

The Northern Light

Blaine and Birch Bay's Community Newspaper

Letters to the Editor: July 2-8, 2026

The Editor:

It's been two decades since voters approved a levy rate increase for Fire District 21 (North Whatcom Fire and Rescue) and its emergency response services. Since then, the population has steadily grown, and the district now serves 33,800 residents across 153 square miles.

As a result, the number of emergency calls increased by 158%, and the condition of necessary vehicles and buildings is deteriorating because of lack of funding.\

Last year, multiple, overlapping emergency calls occurred 30% of the time. If distant fire stations must help, this causes delays at a time when every minute counts.

I am worried. I worry that help won't arrive in time if my family, friends or neighbors experience a medical emergency, a house fire or a bad car accident. All these scenarios are possible if the levy rate isn't approved in the August election.

This is not a new tax, but a continuation of existing funding. Please vote yes.

Margot Savell

Birch Bay