

Enhancing, promoting & advocating for the healthy maintenance, improvement and development of Bellingham's City Center

Downtown Bellingham Information Station Grand Opening

Thanks to a grant from the Bellingham Tourism Commission, the Downtown Renaissance Network will open a Downtown Bellingham Info Station and augment their downtown website, www.DowntownBellingham.com, this spring. The grand opening for the Info Station, located at 1304 Cornwall Avenue, will take place April 6, 2007, 7-10pm to coincide with Downtown Gallery Walk. The public is invited. Festivities include a raffle of downtown prizes, and refreshments.

The Info Station will be open year round as a central location for information on downtown culture, entertainment, events, restaurants and shopping. Knowledgeable staff will provide downtown maps, brochures, a calendar of events, an online kiosk, and seasonal informational displays. The Station will also sell tickets for downtown events.

For additional information, contact Nicole Hagerman, Event & Visitor Services Coordinator, at 527-8710



Awards Ceremony

Please join us on April 19th, 2007 at 6:30pm in the Whatcom Museum's Rotunda Room for an event honoring 2006 Mayor's Arts Award recipients. Downtown Sounds has been selected as a recipient for "providing the community with an opportunity to enjoy live entertainment in a unique downtown environment." Wahoo!

Spring Membership Meeting

Please join Downtown Renaissance Network for our spring membership meeting at the American Museum of Radio on Tuesday April 17th, from 6-8 pm. As part of the agenda, Plowline Consulting will be on hand to kick off the unveiling of the latest downtown marketing campaign - City in Bloom. This campaign will run from June 1- September 1, 2007 and will include tactics such as television ads, a four full page color insert in the Cascadia Weekly, website advertising, and much more! Appetizers, wine and refreshments included.

For more information on the City in Bloom Campaign please contact Gerry Ebalagoza Tunnell at 360-223-2939 or gerry@plowlineconsulting.com

New Whatcom Redevelopment Project

Public Information Meetings at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal, 355 Harris Avenue on April 4th, 4-6pm and April 18th, 6-8pm. These meetings will be identical.

Public Scoping Hearing for the Environmental Impact Statement 2014 C Street on April 25, 6-9pm. This is a formal public hearing.

For more information contact www.newwhatcom.org

Downtown Dollars

Looking for the perfect gift?
Downtown Dollars are accepted at over 50 Downtown establishments.



For a list of participating businesses go to www.DowntownBellingham.com/downtowndollars

For more information or to add your business today contact Cassia at 527-8710 or cassia@downtownbellingham.com

WTA Renovations to Bellingham Station & Service Expansion

Construction at the WTA Downtown Bellingham Station is moving swiftly, with an expected completion date of August 2007. Once completed, WTA riders will enjoy better indoor facilities, including more spacious restrooms and waiting areas. The general public will enjoy an updated, attractive building and concourse—another great addition to the improvements to the Railroad Avenue streetscape.

WTA is proposing a service expansion from downtown out Lakeway to begin in January of 2008. A public hearing regarding the proposed expanded service will be held at 6pm on Wednesday, April 11 at the Whatcom County Courthouse Council Chambers. For more information, visit www.ridewta.com

Smart Trips Update:

Since the Smart Trips program was launched in July 2006, more than 4,000 people have signed up. So far, they have reduced drive-alone miles in Whatcom County by 3 million miles.

www.whatcomsmarttrips.org

Call for Nominations Network Board Elections in May

If you are interested in helping shape the future of downtown Bellingham or know someone who is, the Network Board of Directors is currently soliciting nominations for Board members. Contact Kirsten at 527-8710 or Kirsten@DowntownBellingham.com. Nominations must be received by April 16.

Special Discounts for Network Members

The American Museum of Radio and Electricity is offering special discounts for Network members for the museum's Business Membership Program.

The Museum business membership packages have great benefits for staff and families. Visitation, discounts on classes and performances and a regular acknowledgements on Bellingham's Voice of Downtown, KMRE 102.3 FM.

For more information contact Frank Ordway at 738-3886 or frank@amre.us

Gallery Walks for the 2007 Season

Gallery Walks are a festive time when participating business owners keep their doors open from 7 to 10 pm to showcase an array of artwork by local and renowned visiting artists. Art lovers are invited to stroll through the streets of downtown, enjoying art, food, and community.

Downtown Gallery Walk

- April 6th
- July 6th
- October 5th
- December 7th



Children's Gallery Walk

- May 4th

Upcoming Events Downtown

For more info visit DowntownBellingham.com

March

29 & 31 - Focus on Energy Film Series at American Museum of Radio & Electricity

April

1 - Bellingham Farmers Market Opens, 10am-3pm,

6 - Downtown Gallery Walk *

6 - Downtown Visitor Info Station opens *

6 - Sustainable Connections Spring Business Conference

May

4 - Children's Gallery Walk *

13 - Nov. 11 - Whatcom Museum presents *American Abstraction*

18 - Junior Ski to Sea Parade

18 - Bike to Work and School Day

20 - Motorcycle Show & Shine at Depot Market Square to support Catholic Community Services Foster Care Program

26 - Ski to Sea Grande Parade

June

9 - The Human Race 2007- 5k/10k walk/run, Maritime Heritage Park

28 - Bellingham Bay History Cruise

* indicates events organized or co-organized by the Downtown Renaissance Network.

It's not too late! Sign up for the **Green Power Community Challenge** today

www.sconnect.org/greenpower.

And join your neighbors in making Downtown a leader in green energy.



sponsored by
Bellingham Arts commission

Summer Alley Concerts 2007

Wednesday evenings in Downtown Bellingham are heating up again as the third year of *Downtown Sounds* Summer Alley Concerts gets underway with live music, delicious food, dancing, and fun for the entire family, FREE of charge. This all ages community event, presented by the Downtown Renaissance Network and sponsored by the Bellingham Arts Commission (series presenting sponsor) runs every Wednesday from July 11th through August 1st, from 6:00-9:00pm. This year the bands include favorites; Flowmotion, Bow Diddlers, Randy Oxford Band and the Clumsy Lovers. The concerts are located in the alley between Holly St. and Bay St/Champion St. in Downtown Bellingham. The main entrance and food vendors will be located at Bay St/Champion St.

Downtown Sounds is supported by generous sponsors who include Bellingham Arts Commission, WTA, Beyond Limits Yoga, Unique West, Kulshan Cycles, KISM, Cascadia Weekly, Garys' Men's & Women's Wear, Dream on Futon, WECU, Bellingham Parks & Recreation, Brenthaven Travel Store, Rudy's Pizzeria, Kulshan Community Land Trust, Business Bank of Whatcom County, Amjay Screen Printing, Grandview Signs, Conservation Northwest, Whatcom Land Trust, Whatcom Literacy Council, Minuteman Press, Sound Beverage and Manna Music.

2007 Downtown Map and Business Directories are here!!

10,000 maps have been printed and are being distributed to local and regional Convention and Visitor's Bureau locations, Chambers of Commerce, participating businesses, college campuses, local lodging facilities, DowntownBellingham.com, and other high traffic venues. If you have not yet received a copy or if you need more maps for your business, please contact us at 527-8710

Thank you Community Patrons & Leaders

Daylight Properties, Unique West, Champion Street Center, Chmelik Sitkin & Davis, Port of Bellingham, Bill & Taimi Gorman, Comcast

Member Websites Available

For our members who do not yet operate a website and those who do, we offer an online service: a basic member webpage within the DowntownBellingham.com site. The page is designed to highlight your business and help potential customers find and learn more about you.

We will design the page for you within the Downtown Bellingham template, with your input, and post it as part of our website so you can take advantage of the over 300,000 visits a year to the Downtown Bellingham site. The page link will inform customers about your business, with photos, logos, text, and contact information of your choosing. We will provide this extended service to members for \$20 a year.

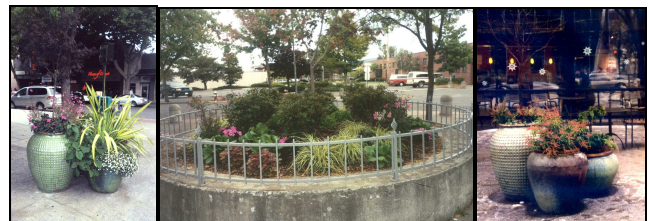
To view an example of Downtown Renaissance Network member websites, visit <http://www.downtownbellingham.com/brenthaven>.

If you are interested in adding or augmenting a web presence for your business or organization, please contact Kirsten at the Network (527-8710).

Downtown Kiosks

The Kiosks are maintained by the Network and updated every Monday. Please bring six copies of your event poster by the office at 1304 Cornwall and we would be happy to put it up for you.

No religious, political, or for profit event posters please. Call us with any questions at 527-8710.



Bite of Bellingham to cook up some summer fun

Downtown Renaissance Network presents the 2nd Annual *Bite of Bellingham*, the event to jumpstart your summer fun in Bellingham! This fun and family-friendly event will give the community an opportunity to sample delicious food from a variety of Bellingham restaurants and enjoy musical entertainment from local favorites, Captain Seahorse and La Push. The night will be topped off with views of Independence Day fireworks over Bellingham Bay.

The *Bite of Bellingham* will take place on July 4th from 5-9pm at Maritime Heritage Park in downtown Bellingham, entry is free.

For more information or to become a vendor or sponsor please contact Nicole Hagerman at 360-527-8710 or nicole@downtownbellingham.com.

City planning downtown street sweeping program

The City is planning to implement a *scheduled* street (and alley) sweeping program this year in downtown.

As downtown has grown, and especially with the increase of residential units in the area, the number of cars parked overnight on streets has increased significantly. It has reached a point where street sweeping has become less effective as sweeper operators cannot access whole sections of street in many areas. In addition, a number of merchants in the downtown retail core have approached the City requesting a scheduled street sweeping plan be put in place. Work is now underway to implement this program.

Currently, a task plan, including options for education and promotion, has been drafted. Public Works staff is determining the number of permanent signs needed and costs for production. Locations for sign installation and parking enforcement are also under consideration.

For more information contact Bill Dorn, City of Bellingham Public Works, at bdorn@cob.org.

2006 Review

In 2006, the Network collaborated with local decision makers and downtown stakeholders to ensure downtown interests were addressed in policies and decisions regarding parking, public safety, growth, and the waterfront redevelopment. The Network focused efforts on streetscape maintenance and beautification, downtown promotion through events, and marketing through our downtown map, Downtown Dollars program, and popular website. In 2006, the Network:

- Completed over **4,000 hours** of sidewalk cleaning, litter pick-up, graffiti removal and downtown beautification.
- Improved the downtown streetscape, adding color and interest to the downtown streetscape with over **800 new plants** in hanging baskets, new planters, and replanting of existing planters and beds.
- Attracted over **10,000 visitors** to Downtown Bellingham through Network special events: Gallery Walks (in partnership with Allied Arts), Downtown Sounds, Bite of Bellingham, Sidewalk Sale, Downtown Trick or Treat and Breakfast with Santa.
- Published and distributed **10,000** Downtown Map and Business Directories to regional information centers, tourism bureaus, businesses and universities.
- Hosted over **250,000** visits to the DowntownBellingham.com website for business, event, and destination information.
- Collaborated with Plowline Consulting on a Downtown Holiday Marketing Campaign which included **625 television ads** that reached **70,000 households** in Whatcom County and delivered **20,000** direct mail pieces to county residents.