

To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Parking plan for Fairhaven Village

----- Forwarded by Nicole C Oliver/mayor/cob on 02/22/2012 12:38 PM -----

From: Orell Russi <orellrussi@me.com>
To: Nicole Oliver <noliver@cob.org>
Cc: Bellingha City Council <ccmail@cob.org>
Date: 02/20/2012 02:39 PM
Subject: Parking plan for Fairhaven Village

Dear Nicole:

My wife Judy Russi and myself are owners of a retail store The Wool Station at 1103 11th in Fairhaven as well as the adjoining Russi Sales Inc. our wholesale division.

It is our opinion after six years in the core of Fairhaven that the parking situation is totally out of control in spite of the merchants and building owner's attempts to keep their tenants and employees from parking in front of stores and in general within the confines of the Fairhaven shopping district.

In our opinion the only way to sustain Fairhaven as a shopping and tourist destination is to provide more parking supply. As supply could take time to implement we also believe that **three hour parking** should be put in place as soon as possible. Parking enforcement is already active here.

After five years of watching Avenue Bread, Bellingham Bay Dental, Fairhaven Bicycle, Medical Massage and Medical Professional employees and owners park right in front of my window I made the decision, in order to keep what little is left of my sanity, to move my office out of Fairhaven. Now Judy has taken up the challenge leaving notes on cars and talking to the offenders and owners of stores and second level businesses. I've had people swing at me, swear, break one of our windows and even start a fire in the bush in front of our building over parking. One of the most notable offenders over the past three years has been the owner of Aveda Hair Salon that for some reason thought that he could unload his products in front of his store in the morning and then move his van for the day in front of ours. Hopefully Judy will have a better and safer adventure than I had, however, I do call her every hour to make sure that all is well.

For over fifteen years Judy and I sold our knitting products on the road traveling in CA, OR, WA, MT, ID, UT, AZ and Nevada. Most of our clients were in very similar villages to Fairhaven. In Ashland Oregon we were not even allowed to park in the core without a permit that had to be pre arranged. The owners and employees were not allowed to park in the shopping district at all, as is the case in LaConner and Port Townsend. In all those years and shops that we called on did we ever experience anything like the parking problem that we have here in Fairhaven.

We have also heard and witnessed that many people on the south side park their cars for free in Fairhaven and then take the buss to work downtown or the University.

Again I do believe that **three hour parking and some permitting** would solve 80% of the worsening problem. We are also not against parking meters.

Thank you for your consideration,

Orell Russi
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