



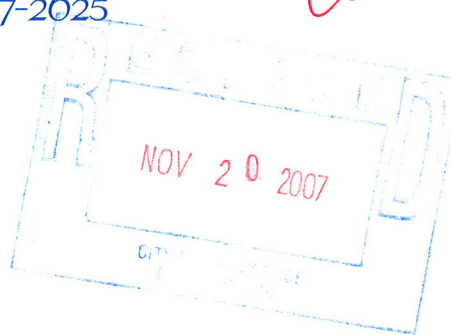
Bellingham Sail and Power Squadron

Post Office Box 2625
Bellingham, WA 98227-2625

*Com
Council*

19 November, 2007

Gary Tomsic, Manager
City of Blaine
344 "H" Street
Blaine, WA 98230



Dear Gary Tomsic:

We truly appreciate the assistance of your staff and the Senior/Community Center Coordinator to provide the setting that enabled us to offer the our Squadron Basic Boating Class for the first time ever in Blaine.

Graham Hunter, our Assistant Educational Officer (ASEO), represented our Squadron negotiating for the space. He then team taught the intensive eight-week course with Tom Dalglish and Randy Olson. I enclose notes from Graham, which sum up his experience.

I am delighted to report that 21 adult learners successfully completed the course as of 14 November. Their appreciation and enthusiasm for the work of our volunteer instructors means a great deal to all of us..

In this season of giving thanks, we are grateful to all of you. Have a good holiday.

Sincerely,

Chris Backus

Christine Lilly Backus, AP
Commander

cc: Mike Myers, Mayor, City of Blaine
Sheri Sanchez, Blaine City Clerk
Barb Fischer, Coordinator, Blaine Senior/Community Center
Andy Backus, Squadron Educational Officer
Kathy & Rick Baer, Membership Co-Chairs
Gary Cordrey, Public Relations Officer
Tom Dalglish, Classroom Instructor
Jill Hummel, Basic Boating Chair
Graham Hunter, Classroom Instructor
Randy Olson, Classroom Instructor

Chris & Andy Backus

From: "Graham Hunter" <gndhunter@telcomplus.net>
To: "Chris & Andy Backus" <hepsabeth@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 21, 2007 3:45 PM
Subject: letter to Blaine city manager

Hi Chris;

Here are the details for Gary Tomsic, Blaine City Manager:

City Hall - 344 "H" Street, Blaine, WA 98230

Ph :(360) 332-8311 Fax: (360) 332-8330

When we looked into renting space in Blaine at the Senior/Community Center, the hourly rate was \$30 (for any of the rooms we looked at), so that meant we were faced with paying \$480 up front for the 16 hours of rent.

Gary cut the rate in half, so that at 8 students, we could break even on the rent. If we had more than 8 students, we paid an extra \$30 per person, up to the full \$480.

So, to start off, we were given a great incentive to attempt to 'sell' a class in Blaine. Secondly, the city clerk, Sheri Sanchez and her staff were extremely helpful with settling the details of payment and filling out the forms. When at one point some form was misplaced, Sheri very cheerfully, on her own free time, located the missing information and finalized the application process.

I was always made to feel welcome at the city hall. I was surprised and delighted to get the impression that our application to rent the room was as important to them as it was to us.

In addition to city staff, the coordinator at the Blaine Senior/Community Center, Barb Fischer, absolutely welcomes the idea of using the Center as a community classroom. She and her staff made sure we had access to everything we needed to make the Basic Boating class run smoothly.

Chris, I hope this gives you some points for a letter of gratitude from the Bellingham Sail and Power Squadron to Gary Tomsic and his staff. I cannot think of any way we could have been given more assistance.

Cheers
Graham