



LAKE VIEWS

A Publication of the Lake Samish Association

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the Lake Samish Association is to promote, encourage, protect, and enhance the social, public safety and environmental qualities of life in the greater Lake Samish basin and adjacent interdependent areas.

Community Meeting & Elections - Thursday, April 23rd 7:00 PM at Lutherwood Dining Hall, Roy Road, Lake Samish (Please arrive by 6:45 to accommodate sign-in)

Maybe you have recently moved into a new home around the lake or perhaps you have been living in this area for some time. You may know there is a community association but you've never really understood what it is all about or maybe you've been reluctant to get involved. Whatever your situation, we're looking for volunteers with unique ideas to serve on our Board of Directors.

Our board has a mighty goal (see *Our Purpose*) and needs help operating effectively to protect our asset - the lake. The open positions for 2009 are as follows: Vice-President, Treasurer, Communications and At-Large (check out our website for the duties of each position: <http://lakesamish.org/about/board-members.html>). **Please consider volunteering to help your community!**

If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested, please contact Dan Bult (752-5771). We will be voting at our annual Business Meeting held at Lutherwood on April 23rd.

Zoning Changes Around the Lake?????

By Barbara Dykes

Yes, it seemed like only yesterday that the County was considering zoning changes for our area, but they are doing so again. It is now working on what is known as the "Rural Element" of the Comprehensive Plan, and it is considering identifying Lake Samish as a "Limited Area of More Intensive Rural Development" or that rather inelegant acronym, LAMIRD. The County is doing this in response to a Growth Management Hearings Board Compliance Order.

What exactly are LAMIRDS? The Growth Management Act at [RCW 36.70A.070\(5\)\(d\)](#) defines three types of LAMIRDS, but according to the Planning Department, in Whatcom County most LAMIRDS would be Type 1: "Rural development consisting of the infill, development, or redevelopment of existing commercial, industrial, residential, or mixed-use areas, whether characterized as shoreline development, villages, hamlets, rural activity centers, or crossroads developments." The GMA requires the county to address the following when determining LAMIRD boundaries:

- The need to preserve the character of existing natural neighborhoods and communities
- Physical boundaries such as bodies of water, streets and highways, land forms and contours
- The prevention of abnormally irregular boundaries, and
- The ability to provide public facilities and public services in a manner that does not permit low-density sprawl

Although a county is not required to designate an area of nonconforming zoning as a LAMIRD, the county has decided to consider Lake Samish as one. Unfortunately, the limitations of our printing capabilities does not allow us to provide you with a map of the changes that are proposed. But please log on to <http://www.lakesamish.org> to review the changes. This proposal does purport to allow significant addition of new area into the RR2 category (1/2 acre zoning) as "infill". The map shows significant opportunities for subdivision around the lake (although some may only be for one extra lot). The Council does have three legislative options:

- 1) draw the LAMIRD boundaries more closely around the lake,
- 2) endorse this map,
- 3) have this area to revert to the underlying zoning, which is rural. Rural zoning is R5A or not smaller than R2A (this option would not allow any additional subdivision).

If you would like to be included on the mailing list for the Rural Element Amendments please contact (360) 676-6907 or pds@co.whatcom.wa.us. The planning commission will be considering these amendments at its **April 16th meeting**. They have not yet posted an agenda, but they normally meet at 6:30 at either the Council Chambers in the County Courthouse or in the Northwest Annex Conference Room, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham. Again, watch the website or contact the planning department at (360) 676-6907 for further information. I encourage you to write a letter, testify, and make your feelings known, whatever they may be. Your opinion matters, so get involved! The future of your community is at stake!

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**Spring
Community
Meeting**

**Thursday,
April 23rd
at 7:00 pm**

Agenda

**Board Elections
&
Water Quality
of
Lake Samish**

South Whatcom Fire Authority Begins Service

By Chief Dave Ralston

On November 4th 2008, the proposal to create the South Whatcom Fire Authority was approved by a majority vote of the registered voters from each of the communities of Chuckanut, Lake Samish, Yew Street, Geneva and Sudden Valley. The total voter approval was 67%.

The new South Whatcom Fire Authority (SWFA) was formed on January 1st 2009. It is governed by five appointed fire commissioners (one from each of the communities). The Lake Samish Commissioner representative is Winton Wefer. The approved plan outlines that a new business plan will be completed within the first 180 days. The fire districts will remain intact in 2009 for the primary purpose of collecting the 2009 taxes and transferring the money to SWFA. As outlined in the plan the fire districts will dissolve at the end of 2009. Currently, the only way to dissolve a fire district is by a vote of the people and each district will have to have this measure on the ballot for the 2009 general election. The approved unified tax levy rate of \$1.28 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation will not start until 2010. The transition into the new SWFA is in full swing, primarily with contacting agencies and preparing the documentation needed to transfer all assets. For the first several months the transition is a busy time as we are closing out the fire districts financials for 2008 and also operating as SWFA. I am hoping by the end of the 1st quarter of 2009 most of the transition work will be completed.

As outlined in the plan, one of the first improvements to the level of service was to staff the Basic Life Support (BLS) transport ambulance 24/7. This service began on January 1st and is staffed with two (2) Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) who respond to all life rescue emergencies within SWFA. Other improvements to service levels include adding additional hours on duty to the four (4) resident firefighters who live at West Lake Samish fire station. These resident firefighters work shifts at the station and are the first response to all emergencies in the area. They receive a small monthly stipend for the time they work at the station.

Other improvements will begin after the new tax rate is collected in 2010. These include hiring three more full-time firefighters and adding six new resident firefighters throughout the SWFA. If you would still like to review the SWFA plan and information, please visit the web site at www.regionalfire.org.

The SWFA regular monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and are held at 3:00 p.m. at Geneva Fire Station, 4518 Cable Street. The administrative office for SWFA is located at 2050 Lake Whatcom Blvd. (Sudden Valley) and can be reached at 360-676-8080 Monday thru Friday 7:30a.m. to 5:00pm



LAKE SAMISH EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

10:00 A.M. AT

CAMP LUTHERWOOD

Join us for the Lake Samish Egg Hunt. This favorite annual event is primarily for toddlers to 12 year olds. This year our egg hunt will take place at Camp Lutherwood (1185 Roy Road). **Bring your own basket for the hunt!**

There will be a Golden Egg prize for each age group.

Coffee, donuts, and drinks will be provided.

Contact, Becca Joostens, 815-3628/paulbeccaj@aol.com

North Face – Endurance Challenge

Saturday June 6, 2009

Lake Samish has recently started attracting some large, top-notch multisport events. Lutherwood will again host the North Face Endurance Challenge on Saturday June 6, 2009. The Endurance Challenge is a trail running event held primarily on trails and dirt roads in and around the Lake Samish basin. The event will start and finish at Lutherwood with N. Lake Samish and Roy Road serving as an access point for all participants, volunteers and race crew – all totaling around 750 people. The first of four events will start as early as 5:00 am with all races expected to be completed by 6:00 pm. **Roy Road will be closed to all vehicle traffic between 7:00-11:00 am.** For further information please log on to our website at www.lakesamish.org/news-events.html.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 28th - Litter Pick-Up

Meet at 9:00 am @ the Rock at N. Lake Samish

Contact, Joan Ellsworth (756-7577)

Saturday, April 4th - Egg Hunt

10:00 at Camp Lutherwood

Contact, Becca Joostens (815-3682/paulbeccaj@aol.com)

Saturday, April 11th

WWU Rowing Tourney

10:00am-noon at Camp Lutherwood

Thursday, April 23rd

LSA Community Meeting & Elections

7:00pm at Camp Lutherwood

Saturday & Sunday, April 25 & 26th

County-wide Earth Day Garage Sale

Contact Whatcom Co. Solid Waste @ 676-7695

by April 13th for free signs & ad

Wednesday, May 6th

Ladies Spring Luncheon

12:30 @ 204 Shallow Shore Road

RSVP to Stephanie Morgan, 734-4453

Saturday, June 6th

North Face Endurance Challenge

5:00am-6:00pm

Start & Finish at Camp Lutherwood

Roy Road will be closed from 7:00-11:00am

Boat Launch Update Barbara Dykes

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) owns and operates the public boat launch facility on East Lake Samish Drive. It is in the process of submitting a grant proposal for funding to upgrade the existing site. The design has been submitted to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for funding consideration. The grant process involves a competitive process, and not all projects will be funded. WDFW submitted a similar proposal in 2006, however the project was not funded at that time.

According to project sponsor Kye Iris of WDFW, the improvements will include a new expanded double ramp, boarding float, handicap parking and access, designated parking, and vault toilets. It is unlikely that the parking area will be expanded due to wetland restrictions. It is the intent of the plan to increase available parking by installing angled designated parking that will maximize efficiency of the existing space.

The Lake Samish Association held a community meeting on Thursday October 23, 2008 and hosted Kye Iris to inform the community about the project and get feedback. At the time, the funding board had not yet ranked the project on its list. At the meeting, much concern was voiced by citizens about the potential impacts of the potential expanded ramp on the lake and the community. However, there has been much support for the ramp voiced as well, as the existing ramp is in need of repair.

The funding board met in November. The board voted to fund a number of projects with the projected \$5,094,151 allocated for the Boating Facilities Program. Based on levels of recent historical funding, it would appear that the Lake Samish boat launch would be funded. There was a list of 18 boat launch projects coming before the Board of the RCO for State Agencies, the first 8 on the list sponsored by the Wildlife & Fisheries Dept & the last 10 on the list were State Park launch projects. Lake Samish was ranked project #6 of the 18 grant requests and costs approximately \$832,000. However, Ms. Iris has informed me that there could well be uncertainty about available funding. This funding must go through the Legislature and the state budget process. Until that budget is finalized, we have no way of knowing whether this project will go forward. She stated that there is talk of having the levels of funding being cut way back and under that scenario, the project probably would not receive funding. WDFW cannot move forward on design or permitting of the project until the funding is officially in place, which would be at best in July 09. You can call Kye Iris at 425-775-1311 Ext. 125 for updates.

One more thing: even if this boat launch does get state funding, it must still go through the county permitting process. Stay involved and let your voice be heard during the county permitting process!

Dittrich Park Update

We have been tracking the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Department's planning activity for a new county park on 30 county owned acres located on East Lake Samish Drive near the south end of Lake Samish. Michael McFarland, Director of Parks & Rec., recently advised us that there are no immediate plans in place to begin park planning at this site. Currently there have been watershed studies and wetland delineation activities. We requested that Michael contact various LSA Board members when the planning process, including public comment meetings, begins to take place. If you have an interest in this project, please contact Joan Ellsworth at 756-7577.

Pet Waste Problem

Did you know that pet waste contains as many as 75 diseases and viruses that may make our Lake Samish water unsafe for fishing, swimming and other types of recreation, to say nothing about what the waste does to our drinking water source. It's called **fecal coliform** and the pet waste does leach down from the side of our roads and ends up in the drainage ditches headed right for the lake. Recently, I am noticing more and more POOP as I walk along our roadsides. It's bad enough to step in it. But when it's over the edge (and you think out of sight) it's headed for the ditches. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE pick up your dog's poop. Many dogs roam the streets freely and you're not there to clean up after your dog. Keep your dog in your yard and pick up the poop. It's the least you can and should do for the health of our lake.

Lost and Found

Aluminum fishing boat – License # WN 2642Z and Hull ID #SMK07226M74E - Call Steve Brinn @ 360-752-2600

Large concrete float - washed ashore near Autumn Lane in January. Contact Dan Bult (752-5771) for details.

Website Advertising

Seeking all organizations or company's that are interested in exposure to over 600 households in the Lake Samish area, and many more outside of that area, that regularly log onto our website. We are the Lake Samish Association and we have recently upgraded our website and have been experiencing over 100 visits per month! If you are interested in advertising on our website please e-mail Dan Bult @ dbult@yahoo.com. To see a sample log on to www.lakesamish.org/sponsors.html.

Bulletin Board

Ladies of Lake Samish Spring Luncheon

All women residents of Lake Samish are invited to attend a **Spring Luncheon** at the home of Stephanie Morgan, 204 Shallow Shore Road, (off Nulle Road, at the south end of Lake Samish).

This spring's luncheon will be a great start to your summer activities. Take a break from your regular weekday routines and visit with your neighbors. It's nice to know others around the lake that share the same interests as you. We're planning an especially good salad buffet so don't miss it!

Following the tradition of our Holiday Luncheon, please bring one or more non-perishable food items for the Bellingham Food Bank. In addition, your **\$3 lunch donation** will cover food expenses and the excess money will be donated to the food bank.

So, Ladies, young or older, new or long-time residents of the Lake Samish community come on **Wednesday, May 6 - arrive around 12:30.**

Please **RSVP** to Stephanie at 734-4453 or Joan Ellsworth at 756-7577.

Litter Pick-Up - March 28

Recently, our roadsides were cleared of at least a couple years' growth. Now, the sight of all that previously hidden litter is really obnoxious. Please be part of our litter crew on **Saturday, March 28** starting at **9:00 a.m.** We'll meet at the big ROCK in the canyon on N. Lake Samish to provide you with bags, pick-up tools, safety cones and vests and assign you a location to work. Bring your own work gloves, boots and other warm and waterproof gear. We'll ask you to go deep into the trenches to do an especially thorough clean-up job. If you want to pick up bags prior to that time, contact Joan Ellsworth at 756-7577. I'll have some coffee and food goodies available at the ROCK. I hope you can help out!

Lake Samish Association - Board of Directors

President	Dan Bult.....752-5771
Vice-Pres.	Rita Wefer.....733-7314
Secretary	Pam Nolan.....756-0233
Treasurer	Jackie Lafata-Rinker....715-1323
At Large 1	Lisa Troupe.....738-3161
At Large 2	Steve Brinn.....303-3427

Comm.Chr.	Kathy Ploeger.....733-5826
Support Chr.	VACANT
Issues Chr.	Barbara Dykes.....303-7884
Ex-President	Joan Ellsworth.....756-7577

Website

Lakesamish.org



Lake Views

C/O Dan Bult
1333 Roy Road Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98229-8504

