

August 2023

Happy Birthday, Sudden Valley

By Jo Anne Jensen

SVCA General Manager

Sudden Valley was first incorporated on Aug. 10, 1973, forming the organization we know today as the Sudden Valley Community Association. This means that the Association will be 50 years old this month, giving us an opportunity for reflection, not only about the past, but also about the future.

What was Sudden Valley like 50 years ago? Sales brochures and ads tell us that it was marketed as a resort community, with most residents establishing vacation homes.

The original growth trees had been selectively logged, and most of the forest we enjoy today was just beginning to re-establish itself. Only a few lots had been developed, with the first clusters of homes being built in Division 1, Gate 3.

There were unique and distinctive common area structures: a striking semi-circular marina dock, a glass-walled rotunda, a romantic covered bridge, characterful barns converted to recreational use, and even a quirky treehouse located, of course, in Treehouse Park.

Members drove up from Seattle and down from Canada. While some of the original features are gone, many remain, and are being maintained so that the now much larger community can enjoy them.

Today, the Sudden Valley community is mostly primary residences, and there are a lot of them. For 2024, we project that there will be 3,121 dues-paying lots, with 2,739 of them (87.8%) being developed.

Our homes are varied in style, age and size, reflecting the intent of Architectural Control Policy, "to achieve diverse architectural designs while maintaining a high degree of sensitivity to the natural environ-

Various sources give the Sudden Valley population as about 7,000 or less than 3% of the greater Bellingham area.

Over the years, the entire Bellingham area has grown from 89,700 residents in 1973, to 228,831 in 2021, so that we now enjoy the conveniences of living near a small city while enjoying our more rural environ-

While the size and appearance of Sudden Valley has changed over the past 50 years, the foundations of our community have stayed largely the same.

For example, SVCA still has the following responsibilities, as originally established in the Articles of Incorporation:

- To hold title in trust to the common areas within Sudden Valley;
- · To collect assessments to provide for maintenance and operation of the common areas and facilities; and
- To engage in social and community activities.

Another constant has been the focus of



DDEN VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Join us for the 50th Anniversary of our Sudden Valley Community Association's incorporation and a fun-packed full day of excitement and festivities, perfect for the entire family.

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7:30A AT A.M. BEACH X KAYAK / CANOE / PADDLEBOARD REGATTA



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the community on respecting and enjoying the uncommon beauty of our setting. Whether your preference is for the golf course, marina, pools, trails, or parks, residents like to get outside, and they do it frequently. In the last community survey (conducted in 2020), residents reported

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• 50% walk a trail at least once a month, and 30% do it weekly.

45% visit a beach at least once a month, and 21% do it weekly.

• 43% visit a park at least once a month, and 23% do it weekly.

Having considered the past and the present, what about the future? While no one can reliably predict what the future will bring, the mission and vision statements of the Association inspire us to move forward guided by both our shared responsibility for stewardship and our appreciation of the natural world.

By considering these touchstones as each decision is made, I feel confident that Sudden Valley will continue to prosper.

I hope you enjoy this commemorative issue of the Views. It was put together by some of the many amazing volunteers who contribute their time to SVCA.

I'd like to especially thank Azam Nadar, Megan Blight, Brian Kruhlak, and Heather Stevenson for their contributions of photos and other historical material.

Volunteers and staff have worked hard to make the 50th Anniversary Celebrations memorable.

I look forward to meeting you there! I'd like to thank the 50th Anniversary Committee: Sam Shahan, Sonia Voldt, Anne Cope, Sunny Palmtag, Chris Weitzel, Kolleen Mitchell, and Liz Vidal.

A very special thanks to Joshua Bowens for his fantastic promotional graphics.

Last, but not least, thanks to staff for going above and beyond in helping to prepare for the big event: Mike Brock and the hard-working crew in maintenance, all the cheerful people on the Recreation Team, and SVCA's multi-tasking experts, the Administrative Team.

www.suddenvalley.com

12 pages | Volume 49 | Number 8

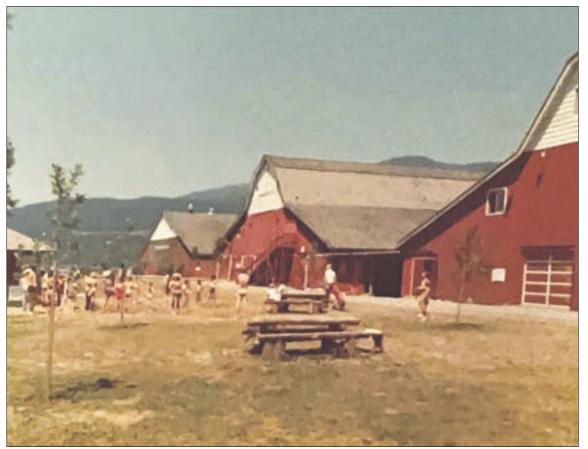
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A trip back to The Ranch



Before it became Sudden Valley, this area was a ranch owned by the Glen Corning family. Imagine Sudden Valley as one large picturesque ranch - hills and valleys, pasture where the golf course is now, sweeping down to the beaches of Lake Whatcom, looking out on Reveille Island, and Austin Creek running past the main house. Anyone who spends some time at the Adult Center, the original ranch house, can't help but speculate on what it used to be like. Glen Corning, a logger, rancher, aviator, and land developer, bought the property from Banning Austin. Austin's father had homesteaded the land. The Cornings sold the Ranch in 1968, for \$1.8 million to Sudden Valley, Inc., in care of K.A. Sanwick, Jr.





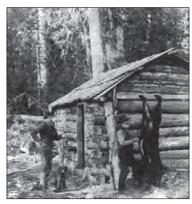


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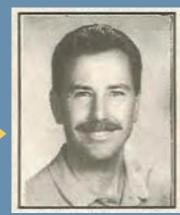




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Community life





Stevenson Family Reunion in 2018 at the Sudden Valley Marina, top photo. **The Stevensons** are a family with 5 generations of **Sudden Valley** owners. At right, having fun was the main item at the valley's 1983 Halloween party and some 250 persons of all ages obliged. Dancing, food, costumes and a festive spirit sparked this large community gathering. Far right, Sarah **Holmstrom ad**dresses Sudden Valley Community Association members in

2018. (Halloween photo courtesy Glenn Akramoff)





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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.



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VIEWS

SUBMISSIONS

SV Views P.O. Box 153 Lynden, WA 98264 Fax to: (360) 354-4445 Email: bill@lyndentribune.com

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.

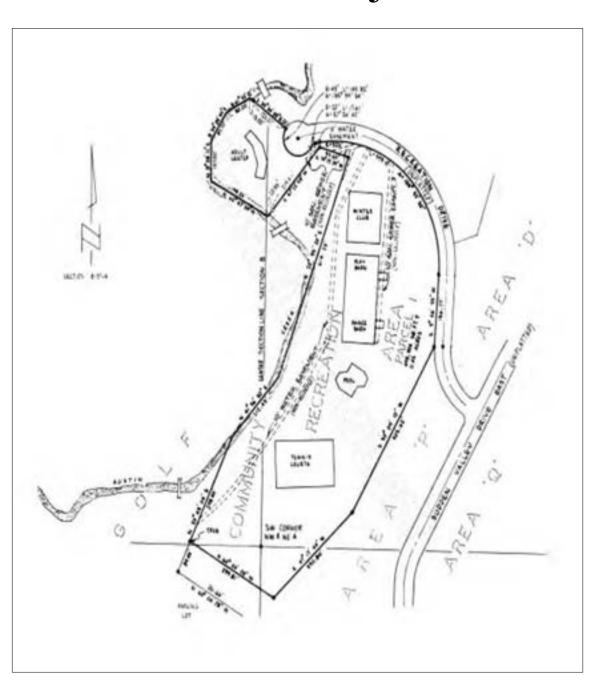
DEADLINES

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

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 recreation corridor



The Sudden Valley recreation corridor is located in Gate 2 of the Sudden Valley Community Association, and encompasses the land area and facilities housing the sports fields, the barns, the square, and the adult center. SVCA acquired the recreation corridor pursuant to an uncontested developer obligation to the owners of all lots and condominiums within Sudden Valley. The restrictive covenants declare all recreation corridor land - and buildings constructed on it - be dedicated "exclusively to those administrative, recreational, maintenance, and/or community functions, authorized from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Sudden Valley Community Association. In a 1991 flashback, below, a challenging game it was for Allan Douglas, left, and Jeff Saunders, right, with their sons Brad and Tyler Douglas, and Christopher Saunders (with helmet) on the Valley Ice Rink.



Submitting letters to the editor

The Sudden Valley Views encourages letters to the editor.

However, submissions must refrain from attacking individuals without providing supporting documentation or a rational and legally defensible justification.

Letters should be emailed to bill@lyndentribune.com and should not exceed $550 \ words$.

Your letter must include your full name, complete address and telephone number.

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

Neither unsigned letters nor letters containing personal attacks of a libelous nature will be published.

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
Sudden Valley Community Association
4 Clubhouse Circle, Bellingham, WA 98229
www.suddenvalley.com

Administration Offices / Member Services are in the Welcome Center, just inside the Gate 2 entrance

Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for remote assistance (phone or email) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. for in-person assistance, Monday through Friday

Administration Offices/ Member Services: 360-734-6430
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Recreation Center Front Desk: (360) 366-8450

Director of Golf: Brian Kruhlak, bkruhlak@suddenvalley.com, Ext. 332

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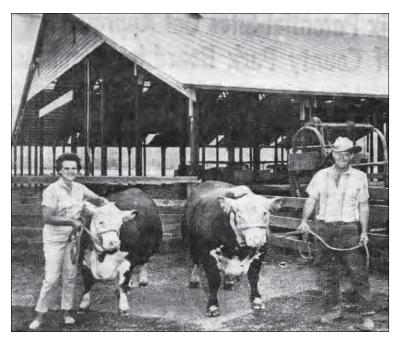
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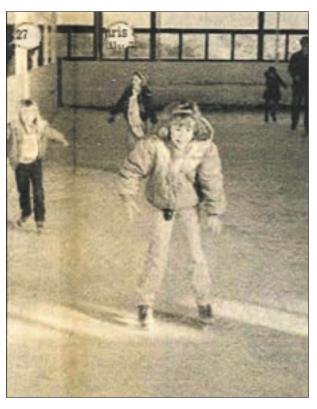
Cool memories from Ice Barn



Cattleman of Year honors due: Glen Corning, 2145 Lake Whatcom Blvd., will be honored Sunday at a public barbecue at his ranch as Whatcom County Cattleman of the Year. Corning is pictured with his wife, Betty, and two of the Corning polled Hereford show stock, C. R. Dom I and C. R. loyal Duke, a 2-year-old bull. In background is a new 100 by 130-foot barn to be used Sunday. Later, it will be used as a training barn for both horses and cattle and for shows. Corning has been a cattleman 16 years.







Ice skating is great this winter in Sudden Valley's ice barn. Pictured at left in 1984, enjoying the ice were Kristy MacLeod, 5, her mother, and Robby, age 4. The sunny cold days have brought out many skaters for a brisk afternoon. Pictured at right in an undated photograph, the ice rink is ever popular, especially on sunny afternoons. Katrina Knutzen, 7, at right, and Leah Rogers, 6, found the ice in good shape for practicing.

Submitting articles of interest to the Sudden Valley Views

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.

Sept. 5 AGM call for candidates

By Gail Chiarello

Chair, Nominations & Elections

Applications for open positions on the Board of Directors (three open positions), the Architectural Control Committee (eight), and Nominations & Elections (four) must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5 at the Welcome Center, 1850 Lake Whatcom Boulevard. Application packets can be picked up in person at the Welcome Center or downloaded

at suddenvalley.com.

Candidates are required to be members in good standing from the time of application, through their term of office, if elected.

Each candidate must be listed on the deed to the property.

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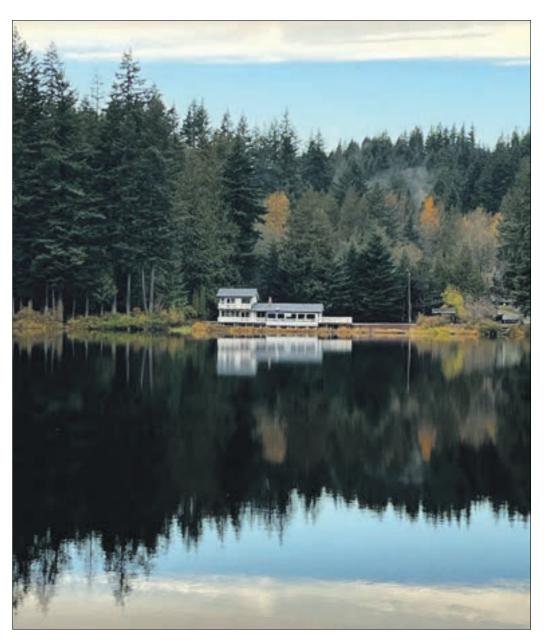
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Center was once Sudden Valley sales office

The Welcome Center was once Sudden Valley's sales office. In 1976, Sudden Valley sold Area M to Roger Ufkes.

The agreement stating, in part, the property on which the Sun Mark Marketing and Sales office was located "will ultimately be used for

commercial purposes or (up to 20 units of multi-family) condominiums in Area M" with the Association retaining the option to purchase the property should it be listed for sale.

In 2022, the SVCA purchased the office building and 3.4 acres located at the entrance of Gate 2 from Azam Nadar, who purchased Sun Mark from Ufkes 30 years earlier.

The purchase gave the SVCA and its membership complete control of Lake Louise and its shoreline, ensuring the preservation of the natural environment of the area.

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Whatcom Clubhouse Open House

Whatcom Clubhouse is a new nonprofit organization that will have an open house for the community and anyone who have been affected by mental illness. The open house is from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Sept. 28 at 1331 Meador Ave., J-106, Bellingham. Whatcom Clubhouse is part of a greater network of 334 clubhouses worldwide with Clubhouse International.



permitted to walk the front (lower) nine holes every Sunday evening after 6:00pm.

Please begin your walk at the first hole as there may still be some golf play on the last few front nine holes until 7:00pm.

Call the golf shop at 360-734-6435 with any questions.

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SV Marina home to dog park







The SVCA Marina encompasses 18.9-acres and is home to the very popular off-leash dog park. The Marina has 88 wet slips and 192 dry slips. Nearby are numerous shoreline parks and beaches. AM/PM Beaches are exactly like they sound, with AM Beach receiving the morning sun and PM Beach sunnier in the afternoon. AM/PM beaches are both great launching places for kayaks and canoes.













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Sudden Valley Community Association: A Timeline

In 1854, Whatcom County was established from the northeastern portion of Island County. It originally included the area which now comprises Skagit County. District Court was established in 1877 with sessions held at La Conner. When La Conner became part of Skagit County in 1883, court sessions for Whatcom County were held in the town of Whatcom (now Bellingham).



1883 - Henry Austin and family settle on a homestead on the Shores of Lake Whatcom.

July 18, 1889 - A patent is issued to Banning Austin for 157.70 acres on the shores of Lake Whatcom.

Aug. 31, 1889 - A patent is issued to Charles W. Hildebrand for 163.15 acres on the shores of Lake Whatcom.

narrow for teams of horses to haul logs to Bellingham."

1905 - The children on the steads walked seven miles to the sawmills were located on the steamboats being the most efficient means of travel between the homesteads and the bustling city of Bellingham.

Dec. 4, 1950 - Austin siblings sell to Glen and Elizabeth Corn-

Dec. 21, 1951 - Banning N. Austin, age 88 years, passed away in a local hospital following a lingering illness. Banning Austin was a retired surveyor, and a member of the Masonic

1953 - The Whatcom County Superior Court establishes the legal maximum level for Lake Whatcom at 314.94 feet.

1968 - Corning Ranch has an appraised value of \$740 on 49 acres for an appraised value of \$15 an acre. The remaining 1700-plus acres were in timber land and had negligible taxes.

den Valley is coined by a Seattle advertising agency.

September 1968 - Sudden Valley developers want to form a separate utility district and build their own sewers and connect with Bellingham Trunks.

Oct. 6, 1968 - Developers of Glenn Corning Ranch property land an \$18.5 million loan from Continental Mortgage Investors, an East Coast real estate loan trust.

Dec. 18, 1968 - Sudden Valley, Inc. filed an application for $permit to \, divert the \, public \, waters$ of Lake Whatcom in the amount of 2.0 cubic feet per second continuously each year (1,296,000 gallons per day continuously) for the purpose of community domestic supply and irrigation.

March 1969 - Planning begins

March 29, 1890 - A patent is issued to Henry Austin for 166.00 acres on the shores of Lake Whatcom. In a May 1983 interview for the Sudden Valley Views, Orrin Wolff described the Austin and Hildebrandhomesteads as "a remote logging camp where man, beast, and steam engine worked in tandem to divest the rugged hillsides above Lake Whatcom of their Douglas fir, red cedar, and western hemlock." Wolff's father Erv, worked as a logger on the site of what is now Sudden Valley. Lake Whatcom was the primary means of transportation, with roads "few and far too rough and

Austin and Hildebrand home-Geneva school. At least seven shores of Lake Whatcom, with

the Sudden Valley development. April 4, 1969 - Whatcom County Planning Commission gives preliminary approval to Division One plat, 1,200 acres west Lodge, No. 44. of Lake Whatcom Boulevard.

> 1969 - Old-fashioned Covered Bridge designed to span Strawberry Creek.

would become the 6th hole. on the first recreational facility of

Sept. 4, 1969 - After it is finally agreed that developers will build sewers for Divisions No. 1 and No. 2, and eventually turn them over to the county, the state Water Pollution Control Commission, as well as the Health Department, hold up construcbecause no engineering report or comprehensive plan has been filed with their agencies.

September 1969 - Bellingham School District requested a 10acre school site in Sudden Valley,



asking that developers hold the land for at least five years until the school system can assess the

Aug. 19, 1970 - First cluster development approved. When the first 133 lots come up for sale, they sell out in 11 days.

1971 - Covered Bridge con-

Aug. 10, 1973 - The Sudden Valley Community Club is incorporated under the provisions of the Washington Non-Profit Corporation Act, (Revised Code of Washington, 24.03).

October 1973 - Original developer Ken Sanwick relinquishes holdings to Continental Mortgage Investors (CMI), then in Maryland, and sells to Sun Mark Inc., a subsidiary and the operating arm of CMI. The Sudden Valley Community Club, (later to be Association), takes shape about this time.

Nov. 5, 1974 - Sun Mark Inc. sues property owners for \$3.5 million for refusing to accept ownership of certain public areas and also for making "derogatory remarks" that contributed to a sales slump. The owners had asked Sun Mark Inc. to turn over \$500,000 in club dues paid to the developer before the club became an entity.

Nov. 11, 1974 - Property owners, in turn, mount a class action suit against Sun Mark Inc. for \$10 million.

Oct. 9, 1975 - The community association offers Sun Mark \$1.6 million for golf course, country

club and other facilities. Ken Sanwick is back with another loan and announces he'll build condos and a shopping center on a 17-acre site across Lake Whatcom Boulevard from the golf course. Sanwick took out a \$2M loan to buy this property and 52 more acres around the golf course.

Nov. 1, 1975 - At the annual general meeting (AGM) of Sudden Valley members, over twothirds of the members present voted to amend the Articles of Incorporation, providing that the name Sudden Valley Community Club be amended to Sudden Valley Community Association.

com Water and Sewer District assumed ownership and operations responsibility of the Sudden Valley Water Company. Sudden Valley was platted with approximately 4,400 singlefamily lots, condominium acreage, golf course, marina, and other amenities. Lake Louise is the golf course source for irrigation water.

LWWSD - 2017 Water System Plan Update.

April 10, 1977 - In a final settlement of the 1974 lawsuits, the community association pays \$1.6 million for the golf course, country club, marina, cable television system, water and sewer systems and remaining park and open space land. Property owners will be assessed \$400 apiece to foot the bill.

Of the \$1.6 million Continental Mortgage Investments (CMI) would receive, the Maryland corporation would return about \$400,000 to the Association to complete roads and other improvements called for in Sudden Valley's master plan, leaving Sudden Valley responsible for completing road overlays and facilities build-out.

1982 - SVCA Restrictive Covenants filed with Whatcom County. SVCA begins supervised homebuilder-implemented temporary erosion and sedimentation control measures during construction through a Storm Water Drainage Plan, which established and supervises erosion control standards on SVCA Residential Parcels. These are Whatcom County.

December 1982 - Real estate sales have slumped to the lowest in Sudden Valley's history, forcing local realtors to seek additional sources of revenue. While the SVCA finances ended 1982 in good shape, the Association's two subsidiaries that lease and operate the restaurant and convention center and handle the land holdings lost a combined \$296,978.

January 1983 - Flood rips through the valley, causing \$600,000 worth of damage.

Feb. 25, 1983 - A summary judgement has settled much of the dispute the SVCA and Mt. Baker Mutual Savings Bank, stating that the SVCA gets two-thirds of Area Y and the bank one-third.

March 1983 -



impact on the district.

1969: Ted Robinson, left, surveying plans for the Sudden Valley course with engineer partner Don Hogan on what

structed.

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The SVCA gets out of the resort business, with the Managing Agent stating the evidence shows "no reason to continue operating aresort...either(the board) must close the resort or subsidize it." The Board determined that the SVCA would end the resort and convention business. The restaurant will be leased to an outside party. With interest rates finally down to around 12%, realtors report lots and existing home sales are improving now that "interest rates are down to the level that middle-income people can afford to buy."

April 1983 - No repairs in sight for Lake Louise Road after it was washed out in places by the January flood. According to County officials, the route is part of a classification of county roads that weren't declared disaster areas by President Reagan.

June 1983 - Lake Whatcom Boulevard, from Sudden Valley to Alger is open again.

The road was closed by flooding and washouts in the Jan.10 flood.

July 1983 - The SVCA Executive Committee approved a proposal to auction an estimated \$1M in Sudden Valley properties.

Sept. 12, 1983 - Of 200 lots auctioned to "firm up" the market by eliminating a surplus, 175 sell.

October 1983 - Crews installed 1,053 postal lockboxes and 30 parcel boxes at the remodeled Post Office at the Rotunda. The change-over to a lock-box system allows 24-hour accessibility to mailboxes. Auction sale nets \$500,000. An estimated 1,000 persons turned out for the auction which saw an estimated 175 lots and one house were sold.

Nov. 11, 1983 - Two proposals reach the county for shopping centers, one of them on the same site Area S - for which Sanwick's center was ticketed.

The other would be located at the airport. Sanwick, meanwhile. had earlier been foreclosed on by Mount Baker Mutual Savings Bank, from whom the new developers bought the property.

March 1984 - SVCA Board votes unanimously to discontinue the gates at five of the six entrances into Sudden Valley.

A Board Report stated, "the gates have been out of service for some time, and reports of break-



1976: An aerial of Sudden Valley.

ing and entering and vandalism were lower than when the gates were in operation."

May 3, 1984 - The former Sanwick site, now called Austin Creek Village, is approved, but Water District No. 10 holds up development to study sewage expansion.

July 1984 - Plans for the neighborhood commercial center (now home to Valley Market and Tino's) are pending solution of water and sewer access. (SVV) Austin Creek Village general partner Roger Ufkes threatens to sue two of the water district's commissioners for standing in the way of progress. (BH)

The SVCA sent more than 1,100 letters to delinquent owners as part of an "aggressive collection program." SVCA staff reported 40 dry storage sites of 99

are still available at the Marina. Rental rates in 1984 were \$120 a year for wet slips and \$60 a year for dry.

August 1984 - Water District 10 agreed to provide service to the Austin Creek commercial

Dec. 20, 1984 - County auctions 150 parcels of Sudden Valley land in its annual foreclosure sale.

Jan. 9, 1985 - The SVCA filed a lawsuit against Georgia Pacific Corp., Blodel Timber Land Development Co., and Washington State's Department of Natural Resources for damages caused by the flood that struck Sudden Valley on January 10. 1983. The suit claimed the two timber companies and the DNR failed to exercise reasonable care in logging and forest practices that resulted in a build-up of logs and debris in Austin Creek.

As a result, the suit claims, the flood caused the logs and debris to cause \$I million in damage to SVCA property.

Aug. 22, 1985 - Ufkes tells The

Bellingham Herald a surprise 72.000 square-foot. 17-foot peat bog. "deep in some places," is holding up development on the shopping center site.

Sept. 1, 1985 - Regular city bus service to Sudden Valley is scheduled to begin.

January 1986 - 700 liens filed against property owners whose total bill, if paid, would bring in \$780,000 to the SVCA.

1988 - 10% of all new home construction in Whatcom County occurred in Sudden Valley.

July 1989 - Covered Bridge comes down.

January 1991 - High Gate 5

1992 - Lake Louise Trail appeal denied.

1993 - While the Sudden Valley growth rate was restricted throughout the 1990's by a District-imposed sewer moratorium related to insufficient sewer interceptor capacity, the Sudden Valley Community Association also undertook a Density Reduction initiative to slow growth and reduce the density by approximately 30%. Density Reduction would be achieved through various means including acquisition of lots at tax sales and permanently restricting them from development, allowing lot consolidations, and converting building lots to parks.

2000 - Whatcom County, City of Bellingham and Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District began participating in SVCA's Density Reduction efforts working to acquire lots that are critical for water-quality protection. (LWWSD)

February 2000 - The County implemented a rezone in the Lake Whatcom watershed that resulted in a reduction of approximately 1,400 potential dwelling units within the watershed. (Bellingham Comprehensive Plan)

June 24, 2000 - SVCA's Articles

of Incorporation were amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership to define voting rights of multiple lot owners more clearly.

August 2003 - City of Bellingham Fights County's Urban Growth Area Designation for Sudden Valley.

June 2004 - County clashes with city over Sudden Valley. Litigation has pitted Whatcom County against the city of Bellingham and the Clean Water Alliance regarding the future of Sudden Valley. Attorneys for the city and the CWA, a Bellingham nonprofit environmental advocacy group, appeared in **Snohomish County Superior** Court on May 19 to appeal Whatcom County's December $2001\ ordinance\ adopted\ almost$ three years ago to designate the Sudden Valley community an urban growth area. With this temporary designation, Sudden Valley would have five years to incorporate into a separate city. According to the CWA, it would encourage further urban growth.

October 2005 - Within Sudden Valley, there are about 3,200 lots, of which 2,400 have homes. About 200 homes were built in 2004 and 2005. Despite the density reduction, water quality and phosphorus levels in Lake Whatcom remain an issue.

Nov. 6, 2010 - At the Annual General Meeting, 67% of the voting the members voted to reject a measure that would have amended the SVCA Bylaws to align with WA State law [RCW 64.38.025 (3)], specifying the manner by which regular and special budgets, and the dues and assessments to them.

Aug. 22, 2011 - By a vote of 6 to 2, the SVCA Board approved a motion rejecting Article III, section 19 voting procedures outlined in the SVCA Bylaws, and implemented a new process to increase the approval chances at the 2011 Annual General Meeting. The motion was seconded.

The motion's purpose was to prevent members from blocking dues increases, stating that "At the AGM, the results of the vote on the regular budget for Operations, Road and Capital be increased in the Operations Budget to subsidize the cost the pools and the Special Budget for the Capital Repair, Replacement, Reserve Fund be determined in accordance with Washington State Law, RCW 64.38.025, which provides that the Budget, including the Dues to support it is approved unless a majority of the membership rejects it."

Under the new process, the board achieved its goal of increasing dues and ass despite the members' overwhelming vote to reject it.

November 2011 - Members approve the transfer of \$1,500,000 from the Density Reduction Fund to a newly created Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund (CRRRF) to avoid a one-time special assessment of \$517.20 per lot.

Nov. 5, 2010 - Due to the board's Aug. 22, 2011, resolution, the membership vote ratified the 2012 Budget and dues increase despite only 658 votes to Approve and 1249 to Reject.

Nov. 30, 2011 - with a new Board in place, the dues increase and special assessment were rescinded.

Sept. 7, 2012 - The registered

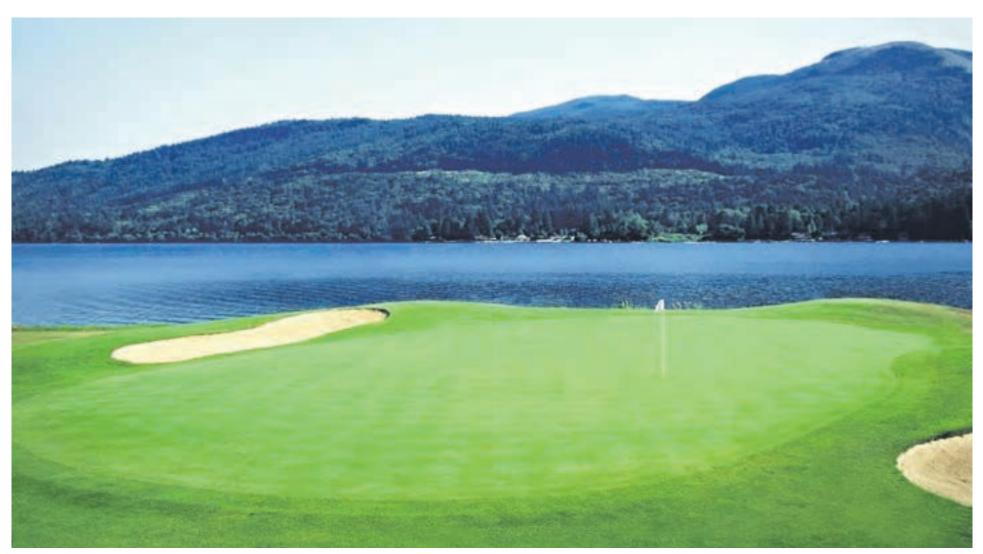
1984: First place in the community division of the annual Ski to Sea parade in Bellingham went to Sudden Valley's float Aloha From Sudden Valley. The prize winner was a community effort directed by Brenda Steger that took several months of planning and preparation. (Photo courtesy Glenn Akramoff)

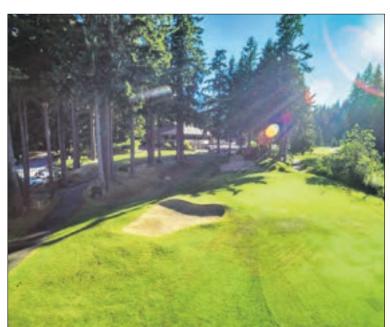
See **Timeline** on 13

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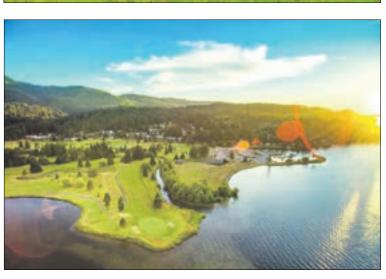
Golf course is Sudden Valley's first recreational amenity

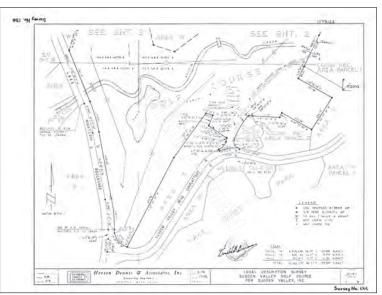






The Sudden Valley Golf Course was the first recreational amenity to be developed within the community. Planning took place before the first plat was approved. Restrictive covenants protect the use of the open space that makes up the golf course, which ensure the land may only be utilized as "a golf course or other open space recreational facility for the use of property owners at Sudden Valley." Photos courtesy Sudden Valley Community Association unless otherwise specified.







Ethan Blight on snowed over golf course Jan. 18, 2012. (Photo courtesy Megan Blight)

August 2023 | Page 11 SUDDEN VALLEY VIEWS

Sudden Valley clubhouse and restaurant







Restaurant chef Bill Wood, above, whittles an ice bunny for the restaurant. Awards and a good time, below left, highlight the conclusion when the 128 women taking part in the invitational had lunch in Natalia's Sudden Valley Restaurant. Top left, Sudden Valley golf course's clubhouse. Below. decorating the Christmas tree.





Through Aug. 26 **Allied Arts August Gallery** Show

Allied Arts of Whatcom County will present its August 2023 gallery show Nature's Kingdom, an exploration of the abundant forms, colors and materials of the natural world. This show features the works of Bluejay Blackburn, Lori Hill, Michael Colahan, Rachel Simpson, Sacha Bliese, Scott Ward and Vikki Jackson, each showing their own unique view on the natural world. Exhibition is from August 4-26 Gallery Hours: are 11-4 Tuesday-Saturday. Opening reception: is 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4 at 1418 Cornwall

Ave., Bellingham.

Sept. 1-30 **Eat Local Month**

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chef, farmer, fisher and grocer and experience the unique flavors of the region. For more information, email annikas@ sustainableconnections.org.

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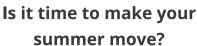
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Peace Builder Awards

From 5:30-8:30 p.m. Oct. 27 is the 20th annual Peace Builder Awards gala at Four Points by Sheraton, 714 Lakeway Drive., Bellingham. Award winners whose work in the areas of social justice, education, reconciliation and collaboration have made Whatcom County a more just and peaceful place to live. Nominations for 2023 Peace Builders are open at whatcomdrc.org/nominate. For more information, visit https://fb.me/e/4iVpJHye9.

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Timeline: Sudden Valley Community Association

Continued from 9

agent for SVCA, accepted service of the lawsuit filed by Curt Casey, Dave Scott and Barbara Volkov.

Plaintiffs contend that RCW 64.38.025 conflicts with, and supersedes, Article III, Section 19 of the Bylaws; the procedure currently being used for increasing dues and assessments violates the Home owners' Association Act because it establishes a higher threshold for approval of a dues increase than the HOA Act.

April 17, 2013 - Declaratory Judgment issued in the case of Curt Casey, Dave Scott and Barbara Volkov vs. Sudden Valley Community Association. The court signed the plaintiff's order in all respects, including the award of attorneys' fees.

May 2, 2013 - The Board voted unanimously to appeal the Trial Court's decision. If the Plaintiffs prevailed in this action, it would affect the SVCA in the following respects: Article III, Section 19 would no longer be used to approve a dues increase proposed by the Board.

The first sentence of Article III, Section 19 of the bylaws would no longer have any legal effect.

On an annual basis, the Board would propose any dues increase in the budget itself.

The members' ratification of the budget would constitute automatic approval of a dues increase contained in the budget, thereby eliminating the need for a "spending plan" which the Board has adopted in those situations where the dues increase measure failed.

The absence of a binding court ruling will likely continue to plague the SVCA in a number of ways, including additional attorney fees and a continuing lack of certainty on this issue.

Discussions with both parties of the lawsuit determined that an appellate decision would be necessary to finalize and create a binding court ruling on this

November 2013 - Members vote to ratify the Board's May 2 decision to appeal the trial court decision in Casey, et al. v. SVCA.

May 27, 2014 - A published opinion by the Court of Appeals of the State of Washington concluded the trial court erred when it granted declaratory relief in plaintiffs' favor, reversing the lower court's ruling and issuing a judgement in favor of the Association.

August 2015 - As of August 2015, 775 of the lots owned by the Sudden Valley Community Association have been placed under restrictive covenants as Common Area, and about 85% of the total remaining estimated building of homes and condos in Sudden Valley has been realized to date. LWWSD - 2017 Water System Plan Update

March 27, 2018 - The Washington Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act (WUCIOA) is signed by Jay Inslee - Governor of the State of Washington. Growth trends for Sudden Valley includealmost complete conversion from part time recreational to full-time residency of retirees and working families with children living at home. LWWSD -2017 Water System Plan Update

2019 - Median home price is \$314,300. 46.4% have a bachelor's degree or greater.

Median household income is \$86,064.5% of Sudden Valley owners are considered persons in poverty. 61.9% of members are married. (Census)

July 25, 2019 - SVCA residents packed the Dance Barn, many demonstrating their support for a petition which placed reasonable limitations on assessment increases.

Petitioners gathered more than 721 signatures - almost 25% of SVCA members - to bring about a Special General Meeting (SGM).

The petitions and proposed $\overline{SGMMeasure}$ comes in response to what has become known as "the Sudden Valley Fix" - Legislative action in the form of the Washington Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act (WUCIOA which many see as Legislative response to the WA Courts ruling on Casey v SVCA that ensured member voting rights, as stated in the SVCA Bylaw, were retained.

WUCIOA supersedes the budgeting and voting process outlined in the Bylaws, making it virtually impossible for members to reject any proposed increase to assessment by requiring a veto vote by more than 50% of all SVCA members.

The new law means assessment could increase without one single member voting yes.

In the one year since the Legislature passed the WA Uniform CommonInterestOwnershipAct(WUCIOA), Sudden Valley owners have seen their assessments increase 68% on developed lots and 77% on undeveloped lots.

Owners worked with Rep. Jeff Morris to write HV1636, seeking to repeal the applicability of the WUCIOA to Sudden Valley and pre-existing Common Interest Communities (CICs) across WA.

At the close of the 2019 Session, over 400 constituents had commented their support of HB1636 to State Legislators.

The Legislature chose to not move the Bill forward.

Sept. 21, 2019 - The Bylaw amendment to place limitations on assessment increases was overwhelmingly approved by voters with a whopping 68.4% margin. Of the record-breaking 2000 votes cast, 84.2% voted yes to the Bylaw amendment.

2021 - Sudden Valley has a median age of 42.6 years. 29.6% are 65 years or older. (Census)

Oct. 27, 2021 - SVCA employees approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Sudden Valley Community Association and the General Teamsters Local Union No. 231. (SVCA)



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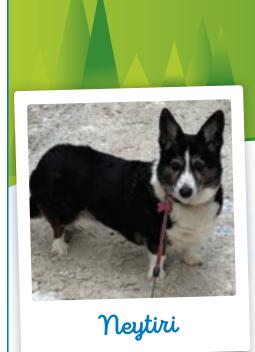
Sudden Valley on wings











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

Pet of the ST

This month's pet of the month is Neytiri, submitted by Marian Yunghans.

"I am a Cardigan Welsh Corgi. They call me Netti. I am twelve years old. Six years ago I immigrated to Sudden Valley from Hood River, Oregon where I was a show dog. My relatives originate in Wales where Corgis are used for herding cattle, nipping at their heels and dashing off. Their short legs and fast speed help them getaway. Oftentimes they are used for herding sheep and ducks. Since I live in the States, I do not herd cattle, sheep, or ducks. But at times, I just can't help herding people. My owner gets upset when I "herd" her and she shouts, "I AM NOT A COW"! I know that, but I just can't help it. I'm so glad our love is mutual."



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SUDDEN VALLEY VIEWS

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SVCA 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

ment
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

sive Rural Development
LRPC - Long Range Planning Committee

LWPG - Lake Whatcom Policy Group LWWSD - Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District MOU - Memorandum of Understand-

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

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



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The covered bridge in SVCA history



Did you know that Sudden Valley was once home to a beautiful, covered bridge?

Although Sudden Valley's covered bridge was built in 1971, it was a traditional timber-truss bridge with wood decking and

Wood bridges are covered to extend their lifespan by protecting the wood structural members from the weather.

While covered bridges are known to last upwards of 100 years, Sudden Valley's covered bridge succumbed to rot in just 18 short years.

The covered bridge was closed in 1988 as management and community members called for preserving the existing structure. There was even a bid to build a concrete bridge inside of the existing structure.

However, Roger G. Young, Inc., Redmond, noted in a letter attached to his bid that "to build a new concrete bridge inside of an



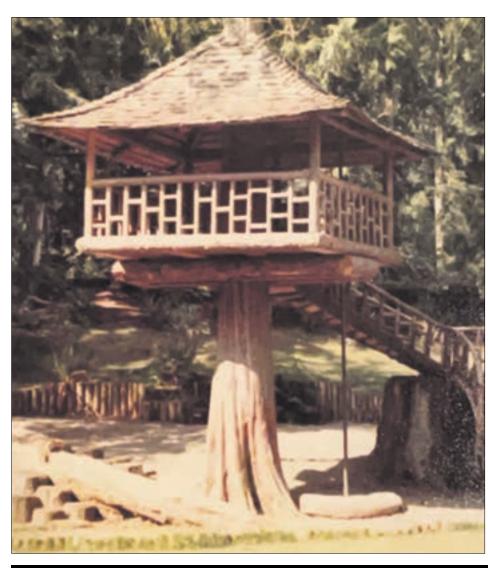
existing log bridge is an expensive and risky undertaking."

The SVCA Board members directed management to solicit more bids, advertising the project in trade journals and newspapers from areas between Blaine and Portland.

Sadly, preservation efforts were too costly, and in early 1989, the Board made the tough decision to demolish the bridge.

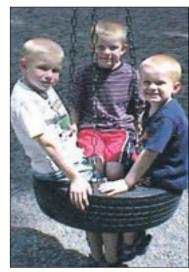


On this page are photographs of that bridge, as well as other fond memories here at Sudden











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