

# Neighborhood News

A NEWSLETTER FOR BELLINGHAM NEIGHBORHOODS

## A Reminder from the Fire Marshal about Fireworks Safety

**IN THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM THE LEGAL DISCHARGE DATE IS JULY FOURTH BETWEEN 9AM AND MIDNIGHT.**

Every year fireworks injure people and cause vegetation and structure fires. Whenever you light a firework device be aware of your surroundings. Avoid areas with dry grass or dry vegetation. Position fireworks so they will not land on or near a home or building. Be sure spectators are at a safe distance.

**We need your help**, in addition to our enforcement of the fireworks law, to make this Independence Day safer for all.

### To celebrate safely remember:

**Be Prepared** – Use only legal fireworks purchased at licensed stands. Store them out of children’s reach.

**Be Safe** – Only adults should light fireworks. Light one firework at a time and move away quickly. Use eye protection, never relight a dud and always keep water handy.

**Be Responsible** – Soak used fireworks in water and clean up firework debris.

Persons using fireworks must remember that there may be legal

consequences for injuries or fires caused by irresponsible use of fireworks. Consequences range from being charged with malicious mischief to assault or a gross misdemeanor charge for possession of illegal explosive devices, such as fireworks that have been tampered with or altered. A gross misdemeanor can bring a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or one year in prison.

### Devices illegal to possess in Washington State:

**Fire Crackers/Chasers, Altered Fireworks, Cherry Bombs, Bottle Rockets, Homemade Devices, Tennis Balls, Bombs Missiles and Rockets, M-80s, M-100s and larger Pipe Bombs.**

Talk with your family and guests about the fireworks law for your area. Be sure to discharge all fireworks devices so there are no leftovers. The charge for possession or discharge of fireworks outside legal date is a misdemeanor.

Visit our Fireworks Safety website, <http://www.cob.org/services/safety/education/fireworks.aspx>

**For more information, please contact:** Jason Napier, Fire Marshal, Bellingham Fire Department, [jnapier@cob.org](mailto:jnapier@cob.org), or Phone: 360-778-8420.



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## A letter from Mayor Dan Pike

Bellingham is home to world-class park and recreation facilities, including a diverse set of public parks and open spaces, and an extensive trail system. The City also owns and operates the Civic Athletic

Complex (which includes the Arne Hanna Aquatic Center), Lake Padden Public Golf Course, and various buildings available for community use.

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*Dan Pike*  
Mayor of Bellingham

## Mayor's Letter

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People are often unaware of the connection between recreation and leisure and quality of life. Programs, services, events and opportunities offered by our local, state and national park and recreation agencies positively impact us in many ways. For example, how many of us can recall times when we participated or watched our children participate in a recreation or sports activity organized by the local park and recreation agency? Those experiences enrich lives, build character, promote community and foster relationships.

In addition to enjoying Bellingham's public parks, open space, and trails, it's important to remember that responsible stewardship is necessary if we are to preserve these resources for future generations. Volunteering on a park, trail or open space project, or in a recreational program, is a great way to get involved and get some exercise while you're at it!

July is Parks and Recreation Month. What a great time to get off the couch, stay active, and seek every opportunity to enjoy the range of park and recreation opportunities available throughout the City and our region.

*Mayor Dan Pike*

# Downtown Renaissance Network Launches Litter Prevention Program

The Downtown Renaissance Network (DRN) has received a grant to support implementation of the National 2008 Cigarette Litter Prevention Program.

Keep America Beautiful's Cigarette Litter Prevention Program was developed after identifying cigarette litter (cigarettes, packaging and lighting material) as the most littered items found in clean ups around the country. Best practices in the U.S. and abroad were studied, field-testing was conducted in 13 communities around the country and results confirmed the program will be a success in any size community.

DRN will assemble a Cigarette Litter Prevention team to implement the program this summer, says Kirsten Walker, Executive Director of DRN. "Cigarette litter is definitely a growing problem for our community," says Walker. "We will be encouraging the City of Bellingham,

businesses and property owners to become involved and engage their employees and customers."

"The Cigarette Litter Prevention Program will support our community improvement efforts and give the downtown district in Bellingham greater positive visibility."

The Downtown Bellingham Cigarette Litter Prevention Program will launch in July after the Cigarette Litter Prevention Team meets and finalizes plans for the program. Details on the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program will be available at DRN's website, [www.downtownbellingham.com](http://www.downtownbellingham.com), at the time of the program's launch.

**For more information, please contact:** Kirsten Walker, Executive Director, Downtown Renaissance Network, 360-527-8710, or [Kirsten@downtownbellingham.com](mailto:Kirsten@downtownbellingham.com).

## Youth and Bellingham Police Partner on Summer Graffiti Clean Up Program

Bellingham Police Department and Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) are joining forces to combat graffiti throughout Bellingham. In collaboration with the NWYS Summer Jobs program, three youth and two officers will team up for the summer in an effort to paint over graffiti.

The program will operate June 30th through August 8th. This partnership is a great way for youth and the police department to work together, while providing a service to the community.

Graffiti is considered a nuisance crime, and property owners are compelled under the Bellingham Municipal code to clean up any graffiti on their property. The purpose of this summer program is to provide property owners with an opportunity to contact the police for assistance with graffiti clean up. Officers have already been contacting local business owners, property owners and homeowners to obtain permission to paint over existing graffiti on private property. Supplies and labor are provided at no charge to the property owner.

**If you would like your property to be included in this program, please contact** Officer Jeremiah Smith with the Bellingham Police Department. He can be reached by phone at 360-778-8760, or by email: [jdsmith@cob.org](mailto:jdsmith@cob.org).

# Check it Out!

## Community Car Share Adds Truck and Expands Service to Fairhaven

Starting in July, Community Car Share (CCS) of Bellingham will add a truck to its fleet and locate a car in Fairhaven Village, bringing the total vehicles available to Bellingham residents to three.

The new truck, a 1991 Chevy S-10, is located on Railroad Avenue, adjacent to the Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) bus depot.

CCS relocated its 2000 VW Beetle, powered by biodiesel fuel, to Fairhaven, near 11th & Harris. This location was chosen because it is conveniently located for residents of the Fairhaven area, and is close to WTA's high frequency (15-minute service) Red GO Line from the downtown bus station.

Many people in Bellingham have expressed interest in becoming CCS members if a truck became available for trips to Clean Green or for moving bulky items, or if a vehicle was located closer to their neighborhood. Lorraine Wilde, Community Car Share's General Manager, exudes "There are just too many good reasons to share a car, why wouldn't we all do it? And now we have a truck and are expanding into our first neighborhood! Someday we'll be able to reach out to all of Bellingham's 23 neighborhoods."

Using any of the CCS vehicles is as simple as making a reservation on the CCS web site, then walking, biking, or riding a WTA bus to a car share location. "Wheels When You Need Them" is the CCS motto. Car sharing reduces the number of automobiles owned personally without losing access when a vehicle is really necessary. The insurance agency AAA estimates the average cost of automobile ownership to be over \$9,000 annually. The rising cost of fuel has likely significantly increased that number in recent months. Car share members save thousands of dollars per year while reducing their environmental impact on the planet.

CCS offers four different individual rate plans and two plans for businesses to maximize driving dollars. These include a 'Truck Only' plan for people who don't need to use CCS cars, an 'Occasional Use' plan for members who drive very little, and a 'Destination Plan,' for drivers who plan to go to a location and stay a while. Applications are being accepted and most drivers can begin driving within a week.

Community Car Share's website, [www.communitycarshare.org](http://www.communitycarshare.org), has all the details. Those interested can get a free one-on-one consultation to help them determine if car sharing is right for their situation 360-389-6551, [lorraine@communitycarshare.org](mailto:lorraine@communitycarshare.org).



## About Community Car Share

Community Car Share (CCS) provides affordable car sharing to the Bellingham public and business community. Their mission is to encourage and enable members to use alternative transportation options while reducing personal vehicle ownership. Their focus is on hybrid and biodiesel vehicles, convenient locations, a not-for-profit motive, and building personal relationships within the community.

## Public Works in Our Neighborhoods

### PROJECT UPDATES

#### MOUNT BAKER

##### Sunset Drive Reconstruction

**Phase II:** Advertising for bids in early July.

#### PUGET

##### Whatcom Creek – Red Tail Reach:

Project went out to bid in late June.

#### ROOSEVELT

##### Woburn Alabama Intersection

**Improvements** – Rain garden and site landscaping complete. Project complete!

#### SILVER BEACH

##### Northshore Road and Drainage

**Improvements** – Council awarded bid to Interwest Construction in June.

#### SUNNYLAND

##### James Street 2008 Enhanced Pedestrian Crossings –

Construction nearing completion, pending installation of overhead lights.

#### MULTIPLE NEIGHBORHOODS

##### 2006 – 2007 Sewer

**Replacements** – Alleys in Columbia Neighborhood complete; Forest Street open cut work is complete.

##### Cornwall Avenue and Water Main

**Replacements** – Road grinding to prepare for overlay started late June; resurfacing scheduled to begin in July.

Information about these and other Public Works projects can be found in the "road closures and restrictions" notice posted each week in the "news" section of the City's web site at [www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org).

#### For more information contact:

Ravyn S. Whitewolf, P.E., Engineering Manager, City of Bellingham Public Works Engineering Division, 778-7900

# July is Parks and Recreation Month!

## Parks and recreation facts:

- **Meaningful leisure activity is an essential source of self-esteem and positive self image.**
- **Exercise can help prevent many diseases and promotes a healthy lifestyle.**
- **Recreating together builds strong families, the foundation of a strong community.**
- **Parks and recreation opportunities encourage citizens to become engaged in their community -- as volunteers, stewards, advocates and students.**
- **Parks and recreation services motivate business relocation and expansion in the community.**

Whether you are an avid participant or casual observer, enjoy the benefits of your Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department during the month of July and throughout the year!

## Parks in Our Neighborhoods PROJECT UPDATES

**BIRCHWOOD:** Squalicum Creek Park: Phase One construction is almost complete. Remaining work includes the paving of the Phase One parking lot.

**PLAYGROUND PROJECTS:** The following projects will replace and update the existing playgrounds, improve accessibility, comply with current playground safety standards, and include pedestrian amenities.

**Columbia:** Carl Lobe Park Playground construction is expected mid-August through in mid-October.

**Cornwall Park:** Cornwall Park South Playground construction is expected mid-August through mid-October.

**Whatcom Falls:** Whatcom Falls Park Lower Playground and restroom is under construction. The entrance to Whatcom Falls Park via Silver Beach Road will be closed to the public for one day in early July for delivery of the prefabricated restroom building. The public parking area near the fish hatchery will also be closed to the public during this time. Additional delays are expected throughout June, July and August while construction progresses.

**MOUNT BAKER:** Northridge Park Phase Two design has started and includes the final build-out of the park master plan. **Public meetings will be announced to present design alternatives.**

**SILVER BEACH:** Big Rock Trail construction is expected mid-July through the end of September. The project will construct a gravel trail between Big Rock Park and the Klipsun Trail, providing neighborhood access to Northridge Park.

**PUGET:** The south grandstands at Civic Stadium will be closed to the public July 9 - August 29 while concrete repair and seating replacement work is underway. The north grandstands will be closed to the public from June 9 - August 29. The track and field will be open to the public during these times.

**Construction will begin on July 7 on the Whatcom Creek** Trail connection between Racine Street and I-5 along the south shore of the creek. The project includes a new limestone trail along the south shore of Whatcom Creek, new bridge over Lincoln Creek, and trail connection to Meador Street.

**The Arne Hanna Aquatic Center** will be closed for maintenance from August 11 through August 24. During this time, regular pool maintenance will be conducted and new acoustic baffles will be installed to improve sound quality in the pool area.

**GUIDE MERIDIAN / CORDATA:** A public meeting regarding the master planning and naming of the new park property in Cordata is scheduled on July 10 at 7pm at the Birchwood Church Chapel Room, 400 Meadowbrook Rd. The final public meeting will be on August 14, same time and location.

**CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT:** The segment of Whatcom Creek Trail from Maritime Heritage Park to Dupont Street along the south shore of the creek is closed to the public while construction is underway on retaining wall repairs and trail realignment. Due to wet weather, completion has been delayed until the end of July.

## Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update:

A public hearing is scheduled before the Planning Commission on July 17 at 7 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. For more information and to review the draft plan, go the City's website: <http://www.cob.org/issues/parks-plan.aspx>

**For more information about Parks and Recreation, contact Leslie Bryson, Design and Development Manager, Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department, 360-778-7000**