



Bellingham
At Home

Special Pre-launch Edition Your Village Voice – May 2016

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We're on our Way! Get on Board!

The train to Bellingham At Home is in the station. The whistle is about to blow. Time to take your seats! Pardon our metaphor. We're excited to be so close to our start date, June 1. The big effort to bring our members on board, recruit and train more service volunteers, and sign up businesses to provide services is rolling ahead. Please join us.

The success of our Village depends upon the involvement of registered members and trained volunteers.

Bellingham At Home is a grassroots effort. It takes a Village--to come together and support older adults who want to remain independent, to realize the benefit to all of doing things as a community, and to transform the way we age.

Charter Memberships: GROUND FLOOR OPPORTUNITY!!!

From now through June 30 (new extended date), you can join Bellingham At Home as a Charter Member. This means that you will lock in the first year membership fee, \$350/ year for the first three years. If you wait to join until we start delivering services, you won't pay more, but your annual fee will be subject to an annual increase as more services are added. A strong showing of Charter Member support will allow us to plan effectively. Our [member application/agreement](#) form is available on our website.

Need More Information? Attend a Pre-launch Meeting

Meetings are scheduled to provide information for and to answer questions from prospective members and volunteers. You'll be given a chance to join, too. During the period up to our June 1 soft launch, three more 90-minute meetings will be held. Meet your neighbors and learn why Bellingham At Home is the buzz. Plan to attend one of these dedicated meetings.

Dedicated Meetings

Center for Spiritual Living (2224 Yew St. Rd.)	May 4, 6:00 PM
El Dorado Clubhouse (Cordata)	May 3, 7:00 PM
Bellingham Senior Activity Center	May 25, 1:00 PM

Neighborhood Meetings

In addition to our informational meetings dedicated to Bellingham At Home, we are continuing to present our Village at neighborhood association and community organization meetings. Attendees learn about the Village movement and how they can participate locally. Ask your organization for the meeting place. If yours is not listed here, please contact our Outreach task force (Allen.Johnson@bellinghamathome.org) and help us get in touch with your group.

Alabama Hill Neighborhood Association

May 3, 8:00 PM

Birchwood Neighborhood Association	May 4, 6:30 PM
Roosevelt Neighborhood Association	May 11, 6:30 PM
Silver Beach Neighborhood Association	May 12, 7:00 PM
Puget Neighborhood Association	May 17, 6:30 PM
Sehome Neighborhood Association	May 24, 7:00 PM
Cordata Neighborhood Association	June 14, 7:00 PM
York Neighborhood Association	June or July (TBD)

Watch for a smaller gathering in your neighborhood

Besides neighborhood association and service organization meetings, our Leadership Council has planned smaller events to bring prospective members and volunteers together. Contact our office by phone (360 746-3462) or email (info@bellinghamathome.org) if you would like to host a gathering or to find out what's happening near you.

Bellingham At Home is organizing outreach presentations into Bellingham's faith communities, as well. Your organization can request such a meeting by getting in touch with our outreach team.

Bellingham At Home Service Area Defined

As we launch, our Village is available to everyone living within the Bellingham city limits and in much of the planned urban growth area for our city. The [map](#) on our website provides details. If you live outside our service area, you may choose to join as an Associate Member, which will give you access to our list of recommended service providers and to our social and educational activities.

Membership Process

Our Member Application and Agreement has been approved and is ready to use. Come to our [website](#) to download a PDF file that you can fill out on your computer and print (or print and complete by hand). Or call us (360) 746-3462 and ask us to mail a form to you. The application asks for contact information about you and anyone else in your household who wishes to join Bellingham At Home. When one person joins, others in the household can join for only \$50 per year per person. After we receive your completed form, along with your check, we will call you to schedule an interview in your home. The interview is an opportunity for you to get to know us and for us to get to know you. By understanding your needs and interests, we hope to better serve you. You will have ample opportunity to ask questions in this one-on-one interview.

We believe when you make someone else's life better, you make your own life better. Members are encouraged to participate as volunteers, too.

Volunteer Process

Three types of volunteers are needed to ensure the ongoing operation of the Village.

- Service volunteers work directly with members, providing transportation, helping-hand chores, and related assistance.
- Office volunteers (yes, we now have an office!) work closely with Village administrators, who are also volunteers. They answer phone calls and coordinate service requests.
- Task force volunteers build and sustain our virtual village. They train volunteers, interview new members, plan educational and social events, manage finances, do fundraising, and maintain continuous contact with our service provider businesses and strategic partners.

Volunteers need to complete an application and be vetted, interviewed and trained. The process is explained in more detail on our website. Every volunteer receives a copy of our volunteer handbook.

We Have an Office!

Bellingham At Home now has a physical base of operations. It's Room 17 at the Bellingham Senior Activity Center. Office hours are limited during pre-launch, but you'll find someone there between 11AM and 1PM. It will probably be a member of our Leadership Council until office volunteers step up to the task and receive training. Let us know if you'd like to help run the office. Many hands make light work!

If you want to submit a membership application, with a check, please deliver it to Room 17 at the Senior Center during our office hours (11AM-1PM). The front desk at BSAC is not prepared to accept Bellingham At Home applications or checks. Alternatively, we will accept checks and applications by regular mail (address below).

Introducing our Leadership Council

Leadership Council members (all volunteers) meet weekly to plan and coordinate development of our Village. Each member leads one or more task forces of volunteers, charged with a particular aspect of our program.



Above: Leadership Council members enjoy a potluck dinner at the home of Elaine Cress. Seen here from left to right: Nanette Davis, Social/Planning Events; Barb Evans, Volunteers; Kate Birr, Publicity and Outreach; Marci Haskell, Fundraising Events; Steve Morris, Strategic Partners & Service Providers; Mary Carlson, Whatcom Council on Aging; Richard Abbott, Operations; Bob Baker, Operations; Elaine Cress, Membership and Program Development. Not pictured: Allen Johnson, Publicity and Outreach.

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For more about us...

Come and visit the Bellingham At Home [website](#). Stop by often, and keep up with our activities and progress!

Bellingham At Home Contact Information

Location: Bellingham Senior Activity Center, Room 17, 315 Halleck Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone: 360 746-3462 **E-mail:** info@bellinghamathome.org

Website: <http://BellinghamAtHome.org>

Bellingham At Home is a program of the [Whatcom Council on Aging](#), which is a 501(c)(3) organization and a member of the [Village to Village Network](#).