

# Chuckanut News

Summer 2016

## Summer Social

ITALIAN STYLE

Wednesday, July 27

6:30–8:30 PM at Chuckanut Fire Hall

**Cicchitti's Pizza Truck**

Fresh pizza and Caesar salad, cooked to order on site!

**Gelato Donated by Sirena Gelato**

Best gelato in town!

Thank you CBCA members for your generous support this year! Please let us treat you to an evening of good food, good gelato, and good friends of Chuckanut! Bring the kids; the fire trucks will be out!

*Thank you Sirena Gelato for your generous donation!*

Sirena is located at 960 Harris Ave in Fairhaven



## Last Stop for Quiet Zone!

The Yacht Club Road Quiet Zone application has reached its final destination at the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in Washington D.C. FRA is the agency that grants approval for Quiet Zones across the country. This process was no small task for Whatcom County Public Works, and began with a County Council vote of support last year, followed by hours of meetings, public notices, public comments, engineering design and analysis, calculations, research, review, and road tests by the Public Works staff. And yes, the County actually road tested with the garbage truck to ensure that large trucks, fire trucks, and ambulances could easily navigate any designed improvements!

The County design focused on increased safety requirements to comply with federal Quiet Zone regulations, and utilized a mountable median with reflective traffic channelization devices. A mountable median met the necessary safety requirements with reasonable cost considerations, and also addressed the number one safety concern at a railroad crossing by preventing vehicles from "gate jumping" or crossing over into the oncoming lane of traffic to skirt the gate as it is lowering to avoid waiting for a train.

The mountable median is easy to install, easy to maintain, and allows for proper drainage. It is a 4-inch tall durable, yellow plastic median fitted with plastic vertical reflective baffles and will be installed over the existing double yellow centerline, both east and west of the railroad crossing. The easterly portion of Yacht Club Road will be fitted with a median that begins at the railroad crossing and extends 100 feet east. On the westerly portion, a median will be installed in the same manner and extend 35 feet west.

The FRA will review the design and may approve it as presented, or make suggestions

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## New! Print Your CBCA Community Directory

You can now print a copy of the Community Directory directly from the CBCA website ([chuckanutcommunity.org](http://chuckanutcommunity.org)). This is a good resource to have in your drawer for emergency preparedness and to contact neighbors during power outages. Go to Settings, press "Print Directory"! Thanks to **Michael Newlight** for all his hard work building the CBCA website and adding this new feature! If you are unable to print your own copy, contact [info@chuckanutcommunity.org](mailto:info@chuckanutcommunity.org) and we will be happy to help you. If you haven't paid your 2016 dues yet, please do so to access the Community Directory.

## A Message from the President

### The Power of 400

By Kathy Bovenkamp

You are part of the Chuckanut Bay Community Association (CBCA), an association that encompasses over 400 households in one of the most scenic places to live in the Pacific Northwest. Our association encompasses neighborhoods, parks, trails, lakes, and beaches. We host many visitors on a daily basis and there is a lot happening in our community!

We never know what kinds of issues or projects are going to hit our area, and having the ability to quickly respond and generate participation puts us one step ahead of the game. Having an association standing ready to respond, and respond with the clout of 400 households, is a valuable asset to our community.

A good example is the Yacht Club Road Quiet Zone. Residents brought forward an idea for a project that benefits our community, and the association helped by hosting meetings, and generating publicity. Another example is Governor's Point. Our association was able to quickly advertise to CBCA members, hold a meeting, and provide an opportunity for interested residents to discuss rapidly changing events and opportunities for Governor's Point. Recently CBCA hosted a meeting with Whatcom Unified Emergency Management to offer an opportunity for residents to come together and develop disaster response for their neighborhoods. All this is made possible with member dues that help maintain CBCA's extensive database, website, directory, and fund newsletters and meetings.

Thank you members for your generous support this year. 2016 dues and donations increased 74% over 2015 and that is phenomenal! New volunteers have stepped up to help volunteers that have nurtured the association for years. This says members care about our community and value the benefits of maintaining our association.

To be able to participate with our local and state government as a community association representing 400 households on issues impacting our area, or to ask agencies for help on a project that benefits our area, is a benefit. Having a system in place to quickly offer wide-spread communication with residents, whether it is an emergency or a social gathering, is a benefit. Having a way to simply bring residents together...is a benefit. The Chuckanut Bay Community Association is a benefit to our community, a benefit with the power of 400.

## Map Your Hood!

*Disaster strikes! Your neighbor's house is on fire! Any minute their propane tank could explode igniting your house and others! Somebody turn off the propane tank! Where is it?!*

You need to KNOW where the propane tank is to respond quickly and safely. When the fire is raging, it's not the optimum time to be searching for the propane tank! In fact, the single biggest source of a neighborhood-wide fire following a disaster (about 67%) is due to propane and natural gas leaks. Mapping your neighborhood pinpoints the exact location of natural gas meters and propane tanks on your street. The "Map Your Neighborhood" (MYN) program helps neighbors form a plan to respond safely to a disaster and teaches neighbors to rely on each other during the minutes, hours, or days before fire, medical, police, or utility responders arrive.

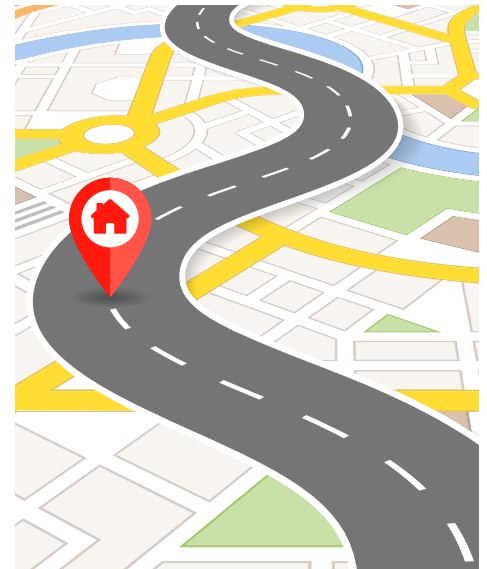
It's an easy program to get up and running. A volunteer hosts a meeting of close neighbors, usually 5-7 homes in rural areas or depending on geography it could be all the homes located on one street or a particular area, and a 90 minute video is presented with a facilitator.

### The training covers five areas:

- 1) **Learn the first 9 Step Response Plan** to take immediately following disaster to secure your home and protect your neighbors. It teaches you to prepare for an emergency, what you need to care for your family, how to check your propane or natural gas lines, how to safely care for others, save a life, reduce the severity of injuries, and reduce property damage.
- 2) **Create a Neighborhood Map** that pinpoints the exact locations of propane tanks and natural gas meters. The group walks properties to find and map locations of tanks or lines their neighborhood.
- 3) **Identify the Skills and Equipment Inventory** each neighbor has that are useful and effective in a disaster response. Knowing which neighbors have skills such as medical or machinery operator skills, and those with special equipment such as a chain saw to remove fallen trees, or a backhoe to remove fallen rocks, ensures a

timely response to disaster and allows everyone to contribute in a meaningful way.

- 4) **Create a Neighborhood Contact List** that identifies those with specific needs in the neighborhood such as the elderly, those with disabilities, or those who may be home alone during a disaster and need help.
- 5) **Work together** as a team to evaluate, or search your neighborhood after a disaster and take the necessary actions.



The Map Your Neighborhood program is a minimal time commitment but it can have a great impact at a time when it is needed the most. Neighborhoods that are prepared for emergencies and disaster situations save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma, and reduce property damage.

CBCA plans to schedule Map Your Neighborhood training for "Host Volunteers"; those neighbors willing to take the lead on their street, or area. This will be a one-time session of 90 minutes with a trained MYN facilitator. These host volunteers will then hold a meeting in their own homes with 5-7+ households of close neighbors to actually provide training to the group either on their own (a CD is available) or by using a MYN facilitator.

If you are interested in hosting a training meeting with your neighbors, please contact the association at [info@chuckanutcommunity.org](mailto:info@chuckanutcommunity.org). CBCA is gathering volunteers in all areas of our Chuckanut community. If you would like more information, call Ken Kaliher, 734-2096. Stay tuned!



## Quiet Zone

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for approval, and this determines the feasibility of the project and resulting costs. The timeline for this process varies; it could take a couple months, or an extended period of time. One thing is for sure, once the County receives approval from the FRA, our community will go into full force fundraising mode! The County currently estimates project costs, as designed, to be between \$50-60,000 and will have a fixed cost once a determination is made by the FRA.

A Quiet Zone will benefit our entire community. It will greatly reduce the amount of train whistle noise that impacts many residents' daily lives. And although train whistle noise may not impact you personally, one of the first questions potential buyers in our area ask is in regards to train noise and their ability to sleep at night! Being able to say your property is located in a "Quiet Zone" is a plus for property values throughout our community.

### *Thank you Georgia!*

Georgia Heald wrote and published the CBCA quarterly newsletter for the past 9 years! Thank you for all your hard work and years of service to our community, it is so very much appreciated. Enjoy your retirement!

## What's Happening at Governors Point

By Dean Brett, *Chuckanut Resident*

The owners of Governors Point, who I will refer to as GPDC, owe about \$5.3 million to secured creditors and about 1.8 million to unsecured creditors, a total of about \$7.1 million. In August 2014 Heritage Bank, the largest secured creditor, started a foreclosure action in Whatcom County Superior Court. To forestall that foreclosure, GPDC filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy action which had the effect of immediately stopping all pending litigation. GPDC listed assets of about \$2.2 million in addition to Governors Point, which they claimed was worth \$11.2 million. Under Bankruptcy rules, GPDC was required to come up with a plan to pay creditors, which was to sell Governors Point and use the proceeds to pay the creditors. The property was marketed internationally by an excellent Realtor for sale by auction. No bidders responded, probably because developers have become aware that there is little or no water available for development. GPDC then arranged a "sale" to Land Baron Company, which proposed to raise money to buy the property through the internet. However, despite repeated continuances, Land Baron Company has been unable to raise the money to complete the purchase. The Bankruptcy Court has so far allowed GPDC one year to sell the property and pay the debts, GPDC has failed to do so, and the secured creditors want to be paid. Heritage Bank has now asked that the Bankruptcy Court remove the automatic stay of proceedings and allow the foreclosure to proceed. That motion is currently scheduled to be heard on July 8. GPDC will likely argue that they need more time to sell the property and that the property is worth more than they owe the bank. The bank is likely to argue that it will take some time to perfect the foreclosure, and that during that time GPDC is free to get realistic about the sale price and sell the property. Community members have pledged about \$2 million towards a public purchase of Governors Point, in conjunction with a public purchase or partnership with a developer who would be willing to preserve at least part of the property. I predict that GPDC will either become more realistic about the true value of a property that is zoned for 25 lots but has little water, or they will lose the property in foreclosure. On behalf of Friends of Chuckanut, I will continue to monitor all movement in this fascinating Bankruptcy court proceeding.

## CBCA Board

**Kathy Bovenkamp**, President  
**Bob Earl**, Vice President  
**Gale Grop**, Secretary  
**Karin Todd**, Treasurer  
**Karen Ekdahl**, Board Member

## Farewell to Old Friends

By Linda Earl

### **Crystal Ann Trunkey**

779 Chuckanut Shore Rd

Creative artist and long-time Chuckanut resident Crystal Trunkey succumbed to a long battle with cancer on January 30th.

She will be remembered by many of us as a good friend and multi-talented artist, working in wood, glass, textiles, and jewelry. Her favorite studio was the one that her husband, Bill, built for her, which she called "The Menagerie." It was filled with her art treasures, inspirational art books, and collection of tools. She and Bill met in 1997 and lived in Bellingham for 18 years.

*For more details about Crystal's remarkable life and spirit, please go to: [legacy.com/obituaries/bellinghamherald/obituary.aspx?n=Crystal-turnkey&pid=177831274](http://legacy.com/obituaries/bellinghamherald/obituary.aspx?n=Crystal-turnkey&pid=177831274).*

### **John Wait Arnold, M.D.**

740 Hiline Rd

John, known by many of us as an avid gardener, woodworker, and painter, as well as a dear friend, passed away on May 28th.

John was also a doctor who practiced Internal Medicine in Bellingham for 35 years until he retired. He helped publish "Chuckanut Chronicles," our local book of stories associated with life on and around Chuckanut Bay. A memorial was held for John at the Chuckanut Fire Hall, a place where he spent considerable time as an active member of the Chuckanut Bay Community Association.

*For more information about John, please go to: [legacy.com/obituaries/bellinghamherald/obituary.aspx?pid=180180967](http://legacy.com/obituaries/bellinghamherald/obituary.aspx?pid=180180967).*

### **REMINDER:**

Summer traffic is here! Increased traffic brings an increased presence of the Washington State Patrol.

**Drive safely and be alert!**

# Chuckanut News

Chuckanut Bay Community Association  
PO Box 4403  
Bellingham, WA 98227-4403

## Community Emergency Response Teams

CBCA hosted Whatcom County Division of Emergency Management, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) trainer Greg Hope, at the Chuckanut Fire Hall May. 40+ community members attended and learned the basics of the CERT program. Due to such a positive response from community members volunteering to participate in the CERT training, CBCA is working to bring the course directly to our community at the Chuckanut Fire Hall. This is a 9 week course that meets once a week for 3 hours.

This program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. The training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue operations. When emergencies or disasters happen, CERT members can provide immediate assistance to victims, give critical support to first responders, and organize volunteers at a disaster site. In a disaster, it may take time for trained first responders to get in; a CERT, or trained community responder can fill the gap until help arrives.

CBCA anticipates a start date the end of September or beginning of October. If you would like to get your name on a list for the CERT training course, please email [info@chuckanutcommunity.org](mailto:info@chuckanutcommunity.org). The class can accommodate 30.

*If you have questions about CERT, Julie Carpenter, Chuckanut resident, has recently completed her CERT training and will be happy to answer any questions! Contact: [juliecarpenter@nwhomes.net](mailto:juliecarpenter@nwhomes.net) or call 305-9986. For additional info, check out the Whatcom Unified Emergency Management site at [whatcomready.org/cert](http://whatcomready.org/cert).*

**SPREADING THE WORD!** CBCA can quickly communicate with residents IF we have your email address! *Please take a minute and sign up on the website, or update your info at [chuckanutcommunity.org](http://chuckanutcommunity.org)*