

Neighborhood News

A NEWSLETTER FOR BELLINGHAM NEIGHBORHOODS

Emergency Preparedness

A single disaster causes many individual emergencies at one time. Professional emergency response to your situation may be delayed for hours, even days. Out of necessity you and your neighbors become the first responders.

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) is a simple, free plan to increase your safety during a disaster until police, firefighters, and public works can arrive to help you. Neighborhoods that are prepared for disasters and emergencies save lives, reduce the severity of injuries, and reduce property damage.

To date, over 400 Bellingham households and more than 500 individuals have participated in the MYN training.

In a single 90 minute meeting you can sit down with your neighbors to:

- **Learn nine important steps to take immediately after a disaster.**

- **Develop a neighborhood skills and equipment inventory.**
- **Verify which neighbors need extra help in a disaster such as elderly, those with a disability, or children who may be home alone.**

While supplies last! The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has received a grant to provide one personal equipment kit per household. The kit includes a wind-up flashlight, a gas valve wrench, a lightweight helmet, leather gloves, goggles, a whistle, matches, and other items.

Also while supplies last, OEM is providing a weather/alert radio to each household that hosts a MYN planning event.

For more information contact: Don Davis, Office of Emergency Management, 360-778-8440, ddavis@cob.org.



In this ISSUE

- 2 Help Keep Our Streets Safe
- 3 Questions About Chickens?
- 4 Applications for Arts Grants
- 4 Preserve America Grant
- 5 Infill Toolkit Project Update
- 6 Waterfront Connections Plan

A letter from Mayor Dan Pike

Recent headlines tell the latest tragic disaster story - "Texas struggles after Hurricane Ike"; "Thousands of residents remain stranded by Ike"; "Ike wipes out entire neighborhoods"; "Ike survivors may wait weeks for hot meals, baths." It will take millions of dollars and years for these communities to recover, in addition to the toll it will take on individuals, families, and neighborhoods.

How would our community respond? This question was tested recently by local leaders, including myself and Whatcom County Executive Pete Kremen, during a week-long training at the federal

Emergency Management Institute in Maryland.

The course brought together 70 people representing Bellingham and Whatcom County governments, businesses and non-profits. Our work was based on the challenges we would face in the natural disaster many of us fear the most - a major earthquake.

Classroom training stressed planning ahead and working collaboratively. Simulated emergencies exposed us to operating under rapidly changing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Dan Pike
Mayor of Bellingham

Mayor's Letter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

conditions and limited resources. Away from interruptions, we focused on responding to a disaster as it unfolded, putting previous experience and new ideas into action.

We built relationships and respect, strengthening our ability to work together. Executive Kremen and I came away with profound appreciation for our respective governments' and community agencies' capabilities, expertise and commitment to excellence. It was truly a community success.

If a large earthquake hits our region, what will the headlines say? *"Bellingham struggles after earthquake"; "Thousands isolated by earthquake"; "Whatcom County earthquake wipes out entire neighborhoods"; "Bellingham survivors may wait weeks for hot meals, baths."*

Please ask yourself: "Am I ready? Is my community ready?" We have asked this question and committed ourselves to helping you answer "yes."

Sincerely,

Mayor Dan Pike

For more information, please

contact: the City of Bellingham Office of Emergency Management at 778-8440.

Help Keep Our Streets Safe

It's important to remember that motorists who exceed the speed limit on residential streets represent all age groups and all walks of life - they are not just teenagers or commuters. Studies have shown that:

- **Local residents drive faster on their local streets because they feel familiar and comfortable, AND**
- **Outsiders use local streets as short cuts to busy arterial roads.**

What Can YOU do to Reduce Traffic Accidents and Save Lives?

DRIVE SLOWER

Speeding through residential neighborhoods will make very little, if any, difference in the total time it will take to complete a trip. In addition, driving at slower speeds allows more time to react to the unexpected, such as a child darting out from behind a parked car.

- **Remember that the legal speed limit on all residential streets is 25 mph, unless otherwise posted**
- **Make a conscious effort to drive 25 mph or slower on all residential streets and remind family members and neighbors of the speed limit.**

AVOID USING LOCAL STREETS AS SHORT CUTS

Whenever residential streets are used as short cuts, the quality of life in neighborhoods is disrupted. Neighborhood cut-through traffic increases noise and pollution in residential areas and results in a greater threat to the safety of children.

YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS

Pedestrians have the right-of-way at intersections whether crosswalks are painted on the street or not! Be aware that children are the primary pedestrians on neighborhood streets and that they are the most likely victims of careless drivers. Most young children — especially those under nine years of age — have great difficulty in making sound and safe judgments about traffic dangers.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE RULES OF THE ROAD

Ensure that your children know and understand the rules of the road.

Studies have shown that smaller children have difficulty in making safe judgments about traffic dangers. Do not let your children play in the street. Warn them against darting into the road after pets or toys. Teach your children to stop, look both ways, and listen before crossing streets. Make sure your children know that even though cars are supposed to stop, they may not.



DON'T ILLEGALLY PASS SCHOOL BUSES

You can be cited \$394 for illegally passing a school bus. The majority of those cited are reported via a system where the bus driver submits an affidavit to the Police Department. There is a subsequent investigation and if police investigators believe there is probable cause, the driver is cited via summons. Last year the Bellingham School District reported 55 drivers for this violation and 30 drivers were cited. Three additional drivers were cited after being observed by police officers. Between 50-65 percent of reported incidents result in citations on an annual basis.

For more information contact Kim Brown, Public Works Department, 360-778-7900 or kimbrown@cob.org.

Questions About Chickens?

The Bellingham Municipal Code regulates how and where chickens can be kept within City limits.

7.04.010

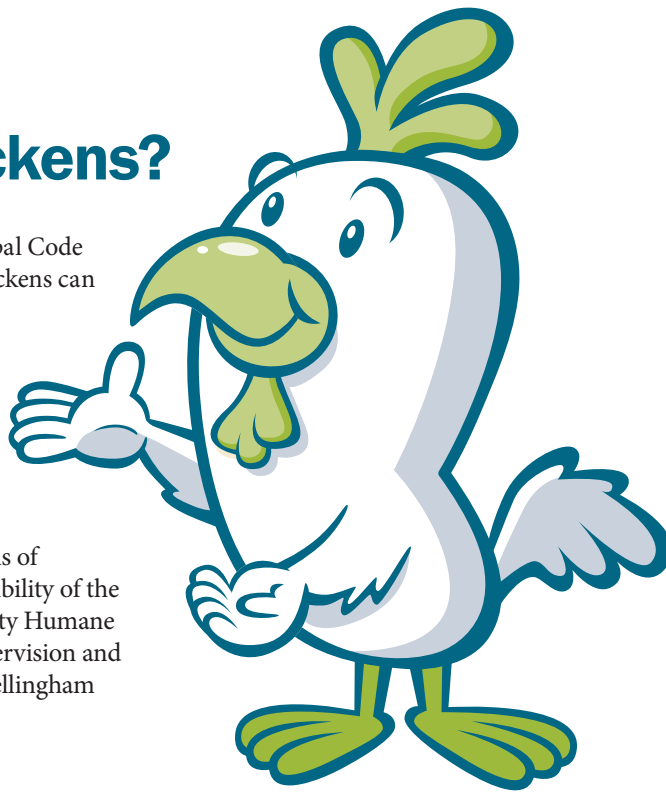
Administration and Enforcement

Administration and enforcement of the provisions of this title shall be the responsibility of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Humane Society under the direct supervision and control of the Chief of the Bellingham Police Department.

7.12.060

Keeping Animals In The City - General Regulations - Penalty

A. Any person being the owner or entitled to the possession of any animal of the species of horse, mule, ass, cattle, sheep, goat, domesticated fowl and exotic animals (except domesticated fowl maintained in a residence), including but not limited to, duck, chicken, goose, turkey or peafowl or swine of any kind, shall be permitted to keep the same within the limits of the City except as the same is now or may be hereafter forbidden by ordinance, by securely confining the same in a stable or other building; or an enclosure surrounded by a secure, well-built fence of sufficient height and strength to confine such animal therein; or the same may be securely staked out in a vacant lot in such manner that it cannot get upon any street, alley, or other public place within the City provided that the same is so confined or staked out as to effectively prevent it getting within 50' of any dwelling or other building in which persons work or are accustomed to be, or near enough to the property of another to do any damage thereto or commit any nuisance thereupon; and provided, further, that any such animal shall be considered as running at large when it breaks away from its fastenings or is herded or permitted to feed upon any of the streets, alleys or other public places of the City.



C. All stables and other buildings and all enclosures and premises upon which any such animals are kept and confined shall be kept in a clean, healthful, and sanitary condition by the person owning, possessing, or using any such premises for said purposes; and no persons owning, possessing, or using any such premises shall permit any nuisance to be formed or to accumulate thereon.

D. It is the duty of the animal control authority to inspect all premises whereon any such animals are confined or kept, and to enforce the regulation of this chapter. If any such premises are not kept in the manner provided in this chapter, such officer of officers shall at once notify the persons owning, possession, or using the premises for such purpose to place the same in a safe, secure, clean, healthful, and sanitary condition, and such person shall forthwith comply with such order.

E. Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of an infraction and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not to exceed \$250.

For more information, please contact:
Whatcom Humane Society, (360) 733-4746.

Public Works in Our Neighborhoods

PROJECT UPDATES

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Bay & Holly Streetscape Improvements – Project on schedule. **BUSINESSES ARE OPEN DURING CONSTRUCTION!**

MOUNT BAKER

Sunset Drive Reconstruction Phase II – Commenced work in September.

Bakerview and Irongate Traffic Signal – Council awarded project to Granite Northwest (*Wilder Construction*) in September. Construction should commence in October.

SILVER BEACH

Northshore Road and Drainage Improvements – Project nearing completion.

SUNNYLAND

James Street 2008 Enhanced Pedestrian Crossings – Complete!

MULTIPLE NEIGHBORHOODS

2008 Traffic Safety Improvements – King Street and Victor Street projects commenced in September. Alderwood speed hump and Pacific Street speed table projects delayed due to budget shortfalls.

2007 Bridge Rehabilitation

Crack Repair – Complete; project includes preventive crack repair to various structures as identified in the 2006 and 2008 bridge inspection report.

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.

For more information contact: Ravyn S. Whitewolf, P.E., Engineering Manager, City of Bellingham Public Works Engineering Division, (360) 778-7900

Parks in Our Neighborhoods

PROJECT UPDATES

PLAYGROUND PROJECTS

These 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 underway and will be complete in mid-October.

CORNWALL

Cornwall Park South Playground – Construction is underway and will be complete in mid-October.

WHATCOM FALLS

Whatcom Falls Park Lower Playground and new restroom are open! Go check out the new play equipment.

SILVER BEACH

Big Rock Trail – Watch for the completion of this great new trail connector between Big Rock Garden and the Klipsun Trail.

PUGET

- New seats that have been installed at Civic Stadium are being enjoyed by fall football fans. This completes the Civic Athletic Complex Improvement project!

- Construction continues 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 behind Haskell Business Park, new bridge over Lincoln Creek, and trail connection to Meador Street.

- New, colorful acoustic baffles have been installed The Arne Hanna Aquatic Center which have greatly improved on the noise level at this popular facility.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Accepting applications for arts grants

The City of Bellingham is accepting applications for municipal arts program grant funding. People creating new and interesting art experiences in Bellingham are encouraged to apply.

Applications for this grant program will be accepted until 5 p.m. October 24, and will be evaluated through a competitive process guided by the Bellingham Arts Commission. Applications are available in the Planning & Community Development Department at City Hall, 210 Lottie Street, or on the city

website at <http://www.cob.org/services/arts/grants.aspx>.

Proposals must range in value from \$500 to \$5,000, and be open to the general public. Complete eligibility requirements are included in the application packet for this program.

For more information, contact: Darby Galligan, Planning and Community Development Department, at dgalligan@cob.org or 360-778-8389.

National “Town-Making” Expert presents Oct. 14 in Bellingham

Dan Burden, a nationally recognized authority on “walkability,” bicycle and pedestrian facilities and environmental sustainability, will make a public presentation 7 p.m. Oct. 14 in Bellingham City Hall.

Burden’s vision is to assist elected officials, business and community leaders in their quest to create streets, activity centers, business districts and neighborhoods for people. He brings an energizing message about creating community for people, not just cars. His highly visual, information-rich workshops

showcase ways to plan and design better streets, town centers, and neighborhoods.

Burden has visited the Bellingham area several times, facilitating workshops and making public presentations. During his most recent visit in late August, he led more than 30 growth experts and innovators from across the globe through Bellingham as part of his four-day Great Pacific Northwest Town Making Tour.

For more information about the Oct. 14th presentation, contact the Mayor’s Office at 778-8100 or mayorsoffice@cob.org

Preserve America Grant Update Lettered Streets, York, and South Hill



All are invited to attend a **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE** to see the preliminary results of the *Preserve America* grant historic resource survey of the Lettered Streets, York, and South Hill Neighborhoods. The open house will be held on Wednesday, October 15th from 6:30 — 8:30 p.m. at the Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room, 121 Prospect Street. Sign-in begins at 6:15 p.m.

City staff, project consultants, and neighborhood volunteers will share the preliminary results of the historic resource survey and inventory initiated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in February of this year. The two hour meeting will be of special interest to anyone living or owning property in the survey neighborhoods, and will also draw the attention of those interested in the historic architecture of their own neighborhoods.

The meeting marks the beginning of the second phase of the *Preserve America* project, which will involve research and writing nominations of National Register

of Historic Places Districts for each neighborhood. The open house is designed to give neighbors the chance to learn about the district nomination process, and what it means to be part of a National Register of Historic Places district.

For more information, contact: Katie Franks, Planning and Community Development Department, kfranks@cob.org, (360) 778-8388, or visit www.cob.org.

Infill Toolkit Project Update

Planning and Community Development Director Tim Stewart announced at the September 18 meeting of the Bellingham Planning Commission that major work is still needed on the Infill Toolkit Project, to craft the final ordinance and integrate the new housing forms with engineering standards for streets and utilities. It is likely that final adoption of the Toolkit will not occur until 2009.

Because the community has not yet had a chance to review the actual ordinance, Director Stewart proposed a 60 day advance release of the Final Draft Staff Recommendation before Planning Commission hearing. The Final Draft Ordinance will be released only after the City has agreement on content and form from Planning, Public Works, Fire and Law.

Also clarified on September 18 were “applicability” issues (where the new housing types will be permitted). Director Stewart stated he will recommend to the community, Planning Commission and Council that the Toolkit housing types be applicable:

- in “Planned Commercial” and mixed use districts,
- in Multifamily Residential Districts, and
- as a “vocabulary” for contract rezones or other legislative actions subject to a Type VI process.

He will also recommend that the Toolkit NOT apply:

- in any single family district, and that
- the underlying density of the zone not change with the toolkit

Changes to single family or density might occur in the future but it would not be part of this legislative package for the toolkit. Each change would require a separate Type VI process. This additional process in single family areas is where Planning hopes to work with neighbors to find appropriate places for additional density and infill.

For more information contact Nicole Oliver, Planning and Community Development Department, 360-778-8300 or noliver@cob.org.

Sunnyland Charrette Project

The Sunnyland Neighborhood project will be held over into the 2009 Annual Review process. The project has received a great deal of attention from the City, the neighbors and the property owners. The City in mid-September received a letter from the owners, Sunset Commons, LLC requesting the proposal be tabled until 2009 “...to have more time to work with the neighborhood and City staff on a site plan that is mutually beneficial, and that sets a high standard of how infill can be

accomplished in Bellingham. The current time frame is not sufficient to attend to the details that this site and the neighborhood deserve.”

The City looks forward to continuing to work with the community in 2009 on this great opportunity for infill close to services.

For more information contact Chris Koch, Planning and Community Development Department, 360-778-8349 or ckoch@cob.org.

Parks in Our Neighborhoods

PROJECT UPDATES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
The segment of Whatcom Creek Trail from Maritime Heritage Park to Dupont Street along the south shore of the creek is now open.

PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

The Planning Commission will continue their public hearing on October 2 at 7 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The City Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing to consider a comprehensive plan amendment for the plan on October 20th. For more information and to review the latest draft plan go to: <http://www.cob.org/issues/parks-plan.aspx>

NORTH BELLINGHAM TRAIL PLAN

A City Council public hearing to consider a comprehensive plan amendment for the North Bellingham Trail Plan is scheduled for October 6th.

For more information contact: Leslie Bryson, Design and Development Manager, Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department, 360-778-7000, lbryson@cob.org.

Neighborhood Interviews on KMRE Radio!

Starting Saturday, October 4, tune in to KMRE-FM 102.3 at 7:00 pm, to listen to “Community Connections,” a series of interviews conducted this summer with representatives from Bellingham neighborhoods. For more information about the broadcast, contact Alena Feeney Adam, Director of Operations - AMRE/ Station Manager - KMRE, (360) 738-3886.

Why is street direction important?

Mayor Dan Pike said an area of considerable discussion is how streets in our new waterfront neighborhood will connect to Bellingham's downtown.

Why does the direction of the streets matter? Because the location of the streets – together with parks and trails – will form the very fabric of this new neighborhood. Street locations will determine building locations: where buildings can and cannot be built, where historical structures must be torn down or where they might be redeveloped.

Street locations also will establish essential connections between downtown and the waterfront, and determine how and whether Bellingham Bay and the islands can be seen from the rest of downtown. The streets help determine how the neighborhood looks and feels.

Pike said he wants to make sure that both street patterns are equally and fully examined, so that our community can weigh the pros and cons of each and make wise, informed decisions about our new neighborhood.

The Port's proposal, which has been extensively studied, includes a street grid that turns at an angle from the existing downtown street grid. Port and City officials have agreed to conduct further study of how the waterfront might be developed using the traditional street grid.

Pike said the *Waterfront Connections Plan* provides us all with an opportunity to study the pros and cons of each and make the best choice for Bellingham.



WATERFRONT ConnectionsPlan

Connections are the key to a successful waterfront redevelopment, and a plan unveiled this week by Mayor Dan Pike highlights connections that he wants to make sure are included in final plans for Bellingham's waterfront.

Pike presented his *Waterfront Connections Plan* to the Bellingham City Council and community on September 29, and hopes to engage the public in considering its pros and cons.

Public open houses scheduled for November 13 and November 17 offer members of the public opportunities to review the *Waterfront Connections Plan* and weigh in on options that will shape the look and feel of our downtown and waterfront for generations to come.

This fall, Port and City officials are bringing to the public the results of extensive work during the past year, including reports detailing environmental impacts of waterfront redevelopment and options that will contribute to a final master plan.

City and Port officials are in agreement about most items, such as balancing economic, environmental and social values, developing at least 33 acres

of public parks and trails, adopting mixed-use zoning, and creating opportunities to host Western Washington University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Pike said city and Port officials are still negotiating options for street alignment, connections to downtown, preserving historic buildings, and city infrastructure costs and timing. The *Waterfront Connections Plan* lays out ideas for these areas and more, he said.

“The City is committed to these key values: making sound financial decisions, using the triple bottom line, creating a unique neighborhood, and honoring the needs of our community,” Pike said. “The new waterfront neighborhood will belong to all of us and must represent all our best ideas. I hope you will join us in this essential step by participating in this public process.”

For more information, visit the city's website at www.cob.org. Regular waterfront redevelopment updates also are provided during Bellingham City Council meetings, which can be viewed on-line or on BTV10.

**Waterfront Connections
Public Open Houses**
7 p.m. November 13th & 17th
Depot Market Square