

Happy Valley



News

Winter, 2018

A quarterly publication of the Happy Valley
Neighborhood Association

**"We Do What
We Can!"**

Street Tree Update by John Hymas

Our long summer drought is finally over, with the sunniest October I can recall. Unfortunately, until recently the ground was dry as a bone. Now it is safe to plant, I hope. When I moved here in 1970 we got severe winters and it was foolish to plant things like Southern Magnolia, Ceanothus or Cryptomeria. Now those trees and shrubs thrive. Dormant pruning season is here now that we have gotten a few freezes and the leaves are off the trees.

On December 8th we had our annual street tree planting this time along Larrabee Ave. at 16th St. where we planted 2-3 Dogwoods and a couple Maples. Following the planting, staking and mulch we filled out the day by pruning some of our older street trees, mainly on Mill Ave and 22nd St. I have a sweet Goldenrain tree (*Koeleruteria paniculata*) that I grew from seed and is now 7ft. tall in a pot. It needs a home. This smallish deciduous tree has yellow summer flowers and coppery seed pods that last into late fall. Anyone interested?

Some exciting news on the City front: In April the City of Bellingham will begin an evaluation and inventory of our urban forest and all of its benefits. This should include canopy cover, species, ages and general health. Many cities in Washington have done urban forest inventories to date, which influences policy related to trees.

There is also a rumor that the City may bring back the Small & Simple Neighborhood Matching Grant Program! Happy Valley put this grant program to good

use for about eight years before it ended. Let's hope this turns out to be true.

**If you have any tree questions feel free to call:
John Hymas (360) 714-9460.**

"A country without children would face a hopeless future. A country without trees is almost as hopeless." - Theodore Roosevelt



Volunteers installing street trees on Larrabee Ave.

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.

The neighborhood association would like to hear from you!

Send your stories, poems, art, etc. to Barbara Perry: annieceis@gmail.com

Please submit your work beginning the 1st of October for Winter, March 1 for Spring, of June 1 for Summer, and of August 1 for Fall. Let editor know if you need a delay.

happyvalleyna.com

Happy Valley Vote Results, Comparisons, and Notes

By Hue Beattie

In Happy Valley's precinct 258, voters backed the winners with a higher vote than other precincts in the city. Some examples include the following:

In Court of Appeals, Cecily Hazelrigg Hernandez got 53% overall, but in Happy Valley she got 88% of our vote. Other examples:

Candidates	District Wide Vote	Happy Valley Vote
Maria Cantwell for US Senate	59%	94 %
Rick Larsen for US House Re	72%	90 %
Debra Lekanoff for 40th Statehouse	69%	93%
Carol Frazey for County Council	59 %	90 %
Atul Deshmane for Public Utility District	53 %	86%
Steve Gonzalez for State Supreme Court	68 %	87%

On ballot issues	Town Total	Happy Valley
B'ham Housing Low Income	67 %	82 %
Initiative 1631 Carbon pollution	44 %	83 %
Initiative 1634 taxing Soda	45 %	72 %
Initiative 1639 on gun safety	60 %	88 %
Initiative 940 more training for police	60 %	88 %

The turnout for this election in Whatcom County was 77.13 % (!) In my opinion, Oregon and Washington's "vote from home" style is the best in the nation.

The races in the legislative 42nd District ended up being the very definition of "Every Vote Matters" with Pinky Vargas' loss, by a mere 46 votes out of over 72,000 ballots cast, being the proof.

Doug Ericksen	(Republican)	36,341	50.03%	State Senator race 46 votes
Pinky Vargas	(Democrat)	36,295	49.97%	
Justin Boneau	(Democrat)	36,162	49.94%	State Rep. Position 1 80 votes
Luanne Van Werven	(Republican)	36,242	50.06%	
Sharon Shewmake	(Democrat)	36,704	50.68%	State Rep. Position 2 981 votes
Vincent Buys	(Republican)	35,723	49.32%	

Happy Valley Neighborhood Churches Offer Help for Homeless

At the Dec. 10 HVNA board meeting we inquired what HV churches are doing for the homeless in need of shelter. Several local churches do offer help and resources. The Opportunity Council is a good source for more information. ("Homes Now Not Later" is also a good place for volunteer opportunities and can be found on Facebook or through contacting Jim Peterson at: (360) 319-2150.)

Community Resource Center
Phone: (360) 734-5121 ext.370

Whatcom Homeless Service Center
(360) 255-2091 • www.whatcomhsc.org

Southside Food Bank

WHERE: Hillcrest Church, 1400 Larrabee Ave.
WHEN: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month
TIME: 10:00 am - 11:30 am
ORGANIZER: Cynthia Jensen — cjensen@hillcrestchapel.com

The Southside Food Bank is a great resource in Happy Valley.

Located in the brown modular building just East of the main building, folks can come twice each month to get free food. Hillcrest Church is one of at least five churches in Happy Valley and has the mission statement:

Love God | Grow Together | Care for the World

Whereas the Bellingham Food Bank downtown is “the mothership of all food banks,” there is actually a network of 20 food bank and meal programs in Whatcom and San Juan Counties. Hard to believe, but it’s true: nearly 20% of Bellingham’s residents regularly visit the Bellingham Food Bank and more than 50% of the people who come are kids or senior citizens.

I am dropping off six boxes of food next week: food collected by kids who came to perform at our local piano recital. *Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church always has a bin out for donations for the Southside Food Bank. Please contribute if you can!*

Items most needed include:

Breakfast bars
Canned vegetables
Cereal
Condiments
Pasta

Pasta sauce
Peanut butter
Soup
Tuna
Cleaning and Hygiene Products

Happy Valley Board Meetings (all board meetings from 7:00—9:00 pm) Held at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church — 1720 Harris Ave. 98225

January 14	HVNA Board meeting and elections	Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church
February 11	HVNA Board meeting	Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church
March 11	HVNA Board meeting	Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church

Happy Valley Neighborhood Meals —Vegetarian and Non-vegetarian (doors open at 5:00 and begin serving at 6:00)

January 21	Southside Community Meal	Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church
February 17	Southside Community Meal	Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church
March 17	Community Meal (St. Paddy’s Day menu!)	Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church

Happy Valley would like to say **thanks to these local businesses for their contributions:**

*Common Contributors: Great Harvest Bread, Avenue Bread, Joe’s Gardens, Haggan’s Markets

*Public may bring desserts. Healthy Department allows public to contribute deserts.

*In addition, some contributors not known until gathering.

*We sometimes have speakers or presentations during meals, starting at 6:30-ish

Bellingham Family Partnership Program

by Sam Lockwood



(photo courtesy bellingshamschools.org)

As noted in the Happy Valley Newsletter of August 23, the historic Larrabee School building resonates with family and children's joyful noises. The school district's Family Partnership Program (BFPP) has had a wonderful fall quarter. Here's a small tidbit of this K-8 program these past three months.

As I surfaced from my kindergarten teaching position recently, Principal Kate Baehr highlighted several BFPP happenings:

- A Community Services class taught by Dr. Baehr and Jim Diacogiannis has facilitated a Socktober drive to donate socks to charity. Over 200 new pairs of socks found feet to comfort. Another facet of this leadership program was to have a school wide Family Skate Party on November 16. Four donated Thanksgiving baskets were distributed to families in need. Currently, the grade 4 - 8 students are generating end-of-semester projects to be completed by January 24th.
- Teacher Randy Leventhal's Discovery in the Park class provides an outside learning experience in which: "We walk, hike, run, and amble through rotating local parks. Together we will notice the gifts of nature and discover all the learning it offers about colors, weather, plants, trees, animals, and more, including ourselves and others. Games and activities offer but one of the pathways to help advance age-related skills and concepts."
- A dedicated cohort of eager math lovers have formed a Math Club which meets weekly to collaborate and solve classical math problems while preparing for local competitions such as Math Olympiad. These dedicated middle schoolers are under the direction of parent educator, Rachel Throolin.

The classic school building hums with these and other vibrant classes Monday through Thursday in support of homeschooling families.

Where Are the Birds? 72% of Local Birds Gone

By Barbara Perry

In 1975, when my husband and I first moved into our Happy Valley home, an apple tree stood strong, providing many apple treats to both our family and the common birds of the area. We saw flocks of yellow Cedar Waxwings come through the area to land for a few days and fill up on their way north. But the apple tree grew old like we did. My husband Paul loved to sit on the back deck to view nature. He said, "Let's leave the tree down and see what nature does with it." For months, many birds came to feast upon the bugs. The leftover tree was eventually demolished in a season or two. That tree had spent its life growing and giving.

The memory of this tree came to mind because on Sunday, October 21, I went to the local Happy Valley Neighborhood Community Dinner. Wendy Scherrer had invited Pam Borso from the North Cascades Audubon Society to speak about the declining bird population. She showed pictures of birds that we had seen in the past but only a few (including myself) had seen recently. She demonstrated how the Western Tanager (the WA state bird), the Goldfinches, and many other winged beauties had been depleted.

The main cause of the falling numbers was not the predators like cats, rats, and raccoons (although they are still a problem). The problem was people. Borso showed a picture of a typical neighborhood of small houses with grass in the yards but mostly impervious ground for all the cars.

When I mentioned this lecture to my daughter who lives in Seattle, she mentioned that Seattle gives tax breaks to residents who plant native plants: the plants that encourage birds by providing their food. I foresee that Bellingham will soon be giving similar tax breaks for homeowners who provide natural forage sources.

Natural habitat need not be just trees and bushes. It can also be created on decks and inside green houses. I'm sure HV people will come up with solutions for adding bugs to bird meals. Wild plants and even some transports can be worthwhile, too.

Too many people pull up local wild plants in order to plant grass and/or non-native species. Deer eat the grass. Most plants have more nutrients than grass, especially grass without poisons.

The speaker went on to describe the local plants that insects will feed upon. The bird populations eat the high protein insects native plants provide. An Audubon book the speaker recommended was *The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds: Creating Natural Habitats for Properties Large and Small, 2nd Ed.* By Stephen W. Kress. An online database: *Plants for Birds-National Audubon Society*.

Having been to Wendy Scherrer's home, I loved the pathways through the local plants in her front yard. No wonder she had invited this important speaker! What a treat for everyone to be able to see nature thriving. It truly makes a Heaven on Earth. Let us assist our Earth home's recovery so life can be more heavenly again. Thank you Wendy Scherrer* and Pam Borso* for this information.

**For assistance in planting more native plants to attract more native birds in your yard, contact:*

Pam Borso borsope@aol.com

and/or

Wendy Scherrer bluegreen.northwest@gmail.com



Padden's History in Library

By Barbara Perry

In this piece, I concentrate my thinking on two books containing histories of Happy Valley. One is *Looking Back, Vol II*, compiled and written by Dorothy Koert and Galen Berry; the other presents some Salish and neighboring tribal stories compiled by Candace Wellman, a retired employee who worked 18 years at the Western Washington University Archival Center; in her recently published book, *Peace Weavers: Uniting the Salish Coast through Cross-Cultural Marriages* (2017), she has great resources identifying the earliest settlers as well as some of their stories

In *Looking Back Vol II*, Koert and Biery state "John Padden discovered Lake Padden." Such phrasing is quite revealing of 18th, 19th, and 20th century settlers where many, but not all, believed that the Euro-Americans were the superior race -- thus discounting centuries old indigenous peoples living in the area. Their attitude is a history in itself.

Indigenous groups had been in the area of Whatcom for centuries; both Koert and Biery were professors of Western Washington University of the 20th century. Who can identify their reasoning to limit discovery to Padden?

Candace Wellman's book, *Peace Weavers* has Salish stories she personally gathered. More than one early settler had multiple children with their common law (or not) spouses. Female or male children were not recognized as people if their father or mother was a man of European descent and the mother Indigenous. Their stories have been orally passed down.

Some peoples today think that the negative settler attitude may have been partly linked to the NW tribal tradition of slavery. Salish slaves were said to have been killed when a master died so he could serve them in the afterlife. The European Christian culture did not like the slave practices of the Indigenous cultures or their non-Christian beliefs in reincarnation. Wellman barely mentions the slave tradition, admitting in a Demming, Wash. lecture she did not want to insult her story tellers whom she personally interviews.

Why slavery attitudes? Many societies around the world accepted slavery. Not only some Native tribes had slaves, countless other cultures did as well. Some would claim our culture today has slaves in our prisons and/or corporate jobs.

My belief is if our genetic history included the acceptance of slavery or any other destructive belief system, our past, present, and future needs to acknowledge that history in order to understand and advance.

Recently, Bellingham City Council officially declared Columbus Day as Indigenous Day -- a simple act to respect the indigenous peoples. Indeed, as a NWIC employee, I love and admire many powerful Salish traditions such as respecting nature, loving laughter, honoring elders, as well as many others. The slave tradition may linger but is becoming the past. Just as with any society, undesirable traditions disappear. As Ken Ward writes on *Thoughts of Buddhism*: "Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge, skills, understanding and insight. it is the ability to see things as they really are. It is deep, penetrating and immediate. Penetrating wisdom sees through wrong ideas and reveals wrong ideas."

All attitudes, actions, and outcomes are part of history the written word does not easily hide. Seeing historical truths is seeing faults as well as strengths that every society has. John Padden came to the valley in 1870. His family was a significant historical force of our home land; however, Padden certainly did not discover the area.

Moonlight Tree Service

Pruning • Consulting • Tree Risk Assessment



John Hymas
Certified Arborist
PN-1534A
jhymas1331@gmail.com

(360) 714-9460
1316 23rd Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225



*Barbara Perry was an employee of Northwest Indian College for 25 years and a HV resident for 35 years.

Remember to Vote for Whatcom Conservation District Supervisor

By Barbara Perry



Every year, registered Whatcom voters may vote for a supervisor for the Whatcom Conservation District. The District's primary duty is to advise on the regulation of "land and water."

There are conservation districts in every state. They have sometimes held obscured elections controlled by local farmers. Since President Trump has weakened the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this local election is especially important.

Candidates must register by Friday, January 11, 2019. Voters must search the net or newspapers to learn about candidates. In recent years, some progressives have won.

There are a few ways to vote:

- Go to the WCD office at 6975 Hannegan Road in Lynden on **Tuesday, March 26, 2019** to vote in person;
- Request a ballot by **Feb. 8, 2019** and return it by mail **before Mar.26, 2019**.

You can call **360-526-2382** or go online to the Whatcom Conservation District (<http://www.whatcomcd.org/board-elections>) to request a ballot and read about candidates. Remember: Mail-in ballots must be **received on or before Mar 26, 2019**.

The WCD makes critical decisions about our land and water. The candidates will eventually be presented on-line. The HV newspaper will not be able to present candidates before Feb. 8, 2019 so voters are on their own to re-search the candidates and cast an informed vote.

Happy Valley Neighborhood Association

Officers

President: Alex McLean

Vice President: Hue Beattie

Treasurer: Bobbi Vollendorff

Secretary: Monica Abley

Mayor's Advisory Committee Rep:
Bobbi Vollendorff

At Large

Aaron Walters

Barbara Perry

Jake Charlton

Jeni Cottrell

Jim Spaich

At Large

John Hymas

Richard Sullivan

Sam Lockwood

Shovia Muchirawehondo

Wendy Scherrer

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To pay membership dues or purchase advertisement space, mail payments to:

HVNA, 1050 Larrabee Ave, Suite 104, PMB 402, Bellingham WA 98225

or contact Barbara Perry at annieceis@gmail.com

The neighborhood association would like to hear from you!

HVNA 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; Alex McLean, Layout

Request for Submissions

Please send happenings about the neighborhood, short creative works, articles about Happy Valley, or letters to the editor. I know of some professional HV authors, so let your neighbors see your work!

Please limit submissions to one page. Must fit one page or may have to be cut. Add a sentence about you, your submissions and/or work. We give preference to HV authors. Send to Barbara Perry HVNA newsletter editor: annieceis@gmail.com.

Join the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association!

- Receive copies of "Happy Valley 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

Please include \$10.00 for annual membership.

Make checks out to "HVNA". Feel free to donate more to help with printing and other costs.

* Cost for business card-sized advertisement is \$20 per quarterly -- other sizes can be arranged *

Donations for our street tree program are enthusiastically encouraged and can also be written out to "HVNA" with the note of "STREET TREES!" in the subject line.

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or contact Barbara Perry at annieceis@gmail.com

happyvalleyna.com