistency by adopting a uniform ELOS standard of 47.5 acres per 1,000 residents in both the Park Plan and the Capital Facilities Chapter. The City's land supply analysis and its financial analysis of the cost of providing park and recreation facilities already used the ELOS standard of 47.5 acres per 1,000 residents, so these portions of the Comprehensive Plan did not need changing to eliminate the inconsistency.

This Board's decision ends the appeal filed by Donna and Harold Macomber, Helen Green and Larry Horowitz.

To view the Order Finding Compliance, see the City's website at: <http://www.cob.org/pcd/planning/growth/comp-update.htm>

Associations continue neighborhood plan update work – Technical Assistance Workshop on September 18, 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, September 18th, staff from Planning & Community Development, Public Works, and Parks & Recreation will be in attendance to answer questions and provide feedback and assistance for neighborhood associations working on plan revision proposals for submittal by December 1, 2007. The agenda will include:

- Review of original parameters for city initiation of a plan amendment (demonstrated neighborhood support, consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and no significant reduction of housing units)
- Clarification of when a neighborhood plan change requires a corresponding code change (i.e. South Hill Neighborhood Plan amendment)
- Overview of how other city staff, in addition to planners, are responsible for commenting and modifying relevant areas of any plan revision proposal (i.e. Samish Neighborhood Plan update)
- Break out Q&A sessions by region to assigned planners (North, South, East, West) and other city staff (Storm water, Transportation, Parks, etc.)
- We also expect to provide a professional resource to provide ideas and tips on handling general neighborhood/stakeholder meetings

To contact your neighborhood association if you are interested in the work they may be doing on their plan, check our website at: <http://www.cob.org/documents/mayor/boards-commissions/neighborhood/2007-MNAC-Roster-Public-ABN.pdf>.

Other Planning and Community Development News

Old Town Master Plan Moving Forward

The draft sub-area plan and development regulations for the Old Town area will be presented at a neighborhood meeting on September 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the Bellingham Public Library Lecture Room, 210 Central Avenue. Staff contacts are: Tara Sundin, tsundin@cob.org, and Chris Koch, ckoch@cob.org, 676-6880.

Samish Neighborhood Plan Update

The Samish Neighborhood Plan update proposal went to the Planning Commission for a public hearing on September 6th. The Planning Commission will conduct a work session on the proposal on September 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Staff's report contains 24 recommendations regarding the many proposed changes contained in the draft proposal submitted by the neighborhood. Staff contact: Pat Carman, pcarman@cob.org. To view the draft proposal, see <http://www.cob.org/pcd/planning/SamishNbrhd.htm>.

City Council continues work on DRAFT Shoreline Master Program

After a cancellation of a work session on September 10th due to an error in the packet, the City Council has scheduled three more work sessions in order to finish their review of the DRAFT Shoreline Master Program. They are scheduled on the following regular city council afternoon committee meeting dates. Actual times will vary and will be published in the City Council agenda prior to each Monday's meeting:

September 17th: Nonconformity and hold restoration harmless.

September 24th: Interface between Shoreline Master Program and Critical Areas Ordinance regarding buffer standards.

October 8th (tentative): New Whatcom redevelopment area.

Staff Contact: Steve Sundin: smupdate@cob.org.

September Inside Bellingham — Mayor Tim on City priorities, South Hill Neighborhood, historic preservation, and more...

Inside Bellingham is an award-winning series produced by the City of Bellingham that gives viewers a peek inside city government programs, activities and people. The September episode features Mayor Tim with an update on city priorities, South Hill Neighborhood, historic preservation grants, ground breaking for a new art and children's museum, the Mount Baker Theatre season and more!

Episodes of *Inside Bellingham* air on BTV10 several times per week. See the BTV10 [program schedule](http://www.cob.org/btv10/inside-bellingham.htm) for current times or watch on line at <http://www.cob.org/btv10/inside-bellingham.htm>

Neighbors take part in community disaster preparedness drills and education

A statewide earthquake and tsunami initiative is one of several events planned locally for National Preparedness Month, designed to encourage everyone – including homeowners, businesses, schools, health care providers and government agencies – to review and practice emergency response plans and 9-1-1 procedures. The earthquake drill is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 19th at 10:15 a.m.

The other Preparedness Month event is Storm Preparedness Day on September 26th. The focus of this day is to encourage everyone to prepare for the effects of severe weather events in advance and to emphasize the use of weather radios for emergency warning information.

The City of Bellingham Office of Emergency Management and Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management work together to prepare for disasters and encourage residents to participate in National Preparedness Month events. Emergency officials also encourage participation in two volunteer-based programs:

- **Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)** teaches neighbors (from 5 to 30 households) how to work together to prepare and take care of themselves and their neighbors after a disaster.
 - On **September 27** MYN Program Developer, LuAn Johnson of the Washington State Department of Emergency Management will present a dynamic train-the-trainer program to prepare neighborhood preparedness committees to implement this program.
 - 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
- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** educates people about emergency preparedness, local hazards, and basic disaster response skills including hands-on training in fire suppression, first aid and search and rescue.

For more information about these programs and more, follow the links from Bellingham's Office of Emergency Management website, <http://www.cob.org/fire/emergency.htm>, or contact the City of Bellingham Office of Emergency Management at 676-6933.

Parks and Recreation news

In the **Puget** Neighborhood: the Whatcom Creek Trail connector to the Civic Athletic Complex is finished and open, the skate park addition at Civic Field is finished and open. The Whatcom Independent Mountain Pedalers (WHIMPs) are beginning work on revising the dirt jump park (just north of the skate park at Civic Field complex) with donation of equipment and labor from Ram Construction.

We have started construction on the South Boulevard frontage improvements on 10th Street. **(South Hill)**

Fairhaven, South Hill, Sehome: Walkers on the South Bay Trail can now enjoy a coffee or other refreshment at Wood's Coffee House in Boulevard Park. This type of facility is a first for Bellingham Parks and Recreation (outside of Civic Field) and is part of our initiative to enhance the people friendliness of our parks. If you take advantage of this new facility, remember to leave all litter in trash cans or otherwise pack it out.

Another first: We acquired 5 acres of open space outside of the City limits west of **Guide Meridian/Cordata** neighborhood as our first Greenway purchase in that area.

Celebrate Arbor Day at Elizabeth Park

Celebrate the magnificent trees of Elizabeth Park on Arbor Day, Saturday, September 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mayor Tim will read a proclamation announcing October as Urban Forestry Month at noon. This free event offers guided tree walks around Elizabeth Park at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. by local tree experts John Wesselink and James Luce. Bellingham Park's arborist will provide a tree climbing demonstration. Local groups will share ways you can help make our community more wildlife friendly from making a bird nesting box to planting trees as part of salmon habitat restoration.

Partners in this event include: Backyard Habitat Mentors, Bellingham Community Wildlife Habitat Project, Bellingham Parks & Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, North Cascades Audubon Society, Tree Keepers, and Whatcom Land Trust.

Volunteer for watersheds!

Silver Beach Neighborhood Association is busily working on concerns regarding watershed protection for Lake Whatcom. This volunteer effort is part of a greater county-wide effort. A growing number of volunteers work to keep all our streams, lakes, and the marine waters of Bellingham, Whatcom County, and Puget Sound clean and full of life.

These volunteers are trained through the ***Watershed Master/ Beach Watchers program*** which provides education on our beaches, streams, forests, and agricultural lands. Participants learn about marine biology, coastal geology, wildlife, urban growth, and local issues from an objective, scientific point-of-view. Water is central to agriculture and fisheries, the environment, as well as the individual households of our towns and cities.

The WSU Whatcom Extension Watershed Master/Beach Watcher Program invites you to become a part of their team. They are trained, committed, and supported volunteers preserving clean water, fish, and wildlife for the future. In exchange for 100 hours of instruction, you'll return 100 hours of volunteer service working on projects of your choice. For more information, please call Cheryl Lovato Niles at 676-6736, or email cniles@wsu.edu.

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:

- Design work on sidewalk improvements on Birchwood West of Meridian Street continues for construction in 2008.

Central Business District:

Lots of projects in the Central Business District:

- Art and Children's Museum – excavating and doing foundation work already!
- Preliminary design work nearly complete on Federal Building renovations to improve life safety elements and make more tenant friendly.
- Getting ready to open bids for Champion Street water main and streetscape improvements.
- See BTV10 *Inside Bellingham* for information on the Mount Baker Theater improvements to be underway early next year.
- Completed public display and selection of light standards for use in future "arts district" improvements on Champion, Flora, Grand, Bay, and Holly Streetscape improvements (per CBD master plan).

Columbia:

- The contractor prepares to begin sidewalk replacement activities in September, affecting many streets in the neighborhoods.

Fairhaven: Work progresses on the repair of the secondary outfall pipe at the Post Point Sewer Treatment Plant (fenced off the trail to provide security to the treatment plant from the construction area); completed segment under the railroad tracks. Marine Park will be closed the month of September for the completion of this important infrastructure improvement.

Guide Meridian/Cordata:

- Horton Road Pump Station Upgrade: We continue the design work to accommodate flows from north Bellingham.
- Meridian Street Water & Sewer Extension: water main extension is nearly complete and testing underway. (Joint project with Washington Department of Transportation).
- Street resurfacing work on Northwest Drive is complete and design work continues for sidewalk and roundabout improvements between the Interstate ramp and Bakerview Road.

Lettered Streets: Bids for a small project to improve stormwater facilities at C and Astor Street were issued on September 6th.

Mount Baker: Design of Phase II of Sunset Drive from Woburn to McLeod is progressing. This is a huge and complicated process and we are working with homeowners to design driveways off the expanded roadway. We're working with WSDOT on channelization plans and environmental permitting.

Puget: Work on pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Puget Street is progressing quickly.

Roosevelt: We are waiting for our contractor to begin the complicated project (a small work area with many utilities and heavy traffic volumes) at Woburn at Alabama. This project is to construct dual right turn lanes and storm water treatment facilities to improve traffic circulation and safety at this busy intersection.

Samish: We are working on SEPA and critical areas permit requirements for the new Yew Street 2.5 million gallon water reservoir, an important infrastructure enhancement for this growing neighborhood. We are plugging away at design and preparation work on San Juan Boulevard, Phase I, to provide a transportation connection between Yew Street and Interstate 5 and divert some traffic off Lakeway.

Sehome/York/CBD: Thanks for your patience with diverted traffic as we accomplished significant work on the Holly Street Gateway project at Ellis and Lakeway. Work on the street is proceeding swiftly, with the installation of pavement markings and completion of the pavement resurfacing.

Silver Beach: We have seven water quality projects going on in the planning or execution stage in the watershed to retrofit treatment of stormwater run off: installation of a "Filterra" stormwater unit on Hayward Drive, stormwater quality treatment facilities on East Oregon and East North Street, and a vault system for treating water from the Pullman Road street improvements. In addition, the planning work for a retrofit of the Northridge Detention Basin and the construction of stormwater facilities on East Maryland is taking place for construction next year.

Sunnyland: Bumps are now out of the intersection of James and Alabama as we near completion on asphalt overlay on the east side of James Street from Iowa north to Alabama. Sidewalk replacement work to come.

For information on these and other projects, contact Ravyn Whitewolf at rwhitewolf@cob.org or 676-6961.

Neighborhoods and RE Store partner on Fountain Plaza Design Charettes

Columbia, Cornwall, and Lettered Streets Neighborhood Associations have been working with the RE Store to enhance the Fountain Plaza site (corner of Meridian and Broadway). They have been researching the history of the site and gathering ideas for appropriate designs for the site. The committee plans a series of design charettes this fall:

Sept 13th - Thurs - 7-9 p.m. Define how the local community uses space now and desired uses; discuss barriers & brainstorm solutions; share historical use of site and historical views of the district.

Sept 27th - Thurs - 7-9 p.m. Focus on the Fountain: What do people envision? How would they like to see the fountain re-created?

Oct. 11th - Thurs - 7-9 p.m. Overall Site Design for the Fountain Plaza - How would the community like to see the entire plaza re-created?

Nov 7th - Weds - 7-9 p.m. Finalize the vision by showing 3 different possible plans and taking final comments to refine the final vision.

The meetings will take place in the main parish hall at the Fountain Community Church on Broadway and Halleck, right next to the plaza, thanks to Rick Quall and his parish.

We will make the final 3 plans available on RE Store and RE Sources websites and present our final concept at neighborhood association meetings in November/December.

Questions can be directed to Jason Darling, Outreach and Marketing Manager for RE Store via email: jason@re-store.org or phone (360) 734-7161

September library programs at Bellingham Public Libraries

Family Events

Family Movie Night at Your Library - Read the Book, Watch The Movie!

Friday, September 14, from 7-9 p.m., Auditorium at the Fairhaven Branch Library. Undead pirates, kidnapped maidens and scallywags abound in this adventure filled film based on an amusement park ride.

Family Story Night with the Bellingham Storyteller's Guild

Friday, September 21, from 7-8 p.m., Fireplace Room at the Fairhaven Branch Library. Bellingham Storyteller's Guild tell Family Stories for ages 6 & up (including adults!).

Jammies and Stories

Monday, September 24, from 7:30-8 p.m., Fireplace Room at the Fairhaven Branch Library, Come dressed in your jammies and enjoy stories about school! Refreshments provided by the Food Pavilion.

Contact the Fairhaven Branch Library at (360) 676-6877 for more information.

Adult Events

Bellingham Reads!

Wednesday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m., Lecture Room at the Central Library. Enjoy a good book followed by good conversation as we discuss Sherman Alexie's novel *Flight* about a troubled, orphaned Indian teenager who, on the verge of committing an act of violence, finds himself hurtled through time and into various bodies, before returning to himself, forever altered by his experiences.

Mt. Baker – the stories behind the beauty

Friday, September 28, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., Lecture Room at the Central Library. Join Local Author Virginia Hoyt for a slide show of the unique history of life around the North Fork of the Nooksack River. These are based on the remarkable reminiscences of Jake Steiner, whose family homesteaded here in 1893. Virginia Hoyt has captured that history in this slide show and in two books she has authored: *Stories the Forest Tells* (written for children) and *Mount Baker: the stories behind the beauty* (written for adults). These books will be available for purchase after the slide show.

For more information, contact Suzanne Carlson-Prandini, 360.676.6860

Teen Events

Animé at your Library

Wednesday, September 12th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Dodson Room in the Children's Department at the Central Library: Do you like Japanese animation & comics? The Library Animé Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month to watch and talk about anime. Munchies provided. Monthly animé is sponsored by Operation Anime, FUNimation Entertainment. No need to know about animé to attend! For all teens 12 to 18. Info at: www.operationanime.com.

Got Games?

Monday, September 17th from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; Dodson Room in the Children's Department at the Central Library: Join us for pizza and games, games, games! All teens 12 to 18 are welcome.

Twilight Prom

Saturday, September 22, from 3 to 5 p.m., Fireplace Room at the Fairhaven Branch Library: Celebrate Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight* series and new book *Eclipse* at Bellingham's first *Twilight Prom*. We'll choose our favorite Edward, Jacob and Bella, vote on the best prom dress, and challenge our knowledge of the series. Door prizes and refreshments provided. For fans of all ages whether or not you have read the entire series. Info at www.bplteensread.wordpress.com.

For more information on these and other programs contact: Jennifer Lovchik, 360-676-6860, jlovchik@cob.org

Children's Department Events

Baby Storytime

Birth – 20 months (with adult). Simple stories, songs, finger and lap play and creative movement. Mondays, September 10th through November 12th, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 11:00 to 11:30 a.m., Dodson Room in the Children's Library.

Little Storytime

Birth – 3 years (with adult). Lots of fun stories, songs, and creative movement. Tuesdays, September 11th through November 13th; 10:05 to 10:35 a.m. and 10:35 to 11:05 a.m., 11:05 – 11:35 a.m.; Dodson Room in the Children's Library.

Raccoon Time

Ages 2 ½ - 4 years. Stories, songs, the Hokey Pokey and a craft! Thursdays, September 13th through November 15th, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 11:00 to 11:30 a.m., Dodson Room in the Children's Library.

BIGGER Storytime

Ages 4 – 8. For children ready to separate from their parent for their own thirty minutes of fun and information. Wednesdays, September 12th through November 14th, 3:00 to 3:30 p.m., Dodson Room in the Children's Library.

For more information, contact Bethany Hoglund, (360) 676-6864, bhoglund@cob.org