



Burlington is the Hub City & the place to be!

This is a great time to be in Burlington, whether you are a resident or are part of a local business, and that is because Burlington is a super location for just about everything! In the year ahead, YOU are invited to help put a new long range plan together that takes advantage of all the great ideas generated in 2013. There will be a number of community meetings throughout the year, and the City will keep you posted.

Planning for the long term future

Burlington is a small service center in a complicated situation and the UW Green Futures Lab brought a fresh and innovative community involvement process together, listened to the citizens and businesses, put beautiful exhibits and alternatives together, and facilitated setting a new vision in motion for the future.

Burlington is located mostly in the 100-year floodplain on the Skagit River, with a polluted Gages Slough wetland corridor running diagonally through the community, and beautiful farmland all around the edges that must be preserved. The city is wrapped around the intersection of SR 20 and I-5 with the BNSF main line and rail yard right through the heart of town along with spurs to the east and west. Combine that with the 23-year old retail strip along I-5 and a 111 year old Downtown that is just starting to get healthy again. This was no simple project!!!!

Looks like a new Zoning Code will be a definite product and the environmental impact statement process will provide a forum to take the ideas and options from the UW Green Futures Lab forward. The Downtown Futures Task Force and the Burlington Community Task Force are already taking action, looking at Complete Streets, a Downtown Historic District, and a range of improvements to and connections with the Retail Core in the I-5 corridor.

Because of all the great ideas and visioning that happened this year, we are well ahead of other cities and towns. We are moving forward with the wealth of ideas and alternatives, and currently scoping out an environmental impact statement to

seek out the fresh vision and specific goals the Citizens and Businesses want to pursue, over the course of the next year or two with the update of the Comprehensive Plans. This will continue to be a lot of fun and we are getting the business community, residents, and elected officials INVOLVED, all thanks to the UW Green Futures Lab!!!

Flood Hazard Mitigation Program

Four significant flood events, 1990, 1995, 2003 and 2006 affected every jurisdiction that has floodplain properties, and Burlington is no exception. Following the 1990 flood event, Dike District #12 began work on the levee system, starting with installing clay keyways to prevent water from coming through the dikes. After the 1995 flood, the Dike District and the City partnered to acquire the old National Foods Spray Fields, now Skagit River Park, so that there would be adequate space to build wide levee tops and long backslopes, to prevent a blowout of the levees in a major flood, but allow for overtopping.

There was also a process that took place after the Endangered Species Act requirements in this region, and that was to have a federal consultation on how the levees are to be designed and maintained to protect endangered fish species.

The city and the district partnered on detailed engineering and geotechnical studies to get the existing levees into compliance with federal standards so that it might be possible to have the some of the levee segments certified as providing 100-year flood protection. The purpose of that work is to attempt to keep flood insurance rates somewhat lower, particularly in light of the Biggert-Waters Act that is raising everyone's flood insurance rates. The city and the district also have an Interlocal Agreement for public access along the levees that are owned by the Dike District; connecting public access from levees to Gages Slough and all the plans for complete streets/ nonmotorized opportunities are key parts of the long range plans.

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Mayor's Message

It is common at this time of year to look back upon our accomplishments of the past year. I guess at City Hall we are no different. In 2013 Burlington faced obvious challenges such as the I-5 Bridge collapse but, also many successes were accomplished:

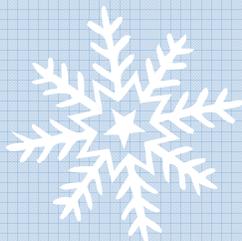
- ✧ Burlington, once again, ranked at or near the top of all cities in the State of Washington in sales tax revenue generation, based on a per capita ratio, thanks to the tremendous efforts of our retailers.
- ✧ Burlington Fire Department added four new career firefighter positions, as well as bolstered the ranks and the role of our volunteer firefighters as we transition our fire department to a higher level of service to our citizens.
- ✧ burlingtonwa.gov is the new web address for the city's new webpage, offering many new communication tools for our citizens.
- ✧ The city was able to negotiate a new interlocal agreement with Skagit County to provide jail services and also allowing funding for two police officer positions.

These are a few of the things we were able to accomplish in 2013. We have plans for bringing more services to our citizens in 2014.

I am sure there are things that are important to you that we are not aware of, so please feel free to call or email anytime. Or stop by one of our City Council meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. We look forward to hearing from you.

Steve Sexton, Mayor

steves@burlingtonwa.gov
360-755-2395



Winter Adult Reading Months - Stay WARM at the Burlington Public Library

January, February, and March are Winter Adult Reading Months (W.A.R.M.) at the Burlington Public Library. This year's theme is "Literary Elements", which will celebrate science, and the influence that science has had on books, literature, and reading. Earn points by reading new books, writing book reviews, and attending interesting events at the library. Raffles will be held monthly for e-reader devices and other fantastic prizes. We hope that you can join us for this exciting reading challenge at the library, which will be free and open to all adults.



NEW WEBSITE

Our new website allows us to communicate with you! Be sure to sign up for notifications including meeting agendas, emergency notifications, road closures, etc. To sign up click on the "NOTIFY ME" **green colored** banner located on the left side at: www.burlingtonwa.gov



2013 has been a time of growth, change and renewal for the Burlington Fire Department. Here are some highlights of the activities and changes in the past year.

- Local 4111 of the International Association of Firefighters representing the paid firefighters of Burlington successfully negotiated a new three year contract with the City. This contract represents the solid working relationship between our full-time firefighters and the City.
- Four full-time firefighters were hired in June. These new firefighters are the result of a successful grant application by the City and the Fire Department. The grant award was funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program from the Department of Homeland Security. The grant provides the wages and benefits for our four new firefighters for two years. At the end of the grant period, the City will continue to fund these much needed additional personnel for our Fire Department. Our new firefighters are Jimmy Lyons, Marcus Reinhard, Aaron Solowski, and Andy Brown.
- Also in June, the Burlington Fire Department welcomed our new Fire Chief, David Nielson. Chief Nielson replaced Lonnie Rash who had left for the benefit of his family. Chief Nielson brings 32 years of experience in the fire service to Burlington. He had previously worked in fire departments or fire districts in Utah, California, and Oregon. Chief Nielson has successfully worked with volunteer and paid firefighters throughout his career and brings his expertise in emergency medical services, hazmat, administration and of course firefighting to help the Burlington Fire Department to meet current and future challenges facing the community and the Department.
- July brought the start of a new work schedule for the full-time firefighters. Previously they had worked a rotating schedule of 12 and 24 hour shifts. With the addition of four new firefighters it was now possible to begin a more traditional shift structure. The full-time firefighters continue to be augmented by the volunteer firefighters working side by side to protect our community.
- It has to be said often and loudly that the Burlington Fire Department could not provide the high level of service it is proud of, if it were not for the volunteer firefighters and support staff. They have been the heart of the Fire Department since its inception. The volunteer firefighters continue to round out the staffing 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Between the full-time staff and the volunteers, there are at least four firefighters on duty at all times.

Often, there are five firefighters on duty which enhances our ability to respond to a wide variety of emergency incidents and calls for help from our citizens and visitors to Burlington.

- The Burlington Fire Department continue to build the ranks of the volunteer firefighters, by bringing 6 more on board since the spring of this year, and we plan on adding 6 more volunteers in the near future.
- By the end of this year there will be another new addition to the Fire Department, as well. A new position has been authorized for the BFD to hire a Division Chief to be the new Training Officer. Training is a critical part of effective, safe, and efficient fire and emergency medical service (EMS) response. The addition of a dedicated, full-time training officer is a significant and crucial step forward for the Fire Department and for the citizens and visitors of Burlington. Consistent, thorough, and expert training helps to make our firefighters safer and better at their jobs, and also increases the safety of everyone within the City.
- Recently, an agreement was reached between the Mt. Vernon Fire Department and the Burlington Fire Department to help each other in times of emergency. It is an automatic aid agreement. Although both departments have been doing this sort of thing for many years this agreement formalizes our relationship and makes it easier for each of us to help the other.
- Finally, you may be aware that the State of Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) had performed a review and evaluation of the City of Burlington and the Burlington Fire Department in 2011 / 2012. The evaluation and subsequent rating is a means of classifying communities with reference to the effectiveness of their fire defenses. It is fair to say the results of the review were not as good as expected. Based on the results of the review and the areas of deficiency, a plan was formulated to make corrections and improvements. It is important to know that the review encompasses many areas outside of the City, or of the Fire Department, but which still impact our effectiveness. Some the outside agencies whose operations affect our Fire Department are the Skagit PUD water district and Skagit County 911 dispatch center. Of the areas where the Burlington Fire Department can make changes and improvements, we have done so and continue to do so.
- Most of the changes noted above were needed anyway, but also have helped us to improve our rating for the next time. The plan for improvement we have been implementing is starting to pay off, and it shows. Please feel free to call us for a tour, or just to come by and talk. We will be glad to show you around, talk about our success and defeats and how we are improving our levels of service every day. Our phone number is 360-755-0261. Chief Nielson's extension is 7601. Please see us on the City of Burlington website, too.



Free unlimited access to more than 400 self-paced eLearning courses from the **Microsoft IT Academy** is now available at the Burlington Public Library.

Microsoft IT Academy

The IT Academy offers technology courses on three levels - basic digital literacy skills, Microsoft Office Skills, and advanced skills for Microsoft professional certification. Access to the Microsoft IT Academy is provided through a collaboration between the Burlington Public Library, Microsoft, the Washington State Library, and the Washington State Legislature.

“Basic technology skills, especially Microsoft Office skills (word processing and spreadsheets) are critical in today’s world and are needed for almost every new job created,” said Karen Prasse, Reference Librarian, Burlington Public Library. “This is a great opportunity for people to learn the basics or gain professional skills that can lead to quality careers.”

An enrollment code, needed to sign up for the IT academy, can be obtained in person at the library. The library also offers high speed broadband access to the Internet, and computers with extended use for participants in the program.

For more information, contact the library at 820 E Washington Ave., Burlington, WA 98233, phone 360-755-0760, email blibrary@burlingtonwa.us or visit the library website: burlingtonwa.gov/library and select IT Academy under Classes & Events.

Police Department



As your Community Resource Officer, I have been working with community groups to reduce crime and the fear of crime through collaborative efforts including training and increased two way communications.

One of my primary functions is to educate both business and community citizen groups to lessen their chance becoming a victim of crime. Some of the educational presentations that I created and currently have available include:

- Preventing Fraud and Forgery
- Burglary Prevention
- Neighborhood Block Watch Program Creation
- The Dangers of “Sexting” (Inappropriate Text Messaging and Consequences)
- Identifying Drug Use in Children
- Gang Awareness
- Counterfeit Money Awareness and Identification Techniques

If you don’t see a topic that you would like to have presented to your neighborhood group, association, business or employee group please contact me and I will create one to address your specific needs.

Together we can enhance the quality of life and commerce in Burlington.

Contact me at the Burlington Police Department at (360) 755-0921, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, or email me at jedc@ci.burlington.wa.us.

Officer Jed Cates, *Community Resource Officer*

Phone: 360-755-0921 Weekdays 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Email: jedc@burlingtonwa.gov

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

December 26 — January 20

Residents living inside the *city limits* of Burlington may haul their Christmas tree to the **FREE Self-Service Christmas Tree Disposal** at the City Shop located at:

951 S. Section Street





Ready to Read

Building reading-readiness skills for our children

Winter/Spring Storytime Schedule January 7 through March 27

- **Lapsit Storytime** Birth to 18 months Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m.
- **Toddler Storytime** 18 months to 3 years Tuesdays @ 10:30 a.m.
- **Preschool Storytime** 3 to 6 years Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m.

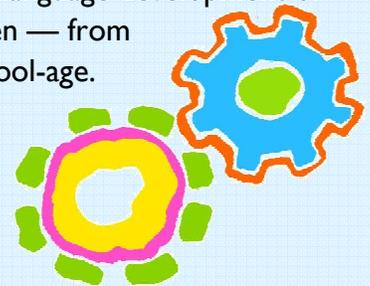
Here are five of the best ways for parents and caregivers to help children get Ready to Read!

- Talking
- Singing
- Reading
- Writing
- Playing

What is Early Literacy?

Research shows that children get ready to read years before they start school. You can help your preschooler learn important skills now so they can become good readers.

Library storytimes are designed to help parents and caregivers enhance the literacy and language development of their children — from birth to school-age.



The first annual **Burlington Teens READ** program encourages all Burlington teens to read one book—this year Jennifer Bradbury’s newest release, *A Moment Comes*. Here are just a few of the ways that teens can participate in this community-wide program:



- Come to the henna tattoo event,
- Join a book discussion,
- Answer trivia questions for prizes.

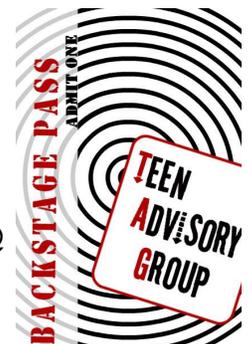
Other Winter Teen events @ your library

Game Night in February with board games, video games, and silly party games like the tin can challenge.

Teen Tech Week in March with some seriously cool projects. Light up your backpack, hoodie, or sneakers with electroluminescent wire (think Tron in real life). Make a banana piano, a Play-Doh game controller, or a human synthesizer using a special, secret tech device.

And the **Teen Advisory Group** will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of every month to generate amazing plans for Spring and Summer events.

For more information on Teen programs @ your library check the Library website. burlingtonwa.gov/library and select TEENS.



Public Works Update

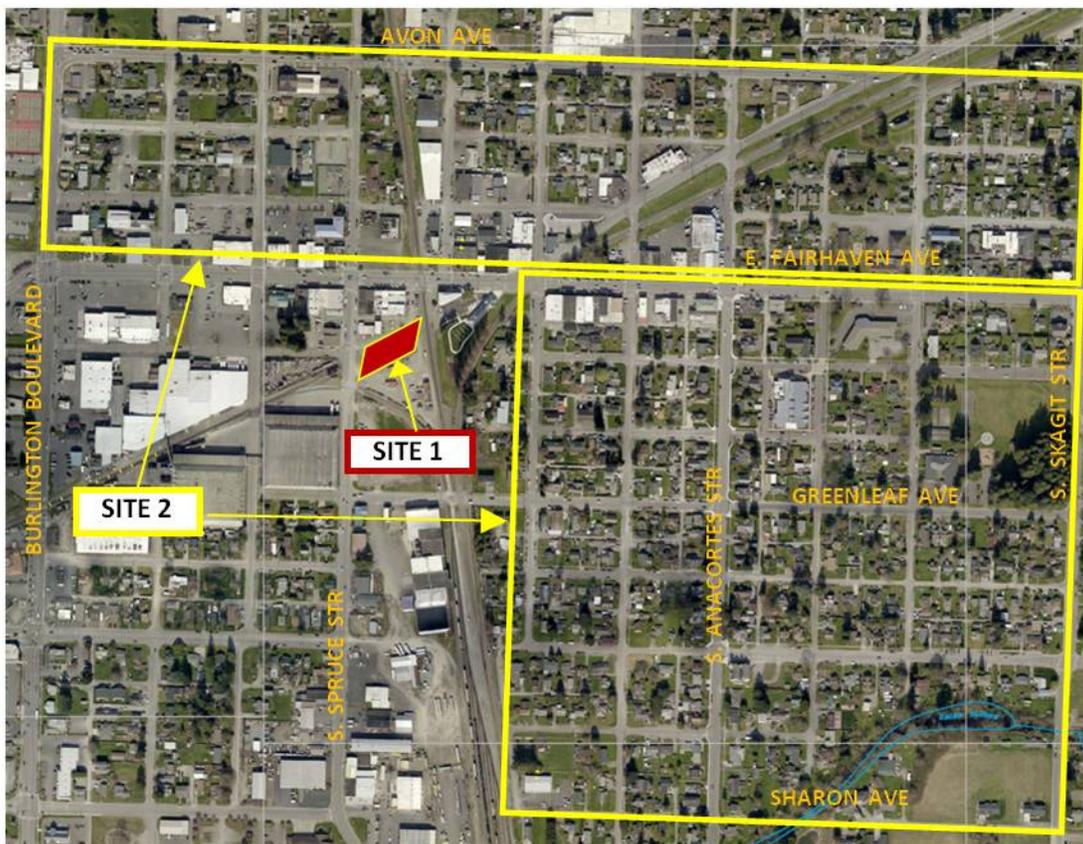
Public Works has received funding from the State Department of Ecology to design a stormwater quality retrofit for several areas of town. The Engineering Department determined that the nature of the grant could serve a multipurpose need:

- 1) Improve the quality of stormwater runoff.
- 2) Provide upgraded on-street and off-street parking.
- 3) Reduce street maintenance. Several candidate areas were evaluated and selected because they are city owned with a gravel surface which is not ideal from the standpoint of quality of runoff, parking serviceability or maintenance.

This includes a property, currently used for parking, which was purchased from the railroad (Site 1) which was the site of an old railroad line through town. The railroad previously abandoned this line, removed the rail, and the city purchase

the land in 2009. The design concept is to convert this gravel parking lot (off Spruce Street) into a pervious pavement parking lot. The stormwater will then infiltrate into the existing subsoil, improving water quality in the region. And, it will provide an attractive off-street parking area for those who don't like dealing with the diagonal parking on Fairhaven Avenue downtown.

Also included in the grant is a zone of the city with a predominance of streets where gravel shoulders lie between the roadway and the existing sidewalk (Site 2). There are no water quality facilities present to treat the runoff. This situation allows for erosion of the roadway shoulder causing potholes within the road shoulder area which is marginal for parking and causes additional maintenance work for the Street Department. The addition of pervious pavement in these areas will enhance water quality, improve parking and reduce maintenance. Design work will be completed in 2014, and when complete, construction funding will be pursued.



New Regional Byway Center is a success!



New Regional Byway Center—home to Burlington Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center

The new **Regional Byway Center** located at 520 East Fairhaven Avenue (*owned by the City of Burlington and operated by the Burlington Chamber of Commerce*) is a popular stop for tourists. The number of visits to the Visitor’s Information Center January through November 2013 has **increased 160 percent** over the same time period in 2012 (**9,021 visitors in 2013, up from 3,458 in 2012**). Thanks to Linda Fergusson and her staff for making the new Regional Byway Center/VIC an inviting place for Burlington visitors and residents!



Original Burlington Train Depot early 1900s

CITY CONTACTS

General Information 755-0531
 Mayor (*office*) 755-2395

CITY COUNCIL

Bill Aslett..... 757-4539
 Tonya Bieche 757-1020
 Rick DeGloria 755-0675
 Joe DeGloria 757-2456
 Edie Edmundson..... 757-4757
 Chris Loving 755-9245
 Ted Montgomery 391-2909

CITY DEPARTMENTS

Building/Code Compliance..... 755-0077
 Buildings & Grounds 757-3450
 Cemetery 707-2492
 Finance..... 755-0531
 Fire (*business*) 755-0261
 Legal..... 755-9473
 Library 755-0760
 Municipal Court 755-0492
 Parks & Recreation 755-9649
 Planning/Permit Center..... 755-9717
 Police (*business*)..... 755-0921
 Public Works/Engineering. 755-9715
 Sewer 757-4085
 Street..... 757-4214

EMERGENCY**911**

ARE YOU READY FOR AN EMERGENCY? DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT?

Find out how be prepared and stay prepared by taking a moment to read the *Flood and Natural Hazard Reduction Public Information Bulletin* included in this newsletter – on pages 13-16.

STREET PROJECTS — Current & Future

Public Works has been busy planning street improvement projects and searching for opportunities for funding to accomplish the work. Anyone who travels the streets of Burlington knows there are an abundance of improvement projects that could readily benefit our community. The streets of yesterday do not adequately serve our current transportation needs, and the existing streets have a never ending appetite for maintenance. Since the City has limited funds to address the community transportation needs, a priority must be established for the endless project list. The City depends on numerous funding sources at the local, state and federal levels to answer this need. Grants made available from a particular funding source may drive the project prioritization since a grant may address a specific issue such as safety or congestion, and grant dollars are limited to a funding amount, thus determining the size of the project.

Recently, the City competed for state funds made available through the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB). Funding opportunities existed in three categories: 1) Urban Arterial Program which includes construction of new streets or reconstruction of streets, 2) Arterial Preservation Program which is primarily re-paving worn streets, and 3) Urban Sidewalk Program which improves pedestrian safety and enhances pedestrian mobility.

In the category of Urban Arterial Program, we received \$528,125 for rebuilding Rio Vista from Section Street to Gardner Road. The City will provide matching funds of \$284,375. The project will most likely be constructed during the summer of 2015 since within this section of roadway are aging water and sewer lines which must be replaced first.

In the category of Arterial Preservation Program, funds were received in the amount of \$157,685 for which the city is required to match with \$23,653. The total project funds

of \$181,338 certainly limits the amount of paving the City can accomplish, so the priority list of re-paving projects is being closely scrutinized to spend our precious funds wisely. A street that most likely will be included in our upcoming project is the southern section of Bouslog Road. The northern section was repaved this past summer.

Although the City submitted for a grant under the Urban Sidewalk Program, we were not successful in being awarded funds. We continue to look for other funding sources, and will soon submit street improvement projects for grant funding under the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP). The upgrades to our streets are a slow and costly endeavor, but know that this effort is being continuously pursued.

The City invested approximately \$300,000 into this year's overlay program. Portions of Whitmarsh Road, Bouslog Road, Spruce Street and Old Highway 99 were resurfaced during the summer. Low bidder, Lakeside Industries successfully completed the paving project.

Additional traffic improvements and paving projects are scheduled for 2014. The City was selected to receive \$1,450,000 of federal funding for a traffic safety project. This money will be used to improve signal timing and reduce vehicle delays along Burlington Boulevard. Other benefits include improving the visibility of traffic signal heads and re-channelizing intersections for better traffic flow. Most intersections will receive new signal cabinets, video surveillance, signal heads with LED displays, and new street name signs. A portion of this funding is allocated for safety improvements at 3 different intersections throughout City limits. These safety improvements include guardrail installation, adding turn lanes, and rechannelization at the additional three intersections. Plans and specifications have been completed for this traffic safety project. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring of 2014.

Parks

Summer and fall have come to an end. Soccer Tournaments are finished and Ultimate Disc is winding down. The parks crew has been busy winterizing equipment, irrigation systems, water cannons and backflow preventers preparing for a cold winter. As mowing is coming to a screeching halt, indoor projects are creeping up fast. Mowers, weed eaters, edgers, and other equipment are being tuned up and stored for the spring. Portable park amenities such as tables, chairs,

benches, receptacles, etc. are pressure washed, painted and maintained during the winter months in preparation to be put back into circulation in the spring.

Our latest project is switching out all outdoor lights within the park system to new LED fixtures. This conversion will save 40 – 60 % on our power bills. Puget Sound Energy has also approved a significant rebate for the capital costs associated with the fixtures.

Let us all look forward to a safe and sane winter with minimal weather difficulties. May your Christmas cheer continue to the New Year!





- City Council – 7:00 pm
- Planning Commission – 7:00 pm
- ✗ = City Holiday

2014 MEETING CALENDAR

*Meetings held in City Hall Council
Chambers – 833 S. Spruce Street*

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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Winter Recreation FUN!

BURLINGTON PARKS & RECREATION WINTER PROGRAMS

REGISTRATION IS EASY!

- ◆ Phone 755-9649 (Visa/MC accepted)
- ◆ In person 900 E. Fairhaven Ave
- ◆ Visit our new website www.burlingtonwa.gov/recreation and print out a registration form for mail in.

Daddy 'n Daughter Sweetheart Dance



Time to get all dressed up and spend a magical night together! All ages of dads and daughters encouraged. Dessert provided by Avenue Catering, Starbucks Coffee. Raffle drawings and professional photos too! DJ Mike Yeoman will MC for the

night and keep the music hopping to keep you grooving! *Tickets on sale now!*

DATE: Friday, February 7

TIME: 6:30pm-9pm

FEE: \$20 per couple, \$5 for additional daughters

LOCATION: Burlington Community Center
1011 Greenleaf Avenue

Valentine Heart and Art Day!

February 14 Friday
(No School, BESD)



It's Valentine's Day! Let's celebrate by making adorable Valentine's Day decorations to hang up in your room. We'll also visit CreativiTEA Pottery Painting Studio in Bellingham to paint your own pottery, have hot cocoa and a sweet treat!

Minimum needed by: February 6

TIME: 9:30am-3pm **AGE:** 7-12 yrs

FEE: \$40 **Min 8/Max 10**

NOTE: Pack a lunch and water bottle.

LOCATION: Burlington Parks & Recreation Center
900 E. Fairhaven Avenue

ART AND DRAWING CLASSES FOR KIDS!

Intro to Acrylic & Watercolor Paints

February 5, 12, 19, 26

Wednesdays

Paint and create something new each week! Explore a range of techniques with different materials. Weekly subjects:

- "Paint your Dreams"
- "Crazy Creatures"
- "My Favorite Places"
- "Out of this World"



Minimum needed by: January 29

TIME: 4:30-6pm

AGE: 7-13 yrs

FEE: \$50

Min 6 / Max 12

INSTRUCTOR: Deirdre Czoberek

NOTE: There is an additional supply fee of \$20 is payable to the instructor. The kids will receive a "kit" that they'll take home.

Pastel Painting

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Wednesdays

Using only oil pastels to create vibrant paintings on heavy board and exploring the following themes: under the sea; my backyard; over the mountains; and forest animals.

Minimum needed by: February 27

TIME: 4:30-6pm

AGE: 7-13 yrs

FEE: \$50

Min 6 / Max 12

INSTRUCTOR: Deirdre Czoberek



NOTE: There is an additional supply fee of \$20 is payable to the instructor. The kids will receive a "kit" that they'll take home

Fire & Ice

February 4, 11, 18, 25

Tuesdays

Create 4 artworks in the popular animé art style, with subject matter from fantasy to sci-fi, and dinosaurs to dragons! The core focus on this class is learning about complementary and contrasting colors and the power of texture in art.

Minimum needed by: January 28

TIME: 4pm-6pm

AGE: 8-13 yrs

FEE: \$45

Min 6 / Max 13

INSTRUCTOR: Max Elam

Tiger Karate Taekwondo Kung Fo

Taught by Mitch Mayberry, trained and certified in Asia in Multiple Systems & Styles of Martial Arts as a 9th Degree Grandmaster, former AAU All American, National and International Champion with over 30 years of teaching experience.

Tiny Tigers Karate Taekwondo Kung Fo

A Martial Arts program for 4-6 year olds introducing the basic skills of Taekwondo & Karate. This class focuses on FUN and fitness while developing motor skills, coordination, self-esteem. Improve listening skills through the use of games, training aids, bag kicking, and Jedi training. Students can progress in rank/belt. First time students receive a FREE white belt. Uniforms are optional and are available from the instructor.

TIME: 4:55-5:25pm

AGE: 4-6 yrs (Preschool & Kindergarten Age)

FEE: 4wk/\$45; 6 wk/\$65; 8 wk/\$85

Min 6 / Max 50 — Minimum needed one week prior to start

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Mitch Mayberry is a 9th Degree Jedi Grandmaster

Early Winter/8 wk Jan 9 to Feb 27

Late Winter/4wk Mar 6 to Mar 27

NOTE: Comfortable loose clothing & water bottle needed. \$14 AAU membership card required and can be purchased from instructor FIRST day of class.

Family Martial Arts

A FUN and affordable program where the whole family can train together or just the children can work on getting fit & learning Taekwondo, Karate/Kobudo & Kung Fu while developing coordination, confidence, improved focus, listening skills. Self defense and respect for others are also emphasized.

Students can progress in belts & learn the moves from the Karate Kid to the Ninja Turtles (Japanese Kobudo) to the cool forms of Kung Fu in a step by step manner promoting self-esteem and achievement. Bag kicking and Jedi sparring are included for fun. First time students receive a FREE white belt. Uniforms are optional and available from instructor.

TIME: 5:30-6:10pm

5:30-6:30pm for colored belts.

AGE: Adults and 6 yrs and Up (1st Grade +)

FEE: 4wk/\$45; 6 wk/\$65; 8 wk/\$85

Min 6 / Max 13 — Minimum needed one week prior to start

Early Winter/8 wk Jan 9 to Feb 27

Late Winter/4wk Mar 6 to Mar 27

NOTE: Comfortable loose clothing & water bottle needed. \$14 AAU membership card required and can be purchased from instructor FIRST day of class.

LOCATION: Tiny Tigers and Family Martial Arts Classes are held at the Burlington Community/Senior Center.

Babysitting Basics Class

January 27 (no school for BESD)

Learn all the basic skills needed to be a great babysitter! Topics include: age characteristics of children, behavior management, general infant and toddler care, play ideas, safety issues, and what to do in an emergency situation. This class also includes information on finding sitting jobs and how to work with parents to ensure success. You'll come away with fun games, confidence, and knowledge to be the best babysitter on the block! Pack a lunch, water bottle, and snack.

Minimum needed by: January 20

TIME: 9:30am-4:30pm **AGE:** Grade 5-8

FEE: \$42 Min 4 / Max 16

INSTRUCTOR: Camp Fire USA Staff



continued from page 1

The City of Burlington has been planning how to make the city viable for the next 100 years and that means focusing on connecting historic Downtown with the Retail Core and making the existing community more walkable and livable with green infrastructure that has the goal of delivering clean water to the Skagit River. It also means providing more opportunities for affordable work force housing, including farmworkers, retail and service workers, and we are in an excellent position to have that housing on public sewer without destroying farmland or more floodplain.

The city has a strong flood hazard mitigation plan, and everyone understands the dangers of flooding, including an evacuation plan that is implemented when necessary. Making the levee system function at maximum efficiency is critical for the city and its major highway and railroad components.



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Serving you with pride!

Find us on the web @:
www.burlingtonwa.gov

*Wishing you & yours a
Safe & Happy Holiday
and a
Joyous New Year!*





FLOOD & NATURAL HAZARD REDUCTION PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN #42



Winter 2013-14

This Bulletin is being sent to you because your property has been determined to be in the floodplain.

Be ready for anything! That's the advice from weather experts as the Western Washington flood season gets underway. Forecasters often warn of El Nino or La Nina, but this year is a neutral year, according to the National Weather Service in Seattle. That means the moist and tropical "Pineapple Express" jet stream typically comes into play. The jet stream, which is like holding a garden hose at full throttle about 3 or 4 feet from the end, goes up and down the West Coast and back and forth, so it's very variable with regards to what kind of weather we can get during a neutral year. After an unusually long stretch of dry October weather forecasters say a season of wet weather, even flooding could follow. Everyone in Burlington should already be prepared for disaster because of living in the floodplain, and that includes earthquakes that could result in flooding in the event of a problem at one of the upriver dams. Keep that Emergency Kit updated and have your family plan organized at all times!

Dike District #12 has a systematic plan for enlarging the levees so that they will first qualify for credit to help keep flood insurance rates lower, and eventually, they will provide 100-year flood protection under federal standards. The final project design will add height to the improved levees as needed. Construction is underway from the end of the levee at Lafayette Road, to the Railroad Bridge.

The Director of FEMA has placed all new map adoptions on hold because they are changing their computer modeling (Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures or LAMP) to give some credit for existing levees, even when not certified as providing 100 year flood protection. **No dates have been identified for action by FEMA, but local changes are likely a year or two out.** The related question of how much water gets to Burlington in a flood event, called flood hydrology, is the subject of a request for a review and decision by a Scientific Resolution Panel. This request will be held until the new Levee Analysis Mapping Approach (LAMP) is approved. This is a critical issue that needs to be resolved before the restudy of the Skagit River starts, so that any new proposed flood maps will accurately reflect the flood hazard.

Local Flood Hazard Areas

There are three flood zones in the City Limits of Burlington, the Floodway (river side of the levee), the 100 Year Flood Zone and the Special Flood Risk Zone. Most of Burlington is in the 100 Year Flood Zone.

The Special Flood Risk Zone includes all land within 300 feet of the landward toe of the levee. All structures must be designed so that floodwaters can pass underneath and there is no occupied space below one foot above the 100 year flood elevation, unless the site is within 100 feet of the levee where nothing can be built. All property in Gages Slough that is three feet or more below the 100 year flood elevation is also designated as Special Flood Risk.

The goal for Burlington is to get credit for the levees when the 100-year flood elevations are established on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. This is only possible if the levees are certified as having 100-year flood protection and the work is accredited by FEMA. The process will take a few more years to complete.

Levee enlargement work started in 1990 and earthwork is still underway. Dike District #12 is focused on completing the levee work at the upstream end by Lafayette Road, then completing the work from the Gardner Road Boat Launch Ramp to the Railroad Bridge. This will give the best flood protection in the shortest timeline.

Flood Safety & Disaster Preparedness

Every home needs to be prepared and STAY PREPARED! Review your Flood procedure at home with your household and take the time to put your Emergency Preparedness Kit together, or check your flashlight batteries in your existing kit. Remember, a supply of drinking water, emergency food and first aid kit are the bare minimums, along with flashlights. In addition to the basic three day supply of food and water, consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks. Keep a small “grab and go” kit for your place of work with food, water, first aid supplies. For the emergency kit in the car, add flares, jumper cables and seasonal supplies.

There is an excellent FEMA publication entitled “Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness” available. This publication offers disaster information for natural hazards, technological hazards and terrorism. It will guide you for preparation in advance and recovery from a disaster. If you want to order a free copy for your home, call 1-800-480-2520. On the internet, <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/> is the website link. A copy is available in the Burlington Public Library.

THIS COVERS THE BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT IN DETAIL.

Earthquakes are an example of a disaster that cannot be predicted and that is not seasonal. Be prepared at all times!

Substantial Improvement/Damage Requirements

The National Flood Insurance Program requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the construction requirements for a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standard. The major issue is elevating the structure one foot above the 100 year flood elevation, along with all mechanical equipment, ductwork and electrical equipment, and installing properly located and sized vents. However, if you are located in the Gages Slough Special Flood Risk Zone, “breakaway walls” are required below the 100 year flood elevation, and they must be designed by a licensed structural engineer.

Property Protection Measures

Let's get started on improving flood protection in your home! Staff is available to provide site specific flood and flood-related data, make site visits to review flood, drainage and sewer problems and to advise and assist on retrofitting techniques.

Stop by the Permit Center or give the Building Department a call at 755-0077 and let the city provide you with technical assistance on improving flood protection in your home. A site visit will be scheduled at your convenience to put a checklist together for home flood protection improvements. Staff is also available from the Public Works Department if additional assistance is needed to assist with drainage and sewer problems.

If you want to do your own research, here are some of the recommended FEMA technical bulletins that you will find at the Burlington Public Library and the Building Department for your use:

- ◆ Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting, FEMA-312
- ◆ Design Manual for Retrofitting Flood-prone Residential Structures, FEMA-114
- ◆ Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage, FEMA-348

Take a few minutes to look over the possible areas where you may need to floodproof important parts of your home. A good example is protecting utility systems. This is one of the easiest and least expensive retrofitting methods to accomplish. Whether it is elevating, relocating, or anchoring; items such as electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, washers/dryers and heating fuel tanks are typically very cost effective items to upgrade. There are also recommendations for drainage and crawl space improvements.

If you have a newer (post 1985) home, check to be sure these items have been taken care of when the home was constructed. Identify the potential for moving essential items and furniture to upper floors or the attic of your home. Materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing can already be on hand. This action will help minimize the amount of damage caused by floodwaters and requires minimal storage space.

Flood Warning System

Each and every citizen has a role to play in the event of a flood. **BE PREPARED!!!** The Burlington Flood Emergency Team prepares and coordinates activities needed to be ready for any flood event with the involvement of all the responsible agencies.

The procedure for warning the public is coordinated through the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management. The Emergency Alert System is activated when necessary and includes the following local radio stations:

- KBRC - 1430 AM ■ KWLE - 1340 AM
- KAPS - 660 AM

If evacuation is necessary, there will also be door-to-door notification and loudspeakers broadcasting from public safety vehicles in the neighborhood. Flaggers and/or portable signs directing traffic will be stationed at key intersections along the Evacuation Route.

Today, there are several neighborhoods in the Neighbor-to-Neighbor notification plan for very early warning. Contact your neighbors to ask if they want to be part of taking responsibility for each other, through a simple Telephone Tree, and call the Planning Department to get on the list. Now is the perfect time to identify your block captains and work together to **BE PREPARED**. The City is working with the 911 center on the latest ways to contact everyone in the event of an emergency, so stay tuned!

Now is the time to sign up for automatic notification of Local Emergency Alerts. For those of you with access to a computer, you can sign up at the website www.Skagit911.com, then press the **Public Sign Up** button. If you do not use a computer, you can pick up the form at City Hall 833 S. Spruce Street.

Flood Insurance

Just as we began to see extreme concern by homeowners about getting elevation certificates and still seeing flood insurance rates going up because of a new Federal Law, the Biggert-Waters Act, the news is reporting a possible change in the law to delay implementation for four years in most cases. The disaster at Sandy Hook on the east coast has triggered the proposal for property owner relief by congress, and action should be taken relatively quickly, if the votes are there.

Any property owner in the City of Burlington is eligible to obtain Flood Hazard Insurance, since the city participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. Purchasing or refinancing a home will trigger a requirement for flood insurance by the lender. Coverage in the event of flooding is not included in typical homeowner's insurance policies. Flood insurance is available through your own agency or broker and includes flooding from ponding/drainage problems, snowmelt flooding, runoff on hillsides, or any flooding involving surface water. Contents of the building are a separate addition to the policy. There is limited coverage available for flood-related erosion and mudslide. Replacement cost coverage is available for principal residences. *Concerned about high Flood Insurance Rates?* You may qualify for a substantial reduction if you have an Elevation Certificate that shows your home or business is located at or above the 100 year flood elevation. You will have to retain the services of a Licensed Engineer to complete the paperwork, unless an Elevation Certificate is on file already with the Building Department, so please check here first.

Lowering flood insurance premiums: Not only should the lowest floor be elevated but make sure that the floor of the crawlspace meets Technical Bulletin 11-01 and copies are available at the Permit Center. Flood insurance rates are higher for buildings with crawlspaces that are two feet or more below the lowest adjacent exterior grade. Also make sure that all mechanical equipment is elevated above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). This includes ductwork, heat pumps, furnaces, and propane tanks or oil tanks. Make sure any garages that have the floor below BFE are also vented along with the crawlspace.

Natural & Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

Filling property to increase elevation in the floodplain is allowed today, but the long term goal is to minimize fill to protect fish and wildlife habitat. Burlington supports habitat improvements in the floodplain, and the Gages Slough restoration projects are a major effort in the city. Storm water quality monitoring in Burlington clearly shows that better water quality treatment systems are needed and this is a major focus of the surface water utility. The use of natural rain gardens is one of the ideas included in the low impact development approach that is being promoted as a way to get storm water runoff back into the ground, and to clean up water quality.

The Gages Slough habitat management plan has identified locations for restoration and water quality improvement projects. There are three complete restoration sites today, and about 15 more in need of work! The community is working towards the goal of clean water entering the Skagit River as the top priority, along with improving public access to habitat areas. The most exciting project is the plan to build a nonmotorized trail along Gages Slough that extends under I-5 at Cascade Mall, scheduled for construction in 2014.

Protecting agricultural lands is part of protecting the Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains. The city has implemented the Burlington Agricultural Heritage Credit program which is a density bonus credit option that will help raise funds for farmland preservation in exchange for increased residential density in mixed use business and commercial areas of the city.

Key elements of the Skagit County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan include protecting existing urban areas and preserving farmland and open space, looking at a variety of measures through the delta area to the mouth of the Skagit River, carefully coordinating and managing the hydroelectric power dams in the river system during a flood event, permanently moving homes and development rights out of the floodway, improving the environment for wildlife, and creating new public access opportunities to improve everyone's quality of life.

Map Determination & Library Information

A map determination is figuring out where the 100 year flood elevation is located relative to the first occupied floor of your home or business. This information is used to prepare an Elevation Certificate. A citywide system of elevation benchmarks is maintained in the Building Department. An average of an additional \$200 in savings is possible on your flood insurance policy if you have an elevation certificate, in addition to the 25% rate reduction available in Burlington as a result of community participation in the federal Community Rating System program. There are issues with lenders and flood insurance providers, and if you feel that you are not getting good information, please contact the city for help.

Information on other flood improvements, such as elevating your building, filling the crawl space, or floodproofing the lower portion, is available from the City and in the Burlington Public Library. There is a flood reference area in the library and staff will assist in directing you to the information you need.

Every land use newsletter includes a flood and natural hazard mitigation topic. Call the Planning Department at 755-9717 to get on the mailing list! Take the time to participate because your ideas will be taken seriously and you will have a say in the future of your community.

Floodplain Development Permit Requirements

Before you build, add fill, or make changes to your property and structures, be sure to contact the Planning and Building Departments to determine if any permits or approvals are necessary. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the insurance industry make frequent changes in the interpretation of floodplain standards, and you need to be sure you are using the most current information for any construction project.

**DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH
FLOODED AREAS.**

Drainage System Maintenance

This is the tenth year of water quality studies in Gages Slough and wetland restoration projects to improve water quality are a high priority. The commitment to long term maintenance, monitoring and habitat improvement is beginning to show, with the success of the first three wetland restoration projects that are beginning to mature. Clean water, efficient flow of water when needed, and a quality environment are the goals. Gages Slough and the Skagit River are important amenities for the community. Burlington is fortunate to have the Skagit Conservation District as a partner in Gages Slough water quality sampling. There is still a long way to go to deliver clean water to the River.

The drainage maintenance and inspection program is part of flood hazard mitigation. Each year, every owner of a drainage system was mailed a Self-Inspection Checklist and asked to inspect and make corrections as needed to all detention ponds, pipes, catch basins and other drainage control structures, to ensure that the capacity of the ponds is maintained and that the ability of the system to clean the storm water is retained. As the results come in, the city will do follow-up inspections, in addition to inspection and maintenance of the city street system. The public drainage system, including culverts, pipes and ditches is well maintained. Gages Slough is maintained at each street intersection and culvert location. A well maintained drainage system that functions in small storms will provide the best assistance possible in large storms and floods, by quickly and efficiently carrying the excess water out of town.

Thank you for respecting the signs that state “No Dumping – thank you” at public access points to Gages Slough! Each property owner along the Slough is responsible for cleaning up any litter or trash that is on their property. The problem of illegal dumping of yard waste in Gages Slough and the problem of trash dumped at points of public access to the River can only be solved if everyone helps out. It is illegal to dump or to fill along Gages Slough or the Skagit River. You may report illegal dumping (this includes yard waste) in the Slough, by calling the Code Compliance Inspector at 755-9715 or the Planning Department at 755-9717, or in writing.

CITY OF BURLINGTON

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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