



PORT OF BELLINGHAM
Washington State

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2018

HARBOR NEWS

BLAINE AND SQUALICUM HARBORS' NEWSLETTER

**Thanks to everyone who attended the 3rd annual
SeaFeast Event held at Squalicum Harbor September 21-22nd.**



BRIEFLY INFORMATIVE



New Way to Pay

If you pay your bill electronically on the Port's website, you may have noticed the online payment tool got a much needed upgrade with some big changes. A few of the changes include:

- **The ability to register your information so you do not have to type it in each time you pay.**
- **Pay now, or schedule a payment for a future date. (Go on vacation without worrying about making your payment on time.)**
- **Pay with credit/debit card, savings, or checking account.**
- **Your receipt is emailed so no more wondering if the payment went through.**

Blaine Webhouse #1 Relocation Update

The Webhouse #1 project continues into fall. Faber Construction has completed preparation for the new webhouse which included stockpiling fill material to compact the native soil and accelerate later phases of construction expected to begin in November. In addition to construction of the new webhouse, the project will incorporate a new gravel walking path between Gate 1 and the boatlaunch, new paving, and storm water collection around the webhouses. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting project.

Clean-up of Former Fueling Facility at Blaine

Also in September, IMCO Construction started excavation of petroleum contaminated soil and groundwater at the former Blaine Marina Inc fueling facility at Blaine Harbor. Working with our partners at WA State Department of Ecology, this environmental cleanup of historic contamination included removal of two buildings and the above ground fuel tanks. The project is expected to be completed in early October with the installation of a bio-remediation system and final surface restoration. More information about this project is available at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=63>

Squalicum Harbor Gate Code

Squalicum Harbor in Bellingham will be changing gate codes in October. The new code will be sent by email at least one week in advance to customers who have provided us with a current email address. You may also call or stop by the harbor office to get the new code. Please do not share the gate code as we've had a rash of vandalism and break-ins. Send people you don't recognize to the harbor office.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR

Please help us keep our facilities safe. Report suspicious behavior immediately to the harbor office. Please do not give out gate codes. After hours, harbor security can be contacted at the phone numbers listed on the bottom of the back page. In an emergency, call 911 immediately.



Thanks for a Season of Successful Events

Blaine and Squalicum Harbors have both had a busy boating season filled with many waterfront events including: **Opening Day, Sea Skills Marine Safety Expo, Ski to Sea Race, Semiahmoo Bay Regatta, 4th of July, Drayton Harbor Days, and P.I.T.C.H. Regatta.** Most recently, the 3rd Annual SeaFeast at Squalicum Harbor was a successful celebration of Whatcom County's maritime heritage and renowned seafood industry. These events

promote public access to our wonderful waterfront facilities, support economic development, and help showcase our vibrant maritime community. The staff at both Blaine and Squalicum would like to thank our customers and tenants for their patience and support during these popular events.



Changes to the Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS)

In September, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced changes to the SVRS program. Now, pleasure boaters arriving in the U.S. from a foreign port can utilize a mobile app on a smart device as a faster way to notify CBP of their arrival. A handout on the new procedures is available at the harbor office or more information is available by emailing the CBP at: cbproam@cbp.dhs.gov.

Winter Weather

Properly preparing your boat for the winter can save you from a phone call from the harbor office during a storm or worse, expensive repairs this spring. Here are some suggestions for winter preparedness:

- ☐ **Check your vessel regularly** and contact the harbor office if you see a safety hazard on a neighboring boat.
- ☐ **Remove your dinghy from the water** when you have taken the last cruise of the season. This will keep it clear of marine growth and prevent it from filling with rainwater.
- ☐ **Check your dock lines and fenders regularly for chafe.**
- ☐ **Inspect your shore-power cord** and replace immediately if any defects are discovered. Only marine rated shore-power cords are permitted. The use of household extension cords is prohibited.
- ☐ **Heaters** should not be left unattended. When operating a diesel furnace ensure the exhaust is free and clear of combustible materials.
- ☐ **Arrange for someone to watch your boat** if you are going to be away.

- ☐ **Remove your sails, secure your halyards and canvas** as high winds can cause considerable damage on roller furling sails. Tie your halyards away from your mast to reduce chafe and wear.
- ☐ **Check scuppers and cockpit drains** routinely to ensure they can clear water quickly.
- ☐ **Bilge pumps** should be checked to ensure they are in good operating condition. Keep your float switches free from debris and make sure your bilge is clean of fuel and oil.
- ☐ **Burglar proof your vessel** and remove all of the valuables you have on board and keep them secure at home. Small outboards are attractive to thieves. Take them home or make sure they are locked securely. Make sure all hatches and companionways are secure and locked.
- ☐ **Update your contact information with the office.**

In addition, we ask that our customers please help us reduce dockside maintenance and repairs by taking these steps:

- Please disconnect your dock hose from the faucet. This reduces the chances of a frozen water in a hose expanding and causing damage to the faucet.
- Please make sure your dock box lid is securely fastened to prevent damage in high winds.
- Please ensure your dinghy is well secured on the dinghy rack so it does not blow away.
- Please keep the docks and floats clear of stored items. Dock clutter can get blown into the water in high winds and clutter causes trip hazards.

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MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

You can contact your Marina Advisory Committee Representatives by calling either the Blaine or Squalicum Harbor offices.

Jon Alexander, Peter Border, Robert Brooks, Paul Burrill, Dick Cathell, William Douglas, Charlie Hawkins, Dave King, Loren Kapp, Gene Knutson, Jim Kyle, Brian Pemberton, Ian Puchlik, Byron Richards, Ross Tenant, Linda Thomson, Julie Winkler