

## LETTERS

### Critical situation for Fire District 21

*Editor,*

On Aug. 4, voters will be asked to approve a levy measure for Whatcom County Fire District 21 and its emergency response services. Fire District 21 covers all emergency calls in your area, outside of Lynden City Limits.

However, Fire District 21 also frequently responds to calls inside Lynden because of multiple calls coming into the station at the same time.

This is the fourth time Fire District 21 has brought this issue before voters and each time was unsuccessful. Today, the issues are more critical than ever. The last time voters approved fund-

ing was two decades ago.

Now, the fire district is receiving more than 6,000 calls for help annually, a 79% increase from 2006 when the last funding measure was approved by voters. As well, 71% are for medical issues.

These days, several times each week, the district is in what they call "station failure," which occurs when so many calls come at the same time that they've had to call on other districts to respond to calls in our area. Multiple calls at the same time cause delays when every minute counts.

In addition, nearly 50% of the district's 35 emergency vehicles are older than national safety standards, and staffing is at the same level since 2007.

Meanwhile, Station 63 in Birch Bay is in dire need of up-

grades or replacements and Station 62 on Semiahmoo Parkway remains closed.

Please think about this in the weeks leading up to the Aug. 4 ballot. If your family, friends or neighbors experience a medical emergency, a house fire or a bad car accident, will sufficient, timely emergency services even be available? The situation is critical. Please vote yes for Fire District 21's levy ballot measure on Aug. 4.

*Margot Savell  
Blaine*

### Submitting articles of interest

Readers of the *Lynden Tribune* and *Ferndale Record* newspaper are encouraged to submit articles of interest for inclusion