

Neighborhood News

A NEWSLETTER FOR BELLINGHAM NEIGHBORHOODS

Council Approves Old Town Plan

City Council approved the Old Town Sub-Area Plan and Development Regulations on March 17, 2008. The public's significant contribution to this multi-year planning effort was instrumental in formulating the final plan components.

Old Town is a vital link between the Central Business District and the waterfront and is identified as a future urban village in the Comprehensive Plan, Bellingham's strategy for accommodating growth. The plan can provide a template for how other proposed urban villages can capture and enhance their unique qualities, and improve overall livability.

While Old Town has many attributes necessary for the creation of an urban village, a master plan (Sub-Area Plan) and supporting development regulations are needed in order to encourage and guide development. Since 2005, the City has worked with the community to develop a plan for Old Town. This planning effort looked at the broader Old Town area, which includes parts of the Lettered Streets and Central Business District neighborhoods.

The Old Town Plan will:

- **Include design guidelines that reinforce and highlight Old Town's historic past;**
- **Increase allowable density;**
- **Allow a healthy and diverse mix of residential and commercial uses;**
- **Encourage a safe, convenient and attractive pedestrian experience;**
- **Protect key view corridors and landmark buildings with strategic height and bulk limits;**
- **Provide predictability for the community and potential investors.**

For more information and to see the current draft documents, see the City's website at www.cob.org or contact Tara Sundin at the Planning & Community Development Department, 778-8392, tsundin@cob.org.



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A letter from Mayor Dan Pike

Last month, I reported to the City Council and the Bellingham Community on progress made during the first 100 days of my term as Mayor. The 100-Day Plan was essentially an act of good faith by my administration to our community. The function of the Plan was to drive meaningful steps toward addressing the issues our community cares deeply about.

We have made solid and meaningful movement toward our intended outcomes and in a couple instances we broadened our original action steps, to be more far-reaching. I hope you will take a moment to review my 100-Day Plan report, posted on the City's website at www.cob.org



Dan Pike
Mayor of Bellingham

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Mayor's Letter

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We are working diligently to promote the transparent and inclusive government principles that are, and will continue to be, central to my administration. We believe that ready accessibility to information is an important component. In March, the Monday afternoon City Council committee meetings, and the Monday evening regular meetings that follow them, began airing live on BTW10. These meetings repeat several times each week and are posted to view on the City's website.

One more illustration of our commitment to public participation and input was the March launch of the "Code and Character Task Force." The Task Force was designed to bring together a diverse group of community members to help us develop curriculum for *Planning Academy II - Green Bellingham: Achieving Infill; Enhancing Character*, scheduled to begin later this month. This year's planning academy will be dynamic and community-centered and will set the stage for neighborhoods and other community stakeholders to collaborate on neighborhood design infill and character.

These are but two examples of new initiatives and action steps that will be rolled out this year to involve and inform about ongoing City efforts to always set a high standard for quality public service delivery. The effort to realize our objectives will be remarkable but I know we are up to the challenge. This community has clearly articulated its values, and we at City Hall will continue to work collaboratively to manifest them.

Mayor Dan Pike

Public input continues for north Bellingham Park

The City continues to seek input in the master planning for a recently acquired 20-acre park in north Bellingham known as "Cordata Park."

Interested residents are invited to participate in monthly steering committee meetings through August. Discussion topics will include design elements of the park, naming the park, and trail alignment through the park.

Meetings will be held in the Chapel Room of the Birchwood Community Presbyterian Church, 400 Meadowbrook

Court, from 7-8:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month as follows:

- **Thursday, April 10, 2008**
- **Thursday, May 8, 2008**
- **Thursday, June 12, 2008**
- **Thursday, July 10, 2008**
- **Thursday, August 14, 2008**

For more information, please contact: City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation, 778-7000, ggobo@cob.org or visit the city website at www.cob.org.

Parks in Our Neighborhoods PROJECT UPDATES

ALABAMA HILL:

Big Rock Trail will be a 6' wide crushed gravel trail connecting Big Rock Park and the Klipsun Trail near Barkley Blvd and is currently in design. Construction is expected to begin early May and be complete by the end of September 2008.

BIRCHWOOD:

Squalicum Creek Park Phase One is currently in construction phase, which is expected to be complete spring 2008. The project includes a new irrigated and drained baseball field, restroom facilities, parking lot, paths, landscaping, and utility services.

COLUMBIA:

Carl Lobe Park renovation is currently out to bid. Construction start is estimated to begin early July and end mid-August 2008

CORNWALL:

Cornwall Park South Playground renovation is currently out to bid. Construction start is estimated to begin mid-August and end late September 2008.

MOUNT BAKER:

Northridge Park Phase Two is currently in pre-design mode. Park staff is in the process of selecting design consultants. Construction is expected to occur in

2009. Design features include parking, restroom facilities, playground, trails and trail connections. Public Meeting will be announced.

SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD:

Inspiration Point Overlook - Reconstruction project involves an existing overlook, near Woodstock Farm, to Chuckanut Bay. Site access planning for vehicle and pedestrian access. Construction planned for Spring 2009. Public Meeting will be announced.

WHATCOM FALLS:

Whatcom Falls Park Lower Restroom and Playground. Construction planned for June 2008. Construction complete by mid-September.

YORK:

Franklin Park Site Development Plan is currently in design and includes these park improvements: a new playground, lawn regrade, new internal path system, park shelter, basketball court resurfacing, landscaping, and other park amenities. Anticipate the project will be put out to bid summer 2008.

For more information, please contact:

Jonathan Schilk, Landscape Architect, City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation, 778-7000, jschilk@cob.org

Planning and Community Development News

Planning Academy II Encourages Collaboration and Creativity

Green Bellingham: Achieving Infill; Enhancing Character is a series of evening workshops on urban infill and neighborhood preservation that the City is hosting beginning Wednesday, April 30th which will run through the month of May. Each neighborhood may appoint two representatives to attend the entire series. **Pre-registration is required for all participants.**

In addition to neighborhood appointees, the Mayor-appointed Code and Character Task Force is helping to design the curriculum and identify stakeholders who will be invited to attend the workshops. Participants will include representatives of Bellingham business and education communities. Planning Academy II sessions will also include two Open Houses where any interested citizen may stop by and provide feedback on the various infill strategies that will be explored during the Academy. The goal of Planning Academy II is to provide a “toolkit” of creative and innovative forms of residential infill that build and enhance community.

For more information, please contact: Nicole Oliver, Communication Coordinator with the Planning & Community Development Department, 778-8353, noliver@cob.org.

Survey of Historic Resources

The Planning and Community Development Department, in coordination with the Whatcom Museum and Bellingham Public Library, is sponsoring a survey of historic resources in the Lettered Streets, York, and South Hill Neighborhoods.

Part of the survey involves neighborhood volunteers taking photographs of buildings from the alleyways, where accessible.

The Planning and Community Development Department conducted an extensive mailing in February notifying all property owners and current residents of the project and related photographic and survey work. The consultant team and volunteers will provide informative flyers to explain the nature of the project.

Surveyors are instructed to respect private property and take photos only from the public right of way. It is anticipated that the “alley photography” will continue through the month of April.

For more information, please contact: Katie Franks, Development Specialist II, City of Bellingham, Planning and Community Development Department, 778-8388, kfranks@cob.org



Orientation to House & Property History Research

Saturday April 5th, 2008

**Bellingham Public Library /
Lecture Room**

210 Central Avenue - 778-7323

**Morning Session:
8:30 am – 12:30 pm**

- Access information from local resources and title companies
- Use resources at the Washington State Northwest Regional Archives, the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, the Whatcom Museum Photo Archives and the Bellingham Public Library

**Afternoon Session:
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

- Consultants for the Preserve America Historic Resource Survey & Inventory will provide answers to questions volunteers may have

For more information and/or to register contact: Katie Franks, Planning and Community Development Department, 778-8388, Kfranks@cob.org

Public Works in Our Neighborhoods

PROJECT UPDATES

**CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
Railroad Avenue Covered Bike Facility** – Only one bid was received and was well over the budget. The City will purchase bike racks for installation without a shelter.

Champion Street Water Main and Streetscape Improvement – Street resurfacing is complete. Pavement markings scheduled for week of 3/31 -4/6.

Art and Children’s Museum – Tilt panels for the east wall were poured and erected; west wall scheduled for first week of April.

**GUIDE MERIDIAN/CORDATA
Meridian Street Water and Sewer Extension (State Department of Transportation Project)** – Sewer main construction to commence soon.

**PUGET
Bike and Pedestrian Improvements** – Pervious sidewalk installation complete; rain garden planting to commence soon.

**ROOSEVELT
Woburn and Alabama Intersection Improvements** – Installed pavement markings; landscaping to start after rain garden repair; Roosevelt Neighborhood Association installing bench.

**SILVER BEACH
Northshore Road and Drainage Improvements** – Open house for residents and interested parties held on 3/20/08; project out to bid soon.

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Public Works in Our Neighborhoods

PROJECT UPDATES

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SUNNYLAND

James Street 2008 Enhanced Pedestrian Crossings – Presented to Sunnyland Neighborhood Association on 3/18/08; project out to bid on 4/3/08.

MULTIPLE NEIGHBORHOODS 2006 – 2007 Sewer

Replacements – Construction in South Hill commenced in February and nearing completion.

Old Fairhaven Parkway 2006

Street Lighting Replacements – Construction underway; new light standards erected; work on street crossings commencing soon.

Cornwall Avenue and Water

Main Replacements – Began construction on 3/17/08; update to Sunnyland Neighborhood Association on 3/18/08; Public Works is soliciting input on pavement markings, specifically bike lane, as part of the final restoration.

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 about Public Works Projects, please contact:

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

Water Main Flushing Begins

The Public Works Department has started its annual water main flushing program, with a pilot program using new technology in the area above Silver Beach Avenue north to Roma Road and between Chandler Parkway and Britton Road.

The pilot program will take place Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. throughout the month of April. The regular flushing program will begin in May. City-wide flushing locations will be announced through local media in late April.

- **Flushing the water lines may cause discoloration from minerals and sediments that are being flushed out.**

- **If your water looks rusty - do not run the hot water; wait a few minutes and run the cold water for a short time.**
- **If the water does not clear - wait a few more minutes and try again; continue until the water clears.**
- **IMPORTANT NOTE: Avoid washing white clothes when your water is discolored as it may cause staining.**

For questions or concerns regarding the flushing program, contact: City of Bellingham Public Works Department, 778-7000

Small and Simple Grant Awards

The Mayor has awarded 21 Small and Simple grants to local organizations, totaling \$40,000. Forty-two grant applications were received, requesting more than \$92,000 in matching funds. Applications were submitted by a wide variety of neighborhood and community organizations.

The Small and Simple Grant program provides financial assistance to an array of activities and projects, including

neighborhood radio programming, street tree planting, Pickett House repairs, poetry and art events, installation of a labyrinth at Fairhaven Park and a pavilion at Boulevard Park, and soccer goals for an elementary school playground.

For a complete list of grant awards, see the City’s web site at: www.cob.org.

Neighborhood Programming

The American Museum of Radio and Electricity (AMRE) was awarded a Small and Simple Grant for 2008. Grant funds will be used to produce a series of programs that highlight Bellingham’s neighborhoods. Programming will be broadcast on the museum’s radio station, KMRE-LP 102.3 FM.

Neighborhood programming will be designed to showcase the distinct features of each neighborhood. Programming made possible by the Small and Simple Grant will provide an opportunity for community members to tell KMRE’s

listeners what’s great about their neighborhood and what gives their neighborhood its own unique identity.

AMRE staff will contact neighborhood representatives in May, with recording and production of the series to begin in June. Broadcast will take place as part of KMRE’s fall lineup starting in September.

For more information, please contact the museum at 738-3886 or visit the museum website at www.amre.us.

Public Meeting for Neighborhood Traffic Calming

Time: 6:30–8:30pm

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Location: Municipal Court Building

Address: 2014 'C' St., Bellingham, WA

The Public Works Department will hold an open house public meeting to present and discuss proposed traffic calming measures on the following residential streets in Bellingham:

SUNNYLAND NEIGHBORHOOD:

King Street between Kentucky & Texas
Grant Street between Virginia & Alabama

COLUMBIA NEIGHBORHOOD:

East Victor Street between Meridian & Northwest

BIRCHWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD:

Alderwood Avenue between Cherrywood & city limits

ROOSEVELT NEIGHBORHOOD:

Pacific Street between Alabama & Maryland

What is “Traffic Calming”?

In situations where local or cut-through traffic is causing problems, speed humps, traffic islands, chicanes, or diverters can be installed to slow cars traveling too fast for local residential conditions.

Why are these traffic calming measures being proposed?

In 2007, neighborhoods requested that these residential streets be evaluated for traffic calming measures available through the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP). The City has counted, evaluated, identified particular issues, and is proposing solutions on each one of the streets listed above.

Why should you attend?

This will be your opportunity to see the proposed traffic calming measure for the problem identified on each street and to share your opinion with Public Works staff and others who may be affected. All property owners on these streets receive meeting notices mailed 14 days in advance of the meeting.

What happens after the meeting?

Unless there is majority opposition to the proposed traffic calming solution, construction will occur in the summer of 2008.

If you can't attend the meeting and want to comment, contact: Chris Comeau, Transportation Planner, City of Bellingham Public Works Department, 778-7900

OR Send written comments to: ccomeau@cob.org until 5:00pm, Wednesday April 23, 2008

Whatcom Youth Service Day Awards Ceremony

Saturday, April 26, 2008

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Bellingham Boys & Girls Club

1715 Kentucky Street

You are invited to a community awards ceremony recognizing the work and dedication of Whatcom County youth towards strengthening our community and world. Hear stories of creativity and change while supporting the engagement of youth in Whatcom County.

Do you know of a youth (age 5-25) or youth-focused club that should be recognized for their community efforts? Contact Adrienne Battis at 738-1196.

A project of the Whatcom Family & Community Network.

Photo competition

Amateur and professional photographers of all ages are invited to participate in the “Essence of Bellingham” photo competition, the third annual opportunity for people to capture and share images of Bellingham life. The competition is sponsored by the Mayor's Office and Whatcom Museum.

Winners receive special recognition by Mayor Dan Pike and the Bellingham City Council, have their work on public display, featured on BTV10 and the City of Bellingham website, and added to the Museum's photo collection.

The deadline for entries is May 15, 2008.

Complete contest details and entry forms are available at www.cob.org/eob on the City's website, along with winning photographs from past competitions.

