

# HAPPY VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

*"We do what we can"*

[www.happyvalleyva.com](http://www.happyvalleyva.com)

Fall Quarter 2018

\*\*\*\*\*

On September 16, James Erb and Eric Richey, running for Whatcom Prosecuting Attorney, are invited to come to the Happy Valley Community meal to be introduced to voters. Editor Perry requested each first answer a dominant citizen question. Secretaries filled in the answers: Do you support the construction of a new Whatcom Jail on Slater Road? Other information is taken from their sites.

## **JAMES ERB**

*NO. James Erb personally opposed the Jail tax proposal in 2017 that would have funded the building of a new County jail on LaBounty in Ferndale. We've voted twice against higher taxes for a big, expensive jail, yet the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office fails to make overdue reforms. Let's safely reduce the jail population rather than raise taxes to pay for more jail beds. Unlike the current office, James will fully utilize the county's drug court and focus on community-based treatment for mental illness to reduce crime and save tax dollars.*

### **Experience**

James prosecuted hundreds of major cases including drug trafficking, violent offenses, and sexually-motivated crimes against children in one of the busiest trial circuits in Florida. ... He earned a reputation as a skilled prosecutor who works hard, exercises good judgment, and secures justice for victims of crime. James has worked as a Senior Assistant City Attorney in the civil division of the Bellingham City Attorney's Office since 2010.

### **The Issues**

... improve our county's criminal justice system. By focusing on violent crime and using data to make smarter decisions, we can safely reduce incarceration rates for non-violent offenders. We can produce better outcomes for less money

without compromising public safety. Please get involved.

## **ERIC RICHEY**

**No email response to above question.**

### **Experience**

James prosecuted hundreds of major cases including drug trafficking, violent offenses, and sexually-motivated crimes against children in one of the busiest trial circuits in Florida. He earned a reputation as a skilled prosecutor who works hard, exercises good judgment, and secures justice for victims of crime. James has worked as a Senior Assistant City Attorney in the civil division of the Bellingham City Attorney's Office since 2010.

I'm ready to take a fresh look at how we fix these problems and I've got the experience and leadership needed to make big changes. Under my leadership:

Serious crime will continue to result in serious sentences.

\*However, many crimes associated with drugs or mental health issues shall be diverted to treatment to reduce incarceration and to better protect the community from recidivism.

\*The current system provides little more than a revolving door in our jail doing no one any good

\*I'll keep resources focused on serious crime while making sure we focus on treatment and keeping low-level offenders out of jail.

**Just Released: Just Released: Planning office is requesting citizen comments about a 3 story (with basement) 28-unit multi-family building with a driveway from Mill Avenue and 30 parking spaces underground/seven new**

parking spaces on Mill Avenue. narrowing the sidewalk. Send thoughts to: Jackie Lynch, Planner II, [ilynych@cob.org](mailto:ilynych@cob.org). (360) 778-8350

## Status of Pedestrian Safe Crossing Project at 14th and Old Fairhaven Parkway

Due to accidents and complaints regarding pedestrian and bike safety from neighbors of all ages and abilities at the crossing of 14th and Old Fairhaven Parkway, the following information is a compilation of information from:

**Address any questions to Eric Johnston [ecjohnston@cob.org](mailto:ecjohnston@cob.org) and Chris Comeau [ccomeau@cob.org](mailto:ccomeau@cob.org), Public Works Engineering, City of Bellingham.**

The Old Fairhaven Parkway (OFP) crossing at 14th is listed in the 2012 Pedestrian Master Plan as a Tier 1 location for future crossing improvements. It is now also listed in the 2019-204 Transportation Improvement Program(TIP) as an undefined intersection crossing improvement for the year 2020 - our last year of known Transportation Benefit District (TBD) funding. The crossing currently has a marked crosswalk along with the appropriate pedestrian signage. The implication is that additional enhancements (eg flashing lights, intersection controls, medians, turn movement restrictions, etc) will be considered when the project hits the top of the list. We are steadily working our way down through the prioritized list but we do not have information on the timing of when that crossing will be considered for additional enhancements. Importantly, as an undefined project, we will need to spend some time in 2019-2020 considering all of the options that might be available given the context of the location and circumstances surrounding it. Old Fairhaven Parkway (OFP) is a State Highway (SR 11), principle arterial, major transit route, and designated truck route between I-5 and the Fairhaven waterfront industrial area and carries relatively high traffic volumes.

The intersection of OFP/14th is located rather close to the even busier OFP/12th Street intersection and potential impacts to the function/operation of this busy intersection need to be taken into account in designing crossing improvements somewhere in the vicinity of OFP/14th. As an example, we may have to consider providing the crossing function either mid-block between 14th and Donovan or perhaps at Donovan instead of 14th. As with everything that we do on our citywide multimodal transportation system, we need to find a crossing improvement alternative that balances the needs of all users and allows Old Fairhaven Pkwy (SR-11) to continue to operate safely and efficiently given all of its purposes and functions as a major multimodal transportation corridor. Because the PMP lists OFP/14th as the location for crossing improvement, it does not obligate us to construct a crossing improvement there if there are reason(s) to look at a better alternative given the circumstances.

Also send your ideas to Wendy Scherrer.

Wendy Scherrer      BlueGreen Northwest; [1905 Larrabee Avenue](https://www.bluegreen-northwest.com); [Bellingham, WA 98225](https://www.bellingham.gov)  
360-715-2993; 360-319-9518 (cell); [bluegreen.northwest@gmail.com](mailto:bluegreen.northwest@gmail.com)

## Happy Valley Neighborhood Association (HVNA)

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
September 11 7-9pm	<b>HVNA Board meeting</b> Meet new Bellingham Parks and Recreation staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janice I.Biletnikoff, Park Planning and Development Coordinator</li> <li>• Amy Brown, Parks Volunteer Coordinator</li> </ul>	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church 1720 Harris
September 16  5-630 pm* till 7pm*	<b>Southside Community Meal</b> <i>+ 2018 Candidates Forum: The following candidates have been invited to participate to present their position on issues</i> <i>-Whatcom County Prosecutor: James Erb and Eric Ritchey</i> <i>-Legislative Dist. 40 State Rep Pos 1: Debra Lekanoff and Michael Petrish</i> <i>-County Council At-Large Position B: Carol Frazey and Mike Peetom</i> <i>-Court of Appeals, Div. 1, Dist. 3 Judge Position 1: Tom SeGuine and Cecily Hazelrigg-Hernandez</i>	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
September 26	Western Washington University Starts. Drive with care!	
October 9 7-9pm	<b>HVNA Board meeting</b>	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
October 21  5-630 pm* till 7pm*	<b>Southside Community Meal</b> <i>+ Native Plants for Birds Presentation:</i> Your backyard is your outdoor sanctuary. With some careful plant choices, it can be a sanctuary for nesting and overwintering birds, as well as, a recharge station for migrating birds. Join us as Pam Borso from North Cascades Audubon Society provides us with the information we need to create our own backyard bird haven.	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
October 27 10am – 4pm	<b>6th Annual Fall Festival</b> Artists with handmade items, including: Scandinavian Baked Goods, Raffles Tables, and Lunch Cafe	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
November 13 7-9pm	<b>HVNA Board meeting</b>	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
November 18  5-630 pm* till 7pm*	<b>Southside Community Meal</b>	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

December 1 10am-12pm	<b>Bellingham Park Volunteer Work Party in Happy Valley</b> Help expand Padden Creek restoration efforts by removing invasive weeds and spreading much!	19 <sup>th</sup> St Trail and Old Fairhaven Parkway
December 10 7-9pm	<b>HVNA Board meeting</b>	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Southside Community Meals \*5-630 pm Serving meals \*7pm extended time for events

## Bellingham Children's Coop PRE-SCHOOL

Children's Co-op is a nonprofit, non-denominational preschool that provides child-centered, developmentally

appropriate programs in a family friendly, nurturing environment. We celebrate the whole child through play.

Our seasoned teachers bring many years of experience in early childhood education to our school.

Parents

commit to being actively involved in the co-op, working in the classroom about twice a month and attending

monthly parenting presentations and discussions. **Affiliated with Whatcom Community College, our cooperative preschool offers four programs:**

**Preschool- 3 year olds** -- 13 students (1 to 5 ratio) ; T/TH 8:45-11:45am --6 class hours per week

•\$140 (9 payments per year); Children must be 3 years old by August 31st and potty-trained.

This class is play-based, with emphasis on developing social, gross and fine motor skills, art experiences, And participating in circle and story times.

**Multi Age 2.5-4 year olds** -- 9 students (1 to 3 ratio) -- M/W 2:00-4:00pm --4 class hours per week

•\$130 (9 payments per year) Children must be 2.5 years old by August 31st and do not need to be potty-trained. This is an introduction to a school experience for toddlers and young preschoolers. The class is

play-based, with emphasis on developing social and gross motor skills, art experiences and participating in circle and story times.

**Pre-K- 4 year olds**

•\$205 (9 payments per year)13 students (1 to 5 ratio); M/W/F 8:45am-12:45pm; 12 class hours per week; Children must be 4 years old by August 31st.;T his class is focused on Kindergarten reading with emphasis on social, fine and gross motor

skills, art, re-reading, pre-writing and math concepts, as well as circle and story times.

**Mulii Age 3.5 to 5 year olds** 13 students (1 to 5 ratio); T/TH 12:30-4:00pm & FRI 1:30-4:00; pm9.5 class hours per week  
\$155 (9 payments per year)

Children must be 3.5 years old by August 31st and potty-trained.

This play-based class is designed to emphasize early literacy, science and math concepts while developing

social, gross and fine motor skills, art experiences, participating in circle and story times and preparing children for kindergarten.

**[bhamchildrenscooppreschool@gmail.com](mailto:bhamchildrenscooppreschool@gmail.com) | 201-564-4227**

## **HVNA and Historic Larrabee School by Sam Lockwood**

Leaves, dry and turning, are falling. The historic Larrabee School building's steps are steaming from a power wash. The Bellingham Family Partnership Program (Bfpp) starts its fourth year in this iconic 100 plus year-old Happy Valley education site.

I had a chance to talk with Dr. Kate Baehr, the principal. Bfpp is deeply and happily linked in numerous ways to the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association (HVNA) and its neighborhood.

- The site is a neighborhood park that the Bellingham School District has hydro-seeded this year and leveled.
- Dogs and owners chase and covert.
- Neighborhood kids savor the equipment, 4 square courts, and kick ball diamond as the salmon sculpture challenges the chain link fence.
- Hillcrest Kids preschool program use the space.
- The Firehouse Cafe organizes garden parties to nurture our flower beds.
- Pastor Joel and the Our Savior's Lutheran Church welcome and support us through concerts or with chairs / equipment.
- Park hours: Weekdays 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. Weekends 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- On Bellingham School District Release Days, Bfpp is operating as usual. Please use the playground after 4:00.

Dr. Baehr appreciates the neighbors' efforts to keep the grounds clean of dog waste, litter, and replacing sawdust constructed bike ramps back to the playground basin.

Classes for Bfpp start on September 10th with numerous comings and goings from mid-August on. Dr. Baehr stressed again the "...promise to inspire learning and support families because together we achieve more." Two hundred children use the Kindergarten through 8th grade program. Dr. Baehr noted, "We have about 25% of our students coming from beyond the Bellingham School District. Bfpp seeks to be diverse, inclusive, and promote teaching the whole child as they inquire about their world." (Full Disclosure, I am a staff member at Bfpp.



**Beattie's MOBILE LOCK SERVICE**  
CARS • HOME • BUSINESS

- Automotive Lockout Specialists
- Locks Changed or Rekeyed
- Lost Keys Replaced
- Dead Bolts Installed
- Broken Keys Removed

MEMBER  
ALDIA ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA  
BONDED

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER Like

**671-5597**  
BeattiesLock.com  
Prompt Service • Reasonable Rates

## Tree Keepers Partial Meeting Minutes Aug 27, 2018

Next Meeting, Monday, Sept 24, 5:30-6:30 Topics of discussion included:



**1. Arbor Day:** October 27<sup>th</sup> 9-12 during Make A Difference Day. Amy says: "We are planning a large restoration project to close illicit trails at Whatcom Falls Park.

**2. Tree Keepers Web Site and Facebook page:** Janelle will create and host a Tree Keepers Web page as well as a Facebook back. At the meeting, the group raised \$120.00 for the annual fee to host a web page. Web page will include general information regarding tree preservation and

specific information regarding:

- \* Tree Street pruning and removal regulations.
- \* Home owner and neighbor rights and responsibilities regarding tree pruning.
- \* South Hill has guidelines.
- \* Bellingham Tree stories and how to best collect them. Ty Halloday will be in charge of this.
- \* Relevant tree information from neighborhoods, heritage trees, and preservation efforts.

**3. Tree Deaths.** Tree Keepers records of the senseless destruction of two of Bellingham's iconic heritage trees.

Kentucky Coffee Tree at 2211 Jefferson

Western White Pine, 1204 Billy Frank, Jr. **See photo above**

**4. Interactive Tree Stories:** Parks arborist saved a tree in Happy Valley—near a church

**5. Code enforcement for street tree pruning and removal.** Tree pruning by neighbors of trees on private land. According to Jackie Lynch of the Planning Dept: “If a neighbor wants to pruned branches 6” or wider, a free Street Tree Permit” is required. For further questions contact Jackie Lynch at: [JLynch@cob.org](mailto:JLynch@cob.org)

**Future:** \*Suggestion to try to have a “tree steward” for each neighborhood, someone willing to be the contact regarding tree questions.

\*Sherry Johnston volunteered to speak to interested neighborhood groups regarding tree health and preservation.

\*York Neighborhood, ( area 5— it’s historic district) has ID’s all of it’s trees that are more than 50 years old, Barbara reports.

\*Tree Tales. Tyler suggested adopting Seattle’s

Interact Story Map in South King County which offers history of various trees. Jackie Lynch contributed a story ( see below)

\* Tree Education; More Neighborhood involvement needed

**5. Fairhaven Sign Update:** Monica brought the large poster which had been placed at the corner of Mill and 12<sup>th</sup> inviting folks to write comments regarding the proposed removal of 2 firs to make way for proposed development by the Black Brothers. Ralph Black’s contact info ( If anyone wants to contact him) is: [ralphwblack@gmail.com](mailto:ralphwblack@gmail.com); 360 733-7515.

**6.Tree Codes in Other Cities:** For example, The Bainbridge Island City Council has adopted regulations to protect "landmark trees. The emergency ordinance penalizes unapproved removal with a \$25,000 fine per tree, is effective immediately. [Read more at https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/bainbridge-island-city-council-approves-tree-protection-ordinance/281-569472040](https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/bainbridge-island-city-council-approves-tree-protection-ordinance/281-569472040)

### **7. Code violation forms are available on line**

To report suspected code violations you can submit a Code Violation Investigation request online web form or you can complete the Code Enforcement Investigation Request Form (PDF) and return it to the police dept, **Forms available from the Planning and Development Services Office, by mail, or by fax by calling 360-778-5900** Edited by **Barbara Perry**

## **Street Tree Update** by John Hymas

I am so tired of this long, hot, smoky and dry summer! I am probably in the minority, but I’m sick of all the dying trees I see daily. Drought stress is the killer and trees haven’t had a chance to recover from the extremely hot and dry summer of 2015. Fortunately, we haven’t had too many HVNA street trees succumb from lack of water, but there are a few that are barely hanging on. Lest I forget, I’d like to thank Bobbi Vollendorff for donating two watering bags to the Neighborhood for street tree watering. Thanks to the home owners for using our bags on trees planted by us volunteers in the past. Happy Valley would be a bleak neighborhood without all the trees we have planted over the past 19 years, especially with the steady loss of our urban forest on private property.

This winter will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of HVNA street tree planting. It was written into our Neighborhood Plan and reinforced with our Green Infrastructure Amendment. Now is the time to plan for our next planting – usually in December. Do you have a good spot for a street tree or two? I can help with permitting, species selection and a nursery with healthy stock. I have been a certified arborist since 1999 and have lived in Happy Valley since 1996 (and many years before that). We have a reputation in Bellingham as being the “tree” neighborhood and continue to be advocates. Want a tree this year? Call me. 360-714-9460.

Several neighborhoods are putting together a list of trees that have special significance, such as: historic; size; rarity; special beauty or shape; or a landmark. Here are some in Happy Valley Neighborhood that stand out to me:

- \*Oriental Plane Tree behind the Firehouse – rare and awesome.
- \*Sitka Spruce on 20<sup>th</sup> – probably the second largest in the City.
- \*Sequoia at 16<sup>th</sup> & McKenzie – landmark.
- \*Grand Fir past the end of Mill Ave.
- \*Connolly Creek Nature Area – storm-damaged ‘Candelabra’ tree, still impressive.
- \*Elk Horn Cedar on Mill – rare and one of the largest in town I know of.
- \*Tree of Seven Brothers at 1310 23<sup>rd</sup> St. – rare and in full bloom now.
- \*Row of Ponderosa Pines on the 1400 block of McKenzie – large and a landmark.
- \*Beeches, Pine, Ponderosa at Co-housing on Donovan – size and history.

I’m sure there are more. Send me your ideas and we will add them to our list. This effort is hopefully going to a future Heritage Tree Ordinance which is needed.

In the meantime, water, water, water until we get serious rain.

**“The best friend on Earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources of the Earth.”**

--Frank Lloyd Wright

## **Editor Barbara Perry Thoughts:**

As editor, people have stopped me to present their particular concerns. Here are some issues presented to me:

**\*The alley between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> street** is now blocked with a fence. Blackberries could not be reached; neither could other wild plants, some people refer to as weeds. Deer must find another right of way to the neighborhood. This old time HV neighbor, has a wonderful memory of a Bobtail Cat sitting on the Hill when she was strolling the hood with her then 3 year old, a long time ago, but when the wild is destroyed, what happens to the residents? I would personally like the alley open. I wonder how many calls it would take to convince the city to open our citizen’s alley way? Citizens can call Planning Office at 360-778-5900.

**\*Homeless in HV Neithborhood: Story 1** One day, I scootered by a couple who appeared new to town holding a sign reading “HUNGRY”. I always wish I had a handout to give them about what to do. The two outside our Hagggen/Albertson’s store held up a sign saying “Hungry.” I got them some avocados but wondered where to send them to get more help. The B’ham transit said that they will give a ride to downtown if someone is in need. This may be useful information to give.

More Recently, I met an older Vet who was looking for a place to set up his tent. (20 vets a day commit suicide, 370 a year) He did not know where to look, so I contacted my Facebook friend from **Homes Now, Jim Peterson**, and



asked where to send people in need. **The Opportunity Council** was the answer for long term. **The Mission**, of course, is for the short term.

**Story 2:** I like to stop and talk with people who appear friendly but have signs indicating their homeless state. I learn much from them. One day when I was feeling down, a couple of men asked me for a smile. I said, "Only if you tell me a joke." One said, "Why did the chicken cross the road? When I said I don't know, he said, "To sign up with the military." I responded "It's not funny, I can't laugh." But the two men inspired me to create a new sign for my scooter:

From the Beattle's 1964 album, *Strawberry Fields Forever*:

"Living is easy with eyes closed... Nothing is Real" until water, air, and homes disappear.

It's a bit long but maybe it will make people think.

The old sign I just took down got many looks, some thumbs up. I don't want to depress people – just get them thinking. Bernard Shaw's *Major Barbara*, inspired this one:

WAR  
FATTENS AND FUELS  
U S  
KILLING MILLIONS

Maybe my next sign will be less depressing; maybe it will be "Invest in Nature's Health."

\* **Arnica:**



\*I accidentally hit my foot and it swelled up in anger. Arnica many people buy for healing so arnica I got. I had no idea I could be growing it. A HV neighbor told me of going up to the mountains to collect the wild plant Arnica. Looking at the now On Line library, made me think, I should be planting this centuries old plant. There were many sources about it, but Wikipedia is a useful site to gain perspective about the Sunflower family orange and yellow flowers. The site said that Arnica is a native from Europe, but why is it growing wild in the mountains then? Just think, if we ever get that predicted earthquake, these flowers may be handy to have on hand. Web for where to get starts.

## Happy Valley Neighborhood Association

### Officers

#### President

Vice President Hue Beattie  
Treasurer Bobbi Vollendorff  
Secretary Monica Abrio  
Mayor's Rep. Ray Dellecker

#### At Large

Shovia Machiranehonda  
Alex McLean                      Jim Spaich  
Aaron Walters                    John Hymas  
Wendy Scherrer                  Jake Charlton  
Same Lockwood                  Kate Nichols  
Barbara Perry

### A Committees

**MEMBERSHIP**--Sam Lockwood

**HVNA WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA**--Jake Charlton

**SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY MEALS**--Wendy Scherrer, Susy Hymas, Kate Nichols, Asko Hamalainen, Kevin Sullivan

**YIMBY Housing**--Wendy Scherrer, Monica Aebly, Rose Lathrop, Mark Schramer, Shannon Maris

**PADDEN CREEK ALLIANCE**--John Hymas, Hue Beattie, Richard "Sully" Sullivan, Kim Clarkin, Wendy Scherrer, Dale McKinnon

**TREES & TRAILS**--John Hymas, Jake Charlton, Asko Hamalainen, Barbara Davenport

**NEWSLETTER**--Barbara Perry, Editor

## 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. Please limit submissions to one page. Must fit one page or will have to be REDUCED. Add a sentence about you, your submissions and/or work. We prefer HV authors. Send to Barbara Perry HVNA newsletter editor [annieceis@gmail.com](mailto:annieceis@gmail.com), PLEASE WHEN SENDNG DOCUMENTS BY EMAIL. IN THE SUBJECT LINE WRITE HVN NEWS.

The Happy Valley Neighborhood Association publishes this newsletter quarterly for the residents of Happy Valley in Bellingham, Washington. We are a non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to promoting the quality of life in our neighborhood.

To pay membership dues or purchase advertisement space, mail payments to HVNA, 1050 Larrabee Ave, Suite 104, PMB 402, Bellingham WA 98225, or contact Ray Dellecker at [rdellecker@gmail.com](mailto:rdellecker@gmail.com)

The neighborhood Association would like to hear from you! Send your stories, poems, art, etc. to Barbara Perry [annieceis@gmail.com](mailto:annieceis@gmail.com)

The deadline for the next newsletter is the 1<sup>st</sup> of October for Winter, March 1 for Spring, of June 1 for Summer, and of August 1 for Fall. Let editor now if you need a delay.

Advertising Business Cards \$20

Larger spaces To Be Decided

## 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:**

---

**\$10 For Membership Dues      \$10 HV Tree Projects -- Donation**

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

---

---