

REPORT ON SOUTHSIDE CIVIC ACTIVITIES

for

League of Women Voters from Pam Went

Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods:

Neighbors from all five coalition neighborhoods, Edgemoor, Fairhaven, Happy Valley, South and South Hill, are invited to attend the public meeting at Fairhaven Middle School, Wednesday November 7th at 7 PM, to provide the requisite public comment on the Working Documents of the Fairhaven Neighborhood Plan Update. The draft is the result of months of difficult collaborative work between citizens who live in the neighborhood and commercial property owners who own land there. Business owners have chosen to not participate in the work although their input is continually solicited. It also reflects vital feedback from a questionnaire sent to all residents, businesses and landowners early last year. The neighborhood is seeking consensus from the community in order for the plan to go forward for further consideration by city planners and ultimately the City Council.

Chuckanut Mountains Park District: Citizens in both Skagit and Whatcom Counties came together a couple of years ago to investigate ways to protect the unique Chuckanut Mountain Range from development and unmanaged tourism. At the suggestion of former Mayor Mark Asmundson the group began to investigate a “metropolitan park district” as defined by our RCW. The goal is to implement the many plans that have been funded and created in both counties over the past 20 years by land trusts, parks departments and other agencies but never followed due to lack of an ongoing funding source. After holding informational meetings throughout the proposed district for nearly a year, a petition campaign was successfully completed in order to place the concept on the ballot for voters. The proposal is currently under consideration by Boundary Review Boards in both counties. The goal is simply to place the proposal before voters where they can make an educated decision about whether they would support the creation of the district. Once the Boundary Review process is complete an educational campaign will commence in order to clear up the considerable confusion over the intent and purpose of the Chuckanut Mountains Park District.

Buzz: A new incarnation of the “Fairhaven Harbor” development proposal for the site in front of the tennis club is under review. Our Planning and Community Development Director Tim Stewart is inviting comments on the proposal by November 16th. More info at www.cob.org. “Nostalgia”, a new and used women’s vintage/retro clothing and accessories store has opened on 11th Street in the new Young Building. The Bellingham Bay Community Boating Center recently opened on the Fairhaven Waterfront at 501 Harris; it’s a non-profit organization that will offer classes, instruction & rentals for kayaks. And finally, visitors to Fairhaven’s business district will find a Grinch will be dropping by and posing for photos starting after Thanksgiving and on every Saturday till Christmas! It’s the 50th anniversary of the publication of *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas!*