WELL DONE!

Hats off to our own Woodinville Fire & Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners for their action during the January 7, 2013, meeting.

Woodinville Fire & Rescue inherited a non-conforming commercial advertising billboard on their property.

A previous property owner had signed a long-term lease for this billboard before Woodinville became a city.

Billboard signs are NOT allowed in the city, but this sign was "grandfathered."

The commissioners said that the small amount of rent that the sign generated was far outdistanced by the fact that the sign was non-conforming, does not fit within the design guidelines of our city and only contributes to "urban blight."

They concluded that removing it would be in the best interests of Woodinville's residents.

Thank you, commissioners, for doing your part in making our city a more attractive place to live and work.

You have made a positive impact here in Woodinville.

Terry Jarvis, Woodinville

PET PEEVE

While glancing through a recently-received volume of the state's laws published in 2012, I was reminded of a pet peeve exemplified by an item I'd clipped from the Seattle Times.

The clipping quoted a state Department of Ecology planner to the effect that under shoreline management law ". . . priority is given to water-dependent businesses and industries, shoreline restoration and public access."

The pet peeve arises in that as so often happens, there is an implication of public access to all waterfront. But the Shoreline Management Act specifically states "Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines."

During a period in which it was allowed by the state, many people purchased the public beach in front of their private ownerships.

There is no required public access to those private beaches unless and until the landowner initiates a development project that warrants a local-government requirement to include public access as part of the develop-ment conditions.

So far private property rights are still respected by our state government.

Maxine Keesling, Woodinville

MEMBERSHIP OPENED

The Falcon Athletic Booster Club (FAB) at Woodinville High School has now opened membership to alumni, family, friends and community members.

All dollars raised go to support athletic teams at WHS, and membership levels offer a variety of benefits including passes to games and tickets to the annual FAB Sip, Bite, Win! event.

In addition, each new member receives a Falcon booster window cling to show their Falcon pride.

"The Falcon Athletic Booster Club was formed in 2009 to help our student-athletes and their teams pay for additional training, travel, equipment, uniforms and facilities as needed, said FAB president Brett Bader. "We have now opened up membership to the community at large because of the tremendous support this area gives to our teams."

Annual memberships can be purchased online at the FAB website: www.falconathleticboosters.com.

Falcon Athletic Booster Club memberships are available in four levels, White, Blue, Green and Gold.

The group also plans to award college scholarships to outstanding WHS student-athletes who do not receive athletic scholarships.

"Our goal is not just to raise funds but to also give as many of our supporters as possible the opportunity to be a Falcon booster," Bader added. "Membership levels start at just \$35, but individuals and businesses can help even more by joining at one of the higher levels as well."

Donations to Falcon Athletic Boosters are tax deductible.
The FAB Board is made up of representatives from each of the 19 sports teams at WHS.
The organization works throughout the year to raise funds and assist Falcon athletics during the regular season as well as with special support in post-season tournaments.
Help Falcon student-athletes.
Join the Falcon Athletic Booster Club today!
Falcon Athletic Booster Club
STOP THE SLAUGHTER
When you see a young, healthy horse going to auction, do you know where they're going?
There is a good chance that that horse will go to a slaughterhouse.
Does that horse really deserve that fate?

When horses are bought at an auction by slaughterhouse employees, the majority of them are young and healthy horses because their meat sells for more money than the meat of old or sick horses. They are then transported long distances in crowded trailers with little to no food and water.

Though the plants in the U.S. have been shut down, live horses are being shipped across the borders, to be killed somewhere else. Pictures from the SPCA have showed the awful things that happen to the horses in these slaughterhouses. They are killed inhumanely, going through severe pain and suffering.

There are other alternatives to sending that horse to a slaughterhouse. What if the owner had privately sold their young, healthy horse so he could enjoy a happy rest of his life? What if that owner had spent the extra money to euthanize that horse and give him a happy ending? Isn't knowing that your loyal companion will have a painless death worth the extra money that euthanasia costs?

If we end horse slaughter, it will not increase the amount of unwanted or neglected horses.

Horse slaughter was banned in California in 1998, and as a result of that, horse theft dropped by 34 percent because there was nowhere to sell them.

You can help that horse at the auction and tens of thousands of other U.S. horses that go to slaughterhouses every year by raising money and donating it to the Humane Society of the United States which has made ending horse slaughter in the U.S. one of its priorities.

You can talk to your senators and representatives and ask them to support The Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, which will ban horse slaughter in the U.S. and the transportation of live horses across the border to be killed.

You can help give our horses happy lives.

Written b	y Readers
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We can stop this senseless slaughter.

Nora Cyra, 13, Bothell