



Bulletin

Sometimes Common Sense Does Not Prevail!

Mayor "Gus" Tjeerdsma

Common sense is needed for diverse interests to come together to address tricky local and regional issues.

Every city and town has either agricultural resource land or forest resource land at its edges. Instead of studying the resource lands, looking at present and future demand and utilization and working together to provide for future growth and change,

the lands have simply been designated as resource and the county has walked away. The broad brush approach includes wetlands, lakes, and property that is unsuitable for its resource designation, but the details are unknown and the studies are not funded.

For Burlington, issues include locating permanent farmworker housing with urban services, building schools in locations near the growing student

population, and restoring Gages Slough which is a habitat/wetland corridor.

The rapid urban development of the City of Burlington occurred specifically because of the location in the I-5 corridor combined with the floodplain regulations that provide for fill and elevated structures meeting the 100-year base flood elevation requirement plus one foot. Flood hazard mitigation

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Special points of interest:

- Schematic drawings and details about the new City Hall and Library
- Did you know that the City provides FREE disposal of your grass clippings and weeds
- Help keep sewer lines clean and functional—follow these guidelines
- Hot Topics in Burlington
- Harvest Festival update

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COMING SOON... ALL NEW ZONING CODE

Last Fall, the City Council took action to update the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the new goals for the enhancing the special qualities of original community of Burlington, providing new opportunities for living and working in old Downtown Burlington. The Community Connections Plan was adopted at the concept level in the Parks Plan, calling for links in and around Burlington to optimize public opportunities to enjoy this beautiful riverfront city with wonderful views.

In order to make all this happen on the ground, a new approach to land use regulation is in the works, modeled after the latest trends nationwide, called new urbanism or transect zoning, using a model called the Smartcode. The basic idea is to use environmental principles in laying out the code, with lots of charts, tables and illustrations so that it is easy to use and results in development that has good urban design built in without the need for subjective and often lengthy design review procedures.

The Spring Neighborhood Planning meetings have focused on Neighborhood Street designs, so the new code will specify the types of streets that can be built. There are many citizens who do NOT want the basic no maintenance 34 foot paved street with attached curbs and sidewalks. This quickly becomes a route for speeders and can detract from the important elements that make a block unique. In addition to having the street cross-sections spelled out

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Hot Button Topics in Burlington

Jon T. Aarstad, City Administrator

During the last year there were a couple of issues that have become a major concern to the City of Burlington. I have been asked questions by individuals that I feel should be shared with the citizens of Burlington. The positions the Mayor, City Council and staff take on these issues is from the perspective of what will be best for the City of Burlington, both in providing protection for residents who live in our community and how we, within the parameters of state and city codes, can enhance the quality of life for our citizens.

Why did the City take the position of opposing Raspberry Ridge?

The Mayor and City Council made their position very clear in the meetings held to discuss the Housing Authorities Raspberry Ridge phase 1 project and its phase 2 project proposals. The City of Burlington does not oppose Farmworker housing. We all agree there is a need for this type of housing project in Skagit County. The City does oppose the location of Raspberry Ridge for two distinct reasons. The location is near one of the weaker links in the Skagit River Dike system. Pictures from an early 1950's flood show this area right in the path of the 1950 major flood event. The City is concerned that a dense housing facility (125 total units proposed) will place the residents of this multi family housing facility in harms way in the event a catastrophic failure of the dikes occur. The second concern described by the City is the possibility of sewage from this housing facility being distributed into the City of Burlington in the event of a flood. Originally the City of Burlington was willing to extend our sewer line to the original project site due to our concern for the possible inundation of sewage into the City. However, we were told by the County's Civil Attorney and verified by our City Attorney that it would be illegal for us to extend our sewer lines into this project because it is located outside of our Urban Growth Area. Growth Management policies would be violated and possible court action could be taken against us for extending the sewer line. These are the only reasons the City has objected to the Raspberry Ridge project. Unfortunately, others have tried to accuse us of having alternative motives. This is simply not the case. The City in fact suggested moving this facility to another location that would be closer to our sewer system and farther away from the Skagit River to provide more protection and move the Farm Workers closer to their areas of work.



What is the issue related to the Camping Ordinance proposed last year?

In 2004 the Skagit Valley Herald reported problems with camping in some of the commercial parking lots in Mount Vernon. Further, in recent articles regarding camping vehicles turning into roaming Meth Labs the Mayor and City Council decided it would be in the best interest of the citizens of Burlington to create a tool for our Police Officers to legally take measures to remove illegal camping vehicles within the City of Burlington. Unfortunately we were admonished by a group of people who indicated we were focusing our proposal on the homeless who are in our community. Not once were we even considering this segment of the population. Our only goal was to provide the means to allow our officers to have the ability to manage illegal overnight camping in the commercial, private and public parking lots and, residential streets and roadways of Burlington.

Why does the City operate the cross on Burlington Hill?

Actually the City does not own, maintain or operate the cross on Burlington Hill. The lighted cross has been a fixture in our community since 1959 when the Burlington Volunteer Firemen's Association, a non-profit organization, received permission from "Shorty" Norris to place the cross at its current location. The cross is owned, maintained and operated by the Association and is **not** a function of City Government. We have had a number of inquiries recently about the separation of church and state and complaints that the City is in violation of this policy. But, in this case the City has never been a provider of funds for this community fixture and is not in violation of Federal law.

If you have additional questions related to the Public Services of the City of Burlington please do not hesitate to inquire with any of our staff by contacting City Hall.

What to look for in the near future. The City is in the process of developing a website that will be more user friendly, provide more updated information about City government. We hope you will follow the construction of our New City Library at the corner of Washington Avenue and Holly Street. Also new construction of City Hall will begin soon which will be located at the corner of Spruce Street and Cedar Avenue near the Fire/Police and Municipal Court facilities. We anticipate both facilities will be completed in the late spring of 2007.

Best wishes to all for a great summer filled with fun and enjoyment for you and your family.

Housing Code Inspections on the Horizon for Multi Family Units

The City of Burlington is considering adopting the ICC housing code. What this means is annual inspections of multi family dwellings within the city limits of Burlington. Inspections of all dwellings with three or more units will be conducted for life and safety issues by a team made up of officials from the Building Department, Fire Department, Health Department, Planning Department, and the Code Enforcement Officer.

There has been an increase in the number of complaints regarding the living conditions of some apartment complexes within the city limits of Burlington. In most cases, the tenant is put in a position where they can't complain about living conditions out of fear of being evicted. This is particularly true in the low income housing. The attitude has almost become....it's low income, so it doesn't need to look nice. Nothing could be further from the truth. Your property and dwelling units should always look nice and be safe regardless of how much a tenant pays to live there.

The program in the beginning stages and public meetings will be held to gather information and input from the public, tenants, and property owners prior to the program being implemented. Meeting times and places will be announced at a later date. We look forward to working with everyone to resolve some of the concerns and complaints.



Police Department News

Burlington Police Department has added two new police officers to its department. On Tuesday March 28th David Goss and Jess Brannon took and passed the mandatory physical agility test prior to being accepted to the Criminal Justice Training Academy.



David Goss was recently released from the U.S. Army after serving 5 years. During those 5 years he served as a Military Police Officer in Germany and on the Drug Suppression Team at the Fort Lewis Criminal Investigation Division as a Military Police Investigator. David has a wife, Stacy and 2 children, Brian and Andrew.

Jess Brannon is a California native. For now, he lives in Lake Stevens with his wife, Sarah



and a son, Luke. The Brannon's are expecting their second child next month. Jess has been employed with Discount Tire Company prior to being hired by Burlington Police Department.

Both Jess and David will be attending the Academy for five months, starting April 11. Once they graduate from the Academy they will be on a Field Training Officer program here at the Police Department.

Municipal Court

Passports are becoming a big business for the municipal court. Since the first of the year, we have processed 104 passports, at \$30 each, the City of Burlington has received \$3,120.00 in fees. This is a valuable service we are providing to the community. On March 20, 2006 staff had additional training to be able to recognize false or fraudulent documents that are used to obtain a passport. According to government sources, passports will be required to get into Canada by the end of 2007.



January and February of 2006 show a 9% increase in tickets filed and an 8.6% increase in revenue from last year. Revenue to date totals \$45,094.70, an increase of \$6,520.72 from 2005. We also logged a total of 505.4 hours (63 days) on the City Work Program, these are hours done in lieu of jail. The jail cost is \$65+ per day, a savings of approximately \$4,106.00 to the city. The city is also charged a booking fee for each person booked into the jail, or even just booked and released. The City Work Program is very beneficial to the city, and could be more so if we had someone even part time that could directly supervise the workers.

So far this year (through February) we have collected and distributed to local business owners **\$655.26 in restitution**. As a small court, we work hard to collect restitution for our local merchants and citizens. The restitution amount above does **not** include the **\$210.78** we have recovered for the Burlington Public Library so far this year. Nor does it include restitution that was paid direct to the merchants, as court ordered, for bad checks or merchandise and or services.



Golden Shovels Shine at Library Groundbreaking

Golden shovels in hand, Mayor Gus Tjeerdsma and two grandsons officially kicked off the library building project at the Groundbreaking Ceremony held March 14. City officials, Library Board and Design Committee members, Friends of the Library and various library supporters, including students from the Best PLACE program at Lucille Umbarger Elementary and Cascade Early Learning Center joined in the festivities. Thank you to everyone who participated.

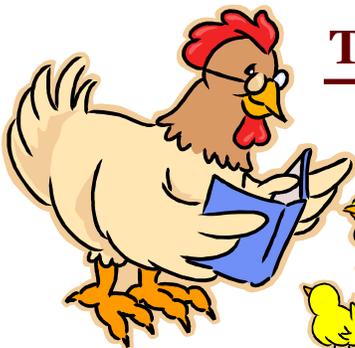
The new 22,000 square foot library is expected to open by Summer 2007—so it will be just over one year until you will be able to enjoy the spacious facility, cozy up with a magazine near the fireplace, do research in the high tech computer lab, use wireless internet connections, or bring your kids or grandkids to cuddle up on a window seat with a favorite picture book.

Most of the street improvements should be completed this June, so neighbors can take heart that the dust should decrease after that time. Access to the library parking lot may be restricted throughout the construction process, so please use the lot in front of City Hall as well as street parking as alternatives. We appreciate your patience and know you'll agree that the new building is worth the temporary inconvenience.

The Burlington Library Foundation is planning a campaign to raise funds to purchase original art to decorate the new library – perhaps an outdoor sculpture, some paintings, photographs or wall-hangings. Here's your opportunity to make our new library just that much more special, and play a lasting and recognized role in Burlington's cultural scene. Please ask a library staff member for information on how to donate to the Foundation.



Library groundbreaking ceremony



Three Times the Fun: Library Storytimes

TODDLER TIME –

Brief stories and nursery rhymes for your 18 month to 3 year-old toddler

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. through May 9

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME –

Fun books and songs including flannel board stories for your 3 to 6 year old preschooler

Thursdays 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

SPANISH STORYTIME –

Evening bilingual storytimes for children from 3 to 7 years old; pajamas welcome; told by a native Spanish speaker

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. through May 10

¡Nueva Hora de Cuentos en la Biblioteca Pública de Burlington!

Miércoles 6:30 a 7:00 de la noche
abril 5 – mayo 10

Tendremos cuentos para niños de 3 a 7 años de edad. Todos los cuentos serán en un formato bilingüe. Vengan y disfruten un momento agradable con sus niños.

The library is offering three types of Storytimes this Spring, through May 11. Choose the one that's most convenient for your family. Storytimes will resume in the Fall, after the Summer Reading Program ends.

Upcoming Library Events

Friends of the Library Meeting

Wednesday, May 17 at 10:30 a.m.

If you love your library, you're a Friend! Join us!

Brown Bag Booktalks

Wednesday, May 17 from Noon – 1 p.m. in the Library Conference Room

Just in time for summer reading, staff from Scott's Bookstore in Mount Vernon will be sharing their favorite New and Notable Books.

Quarter Book Group Discussion

Thursday, May 18 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Skagit Valley College Board Room

Read the book everyone's been talking about, then participate in a lively discussion of The Kite Runner by Kahled Hosseini. Multiple copies are available for checkout.

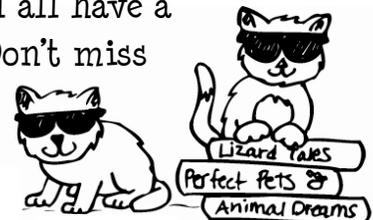
Author Visit

Wednesday, July 12 from Noon – 1 p.m. in the Library Conference Room

We will be welcoming local author Jo Dereske for an informal discussion of Booked to Die, the 9th whodunit featuring Miss Zukas, librarian and sleuth. Dereske sets her fun, cozy series in the fictional hamlet of Bellehaven, Washington. Sound familiar? There's still time to read Dereske's books before meeting her in person.



Summer Reading Program – Everyone's invited to participate in our Summer Reading Program, which **starts June 12**. The theme is **Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales** so we'll have animal-related events and activities all summer long. Complete schedules will be available at the library. Adults and kids will all have a chance to win free books and other prizes. Don't miss the all-county summer reading party at the Skagit County Fairgrounds on July 31 featuring Cowboy Buck and Elizabeth.



Notes from the Finance Department



The City of Burlington residential sewer bills are currently based on actual water usage as supplied by PUD No. 1 of Skagit County. The Summer Averaging period begins May 1, 2006, the residential sewer bills will be an average of your previous sewer billings for the period of November 2005 through April 2006.

Please remember to report any water leaks to the City as soon as possible, as your sewer bill is determined by your water consumption.

VISA and MasterCard CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS are now being accepted until 3:00 p.m. daily either by phone or in person at City Hall.

We also offer direct debit from your checking or savings account. You could stop worrying about your City of Burlington utility bill due date. With Direct Debit Autopay, you will never again receive a late fee! The application is simple. Please stop by City Hall to obtain an Autopay Agreement or contact us at **(360) 755-0531** for more information.

Public Works

STREET DEPARTMENT

Improvements to Rio Vista Avenue between Section Street and Gardner Road are planned for this summer and fall. Construction improvements will include a 40-foot wide, curb to curb, street with sidewalks on both sides.

The Street Department is working on the sidewalk and wheelchair ramp replacement program to replace broken sidewalks and wheelchair ramps that do not conform to the American Disabilities Act.

Whitmarsh Road underneath the new Skagit River Bridge will be completed, and the signal on Burlington Boulevard will be removed. Motorists will be able to drive under the new bridge to the west to turn south across the bridge.

CEMETERY

Spring is here and we have begun mowing at the cemetery. With Memorial Day coming this is always a busy time of the year. In addition to the everyday duties at the cemetery, we will be pruning trees, edging and weed eating around all of the headstones. Fresh beauty bark will also be put down. Flags will be placed for the Veteran's with the help from the American Legion Post for the ceremony on Monday morning, May 29th. Watch the newspaper for the exact time.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Help Keep Sewer Lines Clean and Functional

Residents can help prevent pipe blockages and sewer overflows by keeping grease out of the sewer system. Sewer backups can cause damage to homes, create health hazards and threaten the environment. Sewer pipes blocked by grease are increasingly a common cause of backups.

Where does grease come from?

Fats, Oil, and Grease are a natural consequence of cooking and can also occur naturally in many foods. Grease is the common term for animal fats and vegetable oils. It can be found in such items as:

Meat fats	Cooking oil	Baking goods
Lard	Butter and Margarine	
Shortening	Food scraps	

What are the grease issues?

Grease is frequently poured down the sink and toilet drains. It may not appear to be harmful but as the liquid cools, the grease solidifies and causes buildup inside the pipes, becoming a hardened mass. The buildup restricts the flow of sewage and clogs the pipes.

The implications can be:

- Raw sewage backing up into your home.
- An unpleasant and expensive cleanup at your expense.
- Potential contact with disease causing organisms.
- Increased cost for the sewer department, which can cause higher sewer bills for customers.

What can you do?

- The easiest thing you can do is keep grease out of the sewer system.
- Never pour grease down the sink or into the toilet.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a disposable container and place in trash after cooling.
- Use a strainer in the sink to catch food scraps and other solids.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Engineering Department recently moved from 820 Washington to a modular building behind City Hall at 900 E. Fairhaven Avenue. This will be the temporary home for the Engineering Department until the new City Hall at the corner of Cedar Avenue and Spruce Street is completed in the summer of 2007. The old site is under construction now for the new Municipal Library.

The Engineering Department is starting to design improvements for North Burlington Boulevard between Avon Avenue and the Chuckanut interchange. The City received a \$2,000,000 grant to finance this project which will include 5 lanes with bicycle lanes and sidewalks both sides. Construction is planned for 2007.



GRASS & BRUSH DISPOSAL

951 S. Section Street

OPEN:

Wednesday: 2:00 to 6:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

- **Limited service for residents** within the Burlington city limits only. **March 4 thru November 25, 2006.**
- **Punch card is required** for disposal of yard maintenance material.
- **FREE punch cards** are issued at **City Hall, 900 E. Fairhaven Avenue. (Picture ID with address required).**
- Limit of **FREE 2006 punch cards up to a \$40 limit per household: Punch cards are only valid for 2006.**
 - \$0.50 punch for sack of yard waste.
 - \$1.00 punch for one garbage can of yard waste.
 - Up to \$5.00 for pickup load of yard waste, truck bed height.
 - Up to \$10.00 for pickup load of yard waste, piled above truck bed height.
- Limb/grass disposal intended for yard clean up and maintenance only.
- **City WILL accept:**
 - Grass & Leaves
 - Flowers & Roses
 - Fruits & Vegetables
 - Blackberry & Ivy Vines
 - Limbs (Max. 4" diameter)
 - Corn & Sunflower Stalks
 - Sod
- **Limit of two pick-up/single axle trailer loads of brush per day.**
- Additional punch cards **can be purchased for \$10 at City Hall.** Call 755-0531 for details.
- Disposal of limbs from large trees and shrubs is the responsibility of the resident/property owner.
- City will not pay for large tree removal or landscape changes.
- **The City WILL NOT accept:**
 - 2005 punch cards or others
 - Commercial yard maintenance materials
 - Contractor debris
 - Yard waste without a punch card
 - Lumber debris
 - Root balls or stumps
 - Rocks and dirt
 - Large tree and shrub removal

NOTE: Call **Skagit Soils** at **424-0199** to see if they will accept any of the above materials the City does not. There is a charge for materials, and they are located at **13260 Ball Road (off W. Ovenell Road between Higgins Airport Way and Farm to Market Road).**

For more **information** or **questions**, call the Buildings & Grounds Department at **757-3450.**

PARKS & RECREATION

SPRING GARDEN AND CRAFT SHOW



Saturday, May 13
Mother's Day weekend
9 am-4 pm

at the Burlington Community Center
1011 Greenleaf Avenue , Burlington

Unique items for sale: Perennials, garden art and décor, handmade rugs, sauces, candles & much more!

TEEN PROGRAM

Burlington Late Night Gym

Come to the BEHS Field House on Saturday nights from 7-11 pm. Open to **ages 12 thru 12th grade** are welcome. ASB card or I.D.'s first time.

Sponsored by the Burlington Parks & Recreation, the Burlington Parents Network and the B-E School District. Questions? Call BPR 755-9649.

ADULT CLASSES



Scrapbooking for Beginners and Beyond with Linda Nelson—Mark your calendars for these upcoming Friday's: **May 5, 19**. Classes are held @ the Burlington Community Center

at 1011 Greenleaf Avenue, and are open for ages 16 and up.

Beyond Class \$10

6 pm—Linda will show you a creative technique or make a 2 page layout. Supply kit and drop-in fee included. Email cmlinda@comcast.net to reserve your spot

Beginner Class \$5 (Drop in price included)

7 pm—Just getting started? This is for you!

Drop-in, Crop-in's \$5—6 pm-midnight—Good light, 6 feet of space, hourly prizes, & snacks. FUN!

HEALTH & WELLNESS CLASSES

Yoga Classes with Kim Davis

1st Class is FREE for new participants!
Class is practiced "flow" style, integrating an eclectic blend of traditional hatha yoga poses, with emphasis on breath and inner awareness. Open to all levels, please bring a mat, water bottle and hand towel.
Date: Every Thursday **Time:** 5:30-6:45 pm **Cost:** 1st Thursday pay \$30 month block or \$10 drop-in. **Ages:** 13 & up **Location:** Burlington Community Center.

Upcoming Recreation Summer Camps and Programs

- All Comer Track Meets *June/July, Wednesday nights* BEHS track
- Tiger Volleyball Camp *June 5-7*
- Toddler Sports Camp 1 *June 26-30*
- Berry Dairy Days 10K and 2 Mile Fun Run
- Summer Yoga in the Park *every Thursday evening*
- Arts and Crafts Camp *July 3*
- Tiger Soccer Camp *July TBA*
- Chewach Campout *July 17-19*
- Beat the Heat Sand Doubles Volleyball Tournament *July 22-24*
- LifeLong Sports Camp *July 24-28*
- UK International Soccer Camp ages 4-16 *July 31-August 3*
- Safe Kids Day at Clear Lake Beach *July 28*
- Jr. Golf Camp August *TBA*
- Toddler Sports Camp 2 *July 14-18*
- UK International Advanced Skills Camp *August 14-18*
- Awesome Aqua Adventures Camp *Aug. TBA*
- Wild Waves Enchanted Village Day Trip *Aug. TBA*
- Birch Bay Waterslides Trip *August TBA*

Many More Camps are in the Works! **Call us to be added to our mailing list.**

Please don't forget to mark your calendar for the 2006 Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Pitch the weekend of October 13-15. Plant your pumpkins, look up trebuchet plans on the internet, and bake some test pies so you can participate in our exciting up and coming Festival in Skagit Valley right in your own backyard!

Senior Center

The Burlington Senior Center is located in Maiben Park in the Community Building, just south of the Burlington Library and the City offices, at the **corner of Regent Street and Greenleaf Avenue**. We are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch is served at noon. Contact us at **755-0102**.

The Burlington Senior Center encourages seniors to become acquainted with our center. There are many opportunities to expand one's social, educational and physical needs. Classes of many different kinds are offered. Information on senior issues and outreach services is available and prospects for volunteering and making a difference in other seniors lives are encouraged.

Computer classes are offered each month. The classes are a wonderful way to continue one's education. Art classes are very popular. From basic drawing, to advanced watercolor there is an art class that should interest you. Classes are offered regularly in geology and Spanish. AARP driving classes are offered quarterly.



There are lots of games and entertainment available throughout the week. Pinochle is played on Wednesdays and beginning pinochle is offered on Friday afternoons.



There is a good sized bridge group that plays on Friday afternoons as well. Cribbage is played on Wednesday mornings. Skip Bo, Triominos, Mexican Train Dominoes, and Rhummikub have a strong following on Tuesday afternoons. The Old Time Fiddlers play every third Monday of the month. The Fiddlers are always an enjoyable experience and bring in quite a crowd.

The Burlington Senior Center often hosts talks and presentations on many topics including health and finances. Senior Information and Assistance provides information monthly by a scheduled visit and with updated informational sheets on many topics that include senior housing, legal questions, prescription drugs, and Medicare part D.



For those interested in health, we offer a large variety of support. A Monday morning weight loss group meets and discusses the importance of a healthy diet. On the first Tuesday of the month, the Low Vision Support Group meets. Tai Chi is offered Wednesday mornings and blood pressure and cholesterol screenings are held monthly. Also an occasional CPR and first aid class are offered.

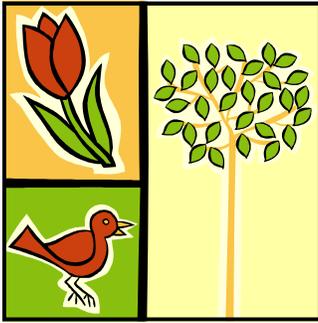
The senior nutrition program is a very important aspect of the Senior Center. We serve excellent, homemade lunches Monday through Friday at noon. The suggested donation for a senior (age 60 and over) is \$2.75. Non-seniors are welcome at \$5.00. The Meals on Wheels program is also available to homebound seniors in the Burlington area. Ensure is available by the case at a reduced donation to help seniors who need additional nutritional support.



The Burlington Senior Center wants to be a focal point for seniors in the Burlington community. The activities, classes and nutrition program are designed to help Burlington seniors cope with everyday stresses and improve their quality of life. Please feel welcome to stop by the Center and explore the offering here.



Happenings in our Parks



The Parks and Recreation Department is looking forward to another busy spring and successful summer coming up! We are going **LIVE as of May 10** — check out our new link to register online for any of our programs and obtain information on our facility rentals. Go to

<http://online.activecommunities.com/burlington> and you can register by credit card for our Recreation programs. This will be accessed from the City of Burlington webpage; an exciting step for us to help service our community better!

Take a stroll down to the north end of Skagit River Park and you might notice that there has been lots of construction activity. A new Concession Stand/Restroom/Covered Shelter is being built and will be completed by June 15; this will be a great addition for our various tournaments coming into town, play dates at the Tot Lot, and during the youth soccer season.

You may have also noticed a new chain link fence installed along the west side of the Park, this will help cut down on the vandalism that the fields have had to endure the past few years. It seems to be working and was tested out shortly after installation.

Two new proposals have recently been approved by the City Council: : ① the installation of a Remote Control Race Track in the grass parking area by the Horseshoe Pits; and ② the Burlington-Edison Youth Football League will be building a home field on the grassy area north of the Sewer Treatment Plan across from Rotary Park.

The Kiwanis for Kids Waterpark at Maiben Park should be up and running by Memorial Day weekend for your enjoyment.

We should also mention upcoming tournaments and events happening in Skagit River Park this summer (great weekends for garage sales):

- Ultimate Disc Tournament— **May 13**
- Skagit River Cup (Youth Soccer) **May 19-21**
- Skagit Valley Horseshoe Tournament **June 10**
- Firecracker Tournament (Youth Soccer) **June 16-18**
- Berry Dairy Days Moo-vin Music and Fireworks Show with Kiwanis Salmon BBQ — **June 23**
- Evergreen International Tournament (Youth Soccer) — **July 20-23**
- Ultimate Disc Tournament — **August 19**
- Labor Day Kick Tournament (Youth Soccer) — **September 2-4**

Thanks for all your support. We hope you can reap the benefits of our efforts to provide you with a safe, enjoyable park system and fulfill your needs through our Recreation programs.

New Zoning Code — *continued from Page 1*

for different areas, the participants in the spring meetings have asked for a workshop on street lighting options, to make streets safer at night while not being intrusive. This is just one example of what is in the planning stages.

If you are interested in participating in the inch-by-inch, line-by-line review of the new zoning code, or perhaps desire to participate in city government as a member of the Board of Adjustment, or just want to keep up with what is happening by getting on our mailing list, give the Planning Department a call at (360) 755-9717.

City Welcomes SPOT as New Animal Contractor

Lost & Found Dogs

With recent changes in our animal contract, more than ever, it is important to register your dog with the Police Department. Burlington Municipal Code 6.04.020 requires that all dogs living in the city over 3 months of age be registered with the Police Department. The cost is minimal, \$3 if it is fixed, and \$6 if it is not. Registering your dog with the police department ties you and your dog together in our computer system. This enables us to contact you if your dog makes “the great escape” while you’re away from home. We have a kennel at the Police Department, and will hold the dog until you get off work, if space is available.

Once a dog is impounded for running at large, we try to locate the owner and notify them that the dog is at the Police Department kennel. If we are unable to locate the dog owner, we try to hold the dog in the Police Department kennel for 1 to 3 days, space providing. If you are missing your dog call the Burlington Police Department at 755-0921 to see if we have it.

If no one comes forward to claim the dog, it is transferred to SPOT, (*Saving Pets One At A Time*) where it is placed into their foster care program. After being in the SPOT program for 72 hours, the dog is eligible for adoption. The dog is given a “once over” by SPOT staff and they are groomed, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, evaluated, and then matched with a new owner.

Should you need to owner surrender a pet for personal reasons, you may also contact SPOT at 336-5388. They will try to accommodate you if they have room available in their program. There may be a small fee for this service, and this should be discussed with a SPOT representative.

Stray & Feral Cats

At this time, the City of Burlington does not have a cat ordinance which gives us authority to impound cats.

Even though most people consider feral cats a nuisance, they do provide a valuable service by keeping the rodent population under control. The downfall is over population. Most feral cats are not sterilized, and there is a very high reproduction rate. Local agencies are offering no or low cost sterilization programs by the trap and release method. However, this requires some assistance from you, the resident.

If you are interested in utilizing these resources, there are brochures at the Burlington Police Department, Planning Department, and City Hall. Or, you can contact (Code Enforcement Officer, Robin Blair) at 755-0921 ext 307 with your questions.

Keep in mind, there is a difference between a feral and domestic cat. The domestic cat most likely belongs to one of your neighbors. And, even though you may find this cat irritating, it is not a stray. In most case they will return home. However, if you truly feel it is a stray cat, you may contact SPOT, or the Humane Society of Skagit Valley to see if they have room in their programs for the cat. There may be a small fee for this service, and you should inquire about it as you will be responsible for the cost.



Mayor's Message—continued from Page 1

became a key issue for me as Mayor, and Dike District #12 following the 1995 flood event. The plan of action was designed and implementation started with the acquisition of the old National Foods Spray Fields, now Skagit River Park. Now we are working on a second levee that is set back through the bridge corridor to handle flood flows.

A big concern this year is what is happening to the public regarding flood insurance rates. There appear to be

inconsistencies and problems with the insurance program, and we are working with the countywide Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee to survey policy holders and floodplain residents this year. There are changes coming with respect to fill in the floodplains, and we are threatened with major changes in base flood elevations. This survey and public involvement process is needed to gather information so that the permit procedures and codes protect the public. It is also a

chance to promote reform of the insurance program and better public education so people can look out for their rights.

Burlington is moving cautiously forward on many issues and programs, while listening with an open mind to ideas and options. Without a strong dose of common sense, there may be no end to arguing to the long term detriment of the public interest.



Saying Goodbye...

Ivan Rasmussen, the City's Buildings and Grounds Supervisor retired on April 27, 2006 after 15 years of excellent service to the citizens of Burlington.

Ivan began working for the City of Burlington as a grounds keeper in 1991, and became supervisor of the Buildings and Grounds, Cemetery, Parks, and Garbage departments in 1993.

We applaud Ivan for his years of dedicated work in keeping Burlington beautiful and as a key player in

planting the trees along Highway 20.

Ivan and his wife Sue will spend their free-time traveling, fishing, remodeling their home and working in the yard.

We wish Ivan and Sue a much deserved, relaxing and joyful retirement.



The City Welcomes...



...**Paul Tingley** as the new Buildings & Grounds Supervisor replacing Ivan Rasmussen.

Paul has been with the City since 1994 working as the Parks Lead person in the Parks Department.

Paul is married with two daughters, a freshman at B-E

High School and a 7th grader at Lucille Umbarger Elementary. He coaches the Triple Threat, a 14-youth select girls fastball team; and in his spare time enjoys hunting and fishing.

Paul is looking forward to this new endeavor, keeping the city-owned properties in tip-top shape, improving city beautification and looks forward to serving the citizens of Burlington.



The Skagit Prevention Council awarded their annual **V.I.P.P. (Very Important Prevention Persons)** awards on April 18th at McIntyre Hall. This year, **Christi Kinney, Burlington Recreation Coordinator** was the B-E Community Parents Network nominee for her work providing healthy options for families and youth in her community.

Through her work as Recreation Coordinator she organizes: Late Night Gym, Youth Appreciation Day, Day Trips, Youth Summer Programs, All Comer Track Meets, Classes, and Special Events for the citizens and members of our community. She is also an active member of the B-ECPN, an involved B-ESD parent, and a member of the Kiwanis of Burlington.



We're Growing out of our Seams

The new City Hall building, designed by Lewis Architects, will be constructed at 833 S. Spruce Street, just south of the new Fire Station and east of the Police and Court complex.

Construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

The new City Hall building consists of two stories and 25,000 square feet. It will consolidate the following departments under one roof: *Administration, Legal, Finance, Planning,*



Public Works, Building, and the Council Chambers..

The existing City Hall and Library building at 900 E. Fairhaven Avenue, will be the new home of the Parks & Recreation Department. This will give them ample space for meeting rooms and classes. The two modular's behind City Hall will be removed.



Window seats and rocking chair; Game table; Family restroom.

Other amenities: Teen area; coffee and vending machines; Friends of the Library book sale area; plenty of comfy; seating and work tables throughout; TV/DVD/VCR and projector for meeting rooms. Picture rail around large meeting room for art displays.

Visit:

www.burlington.lib.wa.us/bldproject.htm to see the complete plans and photos of the construction in progress.

Your New Library at a Glance

Projected Opening Date: Summer 2007; Square footage: 22,000; Public computers: 24 (includes a 12-seat computer lab); plus wireless internet throughout; Large meeting room capacity: 150; Small meeting room capacity: 6; Tutoring; rooms: 2; Children's area includes: Children's reading clubhouse;



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Hey Kids: It's Time to Plant those Pumpkin Seeds!

Get set to watch the pumpkins fly! Mark your calendars for the weekend of **October 13-15**.



Kids start planting those pumpkin seeds and enter your "home-grown" pumpkin in our Pumpkin Weigh-In contest.

For those who are a little more adventurous, get a team of friends and build a trebuchet to enter in the Recreation Division or Competitive Division. Visit the web to find trebuchet building instructions. Call the Parks Department for registration information at 755-9649.

This year the Harvest Festival includes the **Kiwanis Blues in the Barn** on **Friday, October 13**, featuring live music, food and dancing. Also the **Art & Gift Show** will return to the Burlington Community Center on **October 13 & 14** sponsored by the Skagit Valley Artist Association and the Valley Artist Guild. There are many more events...check out the Burlington Chamber of Commerce website and click on Harvest Festival for more events and details.

Thank You

Special thanks go out to Printwise, Inc. for their generous donation of the Burlington Harvest Festival logo art. . . we appreciate their willingness in supporting Burlington's recreation programs and the local community.

