

INSIDE Bellingham

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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



▲ The Dirty Dan Harris sculpture has sat on the Fairhaven Village Green since 2003

NEIGHBORHOOD SMALL AND SIMPLE GRANTS

This spring, the Mayor restarted the City's Small and Simple Grant Program, which provides an award of up to \$5,000 to neighborhood associations to develop community-improvement projects.

The program is designed to offer neighborhoods a chance to collaborate on hands-on projects that support each unique neighborhood character and contribute to improving their community.

Examples of projects include graffiti removal, art projects, landscaping, planting street trees, creating emergency kits, installing bike racks or free libraries, and supporting community gardens.

Small and Simple Grants fund one-time projects that make positive changes to the community. Neighborhoods supply the up-front cost of each project and are reimbursed by the City if they are awarded a grant.

For more information on the grants or to contact your neighborhood to get involved, visit www.cob.org/neighborhoods.



■ Mayor Kelli Linville and City Council President Dan Hammill at Project Connect in 2015

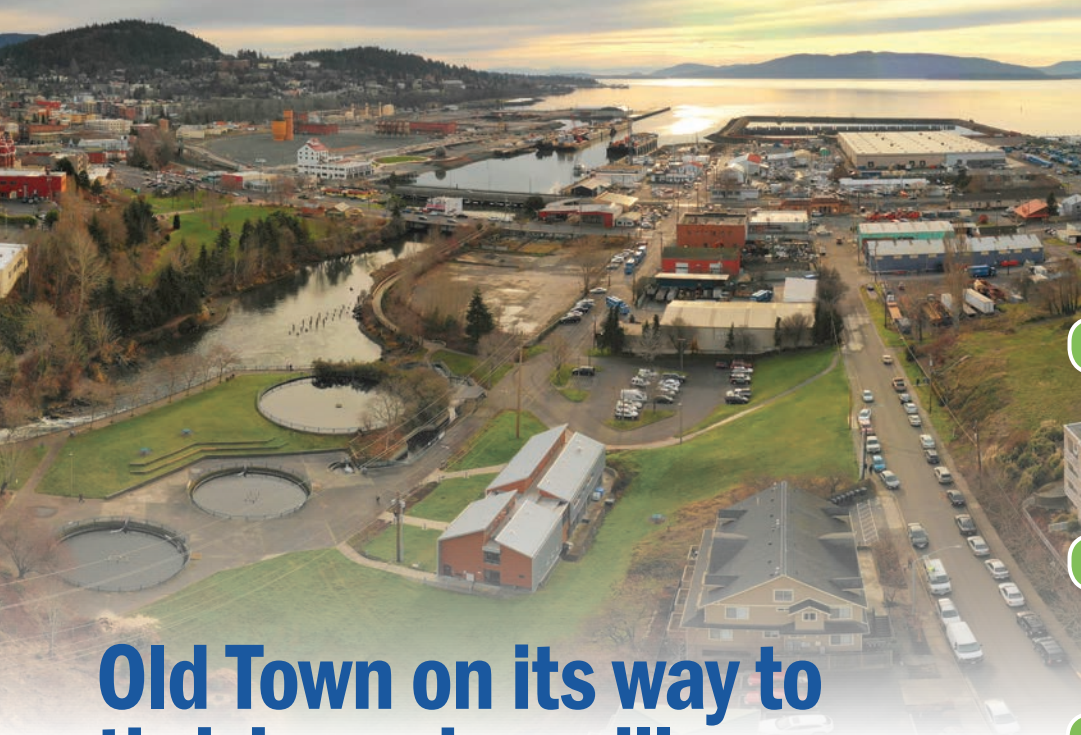
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Old Town on its way to thriving urban village

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



▲ Parberry's Inc. operates Northwest Recycling in Old Town



▲ Overlooking Whatcom Creek at Maritime Heritage Park in Old Town

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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HOW PUBLIC WORKS IMPACTS YOU

DO YOU...

Recreate in Lake Whatcom?

In 2018, Public Works inspected **12,444** watercraft to keep Invasive Species out of our lake

Like trees?

Since 2017, Public works planted **29,820** trees in restoration sites

Ride a bike or drive?

Since 2017, Public Works swept **3,000** lane miles of City streets

Use a stroller, walker or wheelchair?

In 2018, Public Works installed **95** ramps accessible to you

Flush the toilet?

In 2018, Public Works inspected **150** miles and cleaned **235** miles of sewer main

Use the sidewalks?

In 2018, Public Works replaced **17,000** linear feet of concrete sidewalks

Drink water?

In 2018, Public Works teated 6 billion gallons of drinking water for **90,000** people – putting Bellingham in the **top 1% worldwide** for safe reliable drinking water

For more information, visit www.cob.org/gov/dept/pw

City Council 101

One of the most influential things a citizen can do to effect change in their community is to attend a City Council meeting. The City Council is the legislative body responsible for setting public policies, adopting long-range plans, approving the budget and taxes, and passing laws. Here are a couple facts about your City Council:

- The Council is made up of seven elected officials. Six of the members are elected by voters in the wards they live in and serve four-year terms. The seventh councilmember is elected every two years in an at-large capacity.
- City Council meetings are held every other Monday at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.
- Agenda items and actions can be tracked in the Agenda Bill History on the City's website.
- Committees of 2019 are: Justice; Public Safety; Public Works and Natural Resources; Planning and Community Development; Finance, Personnel and Economic Development; Parks and Recreation; and Committee of the Whole.
- During committee meetings, councilmembers receive reports and information, ask questions, discuss agenda items and, when appropriate, vote on a recommended action for consideration by the full Council.
- Anyone can speak for up to three minutes at regular meetings during the public comment period.
- Local government has a separation of powers like state and federal governments, but with a Mayor-Council form of government. Council is the legislative branch and is separate from the executive branch (Mayor) and judicial branch (Municipal Court).



- To stay up-to-date with issues that are before the Council, visit [meetings.cob.org](#) to watch past videos and review meeting materials. Agendas for upcoming meetings are posted there five days prior to the meetings.

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Boulevard Park is getting new utilities

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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■ Boulevard Park will undergo major renovations this spring



▲ Broadway Park by Lauren McClanahan

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

The City of Bellingham worked with Western Washington University to conduct a community survey in Fall 2018. The City conducts a community survey every 2-3 years, and we use the information to help refine and prioritize City work goals.

We received a total of 1,295 responses, and while residents state that they feel we have a very high quality of life in Bellingham, the top three issues on residents' minds were homelessness, housing affordability, and public safety. This is the second survey in which residents have responded that homelessness is the most pressing issue facing Bellingham.

"I thank the citizens of Bellingham for speaking up and telling us what issues they want solved in our community," Mayor Kelli Linville said. "Homelessness is an issue that I care deeply about, and we invest time and resources every day to find county-wide solutions to this complex issue."

To read the full survey, go to www.cob.org/surveys.

Old Town

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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.

COMING UP

ALUMNI WEEKEND AT WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

May 17-19, 2019

For a full schedule of events, visit www.alumni.wvu.edu/wwwalumniweekend

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.

Boulevard Park

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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



▲ Boulevard Park overpass underwent emergency repairs to stabilize it until utilities are moved

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.



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 fire fighter 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.