

HAPPY VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

"We do what we can" www.happyvalleyva.com Summer Quarter 2018

Two Fairhaven Fir Trees Scheduled to Be Cut

Two majestic fir trees are scheduled for removal at the corner of Mill and 12th in Fairhaven to make way for building development. Please share your thoughts on the message board near the trees and invite others to do likewise.

The value of mature urban trees is indisputable. Among their value: They absorb carbon and other pollutants; manage storm water runoff, associated with crime reduction, provide cooling and shade.

Native Americans often refer to Trees as "the standing people" rooted in the earth arms outstretched skyward, and yet since trees can't speak for them selves, they need humans to speak for them.

Please speak out and up for trees.

Thank you all, Barbara Davenport

bcdaven@earthlink.net



Tree Keepers Meeting

June 25, 2018 5 to 6:30 pm Farmers Market Cornwall, Bellingham

(See Suggested Resources on last page)

Community Meals will NOT occur in the summer months. Outdoor BBQ on Aug 12 at Lutheran Church.

The Southside Food Bank LOCATION: Our Hillcrest Church, is located at Hillcrest Chapel (1400 Larrabee Ave.) and serves those in need of food help on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Their hours are 10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. Call [\(360\) 733-8400](tel:3607338400) for more information.

City's ADU Regulations

Submitted by Wendy Scherrer

Update to City's ADU Regulations
Christopher Koch, Planner II
City of Bellingham, Planning and Community Development Dept.

On May 21st the City Council approved the adoption of **Ordinance #2018-05-009** updating the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) regulations, including a provision allowing **detached ADUs in single family zones citywide**. Pursuant to Article [3.04](#) of the Charter of the City of Bellingham, the ordinance shall take effect 15 days after the date of final passage (June 5th).

Pursuant to BMC [20.22](#) and [21.10.040](#)(l)(2), text amendments to the City's development regulations follow the procedures for a Type VI process established in Chapter [21.10.150](#) BMC. A Type VI Decision may be appealed pursuant to the procedures in BMC [21.10.150](#)(l).

IMPACT FEES:

As part of its current ADU deliberations, City Council is considering a proposal to exempt ADUs from park and transportation [impact fees](#). ADUs are already exempt from school impact fees due to their small size and unlikely to contribute to K-12 enrollment. Council has not yet provided a consensus recommendation on the matter.

If Council recommends the exemption, it will require a separate ordinance from that which amended the ADU regulations. Staff is working to have a draft impact fee ordinance ready for Council consideration in June or July.

Editors Questions:

If ADUs are approved, will there be a legal size?

YES, the legal maximum size is 800 sq ft.

Will there be an adult or child occupancy limit?

YES, the legal maximum occupancy is 4 people.

Hue Beattie's photo of Fairhaven Firehouse Sunday event many locals met old time neighbors.



Dear Community:

Yes, we have sold the Firehouse. The Christman's are going off watch, but the Firehouse lives on! Please give a warm welcome to Teresa Dalton and Glenn DeHekker. The new owners of our beloved facility as of this Wed the 23rd.

They are planning to whole heartily continue the Firehouse's mission of supporting the arts in our community, while at the same time opening it's doors to accommodate special events such as weddings, end of life ceremonies, lectures, corporate presentations, and so on. The facility will also be christened with a new name --"Firehouse Arts and Event Center".

Kate and Aaron will continue to operate the Firehouse Cafe! Teresa and Glenn will be working to enhance this sweet neighborhood gathering spot we have all come to love. Eventually adding beer and wine, outdoor seating in the park and extended hours. Stay tuned for updates.

In honor of these changes, as well as for a chance to chat with Teresa and Glenn, please join us during Ski to Sea (Sunday May 27th, 2018) from 11am-7pm for an inaugural gathering of the new owners in the Firehouse's Pocket Park.

We will no longer be responding to Firehouse inquires or checking Firehouseemails. If you would like to contact us for personal matters please use: mattchristman@mac.com

Cheers to the past 15 years ... and here's to The Firehouse Arts and Events Center!

Love, Matt and Alona



Bellingham Co-Housing (BellCoHo) Now Saves \$900 Annually Through Waste Diversion By Jaco Eco

After emphasizing increased recycling and composting, the Eco-Interest Group at Bellingham Co-Housing monitored each of the two landfill dumpsters on their campus and discovered that they were rarely 75% full at each week's pick-up. So this past February they reduced the size of each of those dumpsters (from 2-yard capacity to 1.5 yard), at a considerable savings to this community of 33 households.

At the same time, similar monitoring of their 4-yard cardboard container showed it was only about half full at each pick-up, so they reduced the frequency of their cardboard pick-ups (from twice to once monthly). Analysis of invoices from Sanitary Service Company (SSC) before and after these changes showed a total savings of about \$75 per month, or \$900 a year.

Also in February, they instituted a separate indoor collection of soft plastics, such as bags and wrappings (all of which must be clean and dry). Unlike rigid plastics like bottles and containers that are collected curbside, soft plastic must be brought to local grocery stores for recycling.

But this worthwhile action now keeps approximately 5 pounds of plastic out of their landfill dumpsters each week, another significant reduction, which has raised the distinct possibility that at least one of the two dumpsters could be further reduced in size, providing even more savings.

Meanwhile, concurrent monitoring of Cohousing's large FoodPlus! totes has shown a marked increase in use, thanks to greater education about all the items that actually can be composted through that SSC program. (Those items are also not going into the landfill dumpsters now.)

They recommend that all citizens consider paying even greater attention to diverting waste from our landfills (or better yet, minimizing the purchase of wasteful packaging, such as single-use plastics). Saving money helps, but saving stress on a crowded, polluted planet is essential.

"Trimming Our WasteLine," can be found at <http://bellcoho.com/blog/trimming-our-wasteline/>

Then and Now -- Larrabee Senior Memoir Class Visit

And a grand time was had by all! By Sam Lockwood

On May 1st, the Bellingham Family Partnership Program's **Then and Now** class --housed at the historic old Larrabee School-- hosted five wonderful senior guests. The guests are members of a **Memoir Class** of the Bellingham Senior Activity Center. One might wonder, why have inter-generational conversations? Well, students have so much to learn from one another and their parents but, to learn first hand from seniors – both grandparents and great grandparents and even great great grandparents-- it gives kids a grounding in their 21st century lives. That's why.

Earline, Elin, Bob, Virginia and Barbara joined our class of kindergarten through third graders to share a small portion of their rich lives. The visit started with children doing their initial class entry routines and meeting our guests. As the students played games, did art work, and read, our guests talked informally with individual students.

The formal part of our visit was a **5 Corner-Read Around**. Each of the five seniors had a group of 3 or 4 students with them. We rotated groups every 10 minutes. The senior guests shared stories and writing from their lives in the 1920s through their adulthood.

Earline Bradley, a small business owner for 20 years in the 1960s - early 1980s, talked of her special talents and growing up during the Depression. She became a professional construction worker and a realtor.

Elin Valtyrson came from Norway in 1950, as a ten-year-old from war torn Europe. Students heard how fortunate Elin felt to have come-of-age in the United States. She graduated from high school in Whatcom county in 1958. We all learned how the Norwegians kept the country's gold from the Nazis. (*Snow Treasure* by Marie McSwigan).

Bob Taylor, as a business person, has traveled and lived in many exciting places throughout the world. Europe, Asia, the Near East were viewed through the issues of the day. He talked to students of growing up with miles to roam and play, especially in the snow.

Virginia Roberts told students of her large extended family including having a classroom full of great grandchildren! Virginia's husband taught at Larrabee during the 1940s. She lived in her same Whatcom County home for close to 90 years! Wow!

Barbara Perry showed pictures of her grandparents sitting on horses when they came to homestead in Moses Lake in 1920. Barbara's Grandmother told her stories of her coming from Norway so her father could escape the draft. They had to hide in the ship that went around Cape Horn. She read parts of a book she wrote. When she was younger, she would visit her relatives and ride their horses through the sage brush.

The home schooled children of Bellingham Partnership learned a small bit of coming of age and personal histories from our visitors throughout the 20th century to today. We hope to continue this partnership

The Larrabee School site is active and vibrant with the Bellingham School's Partnership Program (Bfpp).

Check Out Alternative On-Line News outlets for Happy Valley

KUGS – KUGS (89.3 FM) The Western Washington University radio station, has morning and evening *Democracy Now* one-hour presentations **7am and 7pm M-F**. Other alternative sites are heard before 7pm M-F. Democracy Now is a non-profit, non-corporate world news outlet.

NW Citizen In our own Happy Valley, editor John Servais, has been editor of this alternative web site on the web for many years. Many viewers present their thoughts about local issues presented by experienced writers.

The following article was a big issue in the last several elections. Tip Johnson, a HV resident, frequent reporter and previous City Council member, wrote some of the first and latest jail articles about the jail. He told me that both City and County Council members follow the site.

The following articles was a big issue in the last several elections: “The Louwsy Jail Deal” by Tip Johnson *Sep 15, 2015* Bellingham

“...It is appropriate for the city to consider what is needed in a jail agreement, what is needed in a jail, and what is needed in jail alternatives. The county should do more of this, too. A lot more.

However, I question the propriety of either council continuing to engage with the current jail proposal. Refusing to submit to the false urgency of the manufactured jail crisis could foster a more comprehensive approach to the future of our regional justice services...”

Whatcom Watch – a monthly publication offers in-dept reporting on current Whatcom

County issues -- plus more. Whatcom Conservation District elections occur every year. All registered voters may vote for volunteer supervisor positions to present their recommendations concerning land and water issues. **ALL Voters must request ballots and send them back before a stated date or travel to the District office.** Most Whatcom County voters did not previously know about the District before reading the Watch. Before the Watch’s articles, there were usually less than 50 votes. The last vote had over 4,000 Whatcom County voters. Cascadia Weekly and NW Citizen spread the word about voting in district elections.

Every state in the union has Conservation Districts. The Districts began before the US constitution was signed; in fact it is now similar to the EPA – caring for our Land and Water. Candidates and their opinions are presented on-line. Elections are yearly, separate from other elections. Dr. George Boggs is the Governor appointed Main Supervisor.

Happy Valley Neighborhood owes much thanks to Bill McCullum, Layout Editor. Bill has always made sure the City, County, and Port Commissions were reported on. Because of Council records that he has insisted be reported on in each issue, he was recently able to quickly verify and send a report that the Pocket Park on Lenora Ct was verified by the City Council as a pocket park on March 18, 1998. The city had no records of the City Council vote. **Thank you Bill McCullum for helping to save Robins’ Pocket Park!**

Our local Bellingham Library has past issues of *Whatcom Watch* as printed copies from 2011. Wilson Library at WWU has print copies back to October 1992, when it was begun by a group of women gathering news with a perspective otherwise not published.

Eben Fodor's Twelve Big Myths About Growth

By Donella H. Meadows ... submitted by Frank James, [Bellingham Neighborhood Coalition](#) Eben Fodor's book [Better, Not Bigger](#) which lists and debunks the following Twelve Big Myths.

Myth 1: Growth provides needed tax revenues... the general rule is: the larger the city, the higher the taxes. ...**Fodor says: "The bottom line on urban growth is that it rarely pays its own way."**

Myth 2: We have to grow to provide jobs... In fact ...rarely .. Says Fodor: "Creating more local jobs ends up attracting more people, who require more jobs." And services.

Myth 3: We must stimulate and subsidize business growth to have good jobs... (study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce...) showed **that states with the best business ratings actually have lower growth in per capita incomes than those with the worst.**

Myth 4: If we try to limit growth, housing prices will shoot up... but it isn't so. A 1992 study ...because they had active low-cost housing programs. Fodor says ... "housing affordability is not so much house cost as income level, ... low-paying retail jobs makes housing unaffordable.

Myth 5: Environmental protection hurts the economy. According to a Bank of America study the economies of **states with high environmental standards grew consistently faster than those with weak regulations.** ... Vermont ranked 3rd on the gold scale and first on the green; Louisiana ranked 50th on both.

Myth 6: Growth is inevitable. There are constitutional limits ...**dozens of municipalities have capped their population size or rate of growth by legal regulations based on real environmental limits and the real costs of growth to the community.**

Myth 7: If you don't like growth, you're a NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) or an ANTI (against everything) or a gangplank-puller (right after you get aboard). These accusations are meant more to shut people up than to examine their real motives. **Says Fodor: "A NIMBY is more likely to be someone who cares enough about the future of his or her community to get out and protect it."**

Myth 8: Most people don't support environmental protection. Polls and surveys have disproved this belief for decades; Fodor cites examples from Oregon, Los Angeles, Colorado, and the U.S. as a whole. **The fraction of respondents who say environmental quality is more important than further economic growth almost always tops 70 percent.**

Myth 9: We have to grow or die. This statement is tossed around lightly and often, but if you hold it still and look at it, you wonder what it means. Fodor points out, **quoting several economic studies, that many kinds of growth cost more than the benefits they bring. So the more growth, the poorer we get. That kind of growth will kill us.**

Myth 10: Vacant land is just going to waste. Studies [show] that **open land pays far more - often twice as much - in property taxes than it costs in services... trees don't put potholes in the roads... Open land absorbs floods, recharges aquifers, cleans the air, harbors wildlife, and measurably increases the value of property nearby. We should value and pay for it to be there.**

Myth 11: Beauty is no basis for policy...**municipal meetings is their tendency to trivialize people who complain that a proposed development will be ugly. Dollars are not... more real or important than beauty. In fact beauty can translate directly into dollars.** For starters, undeveloped surroundings can add \$100,000 to the price of a home.

Myth 12: Environmentalists ...A developer who will directly profit from a project is a special interest. A citizen with no financial stake is fighting for the public interest, and the good of the whole community. **Maybe one reason these myths are proclaimed so often and loudly is that they are so obviously doubtful.** The only reason to keep repeating something over and over is to keep others from thinking about it. You don't have to keep telling people that the sun rises in the east.

Street Tree Update by John Hymas

What a spring! April was one of the wettest and May was the hottest on record. This is new territory and maybe our future – all the more reason to protect and preserve our urban trees. Over the past 19 years Happy Valley volunteers have planted probably 350 trees, mostly in parking strips. It has changed the look of the neighborhood. We gain amazing benefit from **nearby** trees. Public Works now considers trees as part of our urban infrastructure for their water holding capacity, climate moderation, erosion control and air cleansing. Social experts and traffic engineers give trees credit for many positive improvements for the public in those areas.

I don't know what the long term weather forecast is for this summer, but I would prepare for the worst – long, dry and hot. It is not too early to start watering the younger plantings. HVNA has watering bags to lend out, just call me for one. In some blocks neighbors rotate these bags. They hold 8-10 gallons and deeply water for 6-8 hours with minimal evaporation. If drought stress can be kept down during dry times it is the difference between surviving and thriving.

Mower and string trimmer "blight" is another issue I have been harping on for years. I will be installing mower guards on trees that grass has closed up on. They are basically cut sections of plastic drain pipe that fit over the lower stem and protect the bark from damage. We have lost trees from the girdling effect of these machines. One thing that was very apparent to me this spring is the difference in blooming trees, like our "Eddie's White Wonder" dogwoods, that had cleared areas around the base and those that were grass up to the trunk. Trees with no grass, instead with bark or woodchips had spectacular flowers, while those in competition with grass had moderate or small flower sets. Grasses, especially fescue, are allelopathic, meaning they put out a hormone to discourage competition. Think about grubbing out the grass around your trees and mulching with woodchips.

Deer have become a problem the past few years. "Buck hooking" severely damaged two oak trees I raised from sprouts on Larrabee Ave. this winter. Both are surviving at this time, but caging was required to keep them safe for a while. Once the stakes are removed the deer browse and hook. Let me know if you have a problem and we can deal with it.

It is not too early to think about adding a street tree or five if you have room next winter. Call me to plan ahead, or just with any tree questions. John Hymas 360-714-9460.

"Every faucet is connected to a forest." Pat McElroy, State Forester, WDNR

Editor's Comments:

No one has reported seeing the big Barn Owl – Hope People Feeding Rats or those poisoning rats with toxins did not cause the owl to die. Please Honor Native life.

And on a happy note—

The Lost Chicken

While I, Barbara Perry, was scootering by Cindy Packo's home on Mill, she told me people were looking for two out of their fence chickens – the organic kind from the Vollendorff farm. Cindy said they may have been eaten by a red tail hawk or an eagle that she sometimes spots flying over her Happy Valley home area. Both Ms. Packo and I doubted Ms.Vollendorff would complain about either a hawk or eagle lunging on her chicken.

dull green lawn

dull green lawn

on and on and on and on

Till a Dandelion

Survives toxins and

Pops Its Smiling Yellow FACE

So Kids Know Where to Safely Play

By Barbara Ceis Perry

Suggested Resources from Opening article by Barbara Davenport

On Internet

*Song" Requiem for the Giants. Eileen McGann (YouTube)

*9 reasons cities need mature urban trees (Greenblue.com)

Books

1.Keepers of the Trees. A Guide to Re-Greening North America. Ann Linnea, 2010. Life stories of fourteen people whose lives have been shaped by trees._

2.The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries From a Secret World. Peter Wohlleben. 2015. Much like human families, tree parents live together with their children, and communicate with them.

3. American Canopy Trees, Forests and the Making of a Nation. Eric Rutkow, 2013. **Story of the relationship between Americans and their trees across the entire span of our nation's history.**

The young, massively-altered forests we have left in the U.S. are ghosts of the original American treescapes.

4 .The Lorax. Dr Seuss (children's book) 1971. It chronicles the plight of the environment and the Lorax, who speaks for the trees.

information.

Feel free to share this

Happy Valley Neighborhood Association

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Yimby: Wendy Scherrer, Mark Schramer, Monica Aply, Rose Lathrop, Shannon Moris, Grace Offey

Padden Creek Alliance: John Hymas, Hue Beattie, Richard Sullivan, Kim Clarkin, Wendy Scherrer, Dale McKinnon

Newsletter: Barbara Perry

Request for Submissions

Letters to the Editor, Please send articles past, present, or future about Happy Valley, short creative works, news articles, happenings about the neighborhood. Limit submissions to one page. Must fit one page or will have to be cut. Add a sentence about you, your submissions and/or work. We like HVN authors. Send to Barbara Perry HVNA newsletter editor annieceis@gmail.com

Join the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association!

- Receive copies of "Happy Valley Neighborhood News", a newsletter for and by your neighbors
- Be part of a phone and e-mail tree to be informed when projects are proposed
- Meet your neighbors and make new friends at Neighborhood meetings
- Protect and improve the neighborhood environment by working on projects and issues



Name: _____

Phone: _____

email _____

Address:

- Put me on an email list to be notified about development proposals in the neighborhood
- I'd like to help out on neighborhood work parties
- I'd be willing to serve on the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association Board or a committee
- Other ideas or concerns:

- Please include \$10.00 for annual membership. Make checks out to HVNA.
- Feel free to donate more to help with printing and other costs!

**The Happy Valley
Neighborhood
Association publishes
this newsletter
quarterly for the
residents of Happy
Valley in Bellingham,
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a non-partisan, non-
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committed to
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**The neighborhood
Association would
like to hear from
you! Send your
stories, poems,
art, etc. to
Barbara Perry
annieceis@gmail
.com
The deadline for
the next
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and
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