



FALL 2015

NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC

**NOON TO 3 P.M. SEPT. 13 AT
THE LAKE PADDEN PARK PICNIC PAVILLION**

We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting and picnic at Lake Padden. As always, we are at the covered shelter right next to the playground. Enter through the east park entrance. There is no extra charge for members of the Association. Fee for guests is \$5.

If your last name starts between A-P, please bring a side dish or salad. For those with last names between Q-Z, please bring a dessert. Our association will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, and veggie burgers. We will also provide soda.

If you know any elected officials or citizens running for election, please be sure to ask them if they are coming. Bring your chair or blanket and we'll see you there, rain or shine.

President's Comments

At our general business meeting back in March, and since, we've added three new members to our Board of Directors: Judy Brightman, Joy Hale, and Tom Read. We now have 11 board members. Our overall goal 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 homes. The board sees preservation of this status paramount to preserving neighborhood character.

A few changes in zoning occurred over the past year that concerned us. Dick Conoboy's article will provide you with details. Although quite small in area, we saw some of these as the possible start of an alarming long-term trend toward commercialization that would intrude on the single-family residential character of Samish. We lost these small battles but will continue to watch to see if the trend continues. We believe most Samish residents live here to enjoy the single-family residential character and want to see it preserved whenever possible.

I encourage all residents to come to our annual picnic on Sept. 13 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.

I hope to see you at the picnic. I'll be there with an old family recipe for a grilled vegetable dish. We will provide hotdogs, burgers, beverages, and the fixin's. We always hope for good weather but we'll be there rain or shine. The Seahawks have an away game that day with a 10 AM kick-off time so you can be a TV 12th Man and then come to the picnic.

Board of Directors

Steve Abell, president

Dick Conoboy, vice president
and MNAC representative

Joe Carpenter

Judy Brightman

Kevin Probasco,
MNAC alternative

Garey Vodopich

Don Hale

Junga Subedar

Tom Read

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 comments 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.

Garage Sale in the Ridgemont area

Sept. 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Don Hale at 319-4141 if you wish to participate He will publicize it in the Bellingham Herald and online.

Keeping You and Your Neighbors Safe from Crime

You live in a safe neighborhood, so after seeing the kids off to school you get in your car and drive off to work not thinking about leaving the garage door open or the lawn mower in the front yard. At the end of the day you drive up to your house and get a feeling that something is wrong. The items in your garage are not as you left them, you realize the lawnmower isn't out front, and several tools are missing from inside the garage.

This is an all too common theme officers discover when responding to help victims of burglaries, vehicle prowls and thefts. In the big picture of life a stolen lawnmower, some stolen tools and a mess is no big deal, right? Wrong — the criminals who steal these items do so in order to sustain a lifestyle that has very deleterious effects on normal residents and their neighborhoods.

So what can we do about this, how can we make our house, our neighborhood and, most importantly, our family safer? Here is a short list:

- Most importantly, get to know your neighbors. If you don't know the first name of your neighbors and where they work, go knock on their door and start a conversation or host a block party. Being neighborly helps each of us understand what is normal for them and any special circumstances they might have, such as medical issues or children with special needs. This will also make it easier to help each other in times of need or to bring up a future issue.
- Keep your yard clear of debris and your vegetation trimmed. Your pathways, house numbers, front door and other access should be easily identifiable and shouldn't allow someone to hide or ambush you. Keeping the vegetation trimmed also has the benefit of allowing your exterior lights to shine where they needed.
- Use good quality LED or incandescent lights on pathways and entrances/exits to your house. These good quality lights will provide good color rendition and better contrast than CFL's or sodium lights.
- Use your outdoor space, especially on the roadside. This allows you to say hi to neighbors and to strangers that may be out on your street. I make a point of saying "Hi" to any stranger on my street to find out 1) Are they new to the area? 2) Do they live in the neighborhood? Or 3) Is it a criminal looking for their next victim?
- Consider installing a security system and make sure you place a sign in your yard that clearly identifies that your house is protected by a security company.
- Make sure you call 911 if you see any suspicious activity, persons or vehicles in your neighborhood. This will allow the officer that is working the area to respond and investigate the activity at the time of the incident. It may also help officers put information together on a current investigation.

Being a good neighbor doesn't only help yourself, but makes your neighborhood a better community that you can be proud to live in.

This article by Neighborhood Police Officer Eric Osterkamp originally appeared in Bellingham's Southside Living publication. He kindly offered it to us for this newsletter.

Avoid Moisture Problems in Your Home

Here's some advice from Dave Blake of the Northwest Clean Air Agency. In his presentation to us at our June board meeting he talked about the problems of mold and condensation here in the Northwest. Here are a few ways to prevent condensation and resultant mold growth:

- Keep relative humidity below about 40 to 50 percent.
- Control (reduce) relative humidity by using effective bathroom, kitchen, and utility room exhaust fans above common moisture sources. Make sure the clothes dryer is venting properly. Cook with lids and do not dry clothing on indoor clothes lines or racks. Check that exhaust fans are actually moving air: the suction should hold up a tissue.
- Make sure the "used" indoor air gets exchanged daily: Flush the residence aggressively with fresh outside air by opening doors and windows for 5 minutes or so; if windy, maybe 60 seconds will do.
- Confirm your safe relative humidity level using a reliable digital gauge. A good relative humidity gauge (called a thermometer/hygrometer) will cost about \$25 and is cheap insurance to protect property and occupant health.

Use a dehumidifier if necessary.

For more information, including some great instructional videos, visit www.nwcleanair.org/aqprograms/indoorair.htm

— Kevin Probasco

Samish Neighborhood Rezones

After Planning Commission recommendations, three rezones were approved by the City Council for the Samish Neighborhood in 2015 in spite of neighborhood objections.

- **801 Samish Way:** This was approved for a rezone from Residential Single to Commercial Planned (office only). The Planning Commission, consisting entirely of developers and related business people, saw no reason to vote no. The city is crying out for residential infill but the council chooses to rezone almost two acres of prime residential land to commercial use to accommodate one business.
- **Area 9 Samish Way (next to Elks Lodge):** This was approved for a rezone from Commercial (non-retail) to Commercial Planned in order to accommodate the building of apartments. It was rubber stamped by the same Planning Commission. The city laments having little in the way of affordable housing but asked nothing along those lines from this developer. We will now have another rental complex that will seek market rates, leaving the working poor in the lurch again.
- **100 Block Ashley Street:** This was approved for a rezone from Commercial Auto to Commercial Planned also to accommodate an apartment complex. The Planning Commission, not surprisingly, saw no alternative to this rezone. The city claims that most people moving to Bellingham are looking for affordable single family homes. Again, in an area that is rapidly becoming overcrowded, the council asked nothing from the developer of land that would have been ideal for the small and affordable houses proposed in the Infill Tool Kit.

— Dick Conoboy

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 dan-

gerous 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.

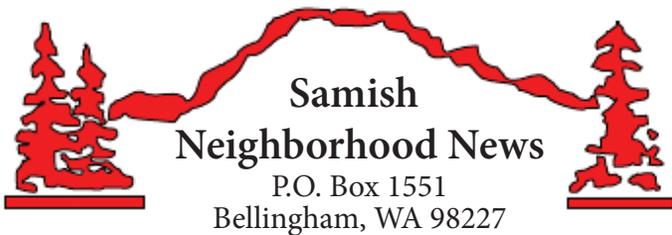
Keeping up with What's What

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.

Samish Neighborhood News

published twice annually by the Samish Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 1551, 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



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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.

Our new dues collection schedule went into full effect on April 1, 2015. We appreciate all current and new members who accommodated this change to annual dues payment. We will happily accept new members at any time of year – for example, at the September picnic – but dues will be \$15/\$12 and will extend membership only until 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 for April 1 to 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 1551, Bellingham, WA 98227. To check on membership status, contact Steve Abell at 734-1098, info@samishneighborhood.org.