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NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC

NOON TO 3 P.M. SEPT. 11 AT
THE LAKE PADDEN PARK PICNIC PAVILLION

Salmon is Back!

Yes, salmon will return to our picnic. No, not by swimming up Padden Creek (although maybe in the future). Grillmeister Kin Davidson will be BBQing salmon fillets for all attendees who want them. For those not favoring fish, we'll also provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers. We'll also provide drinks.

If your last name begins with a letter between A and N, please bring a side dish or a salad. Last names starting with O thru Z please bring a dessert item. We've had some unique dishes at past picnics and hope to continue in that tradition. Dust off the old family recipes and bring something amazing!

We look forward to seeing you on the 11th. Enter the park through the east entrance and follow the road to the pavilion next to the playground. There is no extra charge for members of the Association. Guest fee is \$5 per person. Or, if you are not a current member, consider joining. Details are on the back of this newsletter, or you can join at the picnic. (Hey – where else can a family get an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring grilled salmon with sides, salad, drinks, and dessert.) Bring your folding chairs and maybe a blanket and we'll see you there, rain or shine.

President's Comments

The overall goal of the Samish Neighborhood Association is to maintain the neighborhood character and quality of life in Samish Neighborhood. We're fortunate to have Lake Padden Park included in our neighborhood, and I hope all residents recognize and appreciate how this park enriches our lives, not just for Samish but for everyone in the city. Nearly all of the rest of Samish comprises single-family residences. The board sees maintaining this status as paramount to preserving neighborhood character. Some developers and even some residents see preservation of neighborhood character as an inconvenient obstacle to commercial development interests. This sets the stage for possible adversarial relationships between character preservers and commercial developers. Character preservers are almost always neighborhood residents with limited resources and unrelated day jobs. Developers therefore enjoy an advantage because they have many resources and their business success often depends on getting commercial projects approved. Neighborhood character is often a strong consideration in home purchase decisions. Many Samish residents bought a home here because they liked the neighborhood character. Seeing it change after moving in can be disconcerting.

The city and county are engaged in a process to revise the Comprehensive Plan. State law requires this to occur periodically, and the current revision process has been going on since late last year. It is scheduled to conclude this fall after approval by both city and county councils. The city's revised Comp Plan will have a strong influence on city growth plans and neighborhood character for the next 8-10 years. Dick Conoboy's article in this newsletter will give you some highlights and lowlights of how the process is going, and how it could affect current homeowners.

I encourage all residents to come to our annual picnic on Sept. 11 at Lake Padden Park. It's an opportunity to chat with board members, express your concerns, meet neighbors, and share good food. If you have a favorite family recipe the picnic is a good time to show it off. I also encourage residents to join the Association if you are not already members. Membership information is in this newsletter, and you may pay dues at the picnic. We always hope for good weather but we'll be there rain or shine. The Seahawks open their regular season at Century-link Field that day against the Dolphins with a 1:05 PM kickoff time so you can enjoy over an hour of the picnic, a great lunch, and still catch most of the game on CBS.

One last thing – purely my opinion. If you haven't read Daniel Brown's book, *The Boys in the Boat*, you should. It's the true story of nine remarkable young men, UW students, who won the gold medal in the 8-man crew rowing event in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. And it's about a lot more than rowing. — *Steve Abell*

Garage Sale in the Ridgemont area

Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Ridgmont participants' driveways. Email Don Hale at don@donaldhale.com.

SNA Membership Benefits

Your dues maintain our ability to host our March annual business meeting and the September picnic. Your dues also enable us to mail informative newsletters to all Samish residents twice a year and cover expenses such as our post office box and website.

We appreciate the support of all members. We will happily accept new members at any time of year – for example, at the September picnic. Annual dues are \$15 or \$12 (senior) and will extend membership to the following April 1. If you have a question about your membership status call Steve Abell, 734-1098.

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 association. I want to be a member that supports and promotes the high quality of life in our neighborhood and in our city. I am enclosing payment of dues valid through March 31 of the following year.

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check all that apply

\$15 household \$12 seniors Renewal New Member

Send check and form to SNA, P.O. Box 4081, Bellingham, WA 98227. To check on membership status, contact Steve Abell at 734-1098, info@samishneighborhood.org.

Bellingham's Comprehensive Plan

A requirement of Washington State's Growth Management Act is that every ten years, cities such as Bellingham a review to update their Comprehensive Plans. Comprehensive Plans consider policy on such topics as land use, housing, transportation, critical areas, etc. Bellingham's last review of its Comprehensive Plan occurred in 2006. Last year the Planning Commission began its review of the plan in accordance with applicable laws, and earlier this year passed its recommendations to the City Council for its consideration and eventual vote. This process has now been ongoing for several months with City Council committee work sessions that continue to be open to the public.

All documents, comments and schedules can be found at the city's website at: <https://www.cob.org/services/planning/comprehensive>. This year, as well as ten years ago, the land use and housing chapters of the Plan have received the most attention from the public and the building industries. Written and oral comments on these topics can be found at the website mentioned above and also viewed at the Council's meeting page that contains videos of all the committee sessions on the plan. <https://www.cob.org/gov/Pages/meeting-materials.aspx>

There is still time to comment by attending and speaking at future work sessions and by writing to the city council at ccmail@cob.org. Many of the proposed changes may have profound effect on the quality of life of city residents. One such change is that concerning the policy on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), which are small apartments, attached or detached, in single family neighborhoods. These units raise substantial issues with regard to neighborhood character and density. Other contested topics include residential parking zones, neighborhood corner convenience stores, crime prevention, urban villages, transit-oriented development and much more. The time to get involved is now or others will decide the city policy on these important topics. Unfortunately, citizen participation in the comprehensive plan process has not been as substantial as it could be. The final hearing on the comprehensive plan is scheduled to take place on October 17th. Prior to that there will be sessions with public participation possible, but limited.

— Dick Conoboy

Here's the current schedule for upcoming meetings:

- Sept. 12 (tentative) - Committee of the Whole Work Session to discuss additional changes
- Sept. 19 - Committee of the Whole special meeting to discuss Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan and additional changes
- Sept. 26 - Committee of the Whole Work Session to review PRO Plan recommendations and additional changes
- Oct. 17 - Special Meeting Public Hearing
- Oct. 24 - Committee of the Whole Work Session - Adoption of Comprehensive Plan

Police Department Receives Accreditation

The Bellingham Police Department was awarded Law Enforcement Accreditation by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) at its spring conference this year in Kennewick.

Bellingham Police initiated the accreditation process in 2014 and has worked over the past two years to meet the policy and practice requirements to satisfy compliance with WASPC's 138 standards.

"This is a significant accomplishment and reflects our desire to be at the forefront of professional policing practices and programming in the State of Washington," said Bellingham Police Chief Clifford Cook. "I am very proud of our department and the men and women whose hard work and dedication have made this recognition possible."

The WASPC Accreditation program started more than 36 years ago and was one of the first programs of its kind in the United States. Many other state and national accrediting organizations have modeled their programs after WASPC, which requires agency compliance with both operational and administrative standards. Currently 44 city/municipal police departments, 10 county sheriff offices and two state agencies in Washington are accredited.

— Lt. Bob Vander Yacht, BPD, kindly gave his permission to include his article.

Samish Neighborhood News

published twice annually by the Samish Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 4081, Bellingham, WA 98227
Editor: Greg McCracken. Meetings held at 7 p.m., second Thursday of the month in the basement of the Community Baptist Church, 810 Samish Way, except in March (general meeting) and September (picnic).
To receive this newsletter by email, send a request to info@samishneighborhood.org

Bellingham's New Safe Outdoor Program

Illegal campsites are an ongoing problem in some neighborhoods of our city, including Samish. The Mayor's office has put together a new collaboration of private and civic resources, called the Safe Outdoor Program (SOP), to address this issue. It would be relatively easy to have law enforcement close any camps that are found and force the residents to leave. This only addresses part of the problem. Where do the displaced residents go? What cleanup procedures are needed, and who will do the cleanup? Fortunately, the SOP considers this, and here's a very brief summary of the plan:

Once a campsite has been selected based on specific criteria, the Police Department, the city departments of Public Works, Planning, and Parks, the Whatcom County Health Department, Washington Conservation Corp, and the Opportunity Council will work together to reduce the number of illegal camps. This joint effort is aimed at moving us toward a goal of making our outdoor spaces safe for everyone.

A five-day notice to vacate will be given to the selected camp. Police will provide security for the cleanups, which will be managed and carried out by Public Works and Parks. Cleaning up a site may be complicated by dangerous articles left on the site like used syringes or weapons. The Opportunity Council Homeless Outreach Team will visit the site during the five-day period and try to put residents together with resources available in the community. Without this important step to help residents the camp is likely to just pop up somewhere else and the problems continue there. The city is trying to implement a better overall solution.

Please,
**DON'T FEED
THE ANIMALS**
Thanks.

No, this is not a caution about feeding zoo animals. It's a caution to not put food out for our local urban animals like squirrels, raccoons, and deer. The Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife and our local Bellingham Police strongly discourage this.

While putting food out may be well-intentioned, it may lead to undesirable and dangerous wildlife visitors and serious, destructive damage to your own property and neighbors' properties. Raccoons and coyotes, in particular, can

be dangerous to both small children and pets. Once animals find food in your yard they will be back regularly to look for more, and they may not stop with your yard alone. So please – don't start this by putting food out for wild animals.

Keeping up with What's What



There are several ways to access neighborhood information if you have Internet access:

- www.samishneighborhood.org is our website. On it you can read minutes of past board meetings, see notes of future meetings and announcements, and find links to other useful and interesting information.
- www.facebook.com/samishneighborhoodassociation is our Facebook page. Anyone can access it but only Facebook members can post or make comments.
- <https://samishhill.nextdoor.com> - Sign up for this Nextdoor login page for Samish Hill (aka Samish Neighborhood). This is a free private network that Samish residents can listen in or contribute to ongoing on-line conversations (like having a friendly chat with your "Nextdoor" neighbor). If you're interested in law enforcement news, Bellingham's two NPO's (Neighborhood Police Officers) post messages to Nextdoor.

Board of Directors

Steve Abell (president), Dick Conoboy (vice president and MNAC alternative), Tom Read (treasurer), Joe Carpenter (secretary), Judy Brightman, Kevin Probasco (MNAC representative), Garey Vodopich, Don Hale, Junga Subedar, Joy Hale, Nikki Long

Board meetings are held 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at the Community Baptist Church, 810 Samish Way, and is open to all. There is a public comment period at the beginning of each meeting so that anyone attending can be heard. These public comment are limited to three minutes, but issues needing more time can be put on the meeting agenda by

contacting the President of the Association.

Email info@samishneighborhood.org.