

PUGET NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

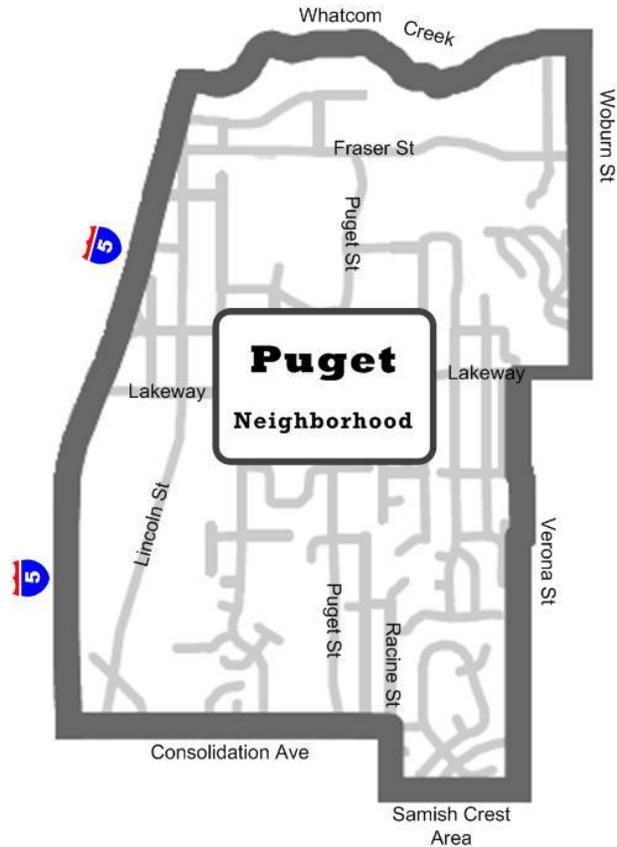
April/May 2011

www.pugetneighborhood.org

email: info@pugetneighborhood.org

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Next Puget Neighborhood Meeting ***Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm***

Topics:

- ***Red Light Cameras*** Lt. Scott Snider, Special Operations/Investigations Bellingham Police Department – with information about the installation and operation of Automated Traffic Safety Cameras in Bellingham. He will discuss why the city decided to use them, how they will be operated, and where they will be initially placed.
- ***Samish Crest Trail Improvement Update***
- ***Neighborhood Updates***

Community Room at Moles Funeral Home - 2465 Lakeway Dr.
6:30 for Social and Pizza

Help Make Walking Safe, Attractive & Connected in Bellingham – May 11 – Community Meeting

You are invited to help shape Bellingham’s first Pedestrian Master Plan.

Pedestrian Master Plan Community Workshop
Wednesday, May 11, 2011
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
City Council Chambers
210 Lottie

At the workshop, participants will learn about best practices in creating walkable communities. They will be asked to share their vision for the walkability of Bellingham and review maps to help identify gaps in the pedestrian network and areas of concern. Residents who are not able to participate in the May 11 workshop will be able to view the workshop presentation on [BTV10](#) and submit feedback and comments online at cob.org/walk following the workshop.

The planning process is being led by the City of Bellingham Public Works Department and its consultants: Portland-based Alta Planning + Design and the non-profit Walkable and Livable Communities Institute (WALC), based in Port Townsend.

Your input through this Pedestrian Plan process will: **1) help identify gaps and areas of concern in the pedestrian network and 2) assist in developing a prioritization strategy for project implementation.**

The Bellingham Pedestrian Master Plan is being developed over the next six months to identify steps toward creating a safe, well-connected and attractive walking environment for all members of the community.

People throughout Bellingham are invited to participate in an upcoming workshop to help shape the City’s plan to improve walkability and provide more support for “active,” city-wide modes of transportation.

“Walkability isn’t just about the walker,” said Dan Burden, co-founder and director of the WALC Institute, who will be leading portions of the public workshop. “Especially in Bellingham, there is incredible opportunity to enhance the quality of life, economic prosperity and health of everyone—no matter what mode of transportation they choose—by becoming more walkable and livable.”

For more information, go to cob.org/walk

Signkeepers – Big Help, Small Commitment

We need several of you who are willing to put out a Puget Neighborhood Sign to advertise our General Meetings. So far we have 4 volunteers for the project 4 times/year.

We need someone who can place one of 8 sandwich board signs and/or several of 10 plastic signs on metal bases, which stick into the grass.

If you would be willing to do this small job, please email maryjchaney@comcast.net or call 733-0209.

Thanks!
Mary Chaney, President PNA

Meador Avenue Construction – Coming Soon

This project will provide on-street pedestrian facilities between Meador Avenue and Ellis Street including a pedestrian bridge over Whatcom Creek on Meador Ave. Right-of-way and narrow Whatcom Creek bridges create challenges, but bicycle facilities will be included where physically possible. This project will provide the final on-street connection for the long-planned Whatcom Creek Trail system between Lake Whatcom and Bellingham.

Next Milestones: Open bids on 4/28/11 and award project on 5/9/11.

For more information go to: City of Bellingham website → Government → Active Capital Projects.
<http://www.cob.org/government/departments/pw/projects/Meador-Kansas-Ellis-Segment-of-Whatcom-Creek-Trail.aspx>

I-5 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – Current & Planned Projects for Lakeway, Iowa, Samish, Meridian and Bakerview

Work has begun on ramp changes (some, but not all we would hope for): northbound Samish, southbound Lakeway and northbound Iowa.

Plus, the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is looking at short-term fixes (due to limited funding) at Bakerview & Guide Meridian.

Follow link to WSDOT report to City Council on April 11, 2011
[http://www.cob.org/web/COUNCIL.nsf/0/7E5FDA672341002D8825786B0059C3CD/\\$File/11apr2011_AB19167.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.cob.org/web/COUNCIL.nsf/0/7E5FDA672341002D8825786B0059C3CD/$File/11apr2011_AB19167.pdf?OpenElement)

Carl Cozier Parents Highlighted in TIME Magazine

Carl Cozier Elementary School parents were mentioned in the Feb. 7, 2011 edition of TIME magazine in an article emphasizing the hardships PTA groups are facing in the midst of school district budget cuts. The article covers how Carl Cozier's PTA expanded their fundraising with other school PTAs in the district to protect the district's conservation program.

The article reads, "When the Bellingham, Wash., district cut a conservation program from its budget, the PTA at Carl Cozier whose leaders say it could have funded the field trip for its own students asked to spearhead a fundraising campaign so that every third-grader in the district's 14 elementary schools could attend. The district green-lighted the proposal, and PTAs throughout Bellingham joined forces to foot the \$30,000 bill."

For more information— <http://www.friendsofgordoncarter.org/>

Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Committee (MNAC)

Meeting Report from Puget Board Member & MNAC Representative, Diana McKinney

Graffiti – If you see it, call 911 to report it. Property owners are responsible for cleaning up graffiti. Property owners can be cited for not cleaning it up if people complain.

Cascade Natural Gas – Negotiations are underway to renew a franchise agreement. Basically, the city gives rights of way to utility services via a franchise. They had a 25-year franchise that is ending in July, and they are negotiating a new, probably 10-year term one. There were questions about what the terms of the negotiation cover and what kind of money we're talking. They can't negotiate much – most is regulated. They can't *not* renew, either. The city is asking for locations of high-pressure transmission lines and oldest lines for information related to public safety, but the information is sensitive and won't be released to the public. It's not much money – apparently you can only charge what it costs to negotiate and maintain the franchise. Burlington just did theirs for \$900.

Transportation Benefits District & 2 penny sales tax – With the new funding available for Transportation, funding has been allocated evenly between 3 categories: 1) revive WTA Sunday service, 2) increase funding for street overlays (re-paving) and 3) fund projects to improve infrastructure for walking and bicycling. Eleven citywide projects have been approved for 2011.

Rental Licensing – Mayor Pike was there and fielded some questions about rental licensing. He stated that he is in favor of a proposal, but he has asked them for something that wouldn't have up-front costs (because there is no money), and something that would target property owners with multiple rental units. Stay tuned – an ordinance is in process and we hope to include discussion in a future PNA meeting.

Gateway Pacific Terminal at Cherry Point – The mayor also spoke about this project. It will likely more than double train traffic going through Bellingham. His suggestion is that they use Burlington Northern's Sumas line. It's likely that they will lose the coastal lines anyway due to rising water levels, and he thinks it makes more sense for them to develop the alternative lines rather than sinking short-term money into something that will be lost eventually. See <http://www.cob.org/features/2011-03-15-gateway-pacific-terminal.aspx> for more information. There will be LOTS of opportunities for public discussion. The next one is Wednesday, May 4th at the Public Library at 7pm. Columbia neighborhood is also having the pro/con presentation in mid-May.

Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program reaches 1500-pound milestone

Every day is Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in Bellingham. For the past year, six local pharmacies have accepted unwanted and expired medication for secure and legal disposal, reaching the 1500-pound milestone in April 2011, one year after starting the collection. Help reach the one-ton mark by bringing labeled medications to any of the following locations during pharmacy hours:

- Costco Pharmacy, 4299 Meridian
- Custom Rx Shoppe, 1313 E Maple St.
- Hoagland Pharmacy, 2330 Yew St.
- Haggen, 2814 Meridian
- Haggen, 2900 Woburn (Barkley Village)
- Fairhaven Market, 1401 12th St.

Prescription narcotics and controlled substances are collected at the Bellingham Police Department, 505 Grand Avenue, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Why take back your meds?

- Unused medicines are a danger to our children, families and the environment
- Washington State has one of the highest teen prescription drug abuse rates in the nation
- Medicine poisoning of children and seniors is skyrocketing
- Medicines flushed or put in the trash can end up in our surface waters, groundwater and drinking water--exposing our families and hurting our environment

For more information about the City of Bellingham program, visit the program web page.

<http://www.cob.org/services/environment/pharm-take-back-program.aspx>

Media Contact:

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Public Works Department

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mcollins@cob.org

Lake Whatcom fishing season opener emphasizes invasives prevention

Boaters will be asked about their boating habits, boat cleaning practices, and knowledge of invasive species impacts and prevention techniques. Responses to these questions will be used to design an effective invasive species prevention strategy for Lake Whatcom.

Aquatic invasive species can spread from one water body to another by attaching to boat hulls, motors, trailers, and recreational equipment. Lake Whatcom is particularly at risk because it is a popular site for boaters who may be transporting aquatic invasive species from infested waters.

“We are in a good position to prevent the introduction of invasive species into Lake Whatcom,” said Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board Coordinator. “We should not miss this opportunity to pay attention and take small actions to prevent impacts which might be costly and irreversible later,” she added.

An Aquatic Invasive Species Action Plan for Lake Whatcom is scheduled for release next month by the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County. This Plan will guide [aquatic invasive species](#) prevention, monitoring, control, and education/outreach strategies in the Lake Whatcom watershed.

“A solid, well-executed prevention strategy will be much cheaper than the price other communities are paying to respond to infrastructure and environmental damage caused by invasive species infestations,” said Clare Fogelsong, Environmental Resources Manager for the City.

For more information, see the City’s website at www.cob.org and search for "aquatic invasives".

Media Contact:

Clare Fogelsong, Environmental Resources Manager
City of Bellingham Public Works
(360) 778-7900
cfogelsong@cob.org

Puget General Membership Meetings
Moles Funeral Home – Community Room
2465 Lakeway Drive

- Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Board Meetings

Location: to be determined

- Friday, April 15, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 19, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Board Meetings are always open for Puget Neighbors to attend. If you are interested, please phone President Mary Chaney for location information. 733-0209

2011 Puget Neighborhood Board Members

- **Mary Chaney**
- **Marcia Ford**
- **Diana McKinney**
- **Greg McKinney**
- **Bill Radock**
- **David Boyd**

PLEASE THANK OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS

A hearty thank you to our business sponsors. Many, many thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity for the neighborhood.

- **Ivie Construction** (generous donation!)
 - **Moles Funeral Home** (no charge for meeting room)
 - **Copy Source** (discount on PNA copying)
-

MEMBERSHIP

The Puget Neighborhood Association provides to its members the following opportunities and advantages:

- General membership meetings and social events to meet neighbors and build community.
- Notice via newsletters, e-mail, website and mailings of events, concerns or celebrations which affect the Puget Neighborhood.
- A voice through the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Committee (MNAC), which articulates and promotes the wishes and concerns of the neighborhood to the ruling bodies of Bellingham and Whatcom County.

Please become a member today or renew your annual membership. Use the form below (or send the requested information) along with a check to:

Puget Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 28418
Bellingham WA 98228-0418

Puget Neighborhood Association Annual Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ \$15 – Household _____ \$35 – Sponsorship
_____ \$5 – Renter/Low Income _____ \$20 - \$100 – Business

➤ ***The Puget Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization providing an open forum with government and business to address Neighborhood concerns. ➤ Association Membership is open to all persons living, or owning property, or business in the Puget***

PNA April/May 2011 Newsletter
Please send your PNA membership today.

Neighborhood. All Puget Neighbors are welcome regardless of Association Membership.

For more information about the PNA, visit www.pugetneighborhood.org

For More Information, go to the **PNA website**: www.pugetneighborhood.org.

- Do you have news to share?
- Do you want to know about something in the neighborhood?
- Send your message now!

Email Therese Kelliher, Newsletter Editor: info@pugetneighborhood.org.

Puget News will be sent approximately 6 times during the year—alternating with the PNA General Meetings.

If you would prefer to be removed from this mailing list, please let us know:
info@pugetneighborhood.org.