

FERNDALE CONNECTION

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

What's in store for the new year...

This is the time of year when memories of Christmas are still fresh and the New Year brings hopes of good things to come. We are grateful for the City Staff and all of the work that the City employees have accomplished on the behalf of our citizens. Their efforts are the results of their dedication to their jobs that support all the services that the City provides. A very large thank you goes out to each of them and the very best for the coming year.

The New Year will bring with it the City Centennial. The first hundred years of the city being officially created as a City. This is of course a celebration that will continue throughout the year. At this point there is a Centennial Committee that will work to provide some activities and festivals to recognize our Centennial. The Committee headed by Carol Brumet is looking for additional volunteers to help with the various functions that are planned and help is needed to organize the individual functions. Let us all get out and support the City and our anniversary. Phone 384 4302 and leave a message with your name, phone number and mailing address so we can contact you. If you prefer the e-mail send it to mayor@ci.ferndale.wa.us we will be very responsive and appreciative of your support.

The past months have taken us thru the 2007 Budget process. On December 18, 2006 the City Council approved the final additions and deletions to the proposed document. The coming year has some excellent proposals for moving forward with the work that has been underway for a number of important projects. The council funded the continuation of work being accomplished by two consultants that the City has had on board for 2006. The work is in updating our Comprehensive Plan and the work in 2007 will move into the City 2020 Master Plan. The work continues on the Comprehensive Plan for our Parks and new committees formed to support the Downtown Revitalization, the Parks Recreation and Trails Committee as well as Economic Development. All of this activity is being directed as support for making improvements on the delivery systems for our Citizens. Want to help? Let us know by calling City Hall leave a message with the Mayor 384 4302.

To all of our Citizens and Employees I wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Jerry Landcastle, Mayor
City of Ferndale



City Administrator's Report

Honestly, You Don't Look A Day Over 90!

Well, 2007 is upon us and, as some of you may be aware, 2007 is the City of Ferndale's 100th Birthday. Being that it is the City's centennial year, the City Council has considered and will be accomplishing some celebrations and other events that will serve to herald in our next 100 years as a city. Sometimes it is hard to grasp the notion that Ferndale has existed as a city for 100 years and it is even harder to visualize what our fair city will look like in the year 2107 (it even sounds like a science fiction novel – "Ferndale 2107"). In any event, I'd like to discuss one aspect of our centennial year celebrations – that is, the construction of the Riverview Plaza.



The City Council is currently moving forward with the design and eventual construction of a "riverwalk-type" of plaza and park along the Nooksack immediately adjacent to the Main Street Bridge along Front Street. The concept is to have a pedestrian-orientated walkway and plaza along Front Street from the bridge down to Pioneer Park. In fact the concept calls for linking Vanderyacht Park with Pioneer Park. In many ways this project will herald our connection to the river and will provide easy access for all to enjoy the downtown area.

To further the quality of the Riverview Plaza, the City Council has recently moved forward to purchase the three lots immediately adjacent to the bridge along Front Street. It is our hope that these lots will be made into an entrance plaza to the new park and will serve as a focal point of our continuing efforts to improve the downtown experience. We anticipate completing the purchase of these lots in the coming months and will then move forward with the design of the entire Plaza. In this regard, I would encourage anyone who is interested in participating in this design process to contact the City and let your voice be heard.

Many of us have visited cities that have impressive riverside public parks. They provide an essential element in enjoying these cities and it is hard to imagine what these places would look like absent these amenities. My hope is to create a riverside park that will be the envy of the County and will provide yet another reason to be proud to be a Ferndale resident. I hope that in 100 years, our children and grandchildren will also find it hard to imagine Ferndale without the Riverside Plaza.

I believe that now is one of the more exciting times to be a Ferndale resident. With us approaching our 100th birthday, we have also recently exceed the 10,000 population mark, making us the third largest city in Whatcom County (look out Lynden!). With this continued growth comes a responsibility to look to the future and attempt to keep Ferndale the high quality city it is now.

Beginning soon after the first of the year, you will begin to see some of the Centennial celebration elements. As the year progresses, we hope everyone will find an event that they will want to take part in and that everybody will enjoy our Centennial year.

Ferndale is a great place to live – we have a superior school system, unparalleled natural beauty in every direction and a caring and compassionate citizenry. Ferndale's future looks bright and honestly, she doesn't look a day over 90.

PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Planning Director Tom Black

Single-family residential construction activity has decreased a bit compared to last year, but we have seen significant increases in permits issued for multi-family residential developments (apartments and condos). In addition, permits for commercial and industrial development continue to be on the increase. Overall, the level of building activity this year continues to keep our dedicated staff very busy.

While some construction activity decreased this year, we do not foresee a significant downturn in development activity for Ferndale in the coming years. That is because current planning, or “pre-construction”, activity including applications for Plats, PUD’s, Conditional Use Permits, and Site Plan Reviews for new multi-family, commercial, and industrial development actually increased substantially over last year. This activity would suggest that development activity will continue fairly strong into the future.

Probably the most significant current planning application the staff is dealing with is that for Pioneer Plaza. That process continues, with the hiring of an environmental consultant who has begun the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. We anticipate completion of the EIS sometime this spring, with public hearings on the matter to begin shortly after completion of the EIS.

On the long-range planning side, the most significant achievement this year has been the completion of the GMA-mandated update of the Comprehensive Plan. This project has taken a year and a half, the final result of which will be forwarded to the City Council for action within a month or so. Having successfully completed this task, the planning staff is looking forward to beginning the 20/20 planning process in 2007, which will address planning of the city’s Urban Growth Area (UGA) at a neighborhood or subarea level. This process is likely to take a few years, and will form the basis for the next GMA-mandated update of the Comp Plan in 2011.

Following on the heels of last year’s achievements in adopting standards for large retail buildings and city-wide landscape standards, the planning staff completed another year-long planning process with the adoption of new zoning and new design standards for development within the downtown core. This planning program, which included the further refinement of the Riverfront Plaza and Trail Plan, lays the foundation for community efforts aimed at revitalizing the downtown.

The department has begun including more information on the city’s website, and that will continue. We are still finishing construction of various sections of the department’s webpage, but look for most of our information being accessible on the website during the first quarter of 2007, including a new web-based GIS system that will make our mapped data accessible to just about anyone over the internet.

That’s all for now. See you next year!

PUBLIC WORKS – Upcoming Projects for 2007

These are a few of the projects that you may find yourself detouring around this summer along with a few that won't get in your way. A full list of projects will be posted on the City website by March 31, and the status will be updated as progress is made.

Malloy Roundabout

By now everyone has surely heard that the project that is intended to improve the intersections of Vista Drive, Malloy Avenue, Ferndale Terrace, and Shuksan Street will be constructed as a roundabout. The initial design called for a conventional intersection and traffic signal. This approach was ultimately abandoned because it could not accommodate the various needs of the effected property owners and the traffic.

The project schedule calls for opening bids for the project in February. The updated design requires the acquisition of a total of four houses, and some small strips of right of way. Two houses have been removed and discussions are underway with property owners to purchase the others. While much of the work for this project will be scheduled during the summer school break, there will be a considerable amount that will likely take place outside of that time frame. The estimated construction cost of this project is \$1,500,000. Final approval of the project by the City Council is pending.

Main and Douglas Signalization

The next phase of the Main Street improvements will involve street widening and the installation of a traffic signal at the Douglas Drive intersection. The improvements will include left turn lanes, sidewalks, and curbs. The City previously acquired the right of way necessary for this project using local funds, and is also paying for the final design. Federal, state, and local funds will pay for construction of this project. In June of 2006 Ferndale School District was awarded a "Safe Routes to School" grant that in part is intended to help with the traffic signal since it will increase the safety of the intersection for pedestrians. This project will also go to bid in 2007 with an estimated construction costs of \$800,000.

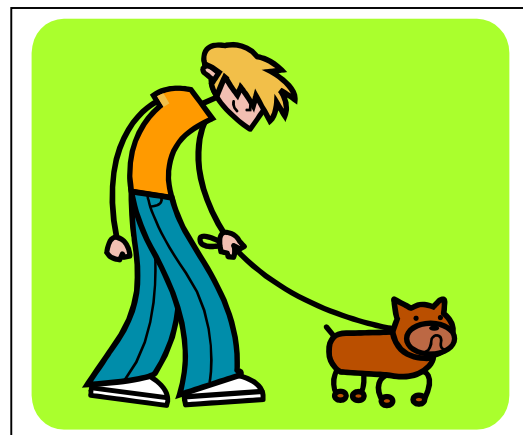


Aquarius Pump Station

This sewer pump station is located on the NW corner of Apollo and Aquarius and has been in service for about 26 years. This pump station can be eliminated by installing 300 feet of sanitary sewer and two manholes. The new section of line will be tied into a sewer line that did not exist when the pump station was installed. Elimination of the pump station will save electricity, maintenance work, and eventual replacement of pumps and motors. The estimate for this job is \$20,000.

Mutt Mitt Stations

Currently Vander Yacht Park has a bag dispenser for dog owners who want to clean up after their dogs. Additional dispensers will be placed in other parks this year to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pet. Removing dog droppings reduces the likelihood of contamination of streams that lead to drinking water supplies, shellfish beds, and fish bearing streams.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Following three community meetings in May of 2006, your city government has been busy working with task forces and citizens following up on the many ideas shared at the meetings. The Economic Viability Steering Committee, working with staff prepared and delivered a report to the City Council in late July. The report, called "Delivering Our Future", carried the vision and specific recommendations to the City Council.

In September, the Steering Committee returned to the City Council with a set of priorities that included a revised vision statement and a plan of action to deliver on the citizen's vision. In response to the work of the citizens, the City Council has taken the following policy actions:

1. Adopted the vision statement as recommended by the Steering Committee.
2. Created the Community Coordinating Association (CCA) as the community organization to hold the vision, communicate with the citizens and assist both the task forces and the city.
3. Established a new Parks Recreation and Trails Advisory Board.
4. Created a new Economic Development Commission.

These new efforts on the part of the city to encourage citizen engagement in the community, along with the new Ferndale Downtown Development Association, will be working in collaboration with the city to foster enhanced economic development.

The city is accepting applications from interested citizens for the new Parks Recreation and Trails Advisory Board and the Economic Development Commission. Both of these advisory bodies must maintain a majority of members from the city while allowing non-residents to also participate to assist the community. There is even a youth seat on the Parks Recreation and Trails Advisory Board.



In honor of the many years of service provided the community, the City has honored the current Park Board. A special thanks for a great job was extended to Don Newman, Elinor King, Catherine Raymond, Connie Faria, and Jason Britain. These citizens have done an outstanding job serving the community and helping to make our parks a better place to play and enjoy.

Every citizen of Ferndale is encouraged to get involved and help us create a great community.

Finance Department

City Treasurer Mark Peterson

New Water Rates and Door Hanger Elimination

The City has made revisions to its Fee Ordinance for 2007.

New Rates:

The one-time water set-up fee is \$25.

The late fee is \$20

The reconnect fee after water shutoff is \$40

Door Hanger Elimination:

Also, a change in door hanger procedures – **the City will no longer be placing door hangers** for those customers who haven't paid their bill on time. For those customers, a second bill will be mailed with a late fee added, and will include the date the water will be shut off if the bill is not paid.

These changes in fees and procedures are intended to save the City (and therefore the citizens) some labor costs and to match fee revenues with the costs associated with the fees, and will help to keep our regular water and sewer rates reasonable.

Current customers who pay their bill on time will see no changes on their water bill!

Ferndale Police Department

Lieutenant Travis Glass

As we approach New Years Eve and the beginning of 2007, I'm sitting in my office reflecting on the many changes which have occurred this past year and considering our many achievements. Some of our achievements and changes are easily seen by our citizens and stakeholders (our change of patrol car paint scheme to black and white), but others are internal changes in policy, procedure, and organization which may not be as obvious. It is my pleasure to share some of these not so obvious changes and accomplishments with you.

In the Fall 2006 City Newsletter, Chief Knapp discussed a top to bottom review of our agency by a team of senior law enforcement leaders from around the state and our task of bringing our operations into compliance with accreditation standards. But what does that mean? Simply put, accreditation for our agency means instituting and maintaining "standard professional practices" which ensure efficient, fiscally responsible, and professional delivery of our law enforcement services while reducing our exposure to litigation and costs associated with that.

Several promotions occurred in 2006 to move us towards our goal of accreditation. Matt Huffman was promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant and currently manages our Support Services Division. Support Services consists of our records section and our investigations section, and handles the majority of administrative duties and follow up investigations in the agency.

In our Operations Division, Bill Hatchett, Ken Gates, and John VanderYacht were all promoted from Patrol Officer to Sergeant, and act as our first line supervisors for our patrol staff. I am responsible for the general management of this division which includes all patrol related and primary response issues.

With promotions and reorganization completed, we have made tremendous progress this year in preparing for the inevitable growth which continues to occur in our area and those police related issues which accompany that growth.

As we enter into 2007, additional changes are in progress including an upgrade of essential equipment and the hiring of our 17th Officer.

I'm excited to be involved in the growth of this agency, and look forward to the small part I play in creating a truly "world class" police agency which you can be proud of.

We stand ready to serve you.

Travis Glass, Operations Lieutenant

WHATCOM HUMANE SOCIETY

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY 10AM – 6PM

(360)733-2080

www.whatcomhumane.org

Who we are:

Founded in 1902, WHS is the oldest non-profit animal welfare organization in Whatcom County.

Open-admission shelter, the Whatcom Humane Society turns no animal away regardless of his/her age, temperament or medical condition.

Provides 24 hour animal control and rescue services inside the city limits of Ferndale, Bellingham, Blaine, Sumas, Everson/Nooksack and the Nooksack Indian Reservation.

Investigates cases of animal neglect & cruelty.

Interactive Adoption Program for homeless animals that includes counseling new adopters on responsible pet care and a variety of animal behavior issues.

Animal Wellness Program that provides health exam, spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, flea medication, de-worming, license or id tag and microchip identification prior to adoption.

Extensive Humane Education programs in Whatcom County schools and libraries that educate children (K-12) on the importance of showing kindness and compassion towards animals.

Creation of a Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) for low-income residents in need.

WINTER PET CARE TIPS

The Whatcom Humane Society (WHS) wants to help pet owners keep their animals safe, dry and healthy during the winter season by following a few simple guidelines.

Don't leave animals outdoors for extended periods of time. Shorthaired, very young and old animals are extremely susceptible to the elements including rain, sleet, snow and wind.

If you must leave a dog outdoors, the dog must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough for the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his/her body heat. The doghouse should be turned to face away from the wind and raised a few inches off the ground.

The Whatcom Humane Society has a limited number of free doghouses available to pets of low-income residents. Doghouses are available at the shelter on a first-come, first-serve basis, Tuesday thru Saturday from 10am – 6pm.

Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in chilly weather because keeping warm depletes the animal's energy. Routinely check your pets water dish (including livestock animals) to make sure the water does not freeze.

Warm engines in parked cars can attract cats and small wildlife that crawl up under the hood to stay warm. Before starting your car, bang on the hood to scare any animals away.

Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but has a sweet taste that attracts animals. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze out of reach of all domestic and wild animals.

WINTER 2006 NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF FERNDALE

CITY OF FERNDALE ELECTED OFFICIALS

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	8:30 a.m.
PLANNING AND JUDICIAL:	Jensen, Downey, Elliott	9:30 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
 Gary Russell-Fire Chief

Animal Control Services-SSP: 647-2441

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	