



## Neighborhood News

SAMISH NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1551

Bellingham, WA 98227

[www.samishneighborhood.org](http://www.samishneighborhood.org)

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### Spring 2011

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#### Annual Meeting Agenda

**Wednesday, March 16**

**Elks Lodge**

**710 S. Samish Way**

**6:00 Registration/Social Hour**

**Everyone is encouraged to come early, complete their registration, check out our information tables, and visit with neighbors, board members and City officials during our social hour. Coffee, tea and refreshments provided.**

**7:00 Call to Order and Welcome**

- President's announcements
- Treasurer's report
- Election of 2011-13 SNA Board members (see article on page 3)
- Samish Select Award presentation

**7:30 Guest Speakers**

- Public Works Director Ted Carlson
- City Council Member Michael Lindquist

**8:30 Public comment period and neighborhood networking time**

**9:00 Adjourn**

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#### *President's Report*

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Springtime in Samish Neighborhood brings seed catalogs, budding trees and talk of development, something we haven't seen for a couple of years. Fortunately, the Samish Neighborhood Association (SNA) Board of Directors is in place to represent you and field such talk. (You're on your own with the catalogs.)

The largest proposal is Padden Trails, a 113-acre tract south of Connelly Avenue and accessible by 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. A 220-lot subdivision was approved in 2005 and the land was cleared. Work was started to change the entrance to 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Since then, the tract was sold to George Huston, Butch Kvamme and David Nelson, and the new owners, citing the real difficulty of making a profit during this recession, are asking the city to rezone the area from single-family residential (SFR) to multi-family residential (MFR). If approved, more than 600 units — condos, townhouses and the like — would be allowed.

The board was receptive to a presentation from Huston and former owner Bob Libolt. We understand the financial pressures and in general liked the concept of clusters of units that would allow more open areas. We know the city is driving for infill with increased density and, as Padden Trails is relatively isolated and would empty onto an arterial road near I-5, the concept has some merit. But we are concerned about a large subdivision with only one egress and the real possibility that the tract could again change hands. A MFR rezone could bring in apartments or rental housing which, at this point, has no regulations or licensing.

At this writing, the City Council has not yet put the proposal on the Planning Department's 2011 agenda for review. The SNA board wrote to the council and the mayor with its concerns.

We also sent a letter addressing a campaign to place a ban on the sale, possession or use of fireworks within the city limits. Clay Butler presented the board with some compelling arguments. After lengthy discussions, the board voted not to support the ban. It was not unanimous, but we did agree to send a letter urging the police, mayor and council to enforce existing fireworks laws that limit use.

Your board meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the basement of the Community Baptist Church. The public is welcome to attend. We are here to represent you, so please come and let us know how we are doing.

*Greg McCracken, President, SNA Board of Directors*

## Hear Ye!!!

*By Trinn Murray, SNA Board Member*

The First Annual Samish Select Award will be unveiled at the SNA annual meeting on March 16. The announcement of the winner will be preceded by a brief history and purpose statement of the award followed by two individual honorable mentions, one business recognition, and then the awardee presented with a surprise by Susie Marino of Key Bank, the major award sponsor. Don't miss the fun!

## Emergency Preparedness

*By Emily Pacheco, SNA Board Member*

As the old adage goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Since we do live within the geographical region known as the 'ring of fire', it is not outside the realm of possibility we may experience a regional natural disaster in our lifetime.

At the last annual meeting of the Samish Neighborhood Association, City of Bellingham Assistant Fire Chief Andy Day gave a presentation on emergency preparedness. He made a number of helpful suggestions and community-building ideas. Here is a summary of some simple emergency preparedness steps:

- **Have a reserve stock of food and water** to feed your family for up to two weeks. A good rule of thumb for water is one gallon of water per person per day.
- **In a natural disaster, cash is king.** Keep in mind that if systems are down, there will be no computers to withdraw money from the bank or to get cash from the ATM machines. Therefore, it is advisable to keep a reserve amount on hand. Around \$2,000 is a reasonable amount.
- **Get to know your neighbors.** Get a group of four to five households together and collaborate. Identify who may need additional help in an emergency: who are the elderly, which families have small children, anyone who might need additional assistance. Also, who has emergency response skills? Doctors, EMTs, police or fire department personnel in the area that are used to handling crisis situations are all valuable resources.
- **Know where your utility shut-off access points to the house are.** It doesn't mean you should shut them off in a natural disaster situation necessarily, but if there is an obvious gas leak, for example, that information could save lives.

These are just a few steps to ensure that your family and neighborhood community will be able to more comfortably weather a natural disaster or other crisis situation if we are cut off from normal sources of sustenance. Simple steps that will build community and help your family too!

## SNA Board Nominations Needed for 2011-13 Term

Yes, it's that time of year again when we look to our fellow Samish Neighborhood residents for good-natured, hard-working and energetic volunteers to serve on the Samish Neighborhood Association Board of Directors.

Terms of office are two years, but they fly by due to the behind-the-scenes camaraderie, teamwork and collaboration that minimize the workload for everyone.

We meet at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at the Community Baptist Church at 810 S. Samish Way next to the Elks Lodge.

Here is your opportunity to work with enthusiastic colleagues and be involved in helping plan the future growth in our neighborhood, as well as addressing neighborhood issues to ensure we maintain the quality of life we have now and for future generations. We work collaboratively with developers, city planners and property owners in ensuring that your interests are represented. To nominate yourself or a neighbor (with her/his permission), contact Shirley Forslof, 734-3347, [forslofs@comcast.net](mailto:forslofs@comcast.net), or Christopher Morrison, 714-8732, [morrisonglass@qwestoffice.net](mailto:morrisonglass@qwestoffice.net).

Elections will be held at our annual meeting on March 16 at the Elks Lodge at 710 S. Samish Way (see agenda, page 1).

Nominations from the floor, with consent of nominee, will be accepted prior to the vote.

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### Samish Neighborhood News

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**Editor:** Pauline Palmer / **Assistant Editor:** Ginny Davidson

**Meetings:** 7 p.m. Community Baptist Church, 810 Samish Way,

second Tuesday of the month, except March (annual meeting) and September (annual picnic).

**To sign up at our Web site:** Include your email address on your membership form and go to [www.samishneighborhood.org](http://www.samishneighborhood.org)

## Get To Know Your Neighbors

By Kincaid Davidson  
Samish Neighborhood Resident

The quaking aspen, *Populus tremuloides*, is a beautiful tree that grows over most of the United States. It is most noted for its beautiful fall color and for the noise the leaves make as they quake in a slight breeze. Usually, people think about the quaking aspen seen on the hillsides in Colorado, but we have our own quaking aspen right here in Whatcom county and on Samish Hill.

We have a small stand of quaking aspen on our property consisting of about twenty trees.

A stand of quaking aspen are usually connected to each other by a common root system and each tree is actually a stem growing from root runners within the common root system. This is why when they change color in the autumn, all the trees in a particular stand change at the same time.

The trees can be as tall as 100 feet with big heart-shaped leaves from one to three inches long. When the leaves change from dark green in the fall, they turn a golden, yellow, orange or red color, usually after the first frost. In contrast, the bark is smooth and white.

The quaking aspen is often used for landscaping, but care must be taken as the root runners can be invasive and as long as 100 feet. They usually live less than 100 years and the wood is soft and brittle.

Pictures (right) provided by  
Google Images on Web

## Vote to Change Samish Neighborhood Association Tax Status

By April Markiewicz, SNA Board Member

Please be sure to attend our annual Samish Neighborhood Association meeting in March. We will be voting to approve the proposed changes to our Articles of Incorporation on file with the Washington Secretary of State. The changes we are proposing are required for us to pursue changing our tax status with the IRS from a 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization. The major difference between the two is that a 501(c)(4) may lobby for legislation and participate in political campaigns and elections, as long as campaigning is not the organization's primary purpose. This ability to "influence legislation" on the behalf of Samish Neighborhood Association interests, however, comes at a price. The limitation is that donations made to us cannot be deducted from the donor's taxable income. Conversely, 501(c)(3) status limits our ability to "influence legislation" but does allow donors to deduct donations from their taxable income.

Our current 501(c)(4) status has prevented us from obtaining grant funds from local companies, since many require the recipient to have 501(c)(3) status. As such we have had to rely on membership dues to fund all of our business operations including room rentals for meetings, the biannual newsletter, and the costs of our annual spring meeting and fall picnic. By changing our status we will have greater access to funding opportunities to help defray these costs, as well as help us keep membership dues as low as possible.

The original Articles and the proposed changes have been posted on our website at [http://samishneighborhood.org/samish\\_neighborhood\\_assoc](http://samishneighborhood.org/samish_neighborhood_assoc) since August. Please take a few minutes to review them and be prepared to vote to approve them (or not) at our annual meeting.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please contact me at (360) 734-4498 and provide your address. We welcome all comments, suggestions and editorial changes. Please send them to me: April Markiewicz, 235 Milton Street, Bellingham, WA 98229 or email them to [apriljm@comcast.net](mailto:apriljm@comcast.net) by March 1. Thank you!



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[www.samishneighborhood.org](http://www.samishneighborhood.org)



## Membership Benefits

Your dues maintain our ability to host our March annual meeting and the September annual picnic. These two events provide you with the opportunity to meet other interested neighbors, get an update on what is being proposed in the neighborhood, and provide feedback to the SNA Board on any issues of concern to you. Your dues also enable us to provide informative newsletters to you by postal mail twice a year.

You can also sign up at our Web site to check out the latest SNA news, meeting minutes and neighborhood forum discussions. Please complete the membership form and add or update your email before you clip out the form and send your dues. Your email is not required and is used only for SNA-related matters.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I want to join my friends and neighbors as a member of the Samish Neighborhood Association, a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization. I want to be a member that supports and promotes the high quality of life in our neighborhood and city. I am enclosing payment of dues for \$15 household or \$12 seniors for the year March 2011 to March 2012. (Please return the form with your check.)

*Please Print*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 Household  \$12 Seniors  Renewal  New Member

**Send check and form to: S.N.A., P.O. Box 1551, Bellingham, WA 98227. To check on your membership status, contact Tim Wynn at 714-1366, [tim.wynn@comcast.net](mailto:tim.wynn@comcast.net).**