



CHUCKANUT NEWS

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Chuckanut Community & Firefighters Association Quarterly Newsletter January 2009 Volume 19, No. 1

General Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

IDENTITY THEFT

COMPUTER FRAUD

ECONOMIC THEFT

**These are the fastest growing crimes in America today!
Can YOU be a victim? Who are the perpetrators of these
common crimes? What can YOU do to protect yourself?**

**Come to the CCFA General Meeting on Wednesday, January 7th
at 7:30 PM (note new time!) at your fire hall to find the answers to
these and your own questions.**

**The speaker will be Austin C. Welden, JD, LLB, educated at
UCLA and Southwestern University School of Law in Los
Angeles. His career involved assisting Fortune 500 corporations
to resist fraud in practice before the Workers Compensation
Board. He has worked with the Fraud Division of the District
Attorney in Ventura and Santa Barbara, California and with the
Prosecutor's Office in Snohomish and Whatcom Counties. This
will not be a dull, canned presentation. Austin makes the subject
come alive with real life stories. Remember, the identify you save
may be your own!**

President's Message

Well, the elections are finally over and Proposition passed by a large majority. See the article by Fire Chief Dave Ralston in this newsletter to know what the future holds for Fire District 6. A big Thank You to all who voted in favor of the proposition! As your CCFA lame duck President, this will be my last President's Message. I would like to thank everyone who has served CCFA as an officer, trustee, hospitality chair, archivist, landscape chair, newsletter editor, and in any other capacity, during my term of office. We hope to keep CCFA a vibrant organization as we transition from one lone volunteer fire district to a part of the South Whatcom Fire Authority. We need each and every one of you to step forward and volunteer in whatever capacity you feel appropriate. Remember CCFA is YOUR organization!

Thank you Dorothy! Thank you for all the time you have given to the CCFA, and for all the hard work and effort you have put into this organization. You will be a hard act to follow, but I am sure you will be around to offer advice and suggestions when we need it. Thank You , from the Board

From Your Editor

Please take a minute to answer the question on the enclosed post card and return it to the CCFA. This is your organization and we need to know what you would like to see it accomplish.

With this issue we are sending E-Newsletters to those of you who have requested them. For the first issue we are also sending a printed copy to make sure you get the news. If you would like to add your name to the list to receive the newsletter electronically in the future, please send your name and email address to chuckanutnews@yahoo.com. Put "E-Newsletter" in the subject box. The email address will be kept private. If this is convenient for you, it will save CCFA some money.

Georgia Heald

CCFA ELECTION NOTICE

Voting will take place at the CCFA
General Meeting, January 7, 2009.

Nominees are:

President: David Franklin

Vice President: Volunteer Needed

Secretary: Ann Jones Richardson

Treasurer: Karin Todd

Third Trustee for a 3 year term:
Carlotta Vanderbilt

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Fire Chief's Report

South Whatcom Fire Authority Approved by Voters

On November 4th the proposal to create the South Whatcom Fire Authority was approved by 67% of the registered voters from the combined communities of Chuckanut, Lake Samish, Yew Street, Geneva and Sudden Valley.

The new South Whatcom Fire Authority (SWFA) will start on January 1st 2009. It will be governed by five appointed fire commissioners (one from each of the communities). The approved plan outlines that the new business plan will be completed within the first 180 days. The fire districts will remain intact in 2009 for the primary purpose of collecting the 2009 taxes and transferring the money to SWFA. As outlined in the plan the fire districts will dissolve at the end of 2009. Currently, the only way to dissolve a fire district is by a vote of the people and each district will have to have this measure on the ballot for the 2009 general election. The approved unified tax levy rate of \$1.28 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation will not start until 2010.

The transition into the new SWFA has already begun, primarily with contacting agencies and preparing the documentation needed to transfer all assets. For the first several months the transition will be a busy time for us, as we still have to close out the fire districts financials for 2008 and also operate as SWFA. I am hoping by the end of the 1st quarter of 2009 most of the transition work will be completed.

As outlined in the plan, one of the first improvements to the level of service will be to staff the Basic Life Support (BLS) transport ambulance 24/7. This unit will respond to all emergencies within SWFA and will be housed at Geneva fire station. Other improvements include adding additional hours to the resident firefighters who will staff the Chuckanut fire station. Currently, the resident firefighters who respond to the Chuckanut response area live in a rental house on Cowgill Avenue on the south side of Bellingham and pull shifts at the station. Within the first 18 months, the plan also outlines converting rooms at the Chuckanut fire station into bedrooms to house these resident firefighters.

Other improvements will begin after the new tax rate is collected in 2010. These include hiring three more full time firefighters and adding six new resident firefighters throughout the SWFA. Upcoming monthly meeting notices will be posted at each fire station and minutes will be available the following month. If you would still like to review the SWFA plan and information please visit the web site at www.regionalfire.org. I would like to thank each of you for your support of the fire department over the years and I look forward to serving as SWFA's first fire chief.

Dave Ralston

Reflective ID driveway posts are available at \$22.00 each. These will easily identify your house in case of emergency.

Call Dorothy Gonsalves at 739-4461.

Community



**Brian Martin
with his son
Mengistu**

The Good Neighbor award for 2008

On September 15th at the annual Firefighters' Appreciation picnic at Larrabee State Park Dorothy Gonsalves presented the Good Neighbor award for 2008 to Brian Martin. Born and raised on Chuckanut Drive, Brian has served the community well in many capacities. As a teenager, he joined his father, Cecil Martin, as a firefighter with our District 6 volunteers. He completed Emergency Medical Technician training, became a Fire Captain in 1982, Fire Chief in 1988 and Fire Commissioner in 1993. After serving two terms as Fire Commissioner, Brian served as Chairman of the Building Committee. The addition to the building is dedicated to him. After winning a third term as Fire Commissioner, Brian married and moved out of the Chuckanut Community forcing him to relinquish his hotly fought battle. When a newly appointed Fire Commissioner moved out of the district and Brian returned as Construction and Maintenance Project Specialist Lead at Larrabee State Park, a position he still retains, Brian was appointed to fill the void, coming full circle, so to speak. Brian has always been ready to help neighbors in need and is truly deserving of the Good Neighbor award. Congratulate him the next time you see him at the park or on the trail.

'Welcome to Chuckanut Community' Sign Update

Transportation Committee members presented our proposed Welcome sign to community residents and to the CCFA Board at the October General Meeting. The sign, depicted here, has been beautifully rendered by Ron Pattern of The Sign Post. Ron is a Bellingham artist and owner of The Sign Post, locally owned and operated on Bakerview. The drawing shown here was originally created by talented artist and neighbor Joyce Gardiner, who gave her lovely watercolor to Ron to be used in his graphic design. The sign will be 4X6 sandblasted cedar. We are hoping to put in place two signs, one at each end of Chuckant Bay. The southbound sign will be located on the east side of the road just beyond the city line; the northbound sign will be located near Dolphin Place. The only thing we are awaiting now is approval for funding by the CCFA Board. The Transportation Committee had raised \$1100 from the rummage sale in April to be applied toward the cost of the sign; however, additional funds would have to be provided by either CCFA or local residents. We hope that the matter of funding will be finalized in early February so that the signs can be manufactured and installed in time for the Spring season, which brings annual visitors to our beautiful scenic bay.



Community

Community members hit the road...

On September 20, 2008 a few members of CCFA gathered in unity to perform a community beautification project. Our objective was to rid a two mile section of Chuckanut Drive of the unsightly trash.

This, the first official pick up of the CCFA Adopt-a-Highway crew, was a dazzling success. Without a doubt we all enjoyed the experience. Speaking for myself, it left me with a good feeling by picking up the trash, but also I enjoyed visiting along the way with my neighbors. We all felt that we were doing something worthwhile and that our time was well spent.

CCFA asked for and has been given two miles of Chuckanut Drive, where we volunteer to pick up trash twice per year. Our stretch is from mile post 14 to mile post 16. This covers the area from just north of the fire hall south to Clayton Beach.



Our crew included the following clean-minded folks: Laura Leigh Brakke, Joanne Cady, Will Cady, Carin Gurliaccio, Sal Gurliaccio, Moiree Landgren, Julia Norlin, Carol Schultz, Frank Schultz, Alice Volwiler, Liz Wright, and Steve Wright. Thank you all for your participation!

Regarding our trash experience, we divided into two groups, each cleaning half the stretch. We picked up about ten bags worth, most consisting of empty beverage cans, bottles and paper cups although a few of us scored with a variety of apparently excess automotive parts and accessories. It seemed that most drivers preferred to make their deposits on the more isolated, southerly portion of our stretch.

Our next pick up will be in April 2009. If you would like to join this fun and be included on our list of pickers, please email me at wac101@comcast.net. Thanks, Will Cady.

Earl Essex obituary

Earl Essex passed away on October 29th at his cherished home on Chuckanut Drive. Earl spent time as a youth fishing from the railroad trestles and exploring the trails on Chuckanut Mountain. As an adult, he and his wife were able to build their home on two and a half acres filled with evergreens and ferns, and a view of Governor's Point. The health of the area was important to Earl and he installed two fish boxes with eggs and fingerlings on the creek running through the Chmel's property. Sadly, the first run was quickly netted by commercial fishermen in the bay and that project ended. He was also involved in seeding the beach in front of Chuckanut Shore Rd. with oysters along with neighbor Dick Green. Sharing that beach with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren was a real joy. How fortunate he felt to be able to live in a place rich with the history and beauty of Chuckanut. Earl is survived by his wife, Earnestine, daughter, Sandy and son Ed, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Shore Stewards

ESTUARIES By Jeanne Bogert

Estuaries are places of wonder. They are formed when fresh water flows to the ocean and mixes with seawater. Also called lagoons, inlets, bays, or sounds, they comprise only a small slice of the earth's surface (less than 3/100 of 1%), but contribute tremendously to water purity, wildlife and human well being. This is where sediments and pollutants are filtered before they can enter the ocean and where many small sea creatures begin their lives. The "food web," begins here, where smaller animals nourish larger ones. Estuaries also absorb energy from storms and floods that have the potential to wreak havoc on humans.

Mudflats are the foundation of life in estuaries. Detritus (dead organic matter), flows along with silt and clay from fresh water rivers, swamps or coastal wetlands. In time, a slimy mix of bacteria and fungus is formed. Eelgrass grows here, providing food for many of the residents as well as filtering contaminants from the water. Microscopic organisms called plankton thrive in this environment. The plant variety (phytoplankton) uses sunlight for energy. Phytoplankton is eaten by the animal plankton (zooplankton), which is then in turn eaten by juvenile salmon, herring or sand lance larvae, starfish, clams, crabs, birds and many other fish and animals.

Estuaries nourish and protect people as well as fish and wildlife. More than two thirds of the fish and shellfish we eat spend some part of their lives in estuaries. Salmon, perch, octopus, scallop, sea urchins, flounder, sole and cod, shrimp and smelt are a few familiar examples. Estuaries also protect us from erosion and flooding. Many scientists believe that Hurricane Katrina had two to three times more velocity and 20% higher storm surges because of estuary loss and reengineering of swampland along the Louisiana coast.

A century ago the importance of estuaries was not fully understood. Consequently, nearly 70% in the Puget Sound area are gone and despite recent laws protecting these valuable resources, more are at risk. We all have the opportunity to help save remaining estuaries and perhaps restore others. What can we do? Prevent pollutants from washing into your waterways by making sure your septic system is in good working order and regular check-ups are scheduled. Also pick up pet wastes and minimize stormwater runoff. Preserve or restore the native forest and wetlands area near your shoreline. When possible, eliminate hard sea barriers and instead, plant trees to protect your bluff, coast and estuarine habitats. Most importantly, become aware of the principles of watershed management and share what you learn. These actions will help estuaries to continue to provide, protect and fill us with wonder.

Jeanne Bogert is a WSU Watershed Master / Beach Watcher volunteer from the Class of 2008. To learn more about the Watershed Master / Beach Watchers or to join, visit our website at <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/environ/water/bw.htm>.

To learn more about living on the shoreline, join the WSU Shore Stewards and receive the "Guide to Shoreline Living," informational newsletters, invitations to occasional workshops, and, for a limited time, the Shoreline Living DVD. The program is FREE! Visit our website at www.ShoreStewards.org or call 360-676-6736.

CCFA

Board Members

CCFA OFFICERS	COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Outgoing President Dorothy Gonsalves 734-4461	Membership Gale Gropp 733-3991
Vice President OPEN	Publications OPEN
Firefighter VP Jessi Hill	Landscape/Grounds Dick McClure 733-9291
Treasurer Karin Todd 676-5606	Archives OPEN
Secretary Ann Jones Richardson 733-9140	Hospitality OPEN
Trustees Trustee #3 OPEN	Emergency Response OPEN
Mary Anne Ruf 676-9249 Kathy Howell 738-0416	Historian OPEN
Fire Commissioner Lynn Trzynka 715-8038	Newsletter Georgia Heald 733-9358 Welcome Lady Kathy Webber-Plank 220-4485

On-Going Fund Raisers:

Books
Chuckanut Chronicles
Chuckanut Memories
 \$12 each
 Call Dorothy Gonsalves
 734-4461

Note Cards
 Chuckanut Memories
 Chuckanut Island
 six for \$5
 Call Dorothy Gonsalves
 734-4461

CCFA Mission

The Association shall be maintained by the members as an administrative, fundraising, and social organization devoted to the safety and welfare of the Chuckanut community.

If your name on the mailing label is not correct, or if you have updated information for the new Directory, please contact our Membership Chair, Gale Gropp, at 733-3991 or send an email to chuckanutnews@yahoo.com.

Pet Sitters Available

Two responsible, animal-loving, home-schooled Chuckanut kids would like to help you and your pets. Evan and Hadley Frazier are experienced animal care-takers, and are available days and evenings to feed, walk, play, and give general care to your pets. Adult-supervised. References available. Phone: 733-4470.

Chuckanut News

*Chuckanut Community & Firefighters Association
PO Box 4403
Bellingham, WA 98227-4403*

**NONPROFIT ORG
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BELLINGHAM, WA
PERMIT NO. 305**

CCFA Important Dates:

- **Wednesday January 7: General Meeting 7:30p.m., Fire Hall**
- **Wednesday February 4: Board Meeting, 7:00pm, Fire Hall**
- **Wednesday March 4: Board Meeting, 7:00pm, Fire Hall**
- **Monday evenings: Free Blood pressure checks, 6:00 to 6:30, Fire Hall**
- **Monday March 16: Deadline for newsletter articles for the April issue**

Please send all news, announcements, articles, photos, story ideas, artwork, or letters to:
chuckanutnews@yahoo.com or call Georgia Heald, Editor, 733-9358

27 Cent Stamp
required to mail

CCFA ELECTION NOTICE

Voting will take place at the CCFA
General Meeting, January 7, 2009.

Nominees are:

President: David Franklin
Vice President: Volunteer Needed
Secretary: Ann Jones Richardson
Treasurer: Karin Todd
Third Trustee for a 3 year term:
Carlotta Vanderbilt

The Meeting will start at 7:30pm (new time),
at the Fire Hall.

TO:
Chuckanut Community &
Firefighters Association

P.O. Box 4403

Bellingham WA 98227-4403

Chuckanut Community & Firefighters Association

Please answer the following questions and either mail this
with a 27 cent stamp or bring it to the general meeting
January 7.

1. Are you interested in having the organization continue?
YES ___ NO ___
2. Would you be willing to serve on the Board?
YES ___ NO ___
3. How could the CCFA better support our Community?

4. What activities would you like the CCFA to take part in or
promote?

Name: _____