



Volume 18, Issue 1  
Spring 2009

A NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE HUB CITY



# Bulletin

*You are  
Invited*

to attend a....

**COMMUNITY MEETING**  
Tuesday, May 5 @ 6 pm — City Hall

**THE AGENDA IS IN THE WORKS AND  
INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING (so far):**

**FEMA Representative John Graves —**

- ▶ Status of the Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion
- ▶ Quick review of ways to get good Flood Insurance Rates
- ▶ Update on the Flood Map Modernization

**City Issues —**

- ▶ Update on the Levee Certification Project
- ▶ Stormwater NPDES II Update, Water Quality issues and Gages Slough
- ▶ Downtown Planning Update
  - Railroad Park
  - History of the Community and Public Art and Memorial ideas
- ▶ 5 year update of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan
  - Getting started on a Gages Slough Trail
- ▶ Electronic Signs

**General Discussion and Questions and Answers —**



**READ THE FULL-SIZED  
NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

Due to budget constraints and an effort to save printing and mailing costs, you are receiving a shortened version of the city newsletter. The full version can be viewed on the city website. Thank you for your support.



[www.ci.burlington.wa.us](http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us)

## Mayor's Message



It does not seem possible that just over a year ago I took office as your Mayor with a \$45 million budget. Last year staff was asked to cut 5% from their department budgets, approximately \$600,000 at mid-year. This year I am asking for even more cuts as we are projecting a \$1,000,000 shortfall due to a decline in 2009 sales tax revenue.

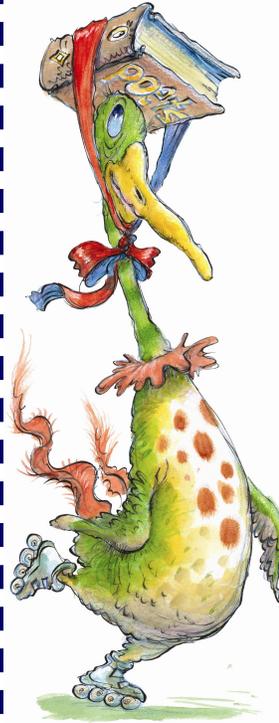
Although this will place a strain on many of our projects and programs across the city, the staff has vowed to find ways to decrease expenses to cover the shortfall. We will need your support as well. You, the citizens of this great city need to bear with me and the City Council as we make decisions on what will and will not be cut from the budget. I believe this economic downturn will soon turn the other direction. We will get through this together.

On a positive note, there are several private building projects in the works, which should move forward following the City Council approval to lower the Traffic Impact fees by 50% for one year. Our parks programs are continuing to draw many participants, and we have filled nearly all of our Police Officer positions. These and many other positive things are continuing to happen in Burlington.

If you have suggestions feel free to contact me anytime, my door is always open, I am counting on you to help chart our future.

## Summer Reading @ the Burlington Public Library

**Be Creative!** Summer Reading Program for **Children** (ages birth to 12)



Our summer reading theme this year is “be creative,” so we’ve been very imaginative in planning spectacular events for children. Cowboy Buck & Elizabeth, who are a guitarist and a ventriloquist, will astonish us with lively and original songs. Magician Sterling Dietz will dazzle us with his repertoire of tricks. Have fun! **Win prizes!**

*continued on next page*

## Saying Goodbye

I cannot believe how fast ten (10) years have passed since I began working for the City of Burlington. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of this great experience. The highlight of my brief career here has been the great people, both citizens and city employees that I have had the opportunity to work with during these past ten years. I have work under two caring Mayors and ten wonderful and very dedicated Councilmembers who together have formed a team of Elected Officials that are more concerned about providing quality public services to their citizens rather than trying to get re-elected. They never wavered in their approach to their responsibilities and formed a team that other cities envy. It has been my pleasure to be a part of a respected and creative staff that work very hard to provide efficient and quality services to meet the tax payer’s demands and expectations. We certainly have had our differences at times but when the chips are down the employees and Elected Officials work well together for the betterment of the City of Burlington.

My wife, Susan (Daniels) Aarstad, and I are natives to Burlington. Both of us and our two children Jill and Jon (J) graduated from Burlington-Edison High School. It has been very rewarding having an opportunity to give back to the community that I grew up in and hopefully helping the community to grow in a positive manner.

In closing I want to thank all my fellow staff members for your great service, kindness and support. It has meant a lot to me and I wish every one of you all the best for a bright future.

And as Edward R. Murrow said in his closing remarks “Good night and good Luck”.



*Jon T. Aarstad, City Administrator*

## EXPRESS YOURSELF!

Summer Reading Program for  
**Teens** (ages 13 to 19)

Teens will have the opportunity to meet a published author and learn how to write a fantasy story. Learn to create an animated video, and help other kids present their videos on the web. Attend the Anime films that will be shown every month. Have fun! **Win prizes!**

### Be a star!



Children ages birth through 15 who live outside city limits are eligible for a Star Reader card at no charge. Check out our English, Spanish, and bilingual titles.

### Master the Art of Reading!

Summer Reading Program for  
**Adults** (ages 18-122)

While summer reading for children is essential to their next year of school, there's no reason to let the kids have all the fun. Make some time in your summer for yourself to relax with a book. Have fun! **Win prizes!**

**Register for these FREE programs on June 15 and any time thereafter.** Everyone is welcome to participate. And did we mention the prizes????

Check our website for a programming calendar [www.burlington.lib.wa.us](http://www.burlington.lib.wa.us), or come to the library at **820 East Washington Avenue**, Burlington, 360-755-0760.

## Nature Abounds in Burlington

A great big **THANK YOU** to the following group of people for working together in an effort to clean up, design and create a new walking trail around a small pond located at the end of South Walnut Street near East George Hopper Road. In a very short time the trail was installed along with native landscaping and the property was dedicated to the City. Wildlife has scoped out the site and decided this is great area to play and live. A Canadian goose can be found nesting along the waters edge, and a variety of ducks, birds, rabbits, native salamanders and other wildlife can also be found at this location. The trail is one-fifth of a mile long.

This is a wonderful walking and nature-viewing trail or a place to sit and reflect. This would not be possible without the monetary donations or time and effort of the following people:

- Mike & Maureen Fohn
- Jack & Elizabeth Wallace
- Burlington Parks Foundation
- Burlington Parks Department
- Burlington Street Department
- Burlington Code Enforcement
- Burlington Buildings & Grounds
- Burlington Planning Department
- City Work Program crew



## JOB SEARCH RESOURCES

Are you one of the 9.9% unemployed in Skagit County? If so, the Burlington Public Library has tools to help you! Check out our new **Jobs & Careers** resources. Or stop by the library and use our Internet computers to create a winning resume, search for jobs, or fill out online applications.

[http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us/page.asp\\_Q\\_navigationid\\_E\\_643](http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us/page.asp_Q_navigationid_E_643)

# Excitement in Burlington

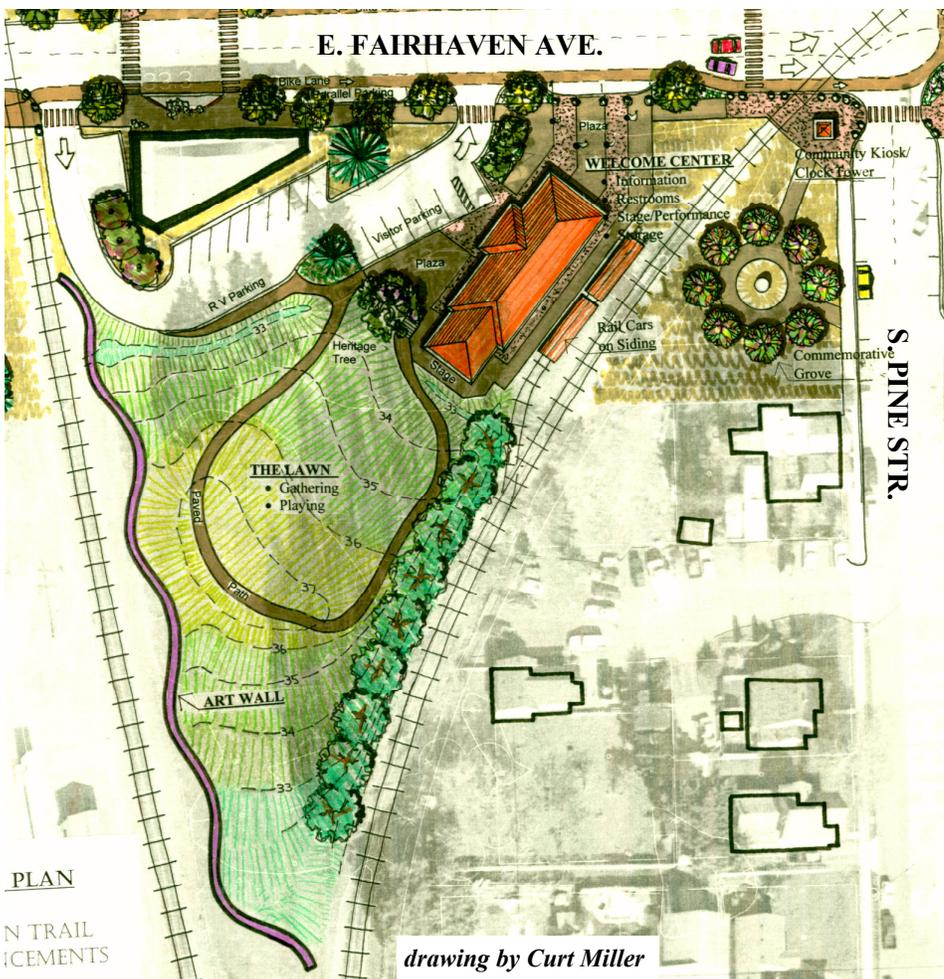
In the midst of the economic crisis, the Mayor and City Council made the decision to complete the purchase of Railroad Park on Fairhaven Avenue, along with a site for public parking behind Stowe's. This is the long awaited public park for old Downtown that will eventually be the home of a Welcome Center, with the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center and Public Restrooms. Plans include a covered area for concerts in the park and space for a wide array of public events and activities. The Downtown Burlington planning project is back on track working towards making Downtown the place to be. Over the past few years, building owners are making improvements that are attracting people and businesses. There

is a long way to go, and there are sites that need a lot of work by committed property owners, like the entrance to Downtown at Fairhaven and Burlington Boulevard.

Public transportation improvements are making it more feasible for people to live in this area and commute to work in other areas. Higher density in-city living in areas adjacent to the retail core and old downtown is a real potential for the future so more people will be able to live and work in this community, as well as travel the I-5 corridor.

The Burlington Parks Foundation is a partner in getting started on developing a Community Arts program this year. The development of the program will be assisted by the Library Arts Committee, whose tremendous efforts brought the new Library to life. The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee has set aside money each year towards public art, and now is the time to take action. One great idea that has been discussed is to have an Annual Art Walk as a Tulip Festival event.

This summer is also the season for taking action to move ahead with the flood hazard mitigation projects that will protect Burlington for the long term future. The clear and simple goal is making sure that Burlington will have great economic vitality as the time comes for restoration, redevelopment and making sure that buildings will not have to be elevated and out of place with their neighbors! Burlington is also focused on environmental quality, farmland preservation and public access and open space. This is a great agenda for the future and the city is committed to working with all of the diverse interests to come up with solutions that work.



PLAN  
N TRAIL  
ICEMENTS

drawing by Curt Miller

## CITY PARKS

Now is the time to take advantage of your park system! Burlington's parks have a multitude of recreation amenities for your enjoyment that can offer a low or no cost opportunity during these tough times. Please visit our new office (old city hall) at 900 E. Fairhaven Avenue and pick up a park brochure to point you in the right direction. Did you know that we also have available three covered picnic shelters for rent as well as rooms at the Burlington Community Center?

It has been a long, white winter and the following rain has not yet stopped. The saturation of our Skagit River Park Playfields has forced us to cancel several soccer games. Unfortunately, the weather forecast still looks somewhat bleak. Although cancellations mean a loss in revenue, we look forward to a busy tournament season kicking off in June with Puget Sound Soccer Academy and US Club Soccer sponsoring three new tournaments. The largest of these is the US Club Regional's over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. This tournament alone is expected to have 200+ teams minimum and will bring some much needed revenue into our county.

Please visit our website at [www.ci.burlington.wa.us](http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us) and take a look at our Parks Tournament Calendar page for a listing of all scheduled tournaments. A multitude of Ultimate Disc Tournaments are scheduled throughout the spring and summer as well. This is an exciting sport that has taken off in recent years.

*Continued on Page 6*



*Kiwanis for Kids Waterpark @ Maiben Park*

## Police Department



On March 1, 2009 the Police Department was pleased to announce the promotion of Sergeant **Tom Moser** to the position of **Lieutenant** and Officer **Ed Rogge** to the position of **Sergeant**. Both took their oath of office from Mayor Ed Brunz during a ceremony held at the Public Safety Building on March 3.

Lieutenant Moser began his career with our department in 1990. He is a graduate of Sedro Woolley High School and Washington State University. In his 19 years of service Lieutenant Moser has been in the positions of patrol officer, detective, detective sergeant and patrol sergeant. In his new position he will oversee the Patrol unit as well as Code-Enforcement / Animal Control. The Patrol Unit consists of three squads each having four officers and one Sergeant.

Sergeant Ed Rogge began his career with the Concrete Police Department in 1992. He is a graduate of Concrete High School. Sergeant Rogge joined our department in 2001 as a patrol officer. Until his recent promotion he had been a detective in our investigative unit. He is our range master for our firearms program as well as an instructor in active shooter response.

We wish both Lieutenant Moser and Sergeant Rogge well in their new positions. We look forward to working with them as our department continues to grow and develop to better serve the citizens of Burlington.

## Municipal Court

The passport business has been brisk, and we would like to remind everyone that **after June 1, 2009 you will not be able to cross either border (Canada & Mexico)** without a passport. Burlington Municipal Court office issues passports Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. We do not issue on Wednesdays as that is court day and we are too busy.



Gross revenue for the first quarter of 2009 is up about 7%, and tickets filed are up about 9%. We will begin processing E-filing the first part of May 2009. This is a process that is being done in many other parts of the country, and is very streamlined and reduces errors, as the information transmitted uses bar codes on the driver's licenses.

The City Work Program logged in a total of 224 days of work in the first quarter of 2009; this is a minimum monetary savings for the city of \$14,560 in jail costs. The program has been a huge success. With the budget crunches we are now facing, this program is going to prove even more valuable in cost savings, especially in fewer people hired part time for the summer.

*As always we invite you to call or stop by if you have any questions, or pop into the courtroom to watch the antics on any 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.*

# Happenings in our Parks

Continued from Page 5

Sales tax has taken a plunge in Burlington which means some of our non-revenue related expenses will be cut temporarily. One of these cuts has already been implemented by cutting the lights at the SK8 Park. Although more cuts are yet to come, we feel very fortunate that our department generates revenue and contributes to the economic vitality of our city and county. Skagit River Park holds some of the largest tournaments in the country and has put Burlington on the map contributing millions of dollars toward our economy.

## Recreation Programs are Cruising Right Along!



### BUSY WINTER & SPRING:

Beginning with our new Cartooning Classes for youth, they've become so popular we're even expanding them to adult classes too. There was also Late Night Gym every Saturday Night, Saturday Snowboarding

Trips, and don't forget about adult Yoga every Thursday night and Scrapbooking crops every other month. During Spring Break we offered Kids Self Reliance Classes with Camp Fire USA providing the instructors and curriculum. On Thursday we organized our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Appreciation Day, topped off with the announcement of the Mayors Youth Achievement Award Winners and Runner-ups. We also hosted the local Aquafina Pitch, Hit and Run Competition in Mount Vernon with Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Department.



### SUMMER

**CAMPS:** This summer is going to be jam-packed with recreational opportunities: British Challenger Soccer and our own Tiger and Just for Kicks Soccer Camps, Volleyball Camps, Skyhawks Sports Camps,

Birch Bay Waterslides Trips, and our popular weekly "Fun Theme Camps". Mark your calendars because the All Comer Track Meets begin on Wednesday, June 17 at the BEHS track for six weeks of family fun! Want to learn how to play Lacrosse? Take our Lacrosse 101 Co-ed Camp this summer-it's the fastest growing sport on two feet! Please visit Recreation's informative webpages for all the dates, fees, and times for these upcoming programs:

<http://recreation@ci.burlington.wa.us>.

**IDEAS, COMMENTS, QUESTIONS?** Please email Burlington Recreation Coordinator, Christi Kinney at [christik@ci.burlington.wa.us](mailto:christik@ci.burlington.wa.us) if you would like to add your input to the Recreation Programs offered through us. We love to hear new ideas!

### Need more info?

You'll find lots of info on the Parks and Recreation pages of the City's website: [www.ci.burlington.wa.us](http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us). Feel free to visit our office at **900 E. Fairhaven Avenue** (business entrance at Regent Street) or give us a call at **(360) 755-9649** with any questions you might have. Our office has Community Resource, Recreational Opportunity, and Facility Rental information offered in Burlington and its outlying communities.

*We're here to help keep you happy, healthy and active!*

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Mark Anderson left the Burlington Fire Department on March 3, 2009. He served as Chief for seven years. Assistant Fire Chief Glen Staheli is acting as Interim Fire Chief for the remainder of 2009.

Three volunteer Fire Captains have been promoted to the rank Battalion Chief. Former Captains Marvin Mehlum, Doug Stilwill and Ed Tjeerdsma assumed their more demanding duties on March 9. Chris Loving, who had previously served as a Fire Officer was reinstated to the rank

of Senior Captain. These officers, along with volunteer Assistant Chief Jeff Ovenell, work regular, week-long shifts as department Duty Chief. During their tour of duty they are in full command of the fire department.

*Continued on Page 8*

# City Adopts New Animal Code

After many years in the making, the City Council recently adopted a new animal code. The old code was extremely outdated and there were many issues that needed to be addressed. Time was spent talking to other animal control officers across the state, reviewing codes from other jurisdictions that have been successful, and the concerns and needs of the citizens of Burlington.

One of the most significant changes was made to the **potentially** dangerous and **dangerous** dog ordinance. If your dog acts aggressive on private or public property it can be declared potentially dangerous. A potentially dangerous dog is defined as and dog when unprovoked: a) inflicts bites in a human or domestic animal either on public or private property; or b) chases or approaches a person upon any street, sidewalk, or any public or private property in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack, or any animal with a known propensity, tendency or disposition to attack unprovoked, causes injury or otherwise threatens safety of humans or domestic animals.

If your dog is found to be **potentially dangerous** for any of the reason listed above, you will be required to register it as such. This involves paying the registration fee of \$250, (which is the same). However, **you will now be required to secure the dog in an approved fenced area and get an insurance bond in the amount of \$25,000 for the dog.**

The requirements for a dog which have been **declared dangerous** by definition remain the same; a \$500 registration fee, approved confinement, and a \$250,000 insurance bond.

As you can see, keeping your dog under control at all times is very important. I'm often told when responding to an aggressive dog complaint that "my dog is friendly he/she has never growled or bitten anyone". Remember.....how your dog behaves when you're around, in most of these cases, is completely different then how he/she acts when you're not there. Dogs tend to want to guard their house and property when you're not there. That's their "dog job". What they don't understand, is that their job ends at the property line.

Another thing that has changed is the cost of a dog tag. All dogs within the city limits are required to be registered with the Police Department. The cost for a yearly tag is \$5 if the dog has been spayed or neutered and \$20 if it has not. Any resident 68 years or older can register their dog for free. Having a tag on your dog connects the two of you in our computer system and enables us to contact you if your dog is impounded. Dogs that are impounded are housed at the Police Department for a day or two (weather providing). If they are not claimed within that time, we send the dogs to

SPOT or foster home for five days after which they may be deemed adoptable. If the dog is sent out to a facility you may be required to pay the \$75 redemption fee. If your dog is missing, **ALWAYS** check with the Police Department first to see if your dog has been impounded. The number is **755-0921** or you may contact **Code Enforcement Officer, Robin Blair at 755-2307**. You may **also contact the dispatch center at 428-3211 and report a lost or found dog.**

We have also adopted an exotic animal ordinance which prohibits many exotic animals from being housed in the city. Please make sure you review this ordinance (BMC 6.12) before purchasing any exotic animal to make sure that the animal in question is not on the list of prohibited animals.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADDITIONAL CHANGES

For dogs running at large, citations may be issued. The first offense is \$50, second offense \$75, third offense \$100, and fourth offense \$150 and possible forfeiture of the dog.

- ▶ **Non-canine animals running at large, excluding cats, running at large - \$50**
- ▶ **Nuisance noise - \$100**
- ▶ **Failure to remove animal waste - \$50**

**BURLINGTON GREENHILLS CEMETERY** — Spring is here and we have begun mowing at the cemetery. With Memorial Day just around the corner, 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 of the American Legion Post for the ceremony on Monday morning, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Watch the newspaper for the exact time.





## Notes from the Finance Department

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A three-year utility rate adjustment was passed by the Burlington City Council on November 8, 2007, Ordinances 1640 and 1641. The City has increased the rates for Sanitary Sewer Service and Drainage Utility by effective January 1, 2009. These increases are much needed in order to help pay for the increases in operations and maintenance costs of the overall wastewater system and will be instrumental in accomplishing our long term goals, including the restoration work on Gages Slough. In addition, the fee increase for the Drainage Utility will allow the City to meet federal Clean Water Act requirements, and the requirements of the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, which implements the federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System; additional information on this permit and federal requirements may be found at your local public library, or on the state department of ecology's website at: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/index.html).

For example the Single Family Inside-City Limits Residential base rate was \$28.81/month and increased to \$29.67/month while the base rate for the Drainage Utility increased from \$4.22/month to \$5.06/month. The City of Burlington breaks it down by month; however, each billing is sent out as a bi-monthly bill.

The Sanitary Sewer rates are based upon water consumption as supplied to us by Skagit County PUD #1. The Summer Averaging period begins May 1, 2009 where the residential sewer bills will be an average of your previous sewer billings for the periods of November 2008 through April 2009. If you have any significant changes in usage, i.e. occupancy, water leak, vacancy etc., please notify the City Utility Department @ (360)755-0531 as these changes may affect your future bi-monthly bill.

We offer several payment options including the acceptance of payment by Visa and MasterCard

credit and debit cards, accepted until 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday either by phone or in person at City Hall. You may also set up direct debit from your checking or savings account. You receive your bill approximately ten days prior to the deduction and would not have to worry about due dates anymore. The application is simple. Please stop by City Hall to obtain an Autopay Agreement or contact us at (360) 755-0531 for more information.

The City of Burlington is excited about the new utility bill format. We are now able to add comments to and sort the bills more effectively. In an effort to reduce waste, we do not send return envelopes to Autopay customers. Do you typically pay your bill by phone or through online bill-pay? If so, please let us know if you do not wish to receive a return envelope. Thank you to all who have already elected to forego the return envelope and to those who return their unused envelopes!

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## **FIRE DEPARTMENT** —continued from Page 6

Using the impact fees collected over time from the developers of commercial projects (Home Depot, Sportsman's Warehouse, etc.) the department is purchasing a new fire engine. The vehicle was designed by a committee of Burlington career and volunteer firefighters and we anticipate delivery of the new rig sometime in August 2009. This purchase will provide us with two modern, front-line fire engines and one not-so-modern but still serviceable reserve engine.

The Burlington Fire Department could not continue to serve and improve without the continued support of our citizens, our citizen-soldiers (volunteer firefighters), our career staff, and our elected officials.



## 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 14, 2009.*
- ▶ **Punch card is required** for disposal of yard maintenance material.
- ▶ **FREE punch cards** are issued at **City Hall, 833 S. Spruce Street. (Picture ID with address required).**
- ▶ Limit of **FREE 2009 punch cards up to a \$40 limit per household: Punch cards are only valid for 2009.**
  - \$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:**
  - 2008 punch cards or others
  - Commercial yard maintenance materials
  - 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.**

## UPDATE: FEMA Flood Mapping and Skagit River Hydrology

A year ago, we described in this newsletter how FEMA had directed its technical consultant, the Seattle District, US Army Corps of Engineers, to revise its technical analysis to incorporate updated hydrologic inputs and a newer version of flood modeling software. After investigation by FEMA, the Corps of Engineers, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, Pacific International Engineering, and the software developer, it was determined by the software developer that the earlier version of the software, used by the Corps of Engineers, did not function properly given the complexity of the lower Skagit River Basin surface features (levees, freeway, streets, bridges, etc.). Therefore, FEMA directed the Corps to revise its technical work, this time using the newest version of the software. In May 2008, the Corps published its revised draft hydrology and hydraulic studies. The City does not agree with the revised analysis.

However, the delay gave the Partnership of Burlington, Mount Vernon, Dike District 12 and Dike District 1 more time to further investigate the nature of the historic flood events – those that occurred prior to the Dalles gage installation in 1923. That work is now complete and has been published in a document entitled “Skagit River Basin Hydrology Report, Existing Conditions, October 2008.” This report is posted on the City’s web page.

Using original research, source documentation, new forensic investigation and extended hydraulic modeling, the report adds significant new information about the nature of the historic flood events of 1921, 1917, 1909, and 1897. The most compelling information comes from extending the hydraulic model from the location of the Dalles river gage, upstream two miles to Concrete and then tying the model into high water marks surveyed by James Stewart (a USGS Hydraulic Engineer) in 1922. The new hydraulic modeling approach was to simply take known river stage/discharge information directly from the gage recording (most significantly, the 166,000 cfs stage/discharge from the 2003 flood of record); then, by using modern and accurate hydraulic computer modeling techniques, extend the stage/discharge relationship upstream to the Concrete area where the flood stage information from 1921 and 1917 was available. The hydraulic model then enables a discharge estimate to be calculated from the old high water marks. The results follow:

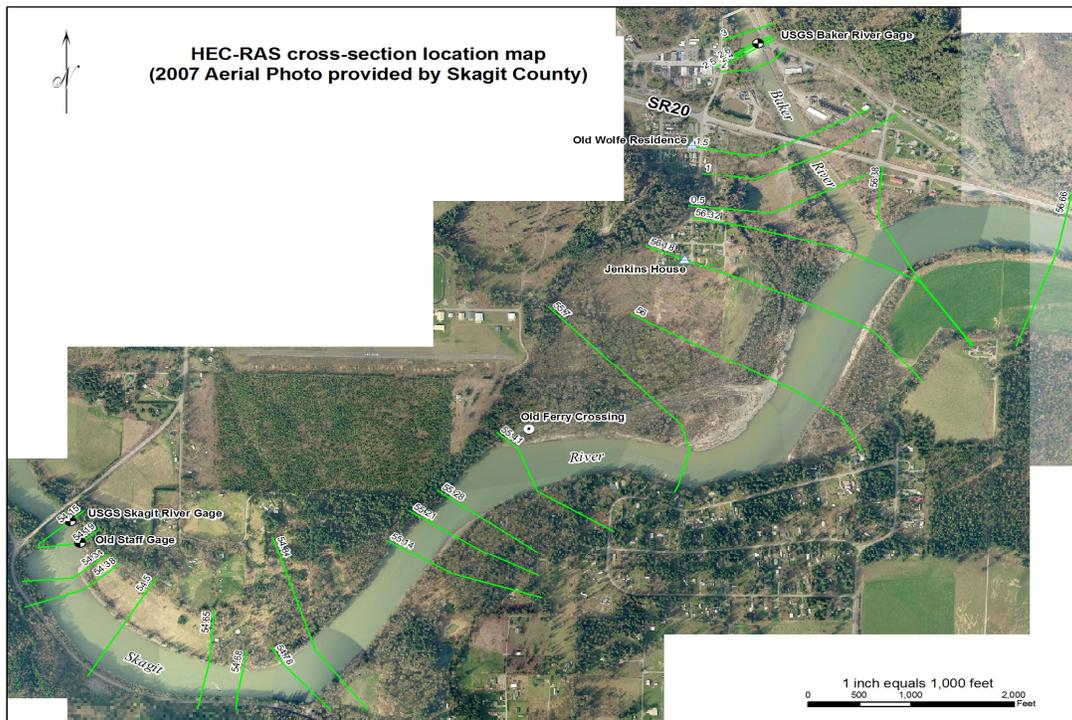
**Estimated unregulated peak and one-day discharges for four historical floods in the Skagit River near Concrete (Cubic Feet per Second, cfs)**

Water Year	Date	Peak Discharges (cfs) Estimated by USGS	Peak Discharges (cfs) Estimated by model and Stewart’s HWMs	One-Day Discharges (cfs) Estimated by Regression
1898	Nov. 19, 1897	265,000	181,200	148,300
1910	Nov. 30, 1909	245,000	179,000	146,500
1918	Dec. 30, 1917	210,000	158,700	130,200
1922	Dec. 13, 1921	228,000	169,700	139,100

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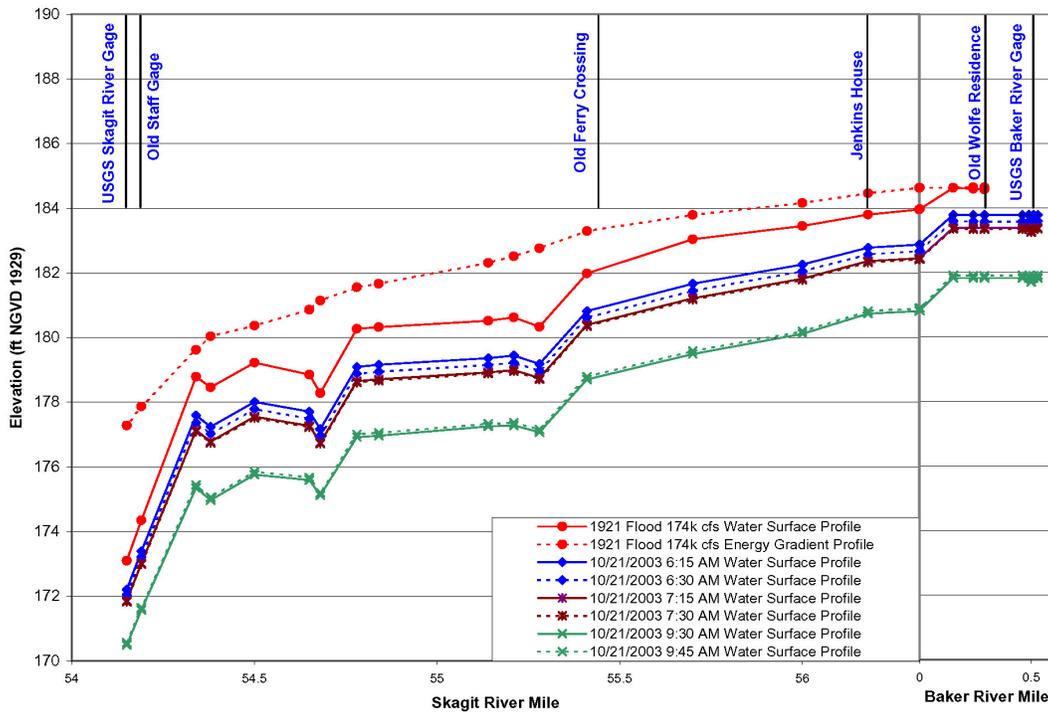


Aerial Photograph showing location of gage at the Dalles bridge, and the Crofoot's Addition to Concrete, where James Stewart surveyed high water marks from the 1921 and 1917 floods in this location.



Aerial Photograph showing location of river cross sections used for the hydraulic model.

Continued on Page 12



*Energy and water surface profiles for the 1921 and 2003 flood events between the Dalles and Concrete.*

We have provided a copy of our technical report to FEMA Region X, and it is currently under review. FEMA does not yet have an estimate for when the revised preliminary maps may be released.

It is important for remember that even if the Partnership is successful in getting the underlying Skagit River hydrology corrected, Burlington’s base flood elevations are still going to go up significantly. That is because FEMA does not recognize Dike District 12’s levee system; therefore, FEMA’s flood model assumes the levees do not exist. Further, FEMA then models the flood water flow for the “worst case” situation – that is, no levees on the Burlington side of the river, while the levees hold on the Mount Vernon side. One can visualize that under this artificial situation, Skagit flood water would of course flow directly through the City, whether the hydrology is corrected or not. Even with corrected hydrology, the estimated “100-year” Skagit flood event is larger than any flood that has occurred in the past 110 years. Therefore, until

the City, in partnership with Dike District 12, can get appropriate sections of the levee system “certified” so that the levees will be recognized by FEMA in the flood modeling process, the new base flood elevations will be much higher than today’s. Is Burlington working with Dike District 12 to certify the levees? Yes. We currently have an ongoing consultant contract to provide the design concept for levee certification. This effort should be finished in 2009 will lead to a subsequent consultant contract to finalize a “Conditional Letter of Map Revision” (CLOMR) for FEMA to review which outlines our plan for levee certification. If FEMA and our neighbors approve, the CLOMR will provide Burlington’s road map for flood risk reduction, and construction work to further strengthen the levees will begin as funding can be lined up. This is going to take many years, and likely a decade or longer.

*Continued on Page 13*

## **FEMA—continued from Page 12**

That is not all the City is doing with regard to the flood issue. Recently, Mayor Brunz traveled to Washington D.C., where he met separately with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), the National Academies of Science, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in addition to meetings with Congressional leaders and staff members. As a result of the first meeting, HQ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was directed to convene a 1-day meeting for a thorough “final” review of the hydrology; and, if no agreement is reached, the Assistant Secretary agreed to an independent external peer review process for the hydrological analysis. To that end, at a subsequent

meeting with the key staff members of the National Research Council (NRC), NRC staff agreed to provide the independent technical review, if requested. Initial response to this concept from Skagit County has been positive. Finally, at the meeting with FERC, the FERC staff was briefed regarding the flood control provisions of the new Baker Hydroelectric Project license, and informed of our local partnership of cities, towns and dike districts which supports the additional flood storage. There is much more going on with this issue than we have room to print here. Please feel free to contact Public Works Director Chal Martin at [cmartin@ci.burlington.wa.us](mailto:cmartin@ci.burlington.wa.us) any time you need the most recent information. Additionally, watch the City’s web page.

## **FLOOD & NATURAL HAZARD REDUCTION PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN #33**

**Spring 2009**

**If you have not yet read and kept up-to-date on the flood and emergency information provided, please do so by reading the Flood Bulletin recently sent to you inside the City newsletter or download it from our website at:**

<http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us/imageuploads/Media-2359.pdf>

It is important for your family to  
**BE PREPARED & STAY PREPARED**



# to our website to read more articles:

Find the following articles at [www.ci.burlington.wa.us](http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us), click on **City News**; or copy and paste this link in your browser:

[http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us/page.asp\\_Q\\_navigationid\\_E\\_492](http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us/page.asp_Q_navigationid_E_492)

- New Animal Code adopted by City Council. “Tips and tails” about new laws that may affect your pet.
- New Passport Laws for getting into Canada and Mexico
- FEMA Flood Mapping and Skagit River Hydrology update
- Sewer Billing and Payment information
- Greenhills Cemetery Memorial Day celebration
- Fire Department news
- Yard Waste Recycling Center is now open, see rules and regulations
- Spring Flood Bulletin
- Update on Railroad Park purchase, Community Arts program, and Flood Hazard Mitigation
- Parks & Recreation Spring & Summer information
- Promotions in the Police Department

We thank you for your support and understanding in our decision to produce a smaller newsletter with the majority of the information online.



833 S. Spruce Street  
Burlington WA 98233

Phone: 360-755-0531  
Fax: 360-755-9565

E-mail: [cityhall@ci.burlington.wa.us](mailto:cityhall@ci.burlington.wa.us)

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