Community Connection

Working Together for Education, Safety, & Fire Response

SWSD Superintendent *Dr. Becky Clifford*

Superintendent Salutations

Whether we are longtime neighbors or just getting acquainted, I am grateful this newsletter found you. As the school year draws to a close, I am filled with appreciation for the strong, supportive community we continue to build together. This has been a year of heart, hustle, and progress.





Our students led with purpose, from secondary students facilitating "Speak Up at Schools" training to address bias and harmful language, to elementary students launching campus Green Teams focused on stewardship and service. Across classes, clubs, athletics, and the performing arts, our students excelled.

Our staff remained deeply committed to the whole child, focusing on academic growth, social emotional learning, belonging, and safety. We deepened the work of our Equity Committee and launched new district committees and councils, including the Climate Action Committee, Special Education Advisory Council, and Instructional Council, each advancing consistent high-quality instruction, climate resilience, and equity district wide.

During my first year, I prioritized connection, transparency, and community. Through listening sessions with students, staff, families and community members, program reviews, and strengthening district leadership, I worked to deepen existing relationships and develop new ones.

Thank you for being part of this community. It is a privilege to serve alongside you. Wishing you a safe, joyful, and sun-filled summer!

SWFE Fire Chief *Nick Walsh*

Serving Beyond Our Borders: SWFE's Role in State Mobilizations

Since 2025, South Whidbey Fire/EMS has taken a significant step forward in supporting our neighbors across Washington.

Last year marked the beginning of our formal participation in the Washington State Patrol's wildland fire mobilization program—a collaborative effort that allows local fire districts to deploy resources to large-scale emergencies that exceed a single jurisdiction's capacity.

In our inaugural year, SWFE successfully deployed personnel to assist with two major wildland fires and provided critical aid during the Skagit County floods. These deployments offer our members invaluable, high-intensity experience that directly benefits our district's readiness.



Pictured: Firefighter Nicole Hagen and Lieutenant Peter Lund

The State of Washington reimburses SWFE for the use of our fire engines, the wages of the deployed staff, and the cost of "backfilling" personnel to ensure our local stations remain fully staffed and ready to respond to calls right here at home.

As we look toward the summer of 2026, forecasts indicate a potentially busy fire season across the Pacific Northwest. While our teams are ready to deploy where needed, our primary focus remains the safety of our own community.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to keep South Whidbey—and our entire state—safe this summer.

Island County Fire Academy 2026

Congratulations Graduates!

*"When one becomes a firefighter, their greatest act of bravery has already been accomplished. What follows is all in the line of work." — **Edward F. Croker** FDNY Fire Chief 1899-1911*

"Congratulations" to South Whidbey Fire EMS recruits, Nicole Hagen, Jacob Lykken and Andrew Harvey on your graduation from the 2026 Island County Fire Academy.

Graduating from a firefighter academy is a momentous occasion. The journey through the academy is rigorous, demanding both physical endurance and mental acuity.

You earned the badge through sweat, grit, and sacrifice and your community is safer because you answered the call.

So proud of your achievement and we wish you safety and success as you begin your watch!

Thank You, Commanding Officer Lt. Leah Kalahiki, for your tireless investment in the future of our department and for shaping the next generation of first responders.



Pictured left to right: FF Jacob Lykken, FF Nicole Hagen, CO Lt. Leah Kalahiki and FF Andrew Harvey

CPR for Students: "Be the Sitter Every Parent Trusts"

Learn how to save a life, stay calm under pressure and protect the kids in your care. South Whidbey Fire EMS is offering a free CPR/First Aid class for South Whidbey school students, grades 6-12. Class will be held in SWHS/MS Cougar Den. June 10th, 1:30pm-3:30 pm. Students can register in the school office or the QR code below. **Registration ends June 3rd..**



Meet CPR Instructor, Lieutenant Robert Husom. He started his career at SWFE in 2010 and has been instructing CPR Certification to the public for 16 years.

His inspiration for a career in fire service is generational and comes from his father and grandfather.

His grandfather volunteered for a number of years in Selah, WA and his father served as a volunteer here at South Whidbey Fire EMS. Lt. Husom can remember watching training burns as a child.

Early in his career, Lt. Husom looked up to his mentor, Donald Elliot, who was known as "Uncle Donald". He was in charge of the Fire Academy that Robbie attended when he started. "Uncle Donald taught me the family (Ohana) culture of the fire service".

When asked if he would choose this career all over again, he stated emphatically 'Yes, I would definitely do it all again".

REGISTER NOW

South Whidbey Fire EMS Mission Statement:
"Protect Lives, Serve with Compassion, Respond with Excellence"
Core Values:
Integrity, Professionalism, Compassion

Voters Make a Difference!

The South Whidbey School District is making strong progress on its $79.8 million bond project, approved by voters in November 2023. The investment results in modernizing aging infrastructure and creating updated learning environments for students in grades ITK-12. We are entering into the second year of a three and half year project.

Work completed: Elementary new inclusive playground, detention pond improvements, and removal of unusable portable classrooms.

LEARN MORE

Current construction: Elementary bathroom renovations and a new pick-up/drop-off loop expanding into the lawn at the right of the entrance. Middle/High School campus roof replacement, exterior renovations (new masonry, windows, and metal siding), and interior updates to locker rooms, the main office, and classrooms.



Upcoming construction: Summer 2026 will bring the project's most significant phase, including athletic field and track replacement. The track will be closed from June 2026 to Spring of 2027. Along with mechanical system upgrades at both campuses, and elementary office and entryway improvements.

Construction Continued...

A key achievement has been keeping disruption minimal. No student days or district events have been lost during the 2025–2026 school year, thanks to careful scheduling, temporary relocations, and close coordination between school staff and construction teams.

The district is committed to finishing on budget while honoring the community's trust and delivering facilities that will serve South Whidbey students for generations.

SWSD Navigator

CONNECT WITH US!

South Whidbey School District (SWSD) is dedicated to communicating with our school families, staff, students, and our community. Subscribe using the QR code below to bi-monthly Newsletter through our primary method of communication ParentSquare to learn about the exciting achievements and events in the schools.

Visit Website

Your voice matters! School Board Meetings are a fantastic way to see the great work happening across our district. Whether you join us in person or log on via Zoom, your partnership drives our success. Head to our website to find the full calendar, upcoming agendas, and past meeting videos.

Our website at www.sw.wednet.edu, contains everything from school menus, calendar of events, job opportunities and much more. If you have any questions or difficulties finding the information, please contact the school secretary or the district office at 360-221-6808 ext. 2245 or info@sw.wednet.edu.

CONNECT WITH US!
Subscribe to the South Whidbey School DIstrict Navigator Newsletter

SUBSCRIBE

South Whidbey School District Mission
In collaboration with our community, every student will be supported to be a resilient, innovative, compassionate, and productive graduate prepared for a diverse and dynamic world.



Congratulations to the Class of 2026

The Class of 2026 has reached a milestone worth celebrating. After years of hard work, dedication, and growth, these remarkable students will officially graduate on Saturday, June 6, 2026, stepping forward into the next exciting chapter of their lives.

From the classroom to the community, they have shown resilience, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to their futures. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

Some of the college and future plans for these students include: Fire Science Technology at Colorado Mountain College, University of Washington, Missouri, British Columbia, Gonzaga, Penn State, Bringham Young, Cal Poly Pomona, Montana State, Seattle U, Western, Central, Shoreline, Everett, Bayview Barbershop, Harbor Plumbing, and many more. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors and welcome the next leadership from the Class of 2027.



Staying Safe at Home

Great Summer days can come with a high fire risk. Let's keep Summer fun by preventing devastating wildfires.

Fire prevention starts on your property. As the weather warms and fuels dry out, we ask all residents to remain vigilant. Please:

·**Maintain defensible space** by clearing dry brush and debris from around your home. Creating a buffer zone around your structure is the first line of defense against fast-moving summer wildfires.

·**Monitor burn bans.** Summer conditions often necessitate restrictions on outdoor burning to prevent accidental ignitions.

·**Follow all local ordinances**. Fire officials warn that 2026 could rival the most extreme record for heat and dryness.

Check SWFE.ORG or social media for the most current information on burn status.

South Whidbey School District
5476 Maxwelton Road
Langley, WA 98260



South Whidbey Fire EMS
5579 Bayview Rd
Langley WA 98260

Recipient Name
Street Address
City, St Zip

SCAN QR CODE
and get the latest news!
Join our quarterly
e-newsletter

South Whidbey Fire/EMS
5579 Bayview Rd.
Langley, WA 98260

South Whidbey School District #206
5520 Maxwelton Road
Langley, WA 98260

Account Information			
Cust #:	733		
Date:	06/15/2026	Due:	07/02/2026
Invoice #:	444	Terms:	Net 30
For:	General Invoice		

Item	Taxed	Quantity	Amount	Total
Spring 2026 Postage 8,596 pieces	N	1.0000	1,048.71	1,048.71
Spring 2026 Half Fold Mailing, 8,596 pieces	N	1.0000	1,275.93	1,275.93

Spring 2026 Community Connection Newsletter

Non Taxed:		2,324.64
Taxed:		0.00
Tax @	9.00%:	0.00
Payments:		0.00
Total:		**2,324.64**

Remit to: South Whidbey Fire/EMS * 5579 Bayview Rd * Langley, WA 98260

Lithtex NWC
printing solutions
A division of Northwest Center Services

Invoice LNW-122851.1
Date 5/26/2026

Remit Check Payment to:

P.O. Box 80819
City of Industry CA 91716-8420

Bill To:
South Whidbey Fire EMS
Attn: Shari Schroeder
5579 Bayview Rd
Langley WA 98260

Ship To:
3150 Orleans Street
Bellingham WA 98226

Purchase Order No.	Customer ID	Payment Terms	Shipping Method	Sales Exempt	Resellers Permit Number
	SWFE001L	Upon Receipt	MAIL		

Description	Unit Price	Ext. Price
Spring Newslett Half-Fold - EDDM Mailing	$0.00	$0.00
Postage - 8,596 Pieces	$2,097.42	$2,097.42

Subtotal	$2,097.42
Tax	$0.00
Total	$2,097.42



Did you know your business funds Northwest Center, a nonprofit providing services to people with disabilities? If you can support Northwest Center with a $50 donation, we would be grateful. Please note the exact amount you are donating beyond the invoice. Thank you!

SWSD 1,048.71

ACH Payment To: Please email cashmanagment@nwcenter.org for instructions

Division Information
1840 S 144th St, SeaTac, WA 98168
(206) 285-9140

Credit Card Payment:
Visa/Mastercard/Discover/AE
(206) 378-6368
2.75% Convenience Fee

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A division of Northwest Center Services

Page 1/1
Invoice LNW-122851
Date 6/5/2026

Remit Check Payment to:
Northwest Center Services
P.O. Box 80819
City of Industry, CA 91716-8420

Bill To: South Whidbey Fire EMS
Attn: Shari Schroeder
5579 Bayview Rd
Langley WA 98260

Ship To: South Whidbey Fire EMS
3150 Orleans Street
Bellingham WA 98226

Purchase Order No.	Customer ID	Payment Terms	Shipping Method	Sales Exempt	Resellers Permit Number
	SWFE001L	Upon Receipt	MAIL		

Description	Unit Price	Ext. Price
Spring 2026 Newsletter Half-Fold - EDDM Mailing - Qty 8,596	$2,339.00	$2,339.00

Subtotal	$2,339.00
Tax	$212.85
Total	$2,551.85

$1275.93 SWSD Donation



Did you know your business funds Northwest Center, a nonprofit providing services to people with disabilities? If you can support Northwest Center with a $50 donation, we would be grateful. Please note the exact amount you are donating beyond the invoice. Thank you!

ACH Payment To: Please email cashmanagment@nwcenter.org for instructions

2000 Kentucky Street
Bellingham, WA 98229
(360) 676-1977

Credit Card Payment:
Visa/Mastercard/Discover/AE
(360) 676-1977
2.75% Convenience Fee

LITHTEX NW
Printing Solutions

2000 Kentucky Street
Bellingham, WA 98229
360.676.1977 Phone
360.676.1895 Fax

Date: 03-13-26
Estimate: 143498

Spring 2026

South Whidbey Fire EMS
5579 Bayview Rd
Langley, WA 98260

We are pleased to confirm our quotation to you as follows:

Description:	Spring 2026 Newsletter Half-Fold - EDDM Mailing
Size/Pages:	11 x 17
Prepress:	Files Submitted Electronically via Email or LNW Portal
Proofs:	PDF Proofs
Inks:	4 Color Process / 4 Color Process
Stock 1:	60# Opaque Offset
Binding:	Trim. Fold in half to 8.5 x
Mail Services:	Bundle for Saturation M
Mail Services:	Residential Customer

10.31.11
Newsletter

Quantity:	8,475
Price:	$2,023

Due to volatility in the current paper market, t g price at time of order.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hickman

Shari Schroeder

From: Lelani Thomsen <lelanit@lithtexnw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 1:17 PM
To: Nick Walsh
Cc: Shari Schroeder
Subject: FW: South Whidbey Quotes for newsletter
Attachments: 143498 South Whidbey Fire EMS - Spring 2026 Newsletter Half-Fold - EDDM Mailing.pdf; 143500 South Whidbey Fire EMS - Spring 2026 Newsletter Tri-Fold - EDDM Mailing.pdf

Hi Nick,
I hope all is well. Attached are the estimates we talked about for the newsletter.

Half-fold is printed as an 11x17 folded in half to 8.5x11 then folded down to 5.5x8.5 to mail.
Trifold is 11x25.5 when opened flat, it folded into 3 panels and mails as a, 8.5x11 tri-folded

This estimate was also sent to Shari. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Lani

Lelani Thomsen
Direct: (360)739-5735
LithtexNWC
printing solutions
*Your printing makes a difference, as a proud division of Northwest Center, **100% of our printing profits go to improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities.** Visit www.LithtexNW.com & www.NWCenter.org