

Summer 2007

FERNDALE CONNECTION

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A Quarterly e-Publication of the City of Ferndale
2095 Main Street - Ferndale, Washington 98248

Things to Enjoy This Summer

Greetings from the Mayors Desk:

Summer is upon us and we are going to have a fine summer if the weather holds as it appears it is going to. The forecasts are for lots of sun, temps in the bearable ranges of what we expect in Western Washington. Life is truly grand.

We are pleased with the outcome of the first annual Highland Games to be held in Ferndale in our Centennial year. The games were a total success. We learned a great deal from the first year activities and will be even better prepared next year for repeat performance the first weekend in June for their annual gathering of the Clans. We were of course concerned about the potential for parking issues. The use of the north



end of Hovander Park and the shuttle busses that moved guests from and to the parking. That worked out very well. We will remain in the debt of The Hovander Park Staff for all their support.

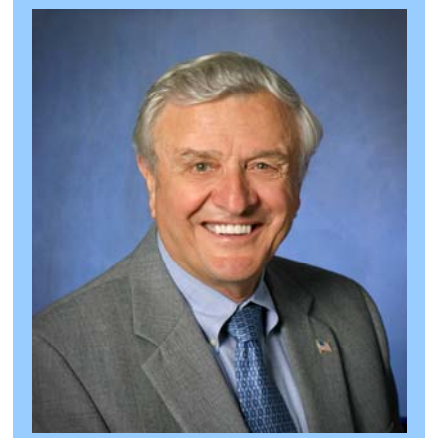
Our City Police Department provided public safety support and put on a good face for our Community. The Public works Staff worked very hard to assist in

accommodating the hundreds of people that came to visit our city and the Highland Games.

As an aside to that successful event in our fair City I have learned that the USA National Rugby National Club will host their annual games in Ferndale again this August 11 and 12. This is the second year in a row for that honor. Jeff Lombard is the organizer of the event and has indicated it should bring more than 400 people to our Community from across the USA. We are on the map thanks to the efforts of so many good people who live and do business in our City. Thanks to all of them.

Graduation has taken place and the school district staff and work force is either on vacation or working extra hard to accomplish many projects during the summer break. This year's crop of graduates will be stepping out in to the world of business, labor or advanced education. This is an amazing time in their young lives and I wish them all the very best.

The coming weeks and months bring much activity in and around our Community there are substantial street improvement projects, lots of recreational activity such as sports at the ConocoPhillips Complex and at Pioneer Park. The major event last weekend of July will be the Old Settlers Celebration. This is a major



celebration and we all look forward to visiting with our friends and neighbors that we may not have seen since last year.

There is of course plenty of Political activity. For all the persons running for elective office I congratulate you and offer a thank you for your interest in serving the public. One issue that has come to my attention and the City council is the use of campaign signs placed along “Rights of Way” Those areas are generally public streets and other public property. The placing of signs in the rights of way is not authorized and the signs will be collected and remain available at our Public Works Shop for one week after collection. Please do not litter the ROW with signs.



Enjoy the summer hope vacation travelers have a safe and pleasant journey. See you all in the fall as School begins in early September.

Here are some tips to share with residents to support clean water this summer:

- **Make a date.** Car wash facilities treat their dirty water before discharging it to our lakes and rivers. So, make a date to take your car to a car wash.
- **Wash it — on the grass.** If you wash your car at home, consider washing it on the lawn. Or, if you can't use the lawn, try to direct the dirty water towards the lawn and away from the storm drain.
- **Minimize it.** Reduce the amount of soap you use or wash your car with plain water.
- **Maintain it.** Keep your vehicle properly tuned. Use the owner's manual to guide decisions about how often it is necessary to change fluids such as oil and antifreeze.
- **Take advantage of business expertise.** Consider taking your vehicle to the shop to have the oil and other fluids changed. These businesses have the ability to recycle the used materials and clean up accidental spills.
- **Recycle.** If you choose to change your oil and other fluids yourself, label the waste containers. Then, take them to your community's household hazardous waste collection day or to a business that accepts used oil. Never dump used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the ground or down the storm drain.
- **Soak it up.** Use kitty litter promptly to absorb small amounts of spilled vehicle fluids. Then sweep it into a bag and throw it in the trash.
- **Do it under cover.** Perform vehicle maintenance in a well-ventilated, but covered location, like a garage. This minimizes rainfall from washing those inevitable spills and drips into our waterways.

Enjoy the summer season,

Mayor Jerry Landcastle

Summer Musings: Festivals, Events, Projects

Take a Walk By the River



Thoughts of the City Administrator

Work has begun and will continue this summer on an important project here in Ferndale – the construction of the Centennial Riverwalk. Located on Front Street and running from the downtown-side of the Nooksack River Bridge southward nearly to the entrance of Pioneer Park, this project is intended to celebrate our relationship with the river and will provide a pedestrian link between Vanderyacht Park and Pioneer Park. If all goes as planned, the new park will be open by Thanksgiving and should prove to be a major amenity in the City.

The Riverwalk is designed to be an area for festivals, farmers markets and other special events. It should also provide a very nice place for an evening stroll or family picnic. Over time, this park should serve as the centerpiece of a revitalized downtown—providing a reason to spend some time downtown on a nice afternoon.

This project will feature not only a great place to sit and enjoy the river but also a spot to do some fishing or to just simply relax and commune with nature.



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Lummi Master Carver Jewell James of The House of Tears will create three totems for the new Park. Pictured are the "Liberty, Freedom and Sovereignty Poles" at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., also created by James and the Lummi carvers.

The City has commissioned three totem poles from the Lummi Nation that will tell the story of early European settlement of the area as well as Lummi's creation story featuring Raven, Bear's Wife and the Salmon. These poles will be located at the mid-point of the park and will not only tell these important stories but will also remind us of the fact that many people called this beautiful place home prior to modern settlement.

Overall however, this park is meant to be a very visual celebration of the City's Centennial. As we move into Ferndale's second 100 years as a city, it is important to

reflect on the past so as to be able to put the future into context.

The future belongs to the young as they will be responsible for this place long after we are gone. This park will therefore also serve as a linkage to Ferndale 2007 for future generations. In a time in the not to distant future, no one will be able to remember what Front Street looked like prior to the Centennial Riverwalk – just as no one now remembers what Ferndale looked like in 1907 and before.

Time marches on and it is up to the current generation to pass on to our children a place that is hopefully a little better than we found it. This is what the Riverwalk means now and hopefully the future will judge us well for taking this opportunity to express our gratitude and hope.

Cut Your Household Pollution

Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution from Households

The City of Ferndale is formulating its Phase II Stormwater Program. One of the major components of program is public education. The well-known stories about environmental problems tend to focus on big, recognizable targets such as smoking industrial facilities, leaking toxic waste dumps, and messy oil spills. As a result, people often forget about water pollution caused by smaller nonpoint sources--especially pollution at the household level.

However, nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is the Nation's leading source of water quality degradation. Although individual homes might contribute only minor amounts of NPS pollution, the combined effect of an entire neighborhood can be serious. These include eutrophication, sedimentation, and contamination with unwanted pollutants.

NPS pollution is widespread because it can occur any time activities disturb the land or water. Agriculture, forestry, grazing, septic systems, recreational boating, urban runoff, construction, physical changes to stream channels, and habitat degradation are potential sources of NPS pollution. Careless or uninformed household management also contributes to NPS pollution problems.

To prevent and control NPS pollution, households can learn about the causes of such pollution and take the appropriate (and often money-saving) steps to limit runoff and make sure runoff stays clean.

Landscape With Nature

Altering the natural contours of yards during landscaping and planting with non-native plants that need fertilizer and extra water can increase the potential for higher runoff volumes, increase erosion, and introduce chemicals into the path of runoff. In contrast, xeriscape landscaping provides households with a framework that can dramatically reduce the potential for NPS pollution.



Xeriscape (examples in photos at left and above) incorporates many environmental factors into landscape design--soil type, use of native plants, practical turf areas, proper irrigation, mulches, and appropriate maintenance

schedules. By using native plants that are well suited to a regions

climate and pests, xeriscape drastically reduces the need for irrigation and chemical applications. Less irrigation results in less runoff, while less chemical application keeps runoff clean.

Proper Chemical Use, Storage, and Disposal

Household cleaners, grease, oil, plastics, and some food or paper products should not be flushed down drains or washed down the street. Over time chemicals can corrode septic system pipes and might not be completely removed during the filtration process. Chemicals poured down the drain can also interfere with the chemical and biological breakdown of the wastes in the septic tank.

On household lawns and gardens, homeowners can try natural alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides and apply no more than the recommended amounts. Natural predators like insects and bats, composting, and use of native plants can reduce or entirely negate the need for chemicals. Xeriscape can limit chemical applications to lawns and gardens.

If chemicals are needed around the home, they should be stored properly to prevent leaks and access by children. Most cities have designated sites for the proper disposal of used chemicals.

**FREE - ONE DAY ONLY - FREE
APPLIANCE COLLECTION DAY**

Saturday, July 14th – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – City Hall Parking Lot

Bring your old appliances to the Ferndale City Hall parking lot located at 2095 Main Street in Ferndale, and donate it to ReUse Works, a non-profit jobs program that tests, repairs, and sells used appliances. All donations are tax deductible.

MOST WANTED: washers, dryers, ranges, fridges, freezers
ALSO ACCEPTED: hot water tanks, dishwashers, microwaves
NOT ACCEPTED (Sorry): televisions, electronics (computers, monitors, etc.) furniture, trash

For more information, please call 360-527-2646

**SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF FERNDALE AND
REUSE WORKS**

Greetings from New Planning Director Dennis Rhodes

PLANNING DIRECTOR DENNIS RHODES

The Planning and Building Department has seen significant change over the past several weeks, but before focusing on change, I believe it is critically important to give recognition to those who have stepped up and maintained a high level of service during the department's re-staffing process. The Building Inspectors, Craig Bryant and Jerry Shiner, maintained their usual high level of service in performing inspections. They also stepped up and assisted with customer service and project review at the counter. Marci Wightman, Counter Technician, broadened her role in devoting additional time to assisting customers at the counter as well as significantly expanding her role in moving applications through the site plan review process. Toni Segerman held the office together administratively; and kept the department's administrative process, as well as Planning Commission and Hearing Examiner moving smoothly in spite of all the personnel shortages. Finally, special recognition needs to be given to Senior Planner Michael Jones for taking on the role of Acting Director, department administrator and "go-to" person on everything planning or planning-related. Each of the of the stalwart souls that held the department together during the lean times clearly deserves recognition and credit for a job well done.

The changes to the Planning and Building Department are at this point limited to new personnel. As Planning and Building Director, I have been on the job for just over three weeks. In addition, Associate Planner, Jori Burnett, and Assistant Planner, Ryan Morrison, have now been on the job for approximately one and two weeks respectively. This means the department is at full strength and familiarization and training have begun. It is important to note that all of the new people come with experience from other jurisdictions, so the learning curve will be short. This global experience brings new ideas to the department, which will result in more efficient and streamlined operations in the future. The most immediate benefit will be the Department's return to full counter operations daily from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on July 2, 2007.

As Director I have been focusing on building close working relationships with the City's citizen advisory boards, commissions and committees. I have been working with them to more clearly define their areas of responsibility and to focus their efforts as advisory groups. In addition, I have been stressing the benefits of developing stronger, more interactive working relationships between the citizen advisory groups and how the synergy from this interaction truly helps the City implement its vision, goals and objectives. We have been making significant progress in my short tenure, and I welcome the opportunity to work with these very dedicated and supportive citizens. To this end we are embarking on a process to investigate and to provide the City Council with recommendations on development regulations and design standards for large retail developments in the City. A work plan for citizen advisory groups has been prepared which identifies topics and dates of workshops. This will be available to interested citizens.

In addition, we have scheduled a "Short Course In Local Planning", sponsored by the Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, to provide training in basic land use law, roles and responsibilities of advisory boards and commissions, and the nexus between the City's comprehensive plan and development regulations. The "Short Course" will be held on August 2nd from 6 to 9 p.m.. The location is yet to be established but will be advertised when finalized.

This is a great time to be in Ferndale. There are a wide variety of issues being considered in the community that are tied directly to the City's Comprehensive Plan, Development Regulations and the 20/20 Planning Process. As citizens I would invite you to participate. As Director of Planning and Building, I am exited at the privilege and prospect of working with you as the process evolves.



**Planning
Commission**

**FORESTRY
BOARD**



"I welcome the opportunity to work with these very dedicated and supportive citizens." - Planning Director Dennis Rhodes on Ferndale's Advisory Groups

*Aaaaaaarrrrgggg!
Another late fee!!! What can
I do to avoid late fees??
WHAT CAN I DO????!!!*

TIRED OF LATE FEES??

PAY YOUR WATER BILL AUTOMATICALLY!

IT'S QUICK, EASY, AND FREE.

SIGN UP TODAY ... HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL GET:



*DARN!
Another
pesky
water shut
off!*



NO MORE LATE FEES!!
NO COSTLY POSTAGE STAMPS!!
NO HASSLE BILL PAYING!!
NO PESKY WATER SHUT-OFFS!!

BILL AMOUNTS DUE ARE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR SAVINGS OR CHECKING ACCOUNT ON THE 25TH OF THE MONTH THE BILL IS DUE

**CALL US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
AND SIGN UP TODAY.
YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!**

**384-4269 OR 384-4302
WWW.CITYOFFERDALE.ORG**



*Woo hoo!!! I called
the City of Ferndale
and signed up for
auto-pay and am I
ever glad I did! NO
MORE LATE FEES!*

How S.C.O.P.E. Serves the Community

POLICE DEPARTMENT S.C.O.P.E.

What is S.C.O.P.E.??

This question is heard daily by members of the Ferndale Police Department all-volunteer S.C.O.P.E. unit .

S.C.O.P.E. stands for “**Senior Citizens on Patrol Enhancement.**” The unit was formed in 1999 and has been active ever since. S.C.O.P.E. Officers perform a variety of necessary but lower priority duties, helping to free-up fully commissioned officers to deal with law enforcement issues of a more serious nature.



Enforcement of parking laws are part of the SCOPE officers' responsibility



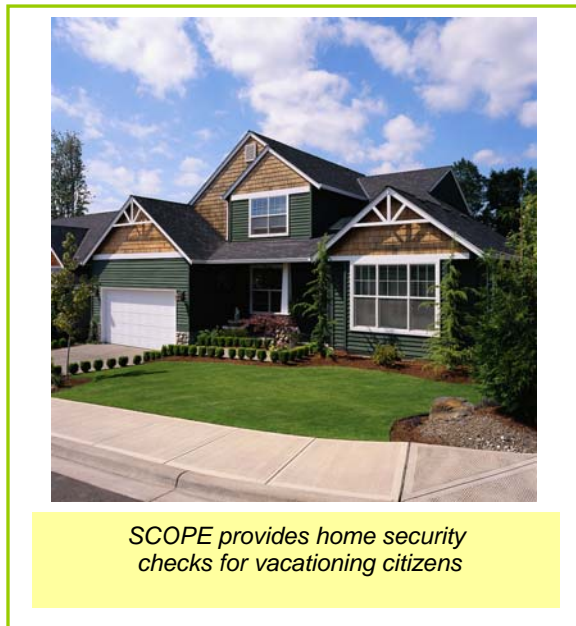
SCOPE officers man the radar reader board to remind motorists of local speed limits

S.C.O.P.E. volunteers have a limited law enforcement commission allowing them to write \$250 tickets for vehicles illegally parked in handicapped parking spaces. The unit also perform a wide variety of other services to the community including home security checks for vacationing citizens, setting up and manning radar devices to monitor traffic speed in school zones, retrieve found bicycles, assisting with traffic control at major city events, and assisting patrol officers.

S.C.O.P.E. duties are expanding, and in the near future their duties will include the tagging and removal of abandoned vehicles from city streets in accordance with city ordinances and assisting in crime prevention duties.

Currently the unit is staffed with seven volunteers aged 55 and above. To take advantage of services offered by this unit, please call 384-3390 for details, or refer to www.ferndalepd.org.

Tony Birdsall
S.C.O.P.E. Officer



SCOPE provides home security checks for vacationing citizens

COUNCIL CONTACTS & OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED FOR INFORMATION

MAYOR: Jerry Landcastle PO Box 339 384-3494 (home) 384-4302 (work) Term Ends: 12/31/2007
 E-mail: JerryLandcastle@cityofferndale.org

FERNDALE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:		Address:	Phone:	Term Ends	
Position 1	Steve Oliver	6081 Summit View Pl.	676-6774(wk)	384-4530(hm)	12/31/2007
Position 2	Mel Hansen	2516 Norway Road	P O Box 1091	384-1453	12/31/2007
Position 3	Mike Reilly	6012 Oscar Ct		384-0552	12/31/2007
Position 4	Jim Elliott	P O Box 372		384-6416	12/31/2007
Position 5	Ken Downey	1550 Main Street		384-3360	12/31/2009
Position 6	Gary Jensen	2482 Hilltop Rd		384-4022	12/31/2009
Position 7	Keith Olson	P O Box 680		303-3581	12/31/2009

STANDING COMMITTEES: Meet Wednesday Mornings The Week Prior To Council Meetings
STREETS AND UTILITIES: Oliver, Hansen, Reilly 7:30 a.m.
RECREATION AND FINANCE: Oliver, Jensen, Downey 9:00 a.m.
PLANNING AND JUDICIAL: Jensen, Downey, Elliott 10:00 a.m.
EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES: Hansen, Elliott, Olson As Needed

Council Meetings are on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month:
 7:00 pm at the City Hall Annex Building located at 5694 Second Avenue

CONTRACTED SERVICES

City Attorney: Dick Langabeer 671-6460 P O Box 1678 Bellingham, WA 98227
Fire Control: W. C. Fire District #7 384-0303 2020 Washington Street
Whatcom Humane Society: 733-2080

COMMONLY ASKED FOR COMMUNITY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Chamber of Commerce	384-3042	5640 Riverside Dr
Ferndale Post Office	1-800-275-8777	5703 Fourth St
Pioneer Park	384-6461	2000 Cherry St
Boys and Girls Club (Josh Wilund)	384-0753	2004 Cherry St
Ferndale Library-2222 Main St.	384-3647	PO Box 1209
Recomp	384-1057	1524 Slater Rd
Food Bank	384-1506	
Sanitary Service	398-2025	1001 Roeder Ave
Puget Sound Energy	1-800-321-4123	N. State & Magnolia
Cascade Gas	733-5980	1600 Iowa Street
Comcast Cablevision	1-877-824-2288	777 W. Horton Rd
NW Air Pollution	428-1617	
Senior Center	384-5113	1998 Cherry Street

WHATCOM COUNTY OFFICES:

County Assessor	676-6790	
County Auditor	676-6740	Election Days: 676-6742
County Health Department	676-6724	
County Building & Codes	380-8100	
County Parks	733-2900	
County Fire Dist #7	384-0303	