Thank you for the past seven years

By Mayor Kelli Linville

After 41 years in public service, including seven years serving as the Mayor of Bellingham, I have chosen not to run for a third term in 2019. The years I have spent serving my hometown community have been some of the best and most rewarding of my career. I have achieved much of what I set out to accomplish.

I am proud to have strengthened connections and communications with City employees, partners, and the community. With help from my great department head team, City Council and City staff, we have moved forward on successful projects and collaborations like the waterfront, alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders, the City’s Greenway and Housing levies, the County’s EMS levy, the Lake Whatcom Management Plan, Galbraith Mountain conservation and recreation easements, new parks, activation of the Federal Building downtown with City offices, a biennial budget, and collaborative state lobbying goals for our community.

Results are all around us. Bellingham is a great place to live, and although we will always have more work to do, it is my hope that these efforts have helped restore confidence in local government.

What I have loved the most has been working with our staff and the public to accomplish these things together. It has been a huge honor and a very special experience to be Mayor of the town where I was born and raised – a town I love with all my heart.

I look forward to continuing to work with the public and the outstanding City employees throughout my final year in City Hall, and long after as a citizen of Bellingham.

– Mayor Kelli Linville
Old Town on its way to thriving urban village

The redevelopment of Old Town from light industrial to a thriving mixed-use urban village is moving forward as Northwest Recycling begins plans to relocate.

The City has entered into a development agreement with Parberry’s Inc., which operates Northwest Recycling in nine square blocks in Old Town, to relocate its industrial business to a more suitable, long-term location and redevelop their Old Town properties. The City would invest approximately $2.5 million in infrastructure, and the estimated cost to Parberry’s Inc. to relocate Northwest Recycling is $10-15 million. In addition to providing public infrastructure, the City would also provide Parberry’s an option to purchase the City-owned 600 W. Holly Street property.

“The Parberry family has been dedicated to Old Town and to Bellingham for many years. This transformation in Old Town will be only the most recent example of the Parberry family’s investment in our community,” Mayor Kelli Linville said.

Old Town is blessed with a connection to the water, views and vistas, historic resources, a pedestrian-friendly street grid and trail system, proximity to historic residential neighborhoods, presence of higher-education and a museum, and unique small businesses. The district is bordered by Bellingham’s downtown and waterfront districts to the south and the Lettered Streets and Columbia neighborhoods to the east and north.

Parberry’s owns about 46 percent of the developable property in the district. The area is interspersed with vacant land, retail and industrial businesses, homeless services, a small residential population, large parks and a fish hatchery.

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Boulevard Park is one of the most popular destinations in Bellingham. The park provides access to Bellingham Bay and South Bay Trail that connects downtown Bellingham to Fairhaven. This spring, Boulevard Park will undergo major renovations to update utility services for the park that will result in predictable, high quality utility services for years to come.

Currently, utilities serving this park travel over the pedestrian overpass at the north end of the park. Constructed in 1979, the overpass supports water, irrigation, power, sewer, and telecommunication utility services into the park. At the time the area was developed, there was no at-grade trail crossing into the park and the South Bay Trail and Taylor Dock did not yet exist.

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For 150 years, Old Town has been at the center of the Bellingham community, and for much of that time it has been a busy industrial route. Old Town is envisioned as an urban village, however – a community where people live, work and play – with eventually between 860 and 1,120 housing units and up to 400,000 square feet of commercial space. But the dominant current use is a light industrial operation that is incompatible with pedestrians and residents.

“Old Town has the ‘bones’ that make it an ideal candidate to transition from what it is today into a healthy and active neighborhood,” said Tara Sundin, community and economic development manager with the City of Bellingham. “This is a great time to make this transition.”

For more information, visit [www.cob.org/oldtown](http://www.cob.org/oldtown).

**Boulevard Park CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

Built almost entirely of wood, the overpass is damaged by rot and insect infestation. Severe damage to the structure was discovered in February 2016, and the overpass was declared unsafe and was closed to the public. Emergency repairs have been completed to stabilize the structure until the utilities can be relocated; however, it remains unsafe to open to pedestrians.

The new underground utility service lines will be installed throughout the park and up Bayview Drive. The project will impact park use on and off throughout the spring season.

This $3 million project is funded by Local Infrastructure Financing dollars, Real Estate Excise Taxes, and Greenway levy funds. A bid for the demolition and construction was awarded on Feb. 25 to Colacurcio Brothers, Inc. of Blaine, Wash.

**ALUMNI WEEKEND AT WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

May 17-19, 2019
For a full schedule of events, visit [www.alumni.wwu.edu/wwualumniweekend](http://www.alumni.wwu.edu/wwualumniweekend)

**SKI TO SEA**

May 26, 2019
Competitors from across the nation will participate in a seven-leg race that traverses Whatcom County. Three to eight-member teams will ski, run, bike, canoe and sea kayak from Mount Baker to Bellingham Bay.

**DOWNTOWN SOUNDS**

July 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7, 2019 5:30 - 9:30 pm at Bay and Prospect Streets

Downtown Bellingham Partnership presents family-friendly live music events featuring band performances, food vendors and a beer and wine garden for adults.

The City of Bellingham is proud to partner with Downtown Bellingham Partnership, Ski to Sea and Western Washington University to help make these events possible.

**Bellingham Police and Fire Departments support community health and safety**

Officer Jon Knutsen and Community Paramedic Joseph Frank work to help their community stay healthy and safe.

**JOSEPH FRANK**

Community Paramedic, Bellingham Fire Department

Joe Frank began his career in Bellingham Fire Department on Jan. 1, 2008. He began as an entry-level firefighter and worked his way up to EMS Captain. After eleven years working to make a difference in his community, Joe became the Community Paramedic on Jan. 1, 2019.

Joe helps people in the community find and decide on the best healthcare resources available to them. His role allows EMS and Fire crews to focus on imminent emergencies and divert frequent users of the 9-1-1 service toward long-term care.

**JON KNUTSEN**

Neighborhood Police Officer, Bellingham Police Department

Jon Knutsen began his career in law enforcement at the Bellingham Police Department in December 1999. He became a Neighborhood Police Officer in January 2019. Jon attends neighborhood meetings, provides safety presentations and trainings, and reaches out to the community to answer questions about public safety and police work.

As a former bike officer, Jon is open-minded and approachable, even though he often meets people in stressful moments of crisis. In his new role, he appreciates being able to provide the community with long-term solutions and the knowledge to be safe and prepared in their everyday lives.

For more information about the Community Paramedic and Neighborhood Police Officer programs, visit [www.cob.org/homeless](http://www.cob.org/homeless).