



City of Bellingham
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

"NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS"

January 2008

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

NEWSLETTER REVISION PROJECT

UPDATE - Our newsletter revision project is nearing completion. Thanks for your patience during construction!

- *New City Telephone Numbers*
- *City Council Approves Mayor's Growth Boundary Resolution*
- *Transportation Planning Deadlines*
- *Parks, Recreation and Open Space – Public Involvement*
- *Planning and Community Development News*
- *Public Works in Neighborhoods*

New City Telephone Numbers

The City of Bellingham is changing its telephone numbers over the next few months, as part of a process to phase-in installation of a new, more efficient telephone system.

The new system will ensure reliable communications and continued telephone access to city services for residents and businesses. Throughout the change, the city's most frequently dialed telephone numbers will automatically forward to the new numbers.

The new system combines most of the current 15 different phone prefixes into one - 778 - and allows for growth over the next five to seven years. When completed in February, new telephone numbers for all city departments and services will primarily range between 778-7000 and 778-8999.

A complete list of updated City telephone numbers can be found on the City's website at: <http://www.cob.org/documents/issues/new-phone-numbers.pdf>.

City Council Approves Growth Boundary Resolution

On January 28th, the City Council approved Mayor Dan Pike's resolution to rethink the City of Bellingham's growth boundaries that were defined by the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. The Mayor's resolution states that the city will support smaller urban growth boundaries as Whatcom County makes the final decision on the city's growth plan. Additionally, the council directed two additional resolutions, drafted by Louise Bjornson and Jack Weiss, to be considered further by the council planning committee. Those resolutions each look at how fulfilling our growth plan could be implemented within the existing city limits.

For more information about this meeting and future discussion of this topic at council, log on to the City Council's webpage at:
<http://www.cob.org/government/council/meeting-materials.aspx>.

Neighborhood Transportation Planning Deadlines

Residents interested in helping determine traffic priorities for their neighborhood should contact their neighborhood association president or Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC) representative. A list of MNAC representatives can be found on the City's website at:
<http://www.cob.org/documents/mayor/boards-commissions/neighborhood/mnac-roster.pdf>.

Approaching deadlines for submitting neighborhood transportation priorities are:

March 1, 2008 – 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (6-Year TIP)

April 1, 2008 – Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP)

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update

The City is 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

Old-Town Urban Village Plan Heads to City Council

The Old Town Sub-area Plan and development regulations were approved by the Planning Commission and set for a City Council public hearing on February 25th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Additionally, the related Lettered Streets neighborhood plan amendment that downzones parts of the neighborhood from multi-family to single-family was also approved and will be considered by Council in March. Contact Chris Koch (ckoch@cob.org) or Tara Sundin (tsundin@cob.org) for details. The final approved draft of the sub-area plan and regulations will be available February 11th on the city's website at
<http://www.cob.org/government/departments/pcd/old-town.aspx>.

Fairhaven Highlands EIS

The scoping hearing for the Fairhaven Highlands Environmental Impact Statement produced extensive public comment from the approximately 200 citizens in attendance. This public comment will be reviewed by the EIS consultant and the SEPA official, Tim Stewart, and will help formulate the final scoping document for the environmental analysis. A video of the four-hour hearing is available on the project's website at <http://www.cob.org/government/departments/pcd/fairhaven-highlands.aspx>, as well as copies of the presentations and public comment. Contact Nicole Oliver (noliver@cob.org) for details.

Waterfront Advisory Group Meeting

The next Waterfront Advisory Group (WAG) meeting will be February 6, 2008, 6-8pm, at the Harbor Center Conference Room, 1801 Roeder Avenue. For more information, contact Andi Dyer, Waterfront Redevelopment and Public Works, 360-778-8103.

2008 Small and Simple Grant Program

The City of Bellingham is 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.

Public Works in Our Neighborhoods – Project Updates

Birchwood

West Illinois Street Extension Update – Private rail spur relocation plans confirmed.

Central Business District

Champion Street Water Main and Streetscape Improvement Update – Street landscaping and decorative fencing installed. New street lights and street resurfacing coming soon.

Fairhaven

Post Point Outfall Warranty Work to Commence in February

Silver Beach

Northshore Road and Drainage Improvements Project Planning Update – Creating green specifications and preliminary plans; neighborhood open house will be announced soon.

Sunnyland

James Street 2008 Enhance Pedestrian Crossings Update – Base maps complete; project design beginning soon.

Multiple Neighborhoods

Cornwall Avenue and Water Main Replacements – Part of a replacement program to assure long-term system health and support high quality public service. The overlay will include new crosswalks and possible bike lane. Planning to minimize impact on parade route is underway.

Project area includes: Cornwall Avenue from Chestnut to W. Illinois and F Street from Cornwall to Dupont Street. Cornwall Avenue between York Street and East North Street will be completely resurfaced.

Northwest Avenue Pedestrian Improvements - Due to right of way issues, construction is delayed until 2009.

Sewer Replacements –

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.

Arbutus Place-Clark Point Sewage Lift Station Improvements

SEE INFORMATION FLYER ON SEPARATE ATTACHMENT