

Downtown Summer Alley Concerts Begin June 29

Celebrate warm summer evenings in downtown Bellingham with *Downtown Sounds* Summer Alley Concerts! The Downtown Renaissance Network and sponsors proudly present a four-week series of live music, food, and fun for the entire family, free of charge. This all ages community event, sponsored by Comcast, will take place every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., starting June 29th and will run until July 20th. Downtown Sounds will be located in the alley between the Wild Buffalo (208 W.Holly St) and Mindport.

Each night will feature performances by popular regional bands. The 2005 summer alley concert line-up follows:

June 29th	La Push (sponsored by Otion) with Wisconsin Slim (sponsored by Pelmeni)
July 6th	Spoonshine with Buckle Busters (sponsored by the Bellingham Weekly)
July 13th	Flowmotion with Alamo Social Club (sponsored by Bellingham Public Market & Café Maroc)
July 20th	Clinton Fearon with Scot Ranney Eclective (sponsored by WTA)

Adding to the festivities, guests can enjoy local food & beverage vendors, including Café Maroc, Du Jour Bistro, Fiamma Burger, root beer floats with Boundary Bay Root Beer and Mallard Ice Cream, and an outdoor eatery with beer, wine, and cocktails, at Wild Buffalo.

Downtown Sounds is a fabulous new way to celebrate summer in Downtown Bellingham. Through the event, Downtown Renaissance Network plans to continue to build a sense of community in downtown, increase evening business in downtown, and to encourage creative use of existing space as Bellingham continues to grow. Downtown merchants are encouraged to utilize Downtown Sounds to promote your store or specials.

Aside from the series sponsor Comcast and band sponsors (listed above), Downtown Sounds sponsors include Wild Buffalo, the City of Bellingham (partially funded through a Small & Simple Grant), Bellingham Parks & Recreation, Nightlight Lounge, Textype, Upfront Theatre, Amjay Screenprinting, Avenue Bread, Bandito's Burritos, The Bagelry, Bellingham Benefits, Black Drop Coffeehouse, Brenthaven Travel Store, Boundary Bay Brewery & Bistro, Columbia Distributing, DeWilde's Nurseries, Dickerson Distributors, Frontier Bank, Greenhouse, Kulshan Cycles, Mallard Ice Cream, Temple Bar and Zervas Group Architects.

Network Board Adds Three New Members

The Downtown Renaissance Network is pleased to welcome three valued advocates for Downtown Bellingham to our Board of Directors. The following three individuals were elected by a vote of the Network membership during the annual Board Elections in May:

Shannon McGuire,
Spinnaker Photo Imaging Center
Cindy Meche,
Sew & Sew
Ginger Oppenheimer,
Community Food Co-op

Terms begin in July 2005 and run from one to three years.

July 8 Gallery Walk to Dazzle

From jewelry and photography to mixed media and painting, the summer Downtown Gallery Walk offers something for everyone! The next in this series of popular community events takes place downtown on Friday, July 8 from 7-10pm.

Downtown Gallery Walk maps will be available at all participating locations throughout downtown, Allied Arts at 1418 Cornwall Ave and the Network, 1306 Commercial St. For more information visit DowntownBellingham.com or call 527-8710.

2005 Sidewalk Sale Scheduled for July 15-17

Downtown Bellingham businesses will expand outdoors during the annual Sidewalk Sale July 15-16, with a selection of stores also open on the 17th. Many stores will offer great deals on everything from clothing and shoes to gifts and art. Now is the time to start working to make this a great event for downtown merchants. The Network is coordinating advertising, promotion and events associated with the sale, including poster distribution. Your ideas & suggestions are greatly appreciated in helping make this a success.

How Can You Participate?

- Restaurants may have Sidewalk Sale specials or serve smaller discounted samples outside. Get creative!
- Spas & salons may have a table outside to sell products, offer samples or promote their services.
- Retailers load the sidewalk with merchandise to make it move.
- Nonprofit organizations are invited to set up booths to promote their cause.

Bill Gorman named President of the Board

The Network Board of Directors named new Board officers during its annual election. Bill Gorman will replace Larry Farr as president of the Board. Farr resigned as president after serving over four years in that position. Mike Kimmich was re-elected Vice-President and Janet Hodgin was re-elected Secretary/ Treasurer. The one year terms begin in July.

Parking Issues Before the City Council

Parking continues to be a concern to downtown as City Council continues consideration of a city wide parking management plan. Submitted through the Public Works Department, the Downtown Parking Commission, recommended the following to the Council:

- Drop the \$3 early pay for overtime parking fine and increase the fine from \$5 to \$10 dollars
- Increase all meter-feeding and other parking fines from \$10 to \$20 dollars
- Maintain all money generated by the parking system in the parking system to service and plan for the future
- Establish one entity to manage the parking system
- Establish a long-term pro forma for the management of city wide parking services

A pressing concern is how the money generated from parking fees and fines is being spent. Currently approximately \$300,000 from the parking revenues goes into the general city fund and do not remain allocated for downtown. This is a significant concern for downtown growth and development. We are asking that you speak out to the council members and let them know you believe the dollars generated downtown through parking need to remain downtown.

The City Council will meet in work session on Monday afternoon on June 27, and this will also be discussed at the regular council meeting on Monday evening June 27.

Network Quarterly Meeting May 18, 2005

Network members met in May to discuss downtown issues, network, and share information. Malcolm Fleming, recently hired Chief Executive Officer for the City introduced himself to the group and Gary Holloway from Bellingham Public Market presented plans for this new downtown business. Network members discussed panhandling issues in downtown. In response to increasing concern about aggressive panhandling, the Network is currently constructing a training and forum for downtown businesses. The group also discussed possible involvement with the Jingle Bell Run in December. The next quarterly meeting will occur in early fall.

LOCAL BUSINESSES UNITE FOR 2nd ANNUAL 4th OF JULY WHATCOM INDEPENDENTS WEEK

From June 29th to July 5th, residents and business owners in Whatcom County will be participating in our community's 2nd annual Independents Week (organized by Sustainable Connections) - a week of celebrating the history of this national holiday and our nation's past in supporting independent business and our freedom to choose. Starting late June, locals can visit any of several hundred locally owned businesses with the "Celebrate your Independents!" posters and Think Local-Buy Local-Be Local decals. Independents Week will be launched on Wednesday, June 29th, 5:30-9:00PM at Downtown Sounds (in the alley between Wild Buffalo and Mindport (208 W. Holly St.). Four hundred Whatcom-based businesses are participating. New businesses can sign up at www.ThinkLocal.org or call 360.647.7093.



Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Downtown Dollars

are accepted at over 55 Downtown shops,
galleries, museums, theatres,
and much more!

www.DowntownBellingham.com

Upcoming Events Downtown

Downtown Sounds, Summer Alley Concerts

Wednesdays, June 29-July 20 5:30-9:00pm
Between Wild Buffalo & Mindport

Old Town Planning Meetings

Wednesday June 29 & July 20, 6PM

Gallery Walk

Friday, July 8, 7-10pm

Downtown Sidewalk Sale

Friday- Sunday, July 15-17

Chalk Art Festival

August 13 (Rain date August 20)

Call for participation: Network Committees

One to two Network members are needed to join DRN Board members on our four organizational clusters, the clusters meet only as needed: Finance & Administration, Management, Resource Development, Member Services. For further information or to participate contact 527-8710.