



SUDDEN VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SUDDEN VALLEY VIEWS

March 2024

WWW.SUDDENVALLEY.COM

SVCA Board approves marina rate fee increase

*Sam Shahan
resigns
from board
following
meeting*

By Bill Helm
Editor

SUDDEN VALLEY —
On Feb. 8, Sudden Valley

Community Association's board of directors approved a \$1,200 annual marina fee rate increase for non-residents, and a \$600 annual marina fee rate increase for residents.

A complete breakdown of the association's 2024 marina fees is in the board's Feb. 8 agenda packet, at suddenvalley.com.

The board also approved the movement of

\$105,600 from the 2023 operations surplus to CRRRF (Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund).

According to a Feb. 8 request for approval by SVCA General Manager Jo Anne Jensen that was included in the board's agenda packet, SVCA hired Ashton Engineering in 2023 to complete an evaluation of the marina docks. This evaluation identified that the

docks would need to be replaced in 2029.

To determine the cost of replacing the docks, SVCA hired Ashton Engineering to design a replacement and prepare an engineer's estimate, the request stated. Ashton Engineering developed a design and produced an estimate of approximately \$1.5 million. Replacing the docks would trigger requirements for addition-

al work on the shoreline, increasing the total cost of the project to about \$1.9 million.

Jensen's proposal included the following:

- Use fees for wet slips be increased by \$600 annually.

- The board approves moving \$52,200 out of the 2023 operational budget surplus to CRRRF to make up for lower use fees.

- SVCA seeks a sec-

ond dock evaluation, replacement design, and engineer's estimate with which Ashton Engineering's work can be compared.

- A work group be formed to research and recommend alternate funding approaches for the replacement of the Marina Docks.

"This approach will ensure that we keep up with the planned funding of the dock replace-

ment while giving us time to pursue a second opinion and consider the viability of other funding options," Jensen wrote.

In other news:

- The SVCA Board unanimously voted to add Tom Redd and Nancy Alyanak to the Long Range Planning Committee.

The Long-Range

See **Board** on 5

Architectural Control Committee Review: Variance Requests

Previous articles in the January and February issues of The Views highlighted the Exterior Alteration Request and the Fence Request forms. Like these forms, the Variance Request form is part of the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) process that the Sudden Valley founders put in place to ensure the beauty of Sudden Valley would continue.

A variance is needed when a homeowner wants to deviate from the ACC policies. Some examples requiring variances are fence and retaining wall locations, setbacks to the property line, driveway slopes & locations, parking pads, drainage/erosion ditches/culverts, open space/lot coverage, house height, interior living space, propane tank location/screening, etc.

Each variance is reviewed independently based on each individual situation.

Other homeowners' denials or approvals do not influence or guarantee the outcome of the ACC's decision.

Pro tips for filling out the Variance Request form:

- Review the Architectural Control Policies regarding variances in section 14.8.13. The policies are available on the SVCA website under the Resident Resources tab, under the Governing Documents tab, under the Board Resolutions, Rules & Regulations section.

- Fill in all the blanks. (ACC Administration can look up the Division and Lot, if

needed.)

- Check the appropriate boxes for "Requested for" and "The variance would affect."

- In the empty square box, detail a site plan showing the road, the house, and the location of the variance including the distance in relation to the property line. List all measurements.

- In the description lines be sure to include the reason for the variance, the full scope of the project, and any additional information you would like the ACC to consider.

- Include photos and plans/illustrations, as applicable.

- Email the completed request to accadmin@suddenvalley.com or drop it off at the Welcome Center. After hours, drop the request into the outside payment drop box.

A few more variance considerations: the ACC usually visits the property as part of their review. Applicants must stake the variance plan, if applicable, to provide a visual representation of the variance location. If for existing construction, approved projects must be completed within six months of approval.

The committee usually meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Applicable request forms are available on the SVCA website (www.suddenvalley.com).

See **Variance Requests** on 9



Sudden Valley names Kevin LeDuc new golf director

Kevin LeDuc, pictured above, currently SVCA's head professional, will take over for retiring Golf Director Brian Kruhlak on April 1.

As was announced last May, Brian is leaving after thirteen years at Sudden Valley to focus on the development of a personal business.

LeDuc is very familiar with golf at Sudden Valley, as he has spent seven years as the 1st assistant professional, 1992-1999, before he left to become the head pro at Echo Falls GC.

His career in golf also includes positions at Loomis Trail GC, Semiahmoo G&CC, and Eaglemont GC.

LeDuc returned to SVCA as head pro in 2019 where he has supported the smooth operation and consistent growth of our golf program.

We are confident that the Sudden Valley Golf Course will continue to flourish under LeDuc's direction and we invite the community to stop by and wish him well.

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Volunteers help Sudden Valley bloom

MEMBER FEATURE
Member submitted article

This garden is beloved by many residents of Sudden Valley, but it would not exist without the help of generous volunteers.

"They call us the Garden Angels," said Sue Hill, a Sudden Valley resident who helped form the group that cares for the library garden. Hill moved to Sudden Valley in 2005 after retiring from her position designing electrical and gas jobs at an energy company.

"I retired over here and didn't know a soul," she said. "It wasn't until a few years later that I had noticed this garden was full of weeds, full of blackberries — it was unbelievable."

Hill, having learned about agriculture through her father, began removing weeds that inhibited plant life, but little did she know this small act would bloom into a larger community of volunteers. "This friend of mine, Paula Peterson, saw me out



Outside the South Whatcom Library, above and on opposite page, rests an intricate, beautiful garden. In the spring, children are seen exploring its every nook and cranny.

here weeding and said, 'Can I help you?' That's when this whole thing started." The grassroots group con-

tinued to grow as more community members came together to care for the natural beauty of Sudden Valley.

The Garden Angels work Mondays and Wednesdays from around April 1 through Nov. 1. For two hours a day, they pull weeds, spread mulch and care for the many flowers and plants that call the garden home. The group is comprised of mostly retirees. However, they are open to ex-

tending their working hours so more residents can become involved.

"We're looking at the possibility of doing a weekend thing for people who work during the week," said Hill. "If we get enough people, I would be willing to come out on a weekend to help."

Volunteer opportunities like The

See **Volunteers** on 3



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Sudden Valley Golf Club

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AROUND THE VALLEY

February happenings include presentations, winter series event

In February, Maintenance and Turf Care continued to focus on cleaning up after the January storms.

In other departments, work was completed to organize the capital projects and recreational programs planned for the year.

Administration

Activity Summary

Supported preparation and submission of 11 capital requests.

Prepared and mailed marina moorage renewal packets.

Finalized Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 231.

Launched Sudden Valley Volunteers program.

Successes

We received a strong response to the launch of our Sudden Valley Volunteers program.

Planned Work

Continuing work on the SVCA website.

Complete inventory of signs (not road signs) within SVCA.

Accounting

Activity Summary

Completed routine work to maintain monthly financial schedule; December financials completed.

Completed system setup for 2024.

Implemented salary and benefit adjustments resulting from new Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Successes

Confirmed operational surplus of more than \$200,000 in 2023.

Planned Work

Close out 2022 capital projects.

Make seasonal adjustments to annual budget.

Maintenance

Activity Summary

Continued road and ditch cleanup of tree debris in interior gates.

Hosted Community Cleanup Event drop off site at Gate 5 Overflow.

Installed new short-term parking signs at Gate 3 mailboxes.

Painted drywall ceiling patch in the Pro Shop.

Transferred snowplow mounting brackets from OP-1 to new maintenance truck.

Serviced OP-25 and completed 200-hour service on Yanmar, including fuel filter replacement.

Addressed maintenance needs at Huckleberry Park and Clubhouse parking lot.

Patched and painted holes in Clubhouse stairwell.

Completed Gate 5 Park improvements, pending asphalt painting.

Conducted trail repairs and hazard tree removal at various locations.

Successes

Excitement is growing among the department watching the renovations progress at the maintenance building.

Planned Work

Conducted extensive tree and branch cleanup across SVCA premises.

Finalized purchase of new maintenance truck and facilitated bed installer transportation.

Addressed water line repair in pool filter room for operational integrity.

Serviced SP-6 to ensure continued functionality.

Completed drywall repair in Rec Center mechanical room for structural maintenance.

Recreation

Activity Summary

Cleaned & organized multiple closets off the Dance Barn space.

Marina wet slip, dry slip, & kayak rack renewals have been mailed out to renters.

Successes

Continued increase in visitors to the community center.

Planned Work

Deactivate SVCA Amenity Cards for people who are no longer residents.

Golf

Activity Summary

Successfully hosted the 7th Winter Series event and facilitated the annual golf trip to Bandon Dunes.

Booked multiple small outings with 12-24 players.

Collaborated on transitional tasks and training for seamless operations.

Conducted cart path assessment with the Head Pro and Turfcare Superintendent to plan future repairs.

Implemented new credit card processing software and hardware.

Developed greens drainage work plan in coordination with the Turfcare Superintendent to enhance course maintenance.

Sent out 2024 Golf Club Event Schedule to all members via e-blasts for effective communication.

Successes

Kevin LeDuc, SVCA's current Head Pro, has been named as the next Director of Golf.

Planned Work

Send out promotional materials for our next Winter Series event.

Complete the implementation of the new P.O.S. system.

Turf Care

Activity Summary

Work on repair & maintenance of turf equipment for the upcoming season.

Apple tree pruning at the library.

Successes

Completed scheduled turfcare equipment repair & maintenance.

Turfcare crew is on schedule to wrap up greens drainage projects.

Planned Work

Continuing the ongoing turf equipment seasonal repair & maintenance.

Continuing drainage work on #9 green. Plan drainage work to the front of #13 green & the back of #14 green.

Plan installation of new net & poles for driving range net.

Volunteers: Help Sudden Valley community bloom

Continued from 2

Garden Angels exist all over Sudden Valley, from clearing hiking trails to assisting SVCA staff at events. "Volunteering is so much fun," says Hill. "We're a good group; we laugh and giggle, and it's not usually heavy-duty stuff." Sudden Valley is always looking for more volunteers, and The Garden Angels is just one of the many ways community members can become involved.

"The only thing as a volunteer is that you would need gloves and something to pick weeds," said Hill.

Still, even a community-run group like The Garden Angels faces challenges. Last year, heavy flooding caused major damage to parts of the garden. Going into 2024, Hill fears the dry season may cause even more damage.

"One of the things we don't have here — and it's really crucial for us now because of the climate — is that we don't have a watering system," said Hill. "My guess is that we're going to have to come up with some funds for an irrigation system. We have lost, unfortunately, several plants here, because when we hit that dry period, we don't have the system in place. If we can get water in here, we can save most of the plants."

Despite some setbacks, the Garden Angels have resilience, going above and beyond to protect and nurture the garden. Some members will even take up daunting tasks all on their own, surprising even those within the group. "We had new gravel poured along the path this year, and that was done by Mike Foster, he did that all on his own and that was just unbelievable," says Hill.

The Garden Angels also receive tremendous support from the Sudden Valley community. "The library staff are always saying very kind things. We have the golfers come by and they're always saying thank you, and that's so much appreciated," says Hill. "The other fun thing is when we have little kids that come and walk through here. The parents will drive

up and the kids will want to walk around the garden, and that's their highlight — they have such a good time."

Sudden Valley staff, noticing the years of work and community-led dedication, also provide support for the Garden Angels. "Sudden Valley and the golf course — Greg from Surf and Turf — have been wonderful helping us with different things, like paying for the mulch and providing us with garbage bags," said Hill.

Maintenance also helps trim and clear branches, and the Sudden Valley Garden Club has provided the group with hundreds of bulbs.

Volunteering has been a gratifying experience for Hill and The Garden Angels. Hill, sitting on a bench with her name carved into it, recalls one such moment of gratification: "The history on the benches is, because we have so much support from the maintenance department of Sudden Valley, they surprised us one day and had these benches made up," said Hill. "They didn't tell us any-

thing about it. We all came back, and the maintenance department was just standing around with big grins on their faces. And we go, 'oh my gosh, look at this!' It was terrific."

Sue Hill's name is carved on the bench overlooking the grassy area of the garden, and another bench dedicated to Elizabeth McNall sits along the main gravel path.

Both benches honor the Garden Angels for their years of passionate dedication to the library garden, serving as a reminder of the volunteers that make Sudden Valley special.

If you would like to help The Garden Angels, you may contact Sue Hill at 360-733-6934.

If you would like to donate to help fund a new irrigation system, please contact Elizabeth Huthert at 360-671-6364.

Or if you are interested in other volunteering opportunities, please contact the Sudden Valley Welcome Center at 360-734-6430.



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VIEWS

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POLICY

The Sudden Valley Views welcomes letters to the editor submitted by members of the Association. Topical submissions of current news interest may be accepted up to six times per calendar year. Letters of up to 550 words are allowed. The editor may edit for style and libel.

DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial submissions (including letters to the editor) for the upcoming issue is the 23rd of each month. Editorial items may be submitted to: bill@lyndentribune.com. For advertising information and deadlines, please contact Mitze Kester at mitze@lyndentribune.com or call 360.354.4444.

Sudden Valley Fire Station closure update

Editor,

With Fire Chief Mitch Nolze's permission, I'm sharing his thoughtful response below on Feb. 21 to my inquiry re: the closure of our Sudden Valley Fire Station.

Unfortunately, the news is sad and worrisome. Summer will be here soon and we all need to do as much as we can now to lower our personal and

community risk from wildfires and other emergencies.

Please email me at judy999sv@gmail.com and/or join our new Facebook group called SV Emergency Prep Team to offer your support and learn more about ways that we can each reduce our risk of disaster, particularly from wildfires.

Everything we can do will help.

*Judith White
Sudden Valley*

Fire Chief Mitch Nolze's email:

Thank you for reaching out and I understand your concern. Unfortunately, our station suf-

fered catastrophic damage that likely will exceed \$200,000 in damage and is not operable for response crews.

We are working with our insurance carrier and our board of commissioners to determine the best plan to restore the facility.

The facility had a near-future remodel planned and we are exploring our options to accelerate that project, in order to not waste time or money on re-renovating when a large majority of the fire station has been demolished on the interior due to the extensive water damage already.

I wish I had a better estimate,

but the best I can offer is at least several more months.

In the meantime, our Geneva fire station is fully staffed as Sudden Valley's station was, and that station is meeting the response objectives of the Fire Authority, although on a slightly extended response time of course due to distance.

If you would like a more in-depth discussion, please let me know so I can provide more information, photos, a tour, etc. to help provide context to the difficult situation.

*Mitch Nolze
Fire Chief
South Whatcom Fire Authority*

Submitting articles of interest

SVCA members are encouraged to submit articles of interest for inclusion in the Views. Member submitted articles should focus on areas of interest to the Sudden Valley community.

Opinions, complaints, and politicking belong in the Letters to the Editor, and will not run as a member feature article.

Articles promoting a vendor's services, or advertisements disguised as articles, will not be accepted. The Views has a separate mechanism for advertising a business, and that is where such information should be kept.

However, to provide fair and equal access, consecutive submissions by a member will not be permitted.

In other words, members who have already had an article published may not submit an article for the following issue.

Marina advisory vote debate at Feb. 8 SVCA meeting

By Linda Bradley
SVCA Board Secretary

Last November, an advisory vote was placed on the agenda regarding the wet slips at the Marina. Clearly stated in the voting materials was the following language:

Advisory votes, unlike binding votes on ballot measures, do not require the board of directors to take specific action. The board of directors will consider the following advisory votes as part of its deliberative process in capital planning and funding decisions.

When the board met on Feb. 8 for discussion and voting on the 2024 marina fee schedule there was considerable debate as to what was required of the board to do, and how

they should be required to vote. Several audience members indicated that the board needed to follow the advisory vote.

Stipulation One: The board was not required to take any specific action. Any number of options existed for the board to decide. The board could have chosen to reject the 2024 schedule all together and vote to keep rates unchanged in 2024. Another option would have been to charge all wet slip renters the \$1,200 in the advisory measure. A third option was to modify the schedule in a manner to demonstrate that the advisory vote was given consideration.

Stipulation Two: The board did consider the advisory vote in its deliberative process. The sug-

gestion in the measure was considered and the board voted to amend it and the rates. The duties and responsibilities of the board regarding the advisory vote have been met. The advisory vote was not a binding vote like other measures of the Association and this was stated in the voting materials.

When the marina schedule was presented, the general manager had already modified the \$1,200 amount to \$600 for all wet slip renters. During discussion, the full \$1,200 amount was approved to be charged to non-resident renters. While all member wet slip renters pay toward CRRRF each year this is not the case of any non-member renter.

The discussion of us-

ing a use fee for funding the increase does not follow the SVCA Bylaws. Article III, Section 20. Use Fees. Use fees may be levied against members in amounts to be determined by the board for services which benefit specific members, including fees for use of amenities or facilities, recreational fees, trash service fees and other special fees. Such fees may be levied against those members determined by the board to benefit from or otherwise take advantage of the services or benefits so provided. These fees are an operational fee while clearly the advisory vote referred to the capital reserves.

Since this language had been used the Board decided to fund the ad-

visory vote of \$1,200 per wet slip renters based on eighty-eight (88) slips totaling \$105,600 by transferring money from an Operations surplus which the board has the authority to do. The anticipated revenue from the advisory vote had been included in the capital funding for 2024. The Board fulfilled the amount called out in the capital budget by taking this action to ensure that the budgeted funds were placed in the CRRRF Reserves.

The proper method of increasing the needed capital revenues is to increase the CRRRF contribution to cover the \$105,600 specified each year in the 10 year spreadsheet which would

See **Debate** on 8

Submitting letters to the editor

The *Sudden Valley Views* encourages letters to the editor.

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Your address and telephone number will not be printed in the newspaper, but will be used for verification by newspaper staff.

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The *Sudden Valley Views* reserves the right to edit or refuse any letter. All columns and letters on the opinion page are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Sudden Valley Views* newspaper.



SUDDEN VALLEY VIEWS
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www.suddenvalley.com

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Board: Approves marina rate fee increase for non-residents

Continued from 1

Planning Committee is responsible for generating a three-year, five-year and a 10-year Community Plan for SVCA on an annual basis. For more information on this or any other SVCA committee, visit <https://suddenvalley.com/committee-information>.

The SVCA Board unanimously approved the proposed volunteers program. According to Jensen's Feb. 8 request for proposal approval that was included in the board's agenda packet, "we propose to create a vol-

unteer program that will enable the association to solicit community support for appropriate operational activities, while avoiding the necessity of director involvement and formal committee proceedings."

More details on this proposal in the board's Feb. 8 agenda packet, which is at the SVCA website, <https://suddenvalley.com>.

After about an hour in closed session, the SVCA board returned to unanimously approve the Teamsters collective bargaining agreement (CBA) from Jan. 1, 2024 through Dec. 31, 2026.

Following the Feb. 8 meeting, Sam Shahan resigned from the SVCA Board. According to General Manager Jo Anne Jensen, Shahan sent a resignation letter "directly to Keith McLean, the board president."

The Sudden Valley Board meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

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Valley Arts Challenge: Out My Window



By Lee Langdon
Valley Arts Group

Are you new to Sudden Valley? Or a long-time resident with an artistic leaning? Are you thinking about applying your in-born creativity to something artful? Or are you an accomplished artist, looking for community, a venue to show your art, a shared web page, and a Facebook site -- all for a pittance of a membership fee?

If you are any of the above, or someone in between, join the Valley Arts Group at our next quarterly meeting: 10 a.m. April 13 in the barn.

After our business meeting, we each share at least one piece of art, and then spend time with the featured artists. You are welcome to stop in to check us out and see each artist talk about their hanging piece on the wonderful wall in the community center. That's a wall that was upgraded considerably by members, spouses, and SV staff.

The new paint really enhances the art placed on it. We also hold a reception for the featured artists in the community center/barn.

Also, join us from 4-6 p.m. on April 20. All are welcome.

Meet the Challenge

The display in the barn usually contains the work of one artist. This quarter, we will change things up. Each member who accepts the spring challenge will be displayed on the featured artist wall in the barn.

What is the challenge? The piece needs to include a window. Show what is outside a window at home or from outside your car window, or in a SV lovely window, or a beautiful SV scene -- from a window.

With no size limitations, nor media restrictions, residents can expect a show that captures the beauty of Sudden Valley.

Keri Trine is the other featured artist. Enjoy her work as you en-

ter El Agave or as you head for golf. Keri recently moved to Sudden Valley, telling us that a weekend rental turned into a Let's Buy and Move Moment for Keri and her husband, even if it took three years to accomplish. They are Pacific Northwesters through and through, raised in Kirkland and attended WWU. She transferred to the Art Institute of Seattle where she focused on interior design, graduating at the top of her class with honors.

Art has always been central to Keri's life. In the recent past she applied art to interior design in different projects. She has always loved working with creative people such as painters, sculptors, and photographers, as she placed their pieces in interior/exterior projects.

Keri has worked on interiors for mega yachts, hotels and private residences. She has also coordinated large scale corporate events.

In our quiet beautiful natural setting, she has been inspired to move into new artistic directions. Her background in visual direction and motivation has helped inspire Keri to innovate.

She joins photos with acrylic paints to make the images more ethereal to make the colors really pop. She takes her phone hiking, dog walking with her rescue pup Hugo, and anywhere that catches her eye.

Moving to Sudden Valley has given her the creative motivation, along with a great excuse to explore nature adventurously, to create new art.

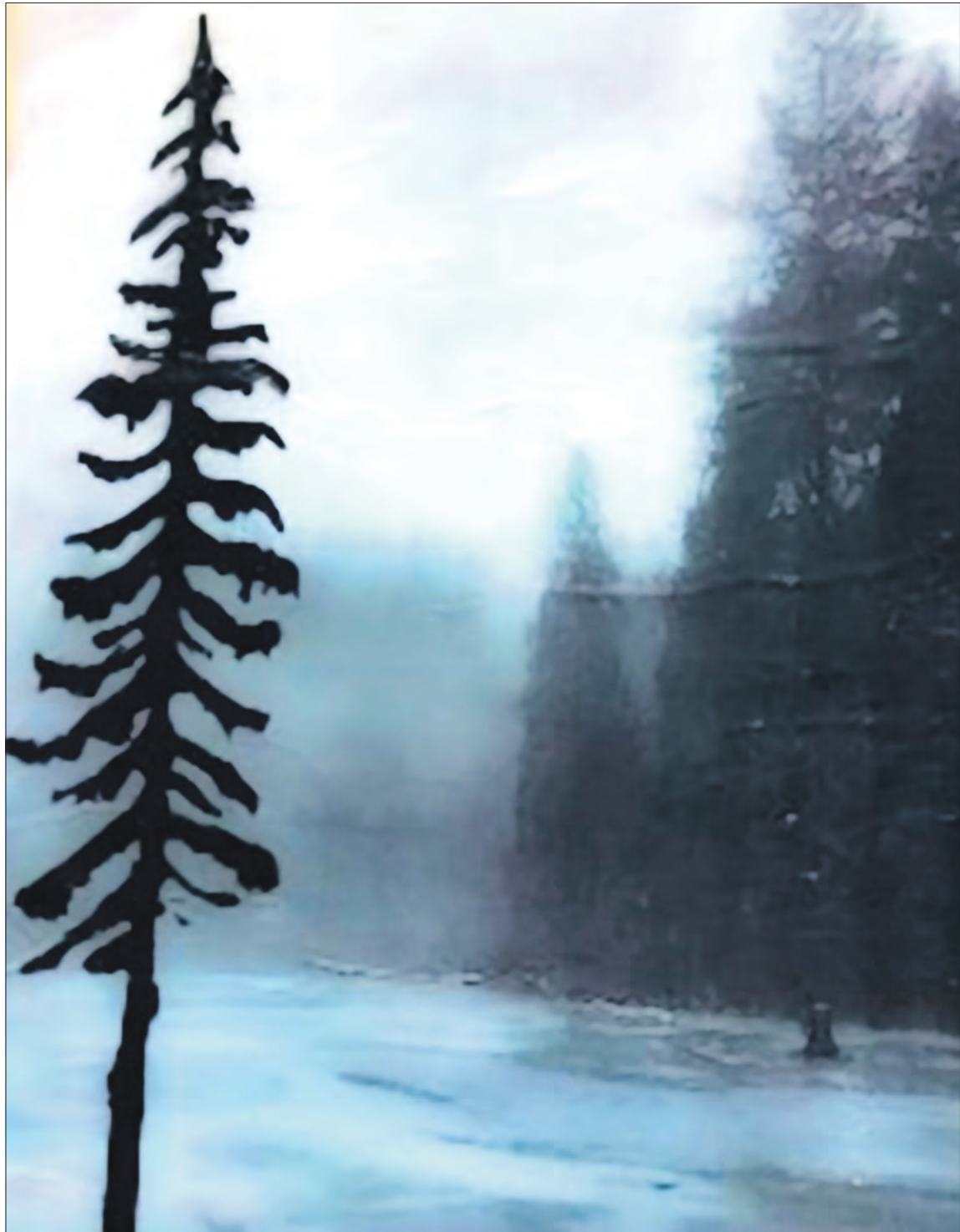
In other news, we have a slate of four officers for 2024. Voting will occur at the April meeting:

- President: Peggy Sullivan
- Vice President: Greg Martin
- Treasurer: Alice Healy
- Secretary: Karen McCormick

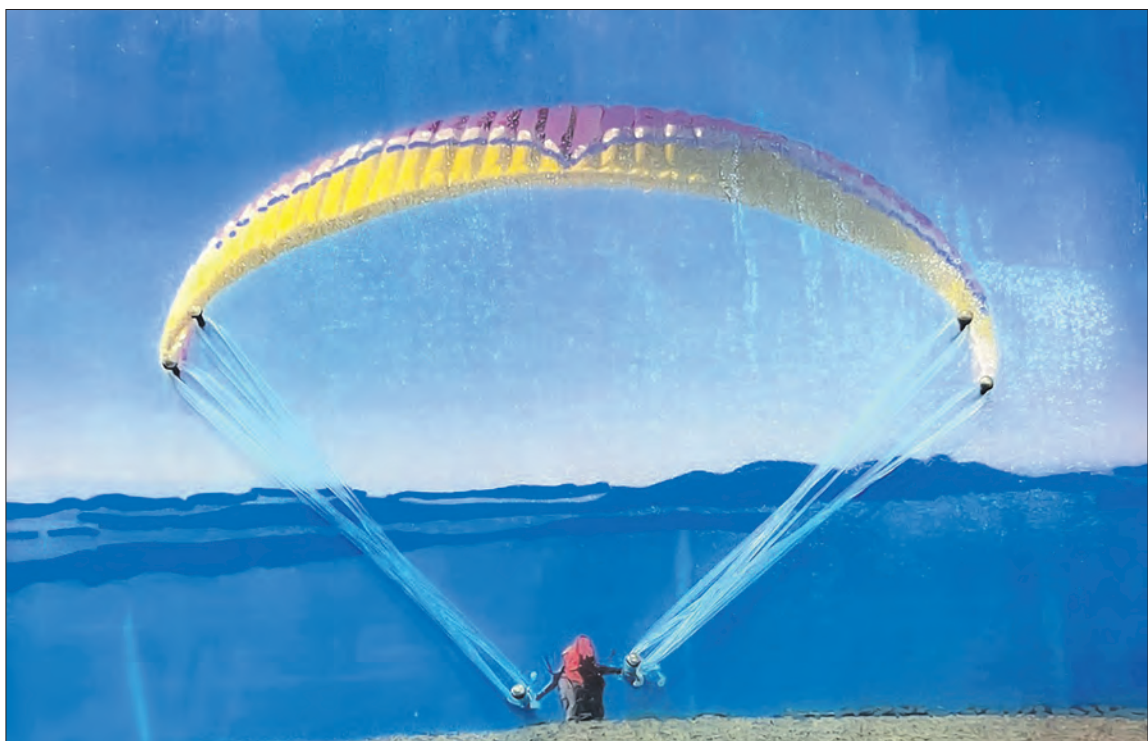
Valley Arts Group has re-started our post-pandemic really fun classes: Members share media, techniques or styles with other members.

Email Vicki Tenpas at vicbick@comcast.net, who is coordinating classes, for more info on Art Weaving or Chiaroscuro offered by Gwen Callahan or Virginia Heaven.

Want to know more about this thriving Sudden Valley group? Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyArtsGroup> or valleyartsgroup.org.



Keri Trine, Winter Art Photography, above, Mixed Media photo, acrylic on wood block. Below, Keri Trine's image, titled: Paragliding on the Lake. Mixed media photo.



AA Right- Steve Kure

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Sponsored by the South Whatcom branch of the WCLS, this event presents information about how to preserve foods with vinegar, drying, preserving in oil and alcohol, cold storage and lactic fermentation.

Make your own teas, condiments, snacks, and traditional ingredients from fresh, local food. Preserve the excess from your garden. Make favorites such as hot sauce, sauerkraut, dried fruits, and posole.

Registration is required: <https://wcls.libcal.com/event/11493488>. Event is from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20 in the Dance Barn.

Oregon Grape: It's quite the plant



By Karen Hardesty
For the Views

“Now there’s an old friend,” my botany professor would say, when we came upon salal or Oregon grape or red huckleberry. Here in Sudden Valley we are surrounded by old friends – or new friends if you are just beginning to learn the native plants found in this region.

Whether they are old friends or new, one can always discover new things and get to know those plants better. And once you know them, you can add native plants to your landscaping.

Oregon grape is one friend you’ll find very commonly growing in the dappled sunlight beneath the Douglas-fir trees. Here in the understory, Oregon grape finds the drier soil and dappled sunlight it needs. You can recognize this evergreen shrub by its shiny green holly-like leaves and, in spring, its bright yellow flower clusters. By summer and fall, some leaves show autumn colors and you’ll see the dark blue or purple grapes that give the plant its common name.

Though Oregon grape, (*Mahonia sp.*), sometimes called Oregon hollygrape, is not really a grape, it can be and has been a food source for people. The berries are edible, though seedy and sour, and contain a good deal of pectin; they can be used combined with other berries to make jelly. Native American tribes of Pacific Northwest have long used various parts of the plant for food, medicine, and dye. Oregon grape, primarily the roots, is still used for medicine; the primary active chemical constituent is called berberine.

Oregon grape plants are great for wildlife. The yellow flowers attract pollinators and provide nectar for bees, moths, butterflies, and hummingbirds; the fruits are favorites among birds such as towhees, robins, and waxwings, as well as a few mammals. But not deer. Yay. In addition to providing habitat value for wildlife, *Mahonia sp.* is valued for a soil stabilizing ground cover.

You’ll find three different species of the genus *Mahonia* are native to our area: tall Oregon grape, Low or Cascade Oregon grape and creeping Oregon grape.

Mahonia aquifolium, or tall Oregon grape, is quite common, and typically grows to between 3-6 feet tall. Tall Oregon grape was named Oregon’s state flower in 1899.

Scientific names are usually either descriptive of the plant or animal or refer to a naturalist or explorer. The species name *aquifolium* was not a descriptor I was familiar with, so I looked it up on several popular websites. But here I found a variety of explanations for the name. One site stated that *aquifolium* meant water leaf and referred to the shiny quality of the leaf; another stated that the species name meant eagle-like and referred to the hooked tip of the leaflets. But I was reminded, with further exploring, that you can’t believe everything you read on the internet. It appears that the descriptive species name is



“Now there’s an old friend,” Karen Hardesty’s botany professor would say “when we came upon salal or Oregon grape or red huckleberry.” (Photos courtesy Karen Hardesty)

derived from the Latin *acus* (needle) + *folium* (leaf).

Low Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*), grows only up to about three feet tall. Its leaves are not as shiny, nor do they look as holly-like (the leaf edges look more like a slightly serrated knife), but the yellow flowers are just as fragrant. *Mahonia nervosa* grows slowly but spreads, providing a ground cover to stabilize soils. (The species name *nervosa* also derives from Latin, and refers to the nerves or veins in the leaflets). You’ll often find Low Oregon grape with other familiar friends such as sword fern and salal.

Creeping Oregon grape (*Mahonia repens*) grows only one or

two feet tall but can grow up to six feet wide. *Mahonia repens* grows slowly, but spreads, and helps to stabilize forest soils.

The spring, the bright yellow flowers of Oregon grape should catch your eye. When you can, take a close up look at one of those flower clusters. Check for bees first. Use a hand lens or your camera macro lens, and I think you’ll be surprised to see that they look a bit like teeny little daffodils.

You can invite these Oregon grape friends to your own landscape, adding wildlife value and helping with soil stabilization.

You’ll find them easily available wherever you shop for native

plants.

-- Sources for this article are numerous, including my own memory. Some specific information

came from websites provided by National Park Service, US Forest Service, Real Gardeners Grow Natives, and Oregon State University and University of Oregon.

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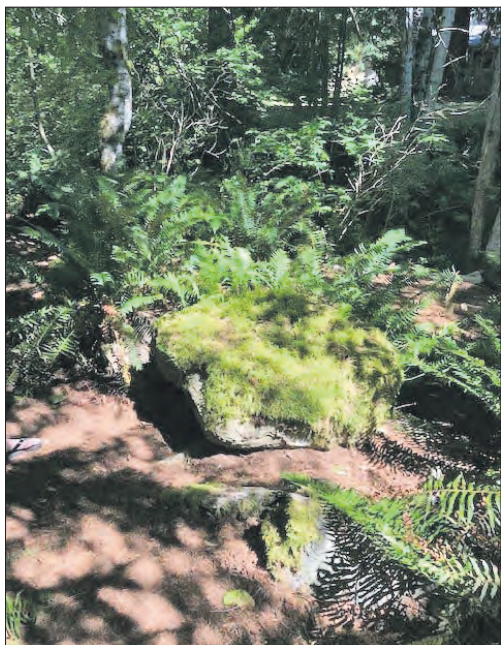
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Gardening Green, with Linda McAusland



By Cheryl Niles
For the Views

Linda Knudsen McAusland participated in Washington State University's Whatcom County Extension's Gardening Green sustainable landscaping course in April 2023 while undertaking a major landscape restoration project on her new property, purchased about two years ago, in Sudden Valley.

Cheryl Lovato Niles, the course instructor, followed up with Linda in August to learn how her landscape projects are going and how well the course has served her.

McAusland was drawn to her new because of the green belt, which surrounds her on three sides, and the creek which runs along the edge of her property and her goal has always been to steward the land. But the first steps towards that goal were daunting.

Over the years, garbage had been dumped in the forest on the one-half acre parcel and she had to begin by hauling four trailer loads of trash out. And numerous invasive plants had spread widely in the untended woods.

Removing those was her second step. She said that Herb Robert, yellow archangel, holly and Himalayan BlackBerry "were everywhere on the property."

In the process of clearing the trash and those invasives out McAusland discovered things that she didn't know about her new place, both bad and good. McAusland knew that she had a drainage issue, in heavy rains, a small river formed across her property. The discovery of a filled-in pond, complete with a buried pond tarp, helped to explain why. Now that she's removed it, McAusland hopes that the small meadow area won't stay so waterlogged in the rainy season. A more delightful discovery was made when

she revealed an area of mossy landscape rocks and ferns that she's dubbed the fern grotto.

What made you want to learn more about sustainable landscaping practices?

McAusland is motivated to practice sustainable landscaping because she wants to be a good steward to what she has.

"I want to live in a forest and to be surrounded by nature and wild critters," McAusland said.

McAusland expressed concern that people often aren't aware of how they're altering the environment, sometimes trading short term pleasures for long term loss. She offered butterfly bush as an example.

People plant it because it's pretty without realizing the harm it can cause to the broader environment.

(Butterfly bush is considered a noxious weed in Washington State because it spreads aggressively forming dense thickets along river plants and gravel bars.

Ironically butterfly bush doesn't offer habitat for juvenile butterflies and it displaces native plants that do, resulting in a net loss of butterfly habitat).

McAusland said she wants to be empowered to make positive choices.

"I don't want to do more damage," she said.

Now that McAusland has cleared the land and pushed back the invasives, her next steps are to do a plant inventory so that she knows what she has, and then to enhance her property with more wildlife-friendly native plants.

Meanwhile, she knows that she'll need to work to keep the gains she's made. Fortunately, McAusland has developed a pleasant maintenance routine that helps.

A morning stroll around the property with a cup of coffee gives her a regular opportunity to weed out the inevitable holly starts, Herb Robert seedlings, and other invasives. The 11 cubic yards of mulch she's spread over the ground will also help keep weed seeds from germinating.

While McAusland celebrates the forest and revels in the many varieties of fern on her property, sword, wood and maidenhair to name a few, she also likes to keep a few non-native ornamentals in pots.

"There's no reason you can't have an

ornamental flower garden so long as you know what's invasive and avoid planting it," McAusland said.

What do you think was the most helpful thing about the Gardening Green course?

McAusland has taken advantage of several opportunities to learn more about sustainable landscaping including learning more from the Homeowner Incentive Program (HIP), the City of Bellingham's Native Plant Stewardship Course.

McAusland said that the Gardening Green course as well as these others help her to keep learning and to fill in the blanks.

"Every time I go through a class, I'm able to dig deeper and get answers to questions I didn't have before," McAusland said. "Every time I learn something new."

McAusland said another thing "that was really helpful was all of the recommended online resources and getting the laboratory soil test done and learning how to test your drainage." But the most helpful things were the conversations with other participants and being on the site tour during the last session of the course.

"It was really helpful to have other people's eyes seeing my property," McAusland said.

What advice do you have for other people interested in adopting greener landscaping practices?

McAusland offers three key pieces of advice,

- Be prepared to face challenges to your current concept of the right way to do things
- Understand that things don't happen overnight - approach it as a process towards a long-term goal
- Work in increments.

"The other thing I would say is get informed," McAusland said. "Take advantage of resources like [Gardening Green], and HIP if you're in the watershed, and the City of Bellingham's programs, too. Go and learn with other people. It's so much nicer to be in a group because 1) you're not going to feel quite so overwhelmed and 2) you can learn from either other - that really makes it kind of fun. Plus, you also realize you don't have to know everything because somebody else might know it."



McAusland is motivated to practice sustainable landscaping because she wants to be a good steward to what she has. "I want to live in a forest and to be surrounded by nature and wild critters," McAusland said. (Courtesy photos)

Debate: Marine advisory vote at SVCA Board's Feb. 8 meeting

Continued from 4

amount to a modest CRRRF assessment increase per month over the six year period so that when the docks needed replace-

ment in 2029-2030 the funds would be there. No special assessment of \$9 per month for six years.

A reasonable amount combined with an Operational

increase well within the 7% maximum could provide the funding. The 2024 Reserve Study shows planned projects for each year including the expensive wet slip replacement in 2029 funded

by modest CRRRF increases.

Our governing documents describe the method of funding capital reserves and is spelled out in Bylaws Article III, Section 19 (a)(ii) Annual dues and

assessments shall be used for the general purposes of promoting the recreation, health, safety, welfare, common benefit and enjoyment of the owners, including maintenance of the Association's real and personal property, all of which may be more specifically authorized from time to time by the board.

State law RCW 64.90.525 budgets, assessments and special assessments includes Item 2(d)

(2) The budget must include:
(a) The projected income to the association by category.

(b) The projected common expenses and those specially allocated expenses that are subject to being budgeted, both by category.

(c) The amount of the assessments per unit and the date the assessments are due.

(d) The current amount of regular assessments budgeted for contribution to the reserve account.

This year the board will review CRRRF funding and how to accomplish the additional funding needed for the wet slip replacement project.

Reviewing the 2024 reserve study and the recommendations made to achieve future capital replacements including the wet slips without need for special assessments.

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FINANCIALS

Sudden Valley Community Association
Operations - By Department
December 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023
CURRENT MONTH

Whole \$

UNAUDITED Department	Actual Revenue	Revenue B / (W)	Actual Salary Benefits	Salary & Benefits B / (W)	Actual Other Expense *	Other Exp B / (W)*	Net Income / (Loss) *	Net B / (W)*
ACC / Security	6,291	6,124	-	6,962	78,285	(51,869)	(71,994)	(38,783)
Accounting	2,080	(1,521)	37,110	(2,858)	9,561	2,417	(44,591)	(1,962)
Administration	218	76	50,799	(1,768)	11,072	5,603	(61,653)	3,911
Common Costs	580	(2,340)	-	-	30,055	(6,708)	(29,475)	(9,048)
Facilities	4,368	(384)	-	4,905	20,345	(7,962)	(15,977)	(3,441)
Maintenance	-	(83)	53,655	(21,819)	28,887	(7,375)	(82,542)	(29,277)
Subtotal	13,537	1,872	141,564	(14,578)	178,205	(65,894)	(306,232)	(78,600)
Golf	35,192	19,158	78,357	(3,562)	71,155	(50,849)	(114,320)	(35,253)
Marina	(402)	(402)	1	(1)	999	831	(1,402)	428
Subtotal	48,327	20,628	219,922	(18,141)	250,359	(115,912)	(421,954)	(113,425)
Rec/ Pools/ Parks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Assmt Earned	446	-	-	-	-	-	446	-
Curr Yr Bad Debts Activity	446	446	-	-	-	-	446	446
Net Special Assmt Dues	1,532	413	15,974	(6,824)	6,344	2,891	(20,786)	(3,520)
Rec/ Pools/ Parks	1,978	859	15,974	(6,824)	6,344	2,891	(20,340)	(3,074)
Subtotal Rec/ Pools/ Parks	50,305	21,487	235,896	(24,965)	256,703	(113,021)	(442,294)	(116,499)
Ops Dues Earned	209,257	-	-	-	-	-	209,257	-
Curr Yr Bad Debts Activity	(1,662)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,662)	-
Net Ops Dues	207,595	9,073	-	-	-	-	207,595	9,073
Net Operations	257,900	30,560	235,896	(24,965)	256,703	(113,021)	(234,699)	(107,426)
Net BOD Approved UDR Activity for Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Firewise	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hazardous Tree Removal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Operations with Board Approved UDR	257,900	30,560	235,896	(24,965)	256,703	(113,021)	(234,699)	(107,426)
Other Operating Activity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UDR Activity	6,215	-	-	-	185	-	6,030	-
AR Accrual - Prior Year Reversal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AR Accrual - Current Year	43,985	-	-	-	-	-	43,985	-
Vacation Liability Accrual	-	-	-	-	2,188	-	(2,188)	-
Total Other Operating Activity	50,200	-	-	-	2,373	-	47,827	-
Grand Total Operations Activity	308,100	30,560	235,896	(24,965)	259,076	(113,021)	(186,872)	(107,426)

* Excludes Depreciation
B / (W) = Better / (Worse) Than Budget

Sudden Valley Community Association
Operations - By Department
January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023
YEAR TO DATE

Whole \$

UNAUDITED Department	Actual Revenue	Revenue B / (W)	Actual Salary Benefits	Salary & Benefits B / (W)	Actual Other Expense *	Other Exp B / (W)*	Net Income / (Loss) *	Net B / (W)*
ACC / Security	66,872	(10,878)	-	89,775	520,498	(203,808)	(453,626)	(124,911)
Accounting	28,478	(14,722)	346,903	(10,248)	89,555	(9,030)	(407,980)	(34,000)
Administration	9,436	7,736	359,645	121,185	182,737	(66,406)	(532,946)	62,515
Common Costs	84,101	49,051	-	-	420,021	(81,067)	(335,920)	(32,016)
Facilities	62,620	5,596	7,364	39,965	187,538	(29,083)	(132,282)	16,478
Maintenance	-	(1,000)	313,093	(14,987)	151,528	(7,451)	(464,621)	(23,438)
Subtotal	251,507	35,783	1,027,005	225,690	1,551,877	(396,845)	(2,327,375)	(135,372)
Golf	1,468,110	326,480	776,252	25,915	445,145	(113,233)	246,713	239,162
Marina	188,297	21,413	-	-	12,329	10,216	175,968	31,629
Subtotal	1,907,914	383,676	1,803,257	251,605	2,009,351	(499,862)	(1,904,694)	135,419
Rec/ Pools/ Parks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Assmt Earned	182,249	-	-	-	-	-	182,249	-
Curr Yr Bad Debts Activity	3,908	-	-	-	-	-	3,908	-
Net Special Assmt Dues	186,157	13,786	-	-	-	-	186,157	13,786
Rec/ Pools/ Parks	49,840	9,062	271,954	5,632	144,511	(7,414)	(366,625)	7,280
Subtotal Rec/ Pools/ Parks	235,997	22,848	271,954	5,632	144,511	(7,414)	(180,468)	21,066
Subtotal Operations before Ops Dues	2,143,911	406,524	2,075,211	257,237	2,153,862	(507,276)	(2,085,162)	156,485
Ops Dues Earned	2,365,769	-	-	-	-	-	2,365,769	-
Curr Yr Bad Debts Activity	(48,978)	-	-	-	-	-	(48,978)	-
Net Ops Dues	2,316,791	75,144	-	-	-	-	2,316,791	75,144
Net Operations	4,460,702	481,668	2,075,211	257,237	2,153,862	(507,276)	231,629	231,629
Net BOD Approved UDR Activity for Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Firewise	-	-	-	-	23,769	-	(23,769)	-
Hazardous Tree Removal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Operations with Board Approved UDR	4,460,702	481,668	2,075,211	257,237	2,177,631	(507,276)	207,860	231,629
Other Operating Activity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UDR Activity	97,641	-	-	-	14,588	-	83,053	-
AR Accrual - Prior Year Reversal	(46,750)	-	-	-	-	-	(46,750)	-
AR Accrual - Current Year	43,985	-	-	-	-	-	43,985	-
Vacation Liability Accrual	-	-	-	-	2,619	-	(2,619)	-
Total Other Operating Activity	94,876	-	-	-	17,207	-	77,669	-
Grand Total Operations Activity	4,555,578	481,668	2,075,211	257,237	2,194,838	(507,276)	285,529	231,629

* Excludes Depreciation
B / (W) = Better / (Worse) Than Budget

Variance Requests

Continued from 1

com) under the Commonly Requested Forms tab, in the Architectural Control section.

Printed forms are available at the Welcome Center located at 1850 Lake Whatcom Blvd. (the first right after entering Gate 2). To have time to assemble the agenda and time for the ACC to visit properties, the deadline for submitting requests is noon on the Thursday one week prior to each meeting.

Tree/Vegetation Trimming and/or Removal Requests will be covered in the April issue of The Views.



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Community Emergency Response Team: What's in a CERT pack?

Last month, we gave a brief description of the community emergency response team, known as CERT. It's a body of volunteers who are trained in some basic skills necessary in responding to emergencies.

These skills include working as a team, assessing hazards, triage, emergency first aid and how to set up and run a treatment area, as well as working within the organization system used by professional first responders.

Disasters can happen at any time, so CERT volunteers have to be ready to act, and that means having some supplies immediately available.

At the end of their training, CERTs receive a backpack with a few essential supplies, which they can then supplement as they choose.

CERTs may have to work in poor visibility, perhaps with limited or obstructed headroom.

A high-visibility vest, hard hat, eye protection and heavy gloves are always part of the CERT kit.

So is a flashlight and some basic medical supplies, such as masks, rubber gloves, alcohol wipes, gauze pads and triangular bandages. Depending on the situation, a small pry bar might be needed to open a stuck door.

Many CERTs carry a special tool for shutting off gas and water valves, and a gadget for identifying live electrical points. A notebook and pencil are essential. After that, the contents of your pack are limited only by your imagination and budget, and the need to carry it. Packs may contain water, energy bars, emergency clothing, water purification tablets, a radio, spare batteries, and disinfectant wipes.

Nobody can carry everything they could possibly need in an emergency. But if you have a selection of essential supplies in a convenient, easily carried pack, you are better off than if you start looking for stuff you need after the lights go out and the ground starts shaking. That's the idea behind the CERT backpack.

In the March meeting we will talk about essentials to include in an emergency backpack, and some other items you will find useful. The next meeting will be March 19 at 6:30 p.m. The venue is still TBD because the fire station will not be available for months.

For more information, contact Kathleen Laughlin at 2tlbh@comcast.net.



Cert packs may contain water, energy bars, emergency clothing, water purification tablets, a radio, spare batteries, and disinfectant wipes. (SVV)



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Dr. Chaddock is a western Washington native. He attended WWU and is a 2003 doctoral Graduate of the University of Washington School of Dentistry.



SUDDEN VALLEY NEWS BRIEFS

Learn more about plants

Please join SV Naturalists not affiliated with SVCA for classes this spring. We hope to offer classes exploring plants, birds, native plants and native wildlife throughout the year.

Calendars are still being put together; additional classes may be added if we see the interest is

there.

Please send us an email to receive updated information and to save a spot for the class.

Send your email to SVNaturalists@gmail.com.

Spring schedule

Exploring Plants 1 - Intro to Botany and plant ways at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 23.

Exploring plants 2 - intro to common native plants of SV at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 6.

To share your photos, questions, or information with other nature enthusiasts in Sudden Valley, please be invited to join the Facebook group SV Naturalists.

Improve the local environment with native plants

Planting native species brings a multitude of benefits to the environment, especially in specific ecosystems like the Lake Whatcom watershed.

In addition to attracting pollinators, other benefits include improving water quality and fish habitat, helping to control soil erosion, and reducing the need for maintenance.

To encourage the use of native plants, the Whatcom Conservation District is holding a native plant sale on Saturday, March 16 at Pioneer Park in Ferndale.

All species will be available for individual purchase and there will be other exhibitors and vendors from around Whatcom County.

This sale is a great opportunity to purchase low-cost native plants to get them in the ground before the growing season begins.

Learn more at whatcomcd.org/native-plant-sale, Pollinator.org and also at https://www.whatcomcounty.us/4231/Neighborhood-Native-Landscaping-Program.



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www.SuddenValley.com





CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please email mitze@lyndentribune.com or call (360) 354-4444.

Deadline: 23rd of each month
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Marina Launch Dock installation begins

Beginning Wednesday, March 6, the launch ramp at Sudden Valley's Marina will be closed for the installation of the new launch dock. No boats will be able to launch from the Sudden Valley Marina until the dock is installed.


We expect that the launch area will reopen at the end of March, when the installation of the new dock is complete.

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Come & Play at the SVCA Community Center!



Planning a party or event?


Rent the Dance Barn at the Community Center.

Just hanging out?

Check out pool equipment from the front desk and play a game of pool in the Game Lounge.



See all of the rooms available for rent at SuddenValley.com or call us at 360-734-6430.



Sudden Valley Community Association acronyms

ACC - Architectural Control Committee
 AGM - Annual General Meeting
 BOD - Board of Directors
 BMP - Best Management Practices
 CC&Rs - Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions
 CIP - Capital Improvement Plan
 CRRRF - Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund
 CTK - Christ the King Church
 DNR - Washington State Department of Natural Resources

DOE - Washington State Department of Ecology
 DRC - Document Review Committee
 EIS - Emergency Information System
 FTE - Full Time Employees
 GIS - Geographic Information System
 GM - Sudden Valley's General Manager
 GMA - Growth Management Act
 HOA - Homeowner's Association
 LAMIRD - Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development
 LRPC - Long Range Planning Committee
 LWPG - Lake Whatcom Policy Group

LWWSW - Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District
 MOU - Memorandum of Understanding
 MPR - Multi-Purpose Room
 N&E - Nominations and Elections
 NPDES - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
 OPS - Operations
 PSE - Puget Sound Energy
 PUD - Planned Unit Development
 RCW - Revised Code of Washington
 REC - Parks & Recreation Department
 RFP - Request for Proposals
 RFQ - Request for Qualifications

ROW - Right-of-Way
 SGM - Special General Meeting
 SOP - Standard Operating Procedure
 SVCA - Sudden Valley Community Association
 UDR - Undesignated Reserves
 WCLS - Whatcom County Library System
 WCOG - Whatcom Council of Governments
 WCSO - Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
 WDFW - Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
 WTA - Whatcom Transportation Authority
 WUCIOA - RCW 64.90 - The WA Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act





Rose

This month's pet of the month is Rose, submitted by Terah Hartdegen.

Introducing Rose Gold Darco of the Darco family. Rose is a Skagit Humane Society rescue. She enjoys dental chews and long walks in Gate 13. You may find her enjoying a game of fetch at the Sudden Valley marina dog park. Every night Rose gets tucked in to bed with her pillow and blanket by her favorite human.

So when you see Rose out and about with her peeps, make sure and say hi!

Do you have a pet of the month? If you think that your pet is ready for prime time, please send a high resolution photo with your pet's name, your name, and a brief description to office@suddenvalley.com

KEEP INFORMED

The following are the Sudden Valley Community Association's various boards and committees. To learn more about each, visit: <https://suddenvalley.com/committee-information>

- Board of Directors
- Architectural Control Committee (ACC)
- Document Review Committee
- Finance Committee
- Long-Range Planning Committee
- Nominations & Elections Committee
- Appeals Committee

It's time for financial spring cleaning

By Rhea Booth

It's time for spring cleaning. And just as you may decide to tidy up your physical surroundings, you might want to spruce up your financial environment, too.

For starters, think about how you clean windows to help you see the world more clearly. You can also bring more focus to your financial vision, such your overall strategy to whether it's still And just as your home by of duplicate can improve by selling investments, identical mutual using the pro-diversify your portfolio.

Also, similar to how gardeners plant flowers and vegetables in the spring, you can plant seeds of opportunity by owning investments that could provide sufficient growth potential for your goals.

Finally, just as spring cleaning may include getting rid of dangers such as toxic chemicals, you'll want to protect yourself against threats to your income that could derail your financial future.

Spring is a great time for brightening your physical space — and your financial one, too.



as reviewing investment determine appropriate. you de-clutter getting rid objects, you your portfolio redundant such as nearly funds, and ceeds to help

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SUDDEN VALLEY HOUSES & CONDOS Rental Listings

No smoking of any kind, no drugs. Applicants must have good credit. Call for application. Application fee - \$35 single, \$45 married.

Far Summit Place Waterfront: Fully Furnished. Great Whatcom lake-front home! Open floor plan w/ vaulted ceilings, hardwood & lots of skylights. Terraced decking, fire pit & sandy beach. Master suite w/jetted tub & walk-in closet. Fireplace in living & family room area; eat-in kitchen & 2-car garage. Rent \$4200

Cowgill Ave: 4-bedroom 2 bath house located near I-5, Fairhaven and Happy Valley neighborhood, just like new! All brand new inside w/large family room, living room, dining room; fireplace, new laminate floors throughout, new doors and windows, new tub and shower plus new walk-in shower. Extra space for parking and carport. Rent \$2900

One level duplex: 2-bedroom 1 bath. All laminate floors. Close to all shopping centers and I-5. Water and sewer included. Rent \$1600

SOLD



2040 Steelhead Way Lynden Located in the new community of Kamm Creek, this brand new home sits on a private lot that is surrounded on two sides by green space! 3bds 2 full ba, open concept one-floor living, vinyl plank floors, AC, a spacious kitchen with quartz counters, extra large 8' island with eating bar, pantry, mud room, and much more. Fully covered back patio that has amazing views of the designated open space, the Twin Sisters and the gorgeous mountain ranges. **\$569,999**

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