



CHUCKANUT NEWS

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Chuckanut Community & Firefighters Association Quarterly Newsletter October 2009 Volume 19, No.4

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

Speaker: **Perry Sikes**
Auxiliary Communications Services Coordinator
Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

If a major disaster hits our neighborhood, it is unlikely that emergency response services will be able to immediately respond to everyone's needs, so it is important to be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of three days. Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters. Mr. Sikes will help you and your family better protect yourselves by knowing what to do before, during and after a potential disaster. Mr. Sikes will provide essential information including how to create and maintain an emergency plan and disaster supplies kit.

If you are interested in protecting the health and safety of yourself and your family, this is a can't miss presentation!

CCFA ELECTION NOTICE

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

Nominees are:

President: Volunteer Needed

Vice President: Volunteer Needed

Secretary: Ann Jones Richardson

Treasurer: Karin Todd

Third Trustee for a 3 year term:
Kathy Lorson Howell

In This Issue:	page
General Meeting	1
President's Message	2
Editorial	2
Memorial Garden	3
History	4
Community	5
Fall Clean Up	5
Chuckanut Footrace	6
Friends of Chuckanut	6
Adopt-a-Highway	6
CCFA	7

President's Message

I am pleased to report that the consolidation of our fire district with three adjacent volunteer districts into the newly created South Whatcom Regional Fire Authority has gone very smoothly under the leadership of Chief Dave Ralston and Fred Wefer. Our volunteer base has increased several fold under this consolidation and you will note that we have sleep in fire personnel almost every weekend now with the expanded volunteer base. We have suffered not a single house fire in the district for the entire year to date. There have been a total of 37 responses from the authority to Chuckanut year to date, an average of 4.1 per month, down for a monthly average of 6 over the previous few years. Twenty of the responses have been for medical reason, 11 advanced life support calls and 9 basic life support responses.

You will note on your November election ballot that there is a measure to dissolve the Chuckanut Fire District. This measure follows the ballot measure on last year's ballot to merge the district into the newly created fire authority. It is a legal requirement to give the electorate one more chance to mull the decision after seeing the performance of the newly created authority. That performance has been exemplary. Our agreement with the authority was that the fire hall would remain in its present position and be equipped with like response equipment and that response times would improve. The CCFA board recommends that you vote to approve this dissolution in November.

The summer the annual Ice cream social had kids activities as the centerpiece. The Nancy Arnold Memorial Garden behind the fire hall was formally dedicated to her memory with a beautiful Doug fir cenotaph erected at the ceremony. Kudoes again to Susan Brown for her tireless efforts to create and see through to fruition this garden. The monument to the old electric railway from Fairhaven to Mount Vernon was moved to the northwest corner of the fire hall property, a more prominent place close to the interurban train which was the old railroad bed. The remaining pieces of rail were donated to the Bellingham Railroad Museum. Dick McClure with several volunteers again spruced up the fire hall grounds and another group of dedicated volunteers again policed two miles of the Drive on a litter pickup. A core group of dedicated, dependable volunteers continues to make these things happen. We invite and encourage more of our residents to join the association, pay their dues and get involved. It is fun and rewarding.

A new community directory will be published in the next quarter for your reference and convenience.

If you have not paid your 2009 dues please drop a check in the mail.

Dave Franklin

From Your Editor

Welcome to our new Historian, Lynette Berry. Please be sure to read her interesting article on page 4. Also welcome our new committee, for the Memorial Gardens, chaired by Susan Brown and Frank Schultz. See the article on page 3.

The Newsletter is now being sent electronically to all those who have supplied email addresses. If you need to have a hard copy mailed to you also, please write chuckanutnews@yahoo.com with "Hard Copy" in the subject line.

See you at the General Meeting!

Georgia Heald

Memorial Garden

A Memorial Garden Dedication group of Chuckanut neighbors and former neighbors, gathered on August 13 to dedicate the Chuckanut Bay Community Memorial Garden behind the Fire Hall. New signage and a memorial post now define the peaceful site of rock and naturalized plantings. The initial tribute on the memorial post remembers Nancy Arnold, the inspiration for the garden. Additional plaques to honor other Chuckanut family and friends will be placed on three sides of the post. The dedication included comments by John Arnold and Susan Brown and light refreshments served under a festive umbrella canopy. Background music of a La Bohème recording provided an elegant ambiance and reflected Nancy Arnold's love of opera.

Frank Schultz' craftsmanship & generosity is evident in the beautiful cedar signs and beautifully finished memorial post. The landscape has been steadily improved and maintained by Marilyn Rockey and Joan Rae. Other Memorial Garden contributors include Carol Schultz, John & Joan Arnold, David and Sharon Franklin, Ann Kaiser, B.K. Smith, Bill Campbell, Ann Schwandt, Rolf Parks, Charlie Brown & Duane Olson.

All who have worked on this garden hope you will enjoy some time of reflection in this serene setting. To arrange a memorial plaque for a family member or neighbor, contact Susan Brown at 650-9511. Stainless steel plaques are available for about \$45. Let's cover the post with tributes to many of the wonderful Chuckanut residents who made our community a great place to live.



History by Lynette Berry

WOODSTOCK FARM and INSPIRATION POINT

Nestled below Spokane Street off Chuckanut Drive lies Woodstock Farm, a public site purchased by the city of Bellingham from Raymond and Gladys Lee in June 2004. Those of us who live in the Chuckanut community and have business in Bellingham drive past it daily on our way into town. This is located just north of the blinking warning light at the sharp turn south of Arroyo Park. Woodstock Farm is a beautiful park setting, open to the public.

Cyrus Gates originally built Woodstock Farm between 1905 and 1925. Included in Woodstock Farm are a couple of residences, a large barn and outside residence quarters. The farm is named after Woodstock, Vermont, a special place to Mr. Gates. He only lived at Woodstock Farm approximately 2 years before becoming briefly ill and passing away. Mr. Gates, who had close ties to Charles Larrabee, was a prominent Fairhaven parks and public works leader and philanthropist who oversaw many of Larrabee's Bellingham projects. Woodstock Farm was built as a country home estate including gardens and pastures for livestock.

Mr. Gates intended for Woodstock Farm to be a model home to inspire the community to move to the suburbs. With the newly finished Interurban Railroad at the time, it seemed possible to live outside Bellingham and commute into town and school when needed. He wanted to show the community the potential for use of space and view, to inspire the development of the Chuckanut area from the former logging, sandstone quarry and brick factory industries that existed at the turn of the century.

Currently only foot and bicycle traffic is allowed into Woodstock farm. Hiking down the steep drive you pass a house on the right, currently occupied by the former owners. Continue on, passing a large pasture/orchard area and just as you approach the original Gates home there is a beautiful Monkey Puzzle tree, as Gates most likely had an interest in gardening. The original house is huge by today's standards. Nearly every bedroom has plumbing and plenty of space and the formal living areas are spacious with multiple sofas and an amazing view of the bay. The farm includes a large pasture where sheep can be seen grazing. Below the original home there is a large barn and two other residences. Accompanying this is a huge open pasture and below, a large area where it appears bonfires are common while taking in the amazing view of Mud Bay and Teddy Bear Cove below.

Follow the old footpath above the original Gates home and you will find an overlook with a picnic table and benches for taking in the view. Take the path even further, you will be led to the old overlook for Inspiration Point on Chuckanut Drive. Inspiration Point, a small out-cropping with remnants of a stone wall and view point, is located just south of the blinking warning lights above Woodstock Farm. This was originally built in the early part of the century as a point to stop on Chuckanut Drive, take in the beauty, and become inspired. A short distance south was the Chuckanut Shell (otherwise known as the Dine and Dance). It is unknown when Inspiration Point became inaccessible, probably at a point when the road was repaved in the 1940's or 1950's.

Recently, with the purchase of Woodstock Farm by the city of Bellingham, funding has been set aside for the restoration of Inspiration Point. This will once again become a place to take in the beauty of the surrounding area. If you have time, visit Woodstock Farm. It is open to the public daily and is well worth a visit.



View from the Farm



Original Gates House



Inspiration Point Today

Community

Erik Gelhar worked hard to create a picture perfect life for himself—a rewarding career at sea, met the girl of his dreams, bought a house in his favorite Bellingham neighborhood, surrounded himself with adventure, music, friends and family. Then came tragic news; in 2007 at age 23, Erik was diagnosed with heart failure. He has endured ER visits, surgeries, a trip to Mayo, medications, days in the ICU, and referral to the transplant program at UW. Despite all efforts, Erik continues to struggle with a failing heart and an unknown future.



Chuckanut mom, Susan Gelhar on Erik's wedding day, July 2009

Erik's doctor has recommended a new therapy available in Germany. Cells would be extracted from Erik's bone marrow and injected into the damaged heart tissue to regenerate new muscle. This is a chance to give Erik & Jenn new hope for a more normal life before facing a heart transplant. Please help out by donating to the fund set up by Peace Arch Cardiology on Erik's behalf. Thank you!

Donations can be made at any WECU branch or mailed to:
The Erik Gelhar Donation Fund
For: Acct# 283726

Whatcom Educational Credit Union
Erik Gelhar Donation Fund #283726
P.O. Box 9750
Bellingham WA 98227-9750

For more information about Erik, our fundraising efforts, or how you can help, please contact us at: gelhars@gmail.com or (360) 383-9356

Fall Clean-up and Coffee-Klatsch Come and join us!

Date: Saturday, November 7th
Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM with a break for coffee, cookies, and conversation at 11:00. At the Fire Hall

Come when you can, and leave when you must.
Got a new neighbor? Bring 'em along!
(please bring your own hand tools.)

Community

Volunteers Man Chuckanut Footrace Water Station

On a beautiful July 11 Saturday morning, an energetic volunteer crew quenched the thirst of a thousand hot runners participating in the 42nd annual Chuckanut Footrace. Smiles and grins accompanied cups of water or spray from the hose. Pictured from left to right: Susan Brown, Simon Berry, Rudi Berry, Lynette Berry, Charlie Brown, Dorothy Gonsalves, Karin Todd. Not shown, Debbie Lucas providing safety at the intersection, and John and Joan Arnold.



FRIENDS OF CHUCKANUT

Friends of Chuckanut would like to let people know that in the Fall, with the turning of the leaves, Landry Corkery has agreed to host an informal tour through his extensive horticultural collection. This is a wonderful garden with a large variety of trees, rhododendrons, and shrubs. We are especially looking forward to the Japanese maples as they change colors. Unfortunately, the exact date had not been chosen by the newsletter deadline. If you would like to be notified of the date and directions to the garden you can email friendsofchuckanut@gmail.com and ask to be added to our email list.

Submitted by,
Laura Leigh Brakke, for Friends of Chuckanut
P.O. Box 4456, Bellingham, WA 98229

Adopt -a-Highway

We need a handful of volunteers for highway pick up scheduled for Saturday November 1 at 9:30am. Anyone who is interested in participating, please contact Will and Joanne Cady at 756-0511.

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
Fire Commissioner Lynn Trzynka 715-8038	Newsletter Georgia Heald 733-9358
Memorial Garden Susan Brown 650-9511 Frank Schultz 676-0115	Welcome Lady Kathy Webber-Plank 220-4485

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

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

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CCFA Important Dates:

- **Wednesday October 7: General Meeting 7:30pm, Fire Hall**
- **Saturday November 1: Adopt-a-Highway , 9:30am
Call Will and Joanne Cady for directions, 756-0511**
- **Wednesday November 4: Board Meeting, 7:00pm, Fire Hall**
- **Saturday November 7: Grounds Clean Up, 9:00 to 12:00, Fire Hall**
- **Wednesday December 2: Board Meeting, 7:00pm, Fire Hall**
- **2nd Wednesday of each month: Fire Commissioners meeting, 3-5 pm, Geneva
Fire Hall, public welcome**
- **Friday December 4: 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