

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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Director



PUBLIC WORKS FERRY DIVISION

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Press Release

Contact: Rob Ney
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Annual Ferry Dry Dock Activities

Dry dock will begin on Thursday, September 8, 2016. The Whatcom Chief is due to return to its regular schedule on Thursday, September 29, 2016. As always, this date is tentative, and dependent on the scale of repairs and work required both in the shipyard and at the docks. Further confirmation of this return to service date will occur as dry dock progresses.

The Whatcom Chief's last crossing for vehicles prior to dry dock will be at the end of the day Wednesday, September 7, 2016. The Whatcom Chief will make all of its scheduled runs on Wednesday, September 7, 2016.

On Thursday, September 8, 2016, the Whatcom Chief will operate as a **passenger-only ferry** beginning with the first scheduled run of 5:40 a.m. and will continue to run as a **passenger-only ferry** until it makes its last run. The last run from Lummi Island will be at 9:00 a.m. The last run from Gooseberry Point will be at 9:10 a.m. The ferry service will then be discontinued while modifications are made to the docks and the floats are set for the contracted passenger-only ferry. The Whatcom Chief will then depart to the shipyard. We anticipate the first run with the contracted passenger-only ferry to be approximately the 3:00 p.m. run from Lummi Island and the 3:10 p.m. run from Gooseberry Point on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

The following transportation will be provided during dry dock:

- **Foot Passenger-Only Ferry Service** transportation will be provided between Lummi Island and Gooseberry Point. In addition, due to the closure of the leased ferry parking lot on Gooseberry Point

there will be no additional drydock parking spaces available. Ferry vehicle parking will continue to be available in the existing designated areas and will be posted at Gooseberry Point and on the website indicated below. Please comply by parking in designated/posted areas only.

VEHICLES PARKED IN UNDESIGNATED AREAS WILL BE TOWED AT OWNER'S EXPENSE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

- **Passenger Shuttle Van Service on Lummi Island** will be provided while the Whatcom Chief Ferry is in dry dock. The first day of service will be Thursday, September 8, 2016. **The maximum number of passengers allowed in the Shuttle Van at any one time is 14.**
 - The shuttle van stops were re-configured after the 2008 dry dock to provide for more coverage of the island while keeping within the same time frames. The shuttle van must meet a very tight schedule. Please be at the shuttle van stop **EARLY** to be sure of a ride.

NO PETS OR BICYCLES ALLOWED IN THE PASSENGER SHUTTLE VAN. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Copies of the Passenger-Only Ferry Schedule, the dry dock parking map, and the Lummi Island Passenger Shuttle Van Schedules, including the pickup route, will be available on the Whatcom County websites www.whatcomchief.org or <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/publicworks/ferry/index.jsp> on or before August 5, 2016.

Should you have any questions, you may contact Public Works Administration at (360) 778-6200. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during the annual dry dock.

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