

the
newsletter of
the lettered streets
neighborhood

the letterhead

spring 2010

New ▪ Young ▪ A ▪ B ▪ C ▪ D ▪ E ▪ F ▪
G ▪ H ▪ I ▪ J ▪ Broadway

Lettered Streets Garden Tour

We're organizing a Lettered Streets Garden Tour for this summer. If you're a green-thumb who'd like to share the beauty of your garden with an appreciative audience, please get in touch. The proposed date and time for the tour is Sunday July 25, 1-5 p.m. Folks who go on the tour will give a small donation, which will go to support the Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association. For more information, please contact patriciag_ods@msn.com

Help Design Our Garden Calendar

We're looking for someone who can design and layout this year's Gardens of the Lettered Streets calendar, and deliver electronic files to a printer for production. If this sounds up your alley, please contact Arlene at arlene_feld@hotmail.com

Pamper your historic Lettered Streets home



PHOTO: LES CAMPBELL

This Queen Anne-style home on G Street, more than 100 years old, is one of many historic homes in the area.

Our June 8 neighborhood meeting will feature speakers on the topic "Maintaining and Restoring Your Historic Home."

It's almost impossible *not* to live in a historic home in the Lettered Streets, whose blocks are graced by scores of bungalows and Victorians dating back to the early 1900s or before. Of course, that means

those of us who reside in them are always looking for ways to keep our houses in good shape without detracting from their historic nature.

On June 8 the following speakers will share their expertise on this topic:

Jim Gunsolus is a contractor who has specialized in historic homes. He lives in the Columbia neighborhood

and has been very involved in planning for the Fountain district. He has given a number of talks on the topic of maintaining and restoring historic houses.

Anna Booker has done some renovation on her own historic home. She also participated in the historic home training provided by the Historic Resource Survey and Inventory project.

Getting connected for neighborhood news

There are exciting developments on the Lettered Streets Neighborhood website. If you are like me and looked at it once and never went back, you will find a great change! Natalie McClendon volunteered to get our website working again and she has! Please check out our new look and options to get and share

information with our neighbors.

Website address:

<http://letteredstreets.org>

Add an item to the website calendar:

To send an item for the calendar, visit <http://letteredstreets.org/calendar/>

Receive our e-bulletin:

Our neighborhood e-bulletin

is e-mailed out at least once a month with info relevant to Lettered Streets residents. To sign up for the e-bulletin, go to <http://letteredstreets.org/calendar/> and click on the Click To Join LSNA Bulletin link. (You can add or delete yourself from the e-mail list at any time!)

—Rae Edwards

Next neighborhood association meeting

Tuesday, May 11: 7 p.m.

**Waterfront and
Fountain District
development**

Washington Square, 2501 E Street

Always the second Tuesday of the month.



Corner of F Street
& Dupont
Park on G Street

Featuring local fare
(with vegan and
gluten-free options),
free WiFi, and
locally roasted coffee.

Buy one 12-ounce latte or mocha, and receive
the **second** 12-ounce latte or mocha **free**.
(at point of purchase)

your corner on the world

Open Mon–Fri 6:45am–6:00pm ■ Sat–Sun 8:00am–5:00pm
info@letteredstreetscoffee.com
360-933-4689
Expires 08/31/2010

Egg hunt goes over easily

On April 3, Lettered Streets Covenant Church sponsored the second annual Lettered Streets neighborhood Easter egg hunt. Between 300 to 400 people participated throughout the morning, including 150 to 200 children!



Come experience a community
of love, service, authenticity
and belonging....

A community where you are WELCOME!

Sunday 5 pm – 6:30 pm

2100 Broadway
The Fountain Church Building
360.920.6712
Pastor Chris Eltrich
letteredstreetscc.com

Maritime Heritage Park playground

The City of Bellingham is looking at updating the rather dilapidated playground near the salmon hatchery at Maritime Heritage Park, and potentially moving it to another location within the park.

At the April Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association (LSNA) meeting, Jonathan Schlik from the city Parks and Recreation Dept. presented the idea of updating and moving the playground from its present spot. The current playground equipment does not meet current city safety standards, is not wheelchair accessible and does not have good visibility lines into or out of the play area.

The plans are still in the scoping phase and Jonathan Schlik is looking for members of the neighbor-

hood to sit on the steering committee. So far, Lettered Streets residents Earl Hutchins, Mike Kimmich and Rae Edwards have volunteered to be on the steering committee. Changes to the playground area would likely trigger a change to the Master Plan.

As one of the people who agreed to help with this process, I would love to get input from Lettered Streets residents who might make use of the playground. I will work to put information on the LSNA website (www.letteredstreets.org) and Facebook page to get your thoughts!

Jonathan offered to return to another LSNA meeting in early summer for further discussion of this idea.

—Rae Edwards



SPRING ISSUE © 2010 LETTERED STREETS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Letterhead is the official newsletter of the Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association and is published four times a year. If you have an idea for an article, or something you'd like to see included in an upcoming issue, please send an e-mail to letterhead.ed@gmail.com. Pictures or layout questions, try design.boy.bham@gmail.com.

For the latest news, be sure to visit our website at:
www.letteredstreets.org

And become our friend on Facebook! Search for **Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association**. Want to receive our bi-monthly Lettered Streets e-bulletin? Go to <http://letteredstreets.org/calendar> to get on the mailing list.

First Congregational Church of Bellingham, UCC

Our
Worship



Is Open
To All!

We want to Connect with You!

Church Office – 734-3720

<http://www.fccb.net>

Welcome to the National Historic Register

The group of Queen Anne-style homes on G and H streets between Girard and Halleck have just been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The homes, now part of the Cissna Cottages Historic District, were built by Charles Cissna between 1899 and 1901.

Gardening in Bellingham

A crowd of interested neighbors attended our March LSNA meeting, which featured several speakers discussing various aspects of gardening in Bellingham.

Our speakers were:

Gary Koch, sharing his knowledge of permaculture (the idea of humans working toward sustainable, self-sufficient lifestyles and communities). See the Lettered Streets website www.letteredstreets.org for his list of helpful websites and books.

Becky Curtis, Program Coordinator for Community First! Gardens talking about that nascent project. See <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/gardening/cfg/> for more information.

Elsa King, Master Composter through WSU Extension. For more information about composting, check out this website: <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/mrcprogram.htm>

Ronalee Kincaid, a trained Habitat Steward with the National Wildlife Federation who has also completed Backyard Habitat Mentor training.

See the Lettered Streets website at www.letteredstreets.org for more details and the books and websites recommended by each of our speakers.

New plant ID signs coming to Maritime Heritage

If you've walked the native plant teaching trail that runs along the south side of Whatcom Creek in Maritime Heritage Park, you've probably noticed that the current plant identification signs are, well, a bit battered. Originally created by Columbia Elementary students, the signs have reached retirement age. Fortunately, the Komo Kulshan chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) is teaming with Whatcom Middle School 8th-graders to create new plant identification markers.

The Whatcom students will contribute the art for the signs, and the WNPS

is compiling key information such as the Lummi and Nooksack names for the plants, plant ethnobotany (how the plants have been used by native and other cultures in the area), plant characteristics and habitat value. The cost to fabricate the signs will be covered by community donations, grants from the state and local chapters of the WNPS, and a Clean Water Centennial Grant from the Washington Department of Ecology through the City of Bellingham. Look for these new signs early this summer.

—Rae Edwards

Urban food and the Bellingham Urban Garden Syndicate

Chris Elder is happy to share information about BUGS and their projects. BUGS is dedicated to assisting with the design, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of the urban food revolution. The group's mission statement is "To promote, sustain, and advocate for urban agriculture in Bellingham through education, garden support, community action, and making local healthy food accessible." Their website: http://bellinghamurbangardens.org/?page_id=19

Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Contact information will be kept private and confidential, and will not be used or released without your consent.

I would be willing to help distribute newsletters (The Letterhead)

Recommended annual contribution:

Single - \$5 Household - \$10 Business - \$25

Mail to: Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association • P.O. Box 852 • Bellingham, WA 98227

1600 H Street • 733-1811



**BELLINGHAM
THEATRE GUILD**

Guys and Dolls
June 11 - 27

Get ready for
an exciting 2010-11 season!

- Forever Plaid
- Prelude to a Kiss
- Macbeth
- The Sensuous Senator
- Damn Yankees



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FAN LETTER:

A celebration of people, places and things in the Lettered Streets

Twice-Sold Sails: Pacific Marine Exchange and Art Gallery

A boat lover since his early childhood in Ohio, Mike Kimmich moved to the Northwest at age 10, got one whiff of salt water and never left. Since 1993 he's managed to turn his love of all things marine into a successful business, the Pacific Marine Exchange and Art Gallery at West Holly and C Street in Old Town.

Pacific Marine is a re-use/re-cycle emporium—the boating community's equivalent of the RE Store—that stocks all manner of pre-owned marine items, along with some new inventory. Nautical folks of all stripes, from commercial fishermen to summer island cruisers to sailing enthusiasts, can find virtually anything for their craft on the exchange's organized shelves or in its fenced side yard.

The wide selection attracts a steady stream of customers. "Our bread and butter is local folks," Kimmich says, adding that by "local" he means all of western Washington and Alaska. However, he also has many repeat customers from farther afield, including the Midwest, Texas, New Jersey and even England. A Colorado couple who come out every year to cruise the San Juans make a point of bookending their vacation with visits to Pacific Marine. "They come through the store first thing when they arrive and again when they're about to leave," Kimmich says.

Many of the items for sale at the business are consigned by their previous owners—for example, when a retiree moves to Bellingham from the Midwest and consigns his bass-fishing equipment. (And, at the same time, perhaps, picks up gear suitable for Northwest trout fishing.) "The nice thing about the consignment business is that it's a customer bringing the stuff in,



Mike Kimmich and some of the many nautical treasures in his store.

and another customer buying," says Kimmich. "Every sale equals two happy customers."

Business is brisk. The store employs seven people and issues 400 to 500 checks a month to cover sales of consigned goods.

The art gallery half of the business, begun by Mike Kimmich's wife Mary in 1994, also operates on consignment. The gallery of-

fers artwork from more than 80 individual artists, including watercolors, fine woodwork, metalwork, ceramic art and jewelry. Mike Kimmich calls it the largest marine art gallery in Washington State.

One of the most popular artists is Whatcom County resident James R. Williamson, a watercolorist who also offers art classes at the gallery.



PHOTOS: LES CAMPBELL

The store also boasts a nautical-themed book section, and books will soon be available for purchase online at www.pacificmarine.com.

Kimmich says when he was first making plans to start up Pacific Marine some nervous advisors told him to stay away from Old Town. However, the setting hasn't proved to be a problem. "What we found was that perception was much worse than the reality," he says. "In 14 years we've had two windows broken."

With the continued renewal of the Old Town area, including improvements to the sidewalks and at Maritime Heritage Park, Kimmich continues to feel good about the location—and about business in general. "I've been in retail all my life and this is the best experience. Boaters are cool people—nice, friendly people who love to talk about what they do."

—Rebecca Gleason

Pacific Marine Exchange and Art Gallery

is located at 700 West Holly Street in Old Town.

Telephone: 360-738-8535.

Website: www.pacificmarine.com

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 11a.m.-5 p.m.