

# Campus Community Coalition

## Summary of Activities

### May-September 2008

#### Viking Community Builders Student Club

A group of WWU students has started a new Associated Students club, the **Viking Community Builders**. The students participated in the Coalition's Let's Talk Forums last year and felt that the issues addressed and dialogue promoted by the forums were so important that they wanted to create a way for more students to engage in community building work on an ongoing basis.

The Viking Community Builders' goal is to bring awareness to issues affecting Western students' relationships with their neighbors and strengthen connections with the Bellingham community. The club will help students feel connected to their communities, promote dialogue among neighbors, and provide a forum to discuss issues, generate solutions, and enact them.

The Viking Community Builders is an independent, student-run organization, but a close partnership with the Campus Community Coalition is being established.

#### "Think Locally-Act Neighborly" Door Hangers

About 2,800 educational doorknockers were distributed in the York, Sehome, and Happy Valley neighborhoods by fifteen WWU students in the early weeks of fall quarter. The door hangers give tips on getting to know your neighbors and advertise upcoming neighborhood association meetings and the Let's Talk Forum in each neighborhood. They also provide information on keeping parties quiet, safe and legal, as well as possible alcohol-related citations.

#### Let's Talk Forum – "Living Together in Bellingham: Student Parties, Enforcement Practices, and Neighborly Relations."

This fall the Let's Talk forums are co-sponsored by the Viking Community Builders club. They will once again be held in three neighborhoods with many student residents: **Sehome** (Wednesday, October 22, 7:00 pm at the Garden Street Family Center); **Happy Valley** (Monday, October 27, 7:00 pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church); and **York** (Wednesday, October 29, 7:00 pm at Garden Street United Methodist Church).

The forums bring together students, community members, rental owners and managers, and law enforcement personnel to discuss the issues facing students and long-term residents living together in Bellingham's neighborhoods.

## Neighborhood Education at WWU Info Fair

The Coalition staffed its annual table at the WWU Associated Students Information Fair to educate students about Bellingham's neighborhoods, help them identify the neighborhood they live in (or near), and encourage them to get involved with their neighborhood associations and other neighborhood activities.

## Off-Campus WWU: A Student Road Map to Neighborhood Living

The hosting and maintenance contract for this educational website has been extended through **August 2008**. Launched in spring 2006, Off-Campus WWU is designed for students moving into or living in Bellingham's neighborhoods, and includes information on renting, laws and ordinances related to neighborhood living, hosting safe and legal parties, and being a good neighbor.

## Hospitality Resource Alliance

The Hospitality Resource Alliance (HRA) has been meeting regularly since it was reconvened in fall 2007, and continues to bring together stakeholders in active discussion about downtown issues related to late-night downtown, especially alcohol overconsumption/overservice .

HRA stakeholders include representatives from local bars, the Liquor Control Board, Bellingham Police Department, University Police Department, WWU's Ending Violence Against Women project, the Downtown Renaissance Network, Bellingham's Downtown Alliance for Music and Nightlife, neighborhood associations, local alcohol distributors, and WWU's Sustainable Transportation, which runs the late-night shuttle.

Over the last year meetings have focused on re-establishing channels of communication among stakeholders and identifying common concerns regarding late-night downtown and ways to address these concerns both individually and collectively. Members are now working together on a customer education campaign to decrease alcohol-related problems in and around downtown bars.

In recognition of its exemplary collaboration, the HRA was asked to present at the national networking conference of the Responsible Hospitality Institute. Due to funding restrictions, this will not be possible, but a case study describing the HRA will be included in the Responsible Hospitality Institute's publication, *Planning, Managing and Policing Hospitality Zones: A Practical Guide, Volume 2*.

The HRA was originally formed in 1996 and has always had a close working relationship with the Coalition. When the Campus Community Coalition was established in 1999, the HRA was folded into the membership of the Coalition and only met periodically until fall 2007.