



City of Bellingham
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

"JUST SO YOU ARE AWARE"
Newsletter – November 2007

Electronic version located at:

<http://www.cob.org/government/public/boards-commissions/neighborhood/jsyaa.aspx>



NEWSLETTER CONSTRUCTION ZONE!!

We're revising our newsletter format and design to make it a more efficient information-sharing tool. The revision process will include an overall redesign and name change. Input on proposed designs is being collected from neighborhoods now, with projected roll-out of the revised newsletter in January 2008. During November and December, you'll see an abbreviated version of the "Just So You Are Aware" newsletter.
Thanks for your patience during construction!

- *Mayor Dan Pike Takes Office*
- *Bellingham Joins Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA)*
- *Hundreds Participate in Library Services Discussions*
- *Planning and Community Development News*
- *Public Works in the Neighborhoods*

Mayor Pike Takes Office

At a ceremony in City Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 27, newly-elected Bellingham Mayor Dan Pike outlined several projects he expects to accomplish during his first 100 days in office, including taking steps to improve the City's development permit system, protect the Lake Whatcom Reservoir, and demonstrate progress on waterfront redevelopment.

In his remarks, Pike reflected on his love for Bellingham, his enthusiasm for his new job as Mayor, and his faith in our community's ability to work together to keep Bellingham livable, healthy and strong. Pike is committed to bringing a spirit of respect, civility and inclusion to City government.

"It is clear that to move forward on so many important issues all at once there is a huge amount of work for the City and the Council. What is even more clear, however, is that the citizens of Bellingham want to do just that," he said.

"It will be the core challenge of my administration to organize, prioritize and sustain open and transparent processes to ensure the community pulls together and makes real progress. Nothing will come easy, there will be many tough decisions that must be made by the City Council and the community, but the rewards of our labor will be great."

Mayor Pike welcomes your comments at mayorsoffice@cob.org or by contacting his office at 676-6979.

The full text of Mayor Pike's remarks can be found on the City's website at www.cob.org

Tuesday's swearing in ceremony for Mayor Pike and new Ward 4 Council representative Stan Snapp is airing on BTV10 and the video is posted to view on the City's website as well.

Bellingham Joins Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA)

Bellingham has become a City Member of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA), a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975, the organizational mission of NUSA is to build and strengthen neighborhood associations and promote productive communication and collaboration between those associations and both the public and private sector.

NUSA maintains a stable membership base of more than 1,000 and is governed by a 27-member Board of Directors, representing multiple states and cities. Since 1984, NUSA has recognized the commitment of neighborhoods and neighbor-friendly individuals or enterprises by awarding "Neighborhood of the Year" and "NUSA Notables" Awards. These are the only national awards given on an on-going basis to neighborhood organizations. NUSA also publishes a quarterly newsletter targeted to the needs of neighborhood organizations and is pursuing new programs and initiatives in response to the evolving concerns of members.

For more information on NUSA, check out their website at www.nusa.org

Planning and Community Development News

Old Town Urban Village Planning

The Old Town Sub-area Plan was the subject of an extensive work session with the Bellingham Planning Commission on November 15th. The Commission discussed the proposed floor to area ratio, building height limits and financial analysis at their meeting, and will continue to analyze the plan on Thursday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. For more details see <http://www.cob.org/government/departments/pcd/old-town.aspx>.

Neighborhood Plan Amendments Approved

The City Council approved three neighborhood plan amendments on November 19th for the Puget, Samish and Guide Meridian/Cordata neighborhoods. The Puget amendment involved a site-specific rezone to allow a multi-use development with residential and retail on Lakeway Drive near the entrance to Civic Field. The Samish neighborhood substantially rewrote their plan, with the exception of the land use sections, and the Guide Meridian/Cordata neighborhood made minor factual changes and officially added "Cordata" to their neighborhood's name. Much was learned during the public process that will help guide the 2008 plan amendments.

Proposed Plan Amendments Due December 3rd

Proposals for 2008 Neighborhood Plan amendments are due to the Planning & Development Department by Monday, December 3rd at 5:00 p.m. Proposals will be judged for initiation by a team of planning, public works and parks staff, and recommendations regarding which proposals to initiate are expected to be completed by January.

WAG Meeting, Wednesday, December 12th

A Waterfront Advisory Group (WAG) meeting will be held on December 12th, 2007 between 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the Squalicum Boathouse, 2600 Harbor Loop.

The public is encouraged to attend this meeting. For more information, contact the city's Waterfront Redevelopment Office at adyer@cob.org.

Hundreds Participate in Library Services Discussions

Library and City officials extend a hearty thank you to all who participated in community conversations this fall about the next phase of developing a new central library and library services citywide. Hundreds of community members participated by attending open houses and focus groups, filling out surveys and learning more about community library needs and uses.

The feedback we gathered through these efforts is posted on the Bellingham Public Library website. Public open houses held in October are available to view on line and on BTV10. Links to all these resources can be found at www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org.

Library and City officials will review this feedback, along with the results of other studies, and present recommendations for library services and facilities that respond to the community's needs. [Thomas Hacker Architects](#) and Bellingham's RMC Architects are assisting in this effort, and we expect to make recommendations to the Library Board, the Bellingham City Council and the community in early 2008.

Public Works in Our Neighborhoods – Project Updates

Birchwood

- West Illinois Street Extension - Draft 30% design report from consultant under review.

Central Business District

- Bay and Holly Streetscape Improvement – Design kick-off held in late October and design process is underway.
- Champion Street Water main and Streetscape Improvement – Completed water main installation; next step is to pour the new sidewalk and landscape the area.
- Mount Baker Theatre Lighting and Electrical – Architectural bids open 12/13/07.

Lettered Streets

- C and Astor Street Stormwater Quality Retrofit – Project complete!

Mount Baker

- Bakerview and Irongate Traffic Signal – Traffic count and project design in progress.

Puget

- Fraser Street Pedestrian and Bike Improvements – Geotechnical investigation complete; design in progress.

Roosevelt

- Woburn and Alabama Intersection Improvements – Project complete!

Silver Beach

- Lake Whatcom – E. Oregon Water Quality – Project complete!
- Northshore Road Drainage Improvements – Met with neighborhood association board; will complete stormwater report when design alternative is determined.
- Lake Whatcom – E. North Water Quality – Project complete!
- Pullman Road Drainage Improvements – Project complete!

Multiple Neighborhoods

- Cornwall and F Street Water Main Replacements – Project design and lay-out in progress.



Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant? - Henry David Thoreau