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In 2016, SAVE began a program aimed at young students, which has evolved into the "Kids Biz Club." It was successfully launched at Bellingham's Alderwood Elementary School this spring.

Kids Biz Club motivates students by training them to build a web page for their dream business, while learning the necessary economic principles for successful entrepreneurs. Melding economic principles and

technology makes this program different from others. "Anyone who has their own business today needs the understanding of how a successful economy works and basic technology skills to survive," Deschenes said.

Mentors and students learn, share and support each other to develop a basic business plan for their enterprise and learn basic computer coding to develop their webpage. Each course has a segment that brings in a local business leader for important real-

time learning on how a healthy business environment benefits everyone and what it takes to create a business.

The course culminates with a presentation of their business websites and a Certificate of Completion from program sponsors. "When you ask that fifth-grader what they liked most about the program and they say thank you for having the confidence to teach them new ideas, it just makes it all worth it," Halterman said.

Kids Biz Club is set to return to Alderwood Elementary for the 2019-2020 school year.

"People have become disconnected with the human side of economics", Newman said. "Our programs aim to reconnect people and their relationship to a vibrant economy."

To join SAVE or learn more, Send an email to [info@savenw.org](mailto:info@savenw.org). Or call (360) 386-1000 to speak to Kris, Lorraine or David.



## If You Don't Participate in the Shaping of Public Policy, You Will Be Governed by Those Who Do.

The Whatcom Business Alliance's Policy Center was created to be the eyes, ears, and voice for Whatcom County individuals and business leaders who don't necessarily have the time to keep up with the thousands of burdensome rules and regulations being created at the federal, state and local levels that harm their businesses or impact your rights.

The WBA Policy Center engages in fact-based research, education, communication and advocacy for its members on issues important to local business success and community prosperity. The WBA Policy Center's influence and credibility is due to gathering valid data and information

and sharing it in a thoughtful, respectful and solution-focused manner. The WBA proactively works with all its members and coalitions to advance policy issues that support business success and advocates against those harmful to local business and economic prosperity by informing, engaging, organizing and advocating.

There is strength in numbers — join other Whatcom Business Alliance members as an Individual-level member for only \$100/year.

Stay informed about issues that affect local businesses. Join us today, visit: [whatcombusinessalliance.com/jointhealliance/](http://whatcombusinessalliance.com/jointhealliance/)

## Turnout for Primary Hard to Predict

In Washington State Non-Partisan Races qualify for the Primary only if they have more than 2 candidates.

These races can be County-wide or only in the Jurisdiction where the candidates are competing for the office. And they can be as small as a Cemetery District or as large as Countywide. So, predicting percentage of turnout in the all-important primaries is a guessing game.

For example ; in the August 6th Primary in 2013 only the City of Bellingham had more than two candidates in two races and the city of Blaine had one. Just over half the voters in Whatcom Coun-

ty even received ballots.

- 2013- The Turnout for the 3 Races- 21.71%
- 2015- The Turnout for the 8 Races- 25.31%
- 2017- The Turnout for the 9 Races- 31.11%

In 2019 the story should be different with a much higher turnout. There are 17 Races and two of them are Countywide and the Cities of Bellingham, Lynden and Ferndale have more than one race to bring out voters. But its anybody's guess as far as assigning a viable prediction because past history shows how volatile the turnout can be. REMEMBER TO VOTE.



## Common Threads NW

### Common Threads NW Adds Another Dimension to Community Involvement

Common Threads Northwest, a non-profit public interest group based in Northwest Washington State, is a positive and rational force in helping our community achieve economic vitality, environmental quality, individual rights, an informed citizenry; and prudent use of public resources.

We're business owners, farmers, employees, and families who want to be involved in local issues. We are just ordinary citizens who are working together for a better community.

This year alone Common Threads has supported its Successful Citizen Journalism program bringing many in person reports for meetings around the County.

So far, among others this year, Common Threads has brought Doug, Thomas, Ken Bell, Assessor Keith Wilhauer, Glen Morgan, David Boze and others to forums like "Whatcom Waterfront and Fishing Industry; is there a future" in May. In April "Its about taxes ain't it" and in March a talk with the farmers about the future in Whatcom County.

The work at Common Threads continues as they have scheduled four more events this year so far. If you want to help with this great effort to bring our community together you can check their website at: <https://www.commonthreadsnw.org/>

## COMMON THREADS NW

### And the Fourth Corner

Present our Fall Community Forums

SAVE THE DATES:

**Thursday Sept. 12th- "Housing and Water Issues"**

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Meridian High School

Broadcast Live on KGMI Radio

**Thursday Sept. 26th- "Global Warming, Cherry Point;**

Other Environmental Issues

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Meridian High School

Broadcast Live on KGMI Radio

**\*\*\*Thursday Oct. 17th- "ALL COUNTY CANDIDATE FORUM"\*\*\***

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Meridian High School

Broadcast Live on KGMI Radio



Info at [commonthreadsnw.org](http://commonthreadsnw.org)