



Sunnyland Sentinel

Summer 2008

Greetings Neighbors!

A letter from the Chair, Theresa Tripp

Dear Sunnyland Neighbors,

The Sunnyland Neighborhood Association (SNA) has been working hard to re-organize and revitalize and I am proud to be a part of this process. However, as an organization, we need YOU, our fellow neighbors, to get involved with this amazing neighborhood. If you would like to contribute, please consider coming to a meeting and chairing a committee, organizing the annual picnic, or just come to meet your neighbors, socialize, and learn about the neighborhood. That is what the Sunnyland Neighborhood Association is all about!

We have a lot of changes coming in 2008 for the Sunnyland Neighborhood: traffic, pedestrian and bike issues, WSDOT site, tree planting and much more. Get involved and see it make a difference!

Thanks so much for such a great year and I look forward to meeting more of my neighbors in the future.

Monthly SNA Meetings

By Erin Macri

The Sunnyland Neighborhood Association (SNA) meets the third Tuesday of each month at Sunnyland Elementary School, 6:30-8:00 pm.

All meetings are open to the public and Board of Directors business is conducted at all meetings. While only the Board can vote on issues, input from neighbors is most important and always valued. Please come to meetings and let your voice be heard so Board members know your wants and needs.

General meetings are held quarterly. General meetings include presentations from community groups and local agencies. The SNA invites speakers to talk about subjects or programs they feel will enhance our neighborhood and benefit its residents. If you know a group or topic you would like featured at a SNA quarterly meeting, please contact an SNA board member with your idea. Past presentations have included Northwest Clean Air Agency (January 2008), Kulshan Community Land Trust (April 2008), and the City of Bellingham Home Rehabilitation Program (April 2008).

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The topic of the June 17 general meeting is Neighborhood Forum. Come and meet neighbors with common interests and let the Board know what is on your mind!

Remaining 2008 Meeting Dates (3rd Tues. 6:30 pm)

June 17, 2008 # *Neighborhood Forum*

July 15, 2008 *

August 19, 2008 *

September 16, 2008

October 21, 2008 # *Topic TBD*

November 18, 2008

No meeting in December

General Meeting

* Different Meeting Location (location TBD)

City Proposes Bike Lanes Along Cornwall Avenue

By Freeman Anthony

The City of Bellingham Public Works Department is replacing the Cornwall Avenue water line during the summer of 2008 and is planning on restriping the lanes on Cornwall from York St. to W. Illinois St. The current proposal from Public Works is to remove parking from the west side of Cornwall from York to Illinois to provide for the creation of bike lanes on both sides of the road. An initial proposal from Public Works was presented to the Sunnyland Neighborhood Association on March 18, 2008, providing for one bike lane, one shared lane (bike and car), and removal of parking on the east side. Since then, the design has been revised in two parts; one for the section between North St. and W. Illinois, the other between York and North St. This two section design includes bike lanes on both sides and removal of parking from the west side only.

The City Comprehensive Plan's transportation sections include a recommendation that bike lanes on Cornwall be a high priority (page T-45) and that the Sunnyland, Lettered Streets, and Cornwall Park neighborhoods will be requested to provide recommendations on the final layout.

The Sunnyland Neighborhood Cornwall Bike Lane Committee wishes to hear from residents and businesses in the Sunnyland neighborhood regarding the proposed lane changes.

Specific questions to consider are:

1. Are you in favor of bike lanes on Cornwall Ave.?
2. Are you in favor of removal of parking on the west side of Cornwall Ave.?
3. Would you support the removal of the center turn lane to provide space for the bike lanes and also retain parking on both sides?

If you would like your yes/no answers to these three questions compiled into a summary letter to be submitted to the city on behalf of the Sunnyland Neighborhood Association submit answers to:

SNA Attn: CBLC
P.O. Box 2515
Bellingham, WA 98227
or

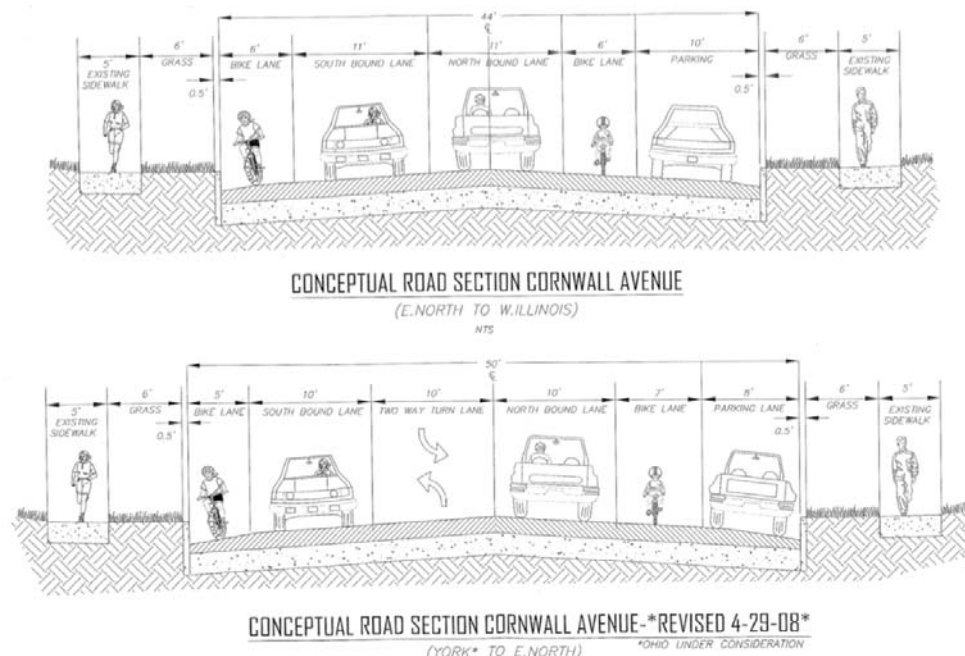
Complete an online form at:
sunnylandneighbors.org

Comments must be received by June 12, 2008.

If you wish to contact the city directly with your individual input send comments to:

Department of Public Works
RE: City project No. ES-156
210 Lottie St
Bellingham, WA 98225

Comments must be received by June 20, 2008.



More information about this project, including a larger diagram of the proposed lane changes, can be found at www.sunnylandneighbors.org

Sunnyland Air Quality Update

By Mike Rostron

It appears the stink about Brooks has died down for the time being. We wish to thank all of the folks from Sunnyland and the other affected neighborhoods who called in to report the smells. Your calls were crucial to getting the attention from the media, our local officials, and Brooks, which eventually led to the changes at Brooks. Or not. Perhaps they merely stonewalled until the smelly batch of carrier oil was used up. We'll never know. On the positive side, our air does not smell as bad now, but we have no actual testing data to let us know how much of the actual penta is off-gassing into the atmosphere. We will continue to advocate

Sunnyland To and Fro

By Hugh Conroy

While SNA meetings managed to go another year avoiding the issue of teleportation, some less interesting topics were covered in mildly enthralling detail. Here's an overview.

City of Bellingham Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP)

In 2007, the city asked all neighborhoods to choose three residential streets that they believed needed solutions to cut-through traffic or speeding. Subsequent monitoring showed that two of Sunnyland's three '07 choices scored high enough on the NTSP scale to merit traffic-calming measures; King Street between Alabama St. and Ohio St. and Grant St. between Alabama St. and Kentucky St. The city held an open house on April 16 to review specific road modifications. These upcoming improvements are a credit to many Sunnyland neighbors who stayed focused on finding a solution and the city's NTSP program. Thank you all for your past and continuing efforts.

The Sunnyland Neighborhood Association (SNA) worked through a second NTSP submission in response to the 2008 request. As a result, the city will this year be evaluating Carolina St., Virginia St. (both between James St. and Cornwall Ave.), and Ellis St. (between Alabama St. and Kentucky St.). Stay tuned. Stay calm.

Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

While it is unlikely that you plan very much for your own crazy life, transportation planners annually

for scientific testing of the air around the plant to find out just how much, if any, of the penta is ending up in the air we breathe. We urge you to continue to call Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCA) and your city officials when you notice questionable smells in our neighborhood.

NWCA 1-800-622-4627.

"Your calls were crucial to getting the attention from the media, our local officials, and Brooks, which eventually led to the changes at Brooks."

update a six-year plan in an effort to guide near-term investments based on need and available funds. To help figure out what's needed, Bellingham asks its neighborhood associations to suggest a project. This year, SNA put forward a request for two pedestrian-activated, signaled crosswalks on Alabama St. between James St. and Cornwall St. This request will be considered along with many other project proposals. Again, stay tuned (and see related issue below).

Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School is a U.S. federal program, administered with states, that identifies and invests locally in improvements to walking and bicycle routes school children use to get to school. Bellingham recently submitted its annual application for Safe Routes funding which identifies a pedestrian-activated signaled crossing on Alabama St. between James St. and Cornwall St. as a priority. If funded, this type of crossing would be a half-signal: requiring cars to stop on Alabama but retaining existing stop-signs for the chosen residential street intersection. While this specific project proposal did not come from the SNA, it is indeed complementary to SNA's TIP request.

James St. Crosswalks

As I write this, city contractors are installing pedestrian-activated half-signal crosswalks on James St. at Texas St. and Virginia St. Public Works Engineer Ravyn Whitewolf reviewed the plans at the March SNA meeting.

Rezoning the Old "D.O.T." Site

By Patrick McKee

The four-acre Washington Dept. of Transportation site on Sunset Drive in Sunnyland is now owned by a private developer.

The City of Bellingham will sponsor a design charrette in 2008. The charrette is a public meeting format where stakeholders collaborate with designers to form a design solution. It is the city's expectation that neighbors, the property owner, and the city will reach a "Development Agreement" as a basis for a Sunnyland Neighborhood Plan amendment and zoning change in 2008.

The owner/developer wants to build at least fifty new dwelling units and is asking for new zoning, which would permit them to develop a four-acre condominium site with private roads and sidewalks. Previous draft designs have shown townhouse condos, cottage condos, and condos built over a parking garage.

The Sunnyland Neighborhood Association has submitted a proposal for new zoning that would permit townhouses with front and back yards along Sunset Dr. The rest of the four acre site would be developed with small lot (4000-5000 sq.ft.) single family detached homes. These homes would be served by public streets and sidewalks paid for by the developer. A maximum of twenty-eight new dwelling units could be built on the site.

The city will seek to reconcile the two proposals.

Keep informed!
Join the Sunnyland Google Group

You can access the SNA Google Group
from www.sunnylandneighbors.org
Select the Forum link

Planting Trees in Sunnyland

By Patrick McKee

The benefits of planting trees are many. Trees provide a cooling canopy of shade, aesthetic beauty, groundwater retention, air improvement, carbon sequestration, traffic calming, and wildlife habitat. The inevitable growth and development of Bellingham should be paralleled by the planting of trees to mitigate human-made impacts.

Last year, Sunnyland volunteers planted twenty-two trees along residential streets in our neighborhood. These beautiful, ten-foot tall trees are now blooming in the springtime sunshine. The overwhelming response to our first tree-planting project was, "Why don't we do this every year? The neighborhood needs more of these trees."

It was a community-building event, which we are going to repeat in 2008. The Sunnyland Neighborhood Association has received another \$2,000 grant from the City of Bellingham to plant trees in our neighborhood.

Details on how you can participate in the 2008 Tree Planting Project will be posted on our website (sunnylandneighbors.org) some time in June.



Sunnylanders hard at work. Check out the size of that root ball!



Neighbors and shovels; 2007 tree planting volunteers.

Planning Academy II Unveiled: My Perspective

By Mickey McDiarmid

On April 30th roughly 100 people attended the first of four meetings of the 2008 Planning Academy. The title of this year's Academy is *Green Bellingham - Achieving infill, Enhancing Character*. The purpose of this Academy is to "create a toolbox of alternative housing types." The title of this segment was "*Filling in the Spaces, ten essentials for successful Urban Infill Housing*." Published by The Housing Partnership (King County Housing Alliance) through a contribution from the WA State Ass'n. of Realtors. **All available course materials are posted at www.cob.org/services/neighborhoods/education/planning-academy/planning-academy-ii-green-bellingham.aspx all workshops were filmed and will be aired on BTV10.**

Our first assignment as a group was to come up with three positive and three negative statements about infill. We were split up into small groups, purposefully representing multiple interests including: builders; transportation reps; architects; arts and cultural members; developers; planners; local business owners; neighborhood members; planning commissioners; planning students at WWU and others throughout the community. Roughly a 40 /60 split of neighborhood representatives to other vested groups.

We then had a presentation from architect/developer/author Mark Hinshaw. The city has given his book True Urbanism – Living In and Near the City as a text for the Academy members. It promotes the "new urban dense population trend" and all its benefits. The author had great slides to show us to promote this view of cities that have urban environments that have been recently changed to "better living uses". It is admittedly a new trend, young in its establishment and primarily in cities of 3 to 6 times the population of Bellingham including the estimated growth by 2020. There are a few smaller cities that were given as examples, but they are cities in surrounding mass-populated areas such as Walnut Creek, situated between Oakland and Concord CA and Bethesda, MD right outside of DC.

The idea is there are no ill effects to putting more density in a downtown. We're being told this is a good way to promote less traffic while enriching an urban environment, which many want and support. Sunnylanders do you support this? There are financial gains to be made by some with this change,

but have we explored the costs? We need to evaluate this before deciding.

Along with this is the suggestion for doing away with density restrictions and limits to types of housing. Do we want to unilaterally change development codes in Bellingham to start this process or take a few neighborhoods at a time and see how it works? There are three neighborhoods already that have agreed to "upzone" their neighborhoods and create urban villages.

Next we were asked to take question #2 from the ten essentials list: *Make innovation a positive outcome for current residents*. We were asked to discuss what the barriers to this might be. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions. Mickey McDiarmid (671-5452) your Sunnyland Neighborhood Representative-at-large and one of your reps at Planning Academy II.

Please visit the city's web site and view these meetings on BTV 10 so you are informed as to what the planning commission has in mind. Also of mention are the notes from the task force that was put in charge of developing the agendas and process for this planning academy.

We are on the Web!

See us at:

www.Sunnylandneighbors.org

Sunnyland Annual Picnic

By Erin Macri

Mark your calendar! The Sunnyland Neighborhood Picnic will be held September 7, 2008.

This annual picnic is a great way to meet your neighbors, hang out with those you already know, and learn about what is happening around Sunnyland. Last year's picnic included a salmon barbeque, raffle, tour of a fire truck, information table and kids activities.

Erin Macri will be heading up the 2008 picnic planning committee. If you would like to join the committee or would like to contribute to the picnic, please contact Erin at macrie@hotmail.com or call her at 734-8242.

We would like to thank the neighborhood businesses that donated to the 2007 picnic:

2008 SNA Board of Directors

- Chair:** **Theresa Tripp**
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223-0876
- Co-Chair:** **Erin Macri**
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733-2555
- At-Large 3:** **Mike Rostron**
merostron@comcast.net
656-5567

World Cup Coffeehouse



Youngstock's



Garden Spot Nursery



Hardware Sales

Zentefis Art and Craft

We're building a community and need your help!

Volunteers at the Sunnyland Neighborhood Association produced this newsletter for you, our neighbors, and the greater benefit of our community. With your help we can achieve a great deal, improve our surroundings, and have a lot of fun making new friends in the process.

Please consider helping out in any way you can, a donation of your time and/or money. Homeowners, renters, and business owners can join.

- \$5 Individual
- \$10 Household
- \$10 Business

Yes! I want to help improve my neighborhood. I have enclosed a check for my annual membership payable to: **Sunnyland Neighborhood Association**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Cut out and mail to:

SNA Membership
P.O.Box 2515
Bellingham, WA 98227