



CHUCKANUT NEWS

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Chuckanut Community & Firefighters Association Quarterly Newsletter January 2010 Volume 20, No. 1

General Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

CCFA

To be or Not to be?

President's Message:

To be or not to be, that is the question.

For the past two years the CCFA board has been struggling with the question of the future of the association. Involvement with the association and its activities has been waning. Membership as measured by dues payment in 2009 is down 21% compared with 2008. A little over 30% of the 350 some households within the Chuckanut community paid their support dues this past year and far fewer have been involved with association activities, membership meetings and programs. I have personally approached 12 individuals asking them to stand for election as association president and another 8 asking them to stand as vice president. No takers. The apathy towards the association by the community residents is palpable. The board had an extensive discussion about the question of the future of the association at the December board meeting. It was decided at this meeting to table such issues as approval of an operating budget, and dues solicitation for the 2010 calendar year until a general membership meeting could be held to address the question.

Should the CCFA continue to be, or not to be?

A little historical perspective is perhaps needed here. Whatcom County Fire District #6, the Chuckanut Fire District, was officially established in the mid 1950's due to no fire protection for the community and mounting property losses. In 1967, passage of a bond issue for \$16,000.00 enabled the commissioners to buy the present fire hall property, build the beginning of the current fire hall, and buy a used fire truck. Quite a bargain! At the time, all of the volunteers lived within the Chuckanut Community and volunteered most of the labor to build the fire hall. Their families formed the "Ladies Auxiliary" to raise funds. After the fire hall was seriously damaged in the flood of 1990

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President's Message

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the community realized that most of the volunteers no longer lived within the community and had been laboring without much community support for the past several years. The Chuckanut Community and Firefighters Association was formed from the "Ladies Auxiliary" to support the firefighters and to address other community concerns. Since then it has contributed funds for items not covered by the Fire District budget which is funded by tax payer dollars. The association has also provided education for residents in fire prevention, first aid, and knowledge of the area's proud history. Members have conducted biannual Chuckanut Drive litter pickups, fire hall landscaping parties, and quarterly general membership programs, talks and a summer ice cream social.

In 2008 the Fire Commissioners recommended to the citizenry that the fire district merge with other districts in south Whatcom county due to continuing difficulty in attracting volunteers who live within the community, and to improve response times without having to greatly increase district taxes to maintain the current insurance rating for the district and cover future anticipated operating cost increases far in excess of what the community has enjoyed over the past several years. The ballot initiative to join the newly created South Whatcom Fire Authority passed handily and this past November the citizenry showed its overwhelming approval of the performance of the newly created Authority by voting to dissolve Chuckanut Fire District #6 with the understanding that the fire hall and equipment would remain at its present location within the district and that a resident of the Chuckanut community would continue to be part of the newly created five member commission governing the South Whatcom Fire Authority. The new authority has performed admirably. We have not suffered a single house fire this entire calendar year and response times have improved.

Perhaps the feeling of the community is that there is no longer a need for a Chuckanut Community and Firefighters Association. The large majority of our fine volunteer fire fighting force do not live in the Chuckanut community. Folks are busy with their families, work and personal lives.

Should two thirds of those attending the January general membership meeting decide to dissolve the association, that will be the action taken. Should that not be the case, those in attendance must include two individuals willing to stand for election as president and vice president for 2010.

The CCFA currently has financial assets amounting to approximately \$6,000.00 and we handle a trust for \$10,000. If the decision is for dissolution, the board recommends that the trust account be put into the Whatcom Community Foundation. They will treat it according to the wishes of the original donor, La Vere Shaffer. The remaining assets of the CCFA will be donated to the newly created Fire Authority.

The January general membership meeting to decide the future of the association will be held at the fire hall at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, January 6, 2010.

Dave Franklin

Editorial

From Your Editor

We owe a big round of thanks to Dave Franklin, Mike Hogan, our elected Officers and our three elected trustees who have held this organization together for the past year and kept it functioning. Also to the active community members who have picked up litter with Adopt-a-Highway, groomed the Fire House grounds, designed, planted and dedicated the Memorial Garden, and worked so hard to have our Chuckanut Community signs installed. You know who you are.

Thank You.

We will be making an important decision at the General Meeting on January 6. I hope you will attend. See you then.

Georgia Heald

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A big thank you to the many great neighbors who helped take care of the grounds around the fire hall this year.

You raked leaves, pulled weeds, pruned, planted, swept the blacktop, spread mulch, baked cookies, made coffee, and sent out reminder cards.

You cared enough about our neighborhood to want to help keep it looking nice. In addition it was fun just to get together and socialize a bit. Look for announcements of next years get togethers.

Thanks very much,

Dick McClure

Larrabee State Park

Winter update – CCFA

Larrabee State Park is open year round for day use and camping. The park opens at 8:00 am and closes at dusk (1/2 hour past posted sunset). Come and enjoy the park any day of the week and experience the beautiful outdoors. Larrabee State Park consists of 2,683 acres and is Washington State's first park!

As of November 29, 2009, Chuckanut Drive remains closed south of the park and is restricted to one lane north of the park. This is a good reminder that in the winter Chuckanut drive can be dangerous along with all roads in Whatcom County. Please drive safe by wearing your seat belt, observing speed limits and slowing down when you see emergency equipment.

What is happening with Cleator Road? Cleator Road continues to be closed due to last winter's wash outs. We are in the process of securing permits to fix the washouts. This project is being funded by FEMA.

The sewer system that began in the spring of 2009 is nearing completion. We are currently on line with the new system. If you walk behind Clayton Beach up the service road you will see the new construction treatment plant by the sewer ponds. Also by the new plant near the Clayton Beach parking lot you will see the new administrative office. We expect it to be completed in the next few months. The staff at Larrabee and Northwest region worked on this project.

Larrabee State Park is sad to announce the early retirement of one of our long time Park Rangers, Peter Coonrod. Peter began his career as a Park Ranger at National Parks and then worked at Larrabee for the next ten years. We wish him the best of luck and we will miss him dearly.

Should your dog be leashed or not? The answer is Yes. Washington Administrative Code 352-32-060 (1) states that all pets or domestic animals must be kept under physical control, on a leash no greater than eight feet in length, or otherwise physically restrained, at all times while in a state park area (5) no person shall allow his/her pet or domestic animal to bite or in any way molest or annoy other park visitors. No person shall permit his/her pet or domestic animal to bark or otherwise disturb the peace and tranquility of the park. Larrabee State Park wants to welcome ALL visitors to the park which includes dog lovers and those that may not be so fond of them. We also want to insure visitor safety and enjoyment of the park. If you have any questions or comments please contact Park Ranger Amber Forest at 360-676-2093.

Park Budget and need for volunteers – Larrabee State Park is in need of volunteers more than ever. We have many different projects available such as littler pickup, raking leaves and campground cleanup. If you are interested please contact Amber Forest at 360-676-2093.

Community

Obituary

Richard (Dick) Curtin died April 23, 2009 at age 75. He moved to Chuckanut Drive in 1966 and enjoyed the peace and tranquility of the wilderness that surrounded his home. A very private person, Dick was a great sportsman, enjoyed hunting and fishing, and was an avid Seahawks fan. A graduate of Bellingham High School, he worked for many years at Bellingham Cold Storage. The neighborhood will miss him!



Chuckanut Morning Runners

My family and I live on Heron Point Lane. For the past two months my son and I, along with our neighbors Coco and Peter Longwood, have been running Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 6:00 for about 30 to 40 minutes. We primarily run the Interurban, starting at Heron Point Lane, going either north or south. It has become a regular routine for us, good exercise and a great start to the day. Running together is far more appealing than going alone. It is much easier to go out in the rain and cold to run if you know you'll have someone to suffer along beside you. Cougar safety is also an added bonus of running as a group! We would love to extend an invitation to any others in the neighborhood to join us. Our pace is comfortable and we are not out there to hurt ourselves.

Come join us for a comfortable pace, great conversation and fresh morning air! Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 a.m. departure from Heron Point Lane and the Interurban Trail. For details please call or email Bill Eiford, 733-2246 or bill@cscbellingham.com. A great way to start your day!

Views From 2009



Larrabee State Park



Memorial Garden



Adopt-a-Highway Crew



View from Woodstock Farm



Footrace Water Station

CCFA

Board Members

CCFA OFFICERS	COMMITTEE CHAIRS
President Dave Franklin 671-2957	Membership Gale Gropp 733-3991
Vice President Mike Hogan 527-9605	Publication /Sales OPEN
Firefighter Rep To be appointed	Landscape/Grounds Dick McClure 733-9291
Treasurer Karin Todd 676-5606	Archives OPEN
Secretary Ann Jones Richardson 733-9140	Hospitality Moiree Landgren 734-8084
Trustees Carlotta Vanderbilt 676-6044 Mary Anne Ruf 676-9249 Kathy Howell 738-0416	Emergency Response OPEN
	Historian Lynette Berry 676-8131
	Newsletter Georgia Heald 733-9358
Fire Commissioner Lynn Trzynka 715-8038	Welcome Lady Kathy Webber-Plank 220-4485
Memorial Garden Susan Brown 650-9511 Frank Schultz 676-0115	

On-Going Fund Raisers:

Books
Chuckanut Chronicles
Chuckanut Memories
 \$12 each

Note Cards
 Chuckanut Memories
 Chuckanut Island
 six for \$5

Reflective ID Driveway Posts
 Available at \$22 each. These will easily identify your house in an emergency.
 Call Dorothy Gonsalves
 734-4461

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.

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.

Bulletin Board

Pet Sitters Available

Two responsible, animal-loving 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

Baby Sitter/Mother's Helper

Hadley Frazier has taken the baby sitter/first aid course and is available as a baby sitter/Mother's helper. Phone: 733-4470

If you are looking for someone to provide a service or if you have a service you would like to offer community members like pet sitting, baby sitting, house sitting, lawn or yard care please provide the information to chuckanutnews@yahoo.com with "Bulletin Board" in the subject box.

Chuckanut News

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CCFA Important Dates:

- **Wednesday January 6: General Meeting 7:30pm, Fire Hall**
- **2nd Wednesday of each month: Fire Commissioners meeting, 3-5 pm, Geneva Fire Hall, public welcome**
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| The following dates are tentative: |
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- **Wednesday February 3: Board Meeting, 7:00pm, Fire Hall**
- **Wednesday March 3: Board Meeting, 7:00pm, Fire Hall**
- **Friday March 12: Deadline for newsletter articles for the January issue**

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