

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**2011 BELLINGHAM BAY MARATHON
5th ANNUAL EVENT
ANNOUNCED BY
BELLINGHAM BAY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

Bellingham Bay Athletic Association is hosting the 5th Annual Bellingham Bay Marathon Sunday, September 25th. Over 3,000 runners and walkers will participate in the Marathon, Half Marathon and 5K distances. All athletes will finish on Railroad Avenue at the Depot Market Square. Marathon participants will start at 7:30am at the entrance to Lummi Nation School on the Lummi Indian Reservation and run around Bellingham Bay. The 5K starts at 7:30am from in front of Depot Market Square and runs a loop on the State/Boulevard streets to South Bay Trail before returning to Depot Market Square. Half Marathoners depart at 9:30am from in front of Depot Market Square and will run through downtown and out Eldridge/Marine Dr. to merge with the incoming marathon runners at Marine Dr. and Alderwood Ave. From there, the marathon and half marathon participants complete the remaining 9 miles together including the South Bay Trail and Taylor Dock.

There will be a Finish Line Festival at Depot Market Square from 11:30am – 4:00pm including live music, beer & wine garden and food. The public is invited to share in this community celebration.

Before race day on Saturday, September 24, BBAA is hosting a Vendor Expo from 10:00pm to 6:00pm and a pasta dinner buffet with live jazz from 4:30pm to 7:00pm at the Lakeway Inn & Conference Center at 714 Lakeway Drive. The Expo and pasta dinner are open to the public. Dinner tickets may be purchased at the Expo or the door, if seats are still available.

Many of the participants are from outside Whatcom County. Please come out and show them what a wonderful community we live in by showing your support. We appreciate your patience as there will be some traffic revisions necessary to insure the safety of these runners, walkers and volunteers.

For road closure and other information please visit www.bellingshambaymarathon.org

The 2011 Bellingham Bay Marathon, Half Marathon & 5K is held the last Sunday in September. This year's races will be on September 25, 2011. Bellingham Bay Marathon is managed by Bellingham Bay Athletic Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (IRS application pending).

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