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# Mukilteo Beacon

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## Residents get chance to sound off on Housing Action Plan

*City hosting community meeting on Thursday*

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Mukilteo residents will have their first opportunity to weigh in on the city's Housing Action Plan this week.

The city will be hosting the first of two community meetings at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5. The meeting will be streamed live on Zoom (<https://bit.ly/34UOKQ3>) and on the city's Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/cityofmukilteo>). A second community meeting will be scheduled in January 2021.

During an Oct. 29 Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting, members had an opportunity to review a draft report of the Mukilteo Preliminary Housing Needs Assessment report prepared by BERK Consulting, the company the city hired to produce the Housing Action Plan (HAP). The assessment report is not the HAP, but is a draft summarizing existing data on residents. It is scheduled to be updated after this week's community meeting.

Some details of the report surprised some members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG).

Mukilteo has an estimated population of 21,360 in 2020, according to the Washington State Office of Financial Management. Since 2010, the city has added about 1,110 people, with an average annual growth rate of 0.5%.

The population growth target in Mukilteo's Comprehensive Plan indicates that the city would be home to about 21,800 people by 2035. This means the city would be adding about 450 new residents between 2020 and 2035 – about 30 new people each year, an average annual growth rate of 0.1%. This rate of growth is significantly lower than recent trends.

Mukilteo is growing slower than the county overall. Snohomish County was growing at a 1.6% rate, while unincorporated Snohomish County was even higher at 2.2%.

Some members of the SAG questioned why the city was focused on producing a Housing Action Plan, saying that market forces would handle the relatively low numbers of additional residents projected in the draft report.

BERK representative said that the community gets to decide how to accommodate that growth, while acknowledging that the population targets for Mukilteo are not high.

The city was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the state Department of Commerce to develop the HAP, and completing the HAP is a first step toward addressing the state-mandated Growth Management Act periodic Comprehensive Plan update that

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## TRICK-OR-TREATING IN THE COVID-19 ERA



With many households deciding that traditional trick-or-treating was not advisable due to the coronavirus pandemic, the City of Mukilteo, the Mukilteo Chamber of Commerce and the Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club stepped up to fill the void. The city and chamber offered a drive-thru trick-or-treat event on Halloween afternoon at Lighthouse Park. (Above) A youngster reaches for some candy offered with proper social distancing. The Mukilteo Boys & Girls Club also hosted its first-ever trunk-or-treat event on Friday, Oct. 30 with residents decorating their vehicles and handing out goodies to the kids. (Right) A resident brought along his dog to enjoy the festivities. See pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

*Beacon photos by  
David Pan*



## Beacon resumes its weekly publication

Dear Reader,

We are heartened by the response after our recent announcement that The Beacon is converting to a digital first,

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subscription format. Even though the official conversion is three months away, readers already are taking advantage of our special offer to sign up now for a membership to receive immediate full access to our website.

Of course, we're also getting questions. For our longtime readers who prefer to read their local news in an actual newspaper, The Beacon will continue to publish its print version.

In fact, with this issue, we've begun publishing weekly again. As regular readers know, we cut back publishing to twice a

month in April when the pandemic forced businesses to reduce service or close their doors altogether.

When that happened, advertising – our main source of revenue – fell through the floor. It made no sense to spend on advertising when your business was closed.

It also forced us to begin looking at new business models that would enable us to continue providing your community news. We landed on the digital first, subscription model that is being successfully implemented by other newspapers across the country.

What, exactly, does that mean?

Digital first means that we're embracing the trend that started years ago with the confluence of the internet and smartphones. Although younger generations are considered more "tech savvy" than older people, almost everyone these days has a smartphone in their pocket or purse. Young people, especially, feel all-but naked if they

don't have their phone handy.

In general, oldsters have caught on, too. Who hasn't waited in line, dined alone or otherwise found themselves with a few moments to kill, and took up their phone to scan headlines, check their social media feeds or play a game?

For months we have been increasing our digital efforts, putting new content online every day. That way, when you want the latest information about what's going on in your community, The Beacon has you covered.

But many readers (I'm one of them!) still prefer reading their local news in print. There's nothing like sitting down with a cup of coffee in your easy chair, leafing through the paper, and reading about the latest goings on in your hometown.

When we make the official change on Feb.

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