



City of Bellingham
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

"NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS"
Newsletter – December 2007

Electronic version located at:

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



NEWSLETTER REVISION PROJECT

UPDATE - Our newsletter revision is nearing completion, thanks to the help of many residents who offered input on changing the name and design. Note that the name has been changed to "*Neighborhood News*." Projected roll-out of the revised newsletter is January 2008. Thanks for your patience during construction!

- ***Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) "Neighborhood of the Year"***
- ***Parks, Recreation and Open Space***
- ***Planning and Community Development News***
 - ***21 Applications Received for Neighborhood Plan Amendments***
 - ***2008 Small and Simple Grants***
 - ***2nd Old Town Sub-Area Plan Meeting***
 - ***Fairhaven Highlands EIS Scoping Meeting***
- ***Public Works in Neighborhoods***
 - ***Central Business District/Champion Street Update***
 - ***Happy Valley/Old Fairhaven Parkway Street Light Replacement***
 - ***Multiple Neighborhoods/Sewer Replacement Project***

Neighborhoods, USA 2008 Neighborhood of the Year Award

Bellingham is a City Member of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA), a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. The mission of NUSA is to strengthen neighborhood associations, promote productive communication and encourage collaboration between neighborhoods and both the public and private sector.

Each year the NUSA Board solicits nominations to recognize the commitment of neighborhoods and neighborhood friendly individuals or enterprises in awarding "Neighborhood of the Year" (NOTY) and "NUSA Notables" Awards. The NOTY awards have been presented since 1984 as a collective "thank you" for the hard work of nominated neighborhoods and are the only national awards given on an ongoing basis to neighborhood organizations for their self-help initiatives. NOTY Award categories are:

- Physical Revitalization/Beautification – Single Neighborhood
- Social Revitalization/Neighborliness – Single Neighborhood
- Multi-Neighborhood Partnerships

Nominations for the 2008 Neighborhood of the Year Award are being accepted now through March 1, 2008. For information about the NUSA Neighborhood of the Year Award, please refer to the NUSA website at www.nusa.org .

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update

The City will be updating its 6-Year Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan in 2008, culminating in an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. The first public meeting will be February 6, 2008, 7-9 pm, at the Squalicum Boathouse, 2600 Harbor Loop. This will be a workshop-style meeting to help determine future needs for park, recreation and open space land and facilities. In addition to several public meetings, both a telephone and web-based public opinion survey will be conducted. For more information, contact Leslie Bryson, Parks and Recreation Development Manager, at 360-676-6985.

Planning and Community Development News

City Receives 21 Applications for Neighborhood Plan Amendments

The City received 21 applications for Neighborhood Plan amendments, all of which can be found on the City's website at:

<http://www.cob.org/services/neighborhoods/community-planning/neighborhoodplanning/2008-npas/index.aspx>

2008 Small and Simple Grant Program

The City of Bellingham is now accepting applications for the 2008 Small and Simple Projects fund. This program funds up to \$2,500 for projects that provide a city-wide benefit. Neighborhood associations, community organizations, schools and similar groups and agencies are eligible for these funds. Applicant organizations must have a valid Federal Tax ID Number. Individuals are not eligible for funding at this time.

Examples of eligible projects include park improvements, tree planting, neighborhood signs, community events, music performances, production of promotional materials, community support programs, and similar activities that can demonstrate a city-wide benefit.

For additional information and application materials, see the Small and Simple Grant Program links on the City's website at

<http://www.cob.org/services/neighborhoods/resources/grants-funding.aspx> .

The deadline for Small and Simple applications is 5 p.m. Friday, February 15, 2008.

For more information about Small and Simple Grants contact Travis Cary, City of Bellingham Planning & Community Development Department, (360) 676-6880, tcary@cob.org .

Planning Commission Holds 2nd Public Meeting on Old Town Sub-Area Plan

The Bellingham Planning Commission will hold an additional public hearing on January 17, 2008 at 7:00 in the City Council Chambers. A Summary of Proposed Changes to the November 8th Old Town Sub-area Plan packet will be available on January 10, 2008 in the Planning & Community Development Department in City Hall, or on the city's website at <http://www.cob.org/government/departments/pcd/old-town.aspx>.

Scoping Meeting set for Fairhaven Highlands (Chuckanut Ridge) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

A public hearing has been set for Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bellingham Municipal Court building to hear public comment on the scoping notice recently released for the environmental study of the Fairhaven Highlands project. The notice included a Determination of Significance which requires that an EIS be conducted. Tim Stewart, the City's SEPA Official, will be reviewing all public comment submitted by January 23rd before issuing the final scoping notice. Send comments on this project to Nicole Oliver, Planning & Community Development, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, 98225, or via email to noliver@cob.org.

Information about Fairhaven Highlands can be found on the City's website at: <http://www.cob.org/government/departments/pcd/fairhaven-highlands.aspx>

Public Works in Our Neighborhoods – Project Updates

Central Business District

Champion Street - Besides the visible work being done on this project, such as the replacement of curb and sidewalk, there is also work being done on underground utilities (replacement of water lines and electrical work) in anticipation of the pavement overlay that will happen when the weather improves in the spring. Although the work on the underground utilities took longer than expected due to bad weather and unexpected underground obstructions, the utility work is now complete. The curbs have been poured and construction of new sidewalks should be complete by mid-January, weather permitting.

Happy Valley

The Old Fairhaven Parkway Street Light Replacement Project will commence in mid-January. Written project notification was mailed to neighbors abutting the project area. Residents can expect trenching along Old Fairhaven Parkway from 12th Street to the Interstate 5 interchange.

Multiple Neighborhoods

A sewer replacement project will commence in late January and run through the end of April. Residents can expect intermittent traffic control, open trenching, and heavy equipment during this time. Specific neighborhoods that will see work are:

South Hill - 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th Streets

Downtown - South State Street, North Forest Street, West Holly Street, Champion/Bay Street Area

Lettered Streets - F Street

Columbia - Alleys at Victor/E. North Street and W. Connecticut/Elm Street

Silver Beach - Electric Avenue at Flynn Street

Mt. Baker - James Street

For more information about Public Works Projects, please contact:
Ravyn S. Whitewolf, P.E., Engineering Manager, City of Bellingham Public Works
Engineering Division, (360)676-6961



Happy New Year!

