

Happy Valley



News

Summer 2019

A quarterly publication of the Happy Valley
Neighborhood Association

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

Water Works is Ready for Rain

By Bobbi Vollendorff

A rainwater catchment system and an expanded Community Garden came to Happy Valley Neighborhood in July 2019.

Happy Valley Neighborhood Association president Alex McLean and treasurer Bobbi Vollendorff, along with input from others, applied for and were awarded The Whatcom Community Foundation's "Project Neighborly" grant this year. We received approximately \$4,800. The grant, titled *Water Works*, is basically about the Neighborhood Association working collaboratively with the three different congregations that inhabit the building on Harris Avenue. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (OSLC) not only helps provide a space for the Neighborhood Association to meet and assist with our monthly community meal, community garden and quarterly meetings, but it also serves as a home to The Table Church and to the Ukrainian Evangelical Church of Bellingham. OSLC also has the role of serving as an emergency shelter.

(continued pg.2)



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

August 31	Neighborhood Block Party	Firehouse Arts Ctr -- 1314 Harris
September 9	HVNA Quarterly + Board Meeting	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
October 20	Candidates Forum + Southside Community Meal	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church NOTE: 5:00 -- 7:00

Happy Valley Neighborhood Meals -- Vegetarian and Non-vegetarian options

FREE! Doors open at 5:00 and serving begins at 6:00

September 15	Community Meal Special BBQ	NOTE: 3:30 at OSLC
October 20	Southside Community Meal	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
November 17	Southside Community Meal	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

happyvalleyna.com

The idea of building community here for the Project Neighborly Grant centers on integrating the three diverse congregations and the neighborhood association in a project to build a water collection system off the west roof of the church and store the collected water in two giant, green cisterns that are now nestled along the Church's west wall.

The water storage will solve a long brewing problem for the church where large amounts of water would collect against that west wall and then back into the basement community room causing a great deal of damage. It will also be useful in maintaining our community garden without incurring the ever-growing cost of City water that has been paid for by OSLC for the last several years. This storage system will allow us to expand the interior of the garden by lining the fenced walls with potted tree seedlings for our various tree planting/ reforestation projects without causing additional watering time and expense. A totally cool feature of this design is that we were able to add a water purification component to the cisterns that will actually create potable water in times of emergency without an alternative power source. This feature is a very useful tool for the whole neighborhood to have available should disaster strike.

We had hoped to begin the project around the beginning of May but were delayed due to structural work on the west wall and painting for the entire building. Materials were ordered in early July and with the assistance of about twenty members of the Ukrainian Evangelical group, the cisterns were installed, plumbed for three

degrees of water purification and the 4inch PVS pipes were laid into a 30' long ditch that Alex carefully cut into the asphalt between the church and the garden. Now, once it rains, there will be no more hose dragging and watering the garden and our tree nursery will be a breeze. Maybe we will be able to get actual neighborhood folk to take over the watering chore from the church members. The final component of our project is to have a picnic potluck with our Ukrainian friends complete with ethnic dishes from all groups to celebrate our good fortunes and new friends. Our date for this milestone event is Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 3:30 PM. This is also the date of our first Community Meal, so note the time change of this event so you do not miss it. If you are interested in assisting at any level in this multi layered celebration, or in just hearing more details, please contact Bobbi at 360 820-8660 or bobbi2@q.com Whooot! Whooot!



Bobbi Vollendorff, pondering a rain dance

The Happy Court -- Pickleball Court added to Larrabee Elementary School

By Bob Hei

The Board Members of the Bellingham Pickleball Club (BPC) are excited to convey a unique community pickleball concept; developing a neighborhood pickleball court.

The idea took hold when Bob and Kim Hei spied an unused corner of playground at the school property which houses the Family Partnership Program (formerly Larrabee Elementary School in Fairhaven). We met with school Principal Baehr, neighborhood mover-and-shaker-neighbor Wendy Scherrer, the district building supervisor, members of the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association, and our construction project leader - Marvin Sargent – to ascertain feasibility and interest. With these contacts on board we located funding, products for the court construction, lined up volunteers from the BPC, and submitted a flushed-out proposal to the School District's Community Support Projects program. To our delight, the proposal was readily accepted without change and the work commenced. BPC members: Pat, Dave M., Peter, Steve H., assisted neighborhood residents/BPC members Marvin, Chuck, Karen, Kim, and Bob in putting the court into a usable playing condition and, after a few days, the neighbors christened the school's new venue "The Happy Court". The project took us about 1.5 months and about \$1,500 in materials.

It is our intention that the court's use is primarily for the students of the Family Partnership Program and the Happy Valley neighborhood; especially the kids. We're working with the Phys-Ed teacher to give lessons for the school children starting this fall and hope to extend some opportunities for individuals with special needs, via a Special Olympics

concept, the Max Higbee Center, or other entity.

Court times are regulated by the posted school operational hours. Should you choose to bring your family to play, we request that you use the ONIX 2, or other soft (quiet), ball as a matter of courtesy to nearby residents. Your play is likely to be infused by other families and/or the many kids and neighbors that are now hooked on pickleball.

The Happy Court mantra: Be Kind!, Respectful!, Friendly!, Always Try!, and – of course – Be Happy!, as you're in our Valley.



Street Tree Update

by John Hymas

I felt the need to walk tonight and at the corner of 24th and McKenzie I gazed at the full moon and incredible cloud arrangement with our valley below. It wasn't raining. There was a sentinel tree next to the moon, which was temporally low. Having lived here for so long I knew that it was the veteran Ponderosa pine at Co - Housing on Donovan Avenue. I walked there and admired the two Beech trees, oak and Black pines in front, and visualized the hidden "Camperdown" elm hidden behind the garage and dog run. These trees are 100 years old, and have been carefully preserved during construction. There is an American elm, mostly hidden from view that has a lean you can't believe. When will it go down? Makes me want to post it up.

A friend at the west end of Donovan was worried about his "Shore Pine" which has some dead stems. Turns out it is an ancient Mugo Pine, maybe 80 – 90 years old. Cut out the dead and put a drip line on it when the next long drought hits. It used to be a fact that established trees can handle our seasonal dry spells, but times have changed. At my age I look at trees more than young ladies or hot cars, and I am depressed at the mortality of our established urban canopy, by drought related death and/or removal for development. Infill building seems to need every square foot of space to satisfy the want for profit, be it now or potentially in the future. Loss of mature trees to satisfy architectural design is rubber-stamped by planners if it residential, commercial or even the School District.

My point is that mature trees benefit our world the closer they are to us, personally. You know why: cleaner air, oxygen, water retention, animal habitat, temperature moderation, microbial life in the soil, ascetics, history, etc. We have heard this before and know it, yet we lose our

trees daily. Sometimes there are good reasons, like, a tree is diseased, or hazardous, or has been abused to the point that it is unsightly. But often it doesn't fit into the "plan". The Happy Valley Neighborhood has a plan on the books called the "Green Infrastructure Plan" which seems to be ignored by developers and planners. The main goal is a 40% canopy over our neighborhood, considering the various zones (commercial, single-family, multi-family, and open space). Portions of our plan have been implemented into the latest City Comprehensive Plan, but not all, yet. It was well-crafted, but too progressive I think for some.

We lucked out this summer with moderate temperatures and periodic rains. These summer rains barely breach the soil surface, but they are better than nothing. Water, water, water. If you need a water bag call me.

Good news for the neighborhood – Bobbi Vollendorff acquired through her hard work, the **Project Neighborly** grant. This is for a water retention plan for the community garden at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Besides vegetables we will be growing potted conifers for planting at the Connolly Creek Nature Area next winter.

We are also working on the recently revived **Small & Simple** grant from the past and our proposal was accepted! We were awarded \$5,000.00 for 20 large trees, stakes, ties, mulch and water bags. We usually plant between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Anyone interested in nice, big street trees planted, staked and mulched by neighborhood volunteers, call me: (360) 714-9460 Plan ahead! In the meantime, watch for deer browsing and hooking, and no mower blight!

"Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Salmon Release Update

By Wendy Scherrer

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's School Cooperative Program worked in partnership with the Bellingham Technical College's Whatcom Creek hatchery to get chum eggs in December from returning adults. Batches of 300 eggs were then delivered in January to five elementary school aquariums, including Happy Valley and Lowell. For three months, students cared for and monitored the eggs as they learned about the egg-to-fry lifecycle.

On March 28th three kindergarten classes, teachers, and parents from **Happy Valley Elementary** released 230 chum fry into Connelly Creek at the upper bridge in the Connelly Creek Nature Area.

All three kindergarten classes walked down to Connelly Creek for the fry plant. There was great participation from parents. Dale McKinnon posted photos of the event on the Padden Creek Daylighting Facebook site. The event was also covered by the Bellingham Herald, and was featured on their website.

On March 26th 12 classes, teachers, and parents from **Lowell Elementary** released 283 chum fry into Padden Creek at Fairhaven Park 5th graders tested water quality weekly, and changed water regularly.

All 12 classes walked down to Padden Creek in Fairhaven Park to release the fry. The kids from Lowell Elementary study Padden Creek, including the water quality and a restoration project, in Nooksack Salmon Enhancement's 4th grade *Students for Salmon* program along Padden Creek.



A Time of the Signs

Happy Valley's three neighborhood signs are getting a bit tired after 18 years of weather and sun. Originally created through a Small and Simple grant, awarded by the City of Bellingham, they were first installed in 2001.

The logo was designed by longtime HVNA board mentor and member Wendy Scherrer's son, Peter, while he was a senior at Sehome High School.

If you notice the signs missing for a few weeks during coming months, don't worry: They are just getting gussied up and re-painted to give them a chance at future decades of advertising the best neighborhood in the known universe.

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: Alex McLean, felixian@comcast.com -- please put "HVNA newsletter" in e-mail. Please submit your work beginning the 1st of October for Winter, March 1 for Spring, of June 1 for Summer, and August 1 for Fall. Let editor know if you need a delay.

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

- *Common Contributors: Great Harvest Bread, Avenue Bread, Joe's Gardens, Haggen's Markets, Firehouse Café and the crew at "The Table"
- *Public may bring desserts. Healthy Department allows public to contribute desserts.
- *In addition, some contributors not known until gathering.
- *We sometimes have speakers or presentations during meals, starting at 6:30-ish

Problems & Issues about Driving, Biking, Walking, & Living Along Old Fairhaven Parkway

By Wendy Scherrer

The Happy Valley Neighborhood Association (HVNA) invited city of Bellingham and WA Dept of Transportation staff and southside neighborhood associations to meet about neighborhood issues relating to driving, biking, walking, and living near Old Fairhaven Parkway (OFP) also known as SR/11.

On Monday, March 18 at the Fairhaven Library, 40 participants attended the meeting, including people from the following neighborhoods: Happy Valley, Fairhaven, Edgemoor, South Hill and Birchwood. Providing the meeting with information, PowerPoint presentation and maps were: Wendy Scherrer: Happy Valley Neighborhood Association Board; WA Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) Todd Carlson, and City of Bellingham Public Works (COB): Eric Johnston and Chad Schulhauser.

We learned that the City is mainly responsible for managing and maintaining the highways and WSDOT's responsibility is to pave the state highways in the city, including SR/11. Eric Johnston presented slides, stating, "*All mobility needs for all modes must be carefully considered, balanced, and implemented so that the citywide multimodal transportation system continues to work for everyone.*"

Bike and Ped Projects for 2019-2020

2019—24th Street Sidewalk (west side) from Donovan Avenue to Old Fairhaven Pkwy, including ADA ramps on all four corners of 24th/OFP

2020—Bill McDonald Pkwy/34th St Pedestrian & Bicycle Crossing Improvements.

2020—14th/Old Fairhaven Parkway Pedestrian & Bicycle Crossing Improvements.

TRAFFIC CONTROLS: Roundabouts and/or more traffic control signals

should be considered at 14th, 22nd, 24th, and 30th Streets.

INTERSECTION OF 14TH ST AND OFP:

Poor visibility. Hazard to pedestrians of all ages to cross 14th Street. Make safe for children going to Lowell ES, to Fairhaven MS, and Sehome HS, as well as elders and people with disabilities.

Add sidewalk on the church side? Sidewalk from Old Fairhaven Parkway (OFP) to interurban and Fairhaven Park? There is vegetation on private property that needs to be removed for good vision for all to see in order to cross or turn.

INTERSECTION OF 24TH ST AND OFP:

This intersection has been identified by neighbors, as having the most problems with vehicle, pedestrians, and bikers interactions, with "terrible visibility issues." Vehicles often use the middle lane to merge onto the Parkway (not what the median lane is there for.)

Potential solutions could include adding a roundabout. However officials indicated that is not cheaper than traffic lights, but it is safer (less severe collisions). Could a 4-way traffic light be installed there? Could there be a pedestrian/bike over 24th St? How could we improve this intersection to make it more safe for pedestrians to cross? A citizen said that the COB is focused more on moving cars faster, not pedestrians and bikers safer.

INTERSECTION OF 30TH ST AND OFP:

There is a high volume of vehicle traffic. There is a danger for walkers and bikers. Could OFP be widened or sidewalk be widened to accommodate bikes and make it safer? This would be through the use of money from 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) if approved by City Council.

SPEED: Cars do not slow down for pe-

destrians, bikers, or car that are turning into traffic from neighborhood streets. Currently the speed limit on Old Fairhaven Parkway is 35 mph. At the OFP + 30th intersection near I-5, COB data has indicated folks drive frequently at 36 mph at the 30th St intersection, but data indicates that most cars drive 25 mph around 14th St. Could OFP speed could be controlled by more enforcement, other infrastructure, or by reducing the speed limit in signage? Several neighbors complained about the speed of the cars. City officials opinion was that lowering the speed limit does not work to slow down traffic.

NOISE: It was stated by Ted Carlson that WSDOT does not have a funded program for noise wall installation for I-5. Some type of WSDOT approved vegetation (Evergreens) could be a potential alternative. Installation of any barrier, such as a 3.5' high concrete wall (Jersey barrier), is a safety type improvement and would require an analysis to prove it is necessary. Any and all assets in WSDOT's ROW require maintenance, which is severely unfunded.

TREES: Happy Valley residents had suggested adding trees along the sides and middle of the OFP ROW. Any vegetation added between the "curbs" in the existing paved surface would require a maintenance agreement between COB and WSDOT and the design would also require approval. This would be led by the COB. WSDOT Todd Carlson is willing to work with the HVNA to explore the planting of more trees on the I-5 ROW, which forms the east border of the Happy Valley neighborhood.

AESTHETICS/ART: HVNA Board will work with boardmember Jeni Cottrell and Bellingham Arts Commission on ideas to add public art along OFP.

S.T.E.A.M. Fair Energizes Larrabee

by Sam Lockwood

The March 13th Bellingham Family Partnership (Bfpp) S.T.E.A.M Fair at the Historic Larrabee building saw community organizations and Bfpp students sharing marvelous Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math presentations, displays, and performances. Leadership for initiating this two-and-a-half hour knowledge and talent-packed exhibition rested with a team of teacher Marci Bass plus parent educators Corrine Slouber and Jennifer Carter. One core concept driving S.T.E.A.M. was, "... allowing kids to explore, study, and share what they love creates deep academic understanding and competence."

Student presenters ranged in age from 5 through 13. The scope of the displays was impressive. From Science through Math, we experienced "excitement-to-share": origami, water color, solar system model, capillary action, magnetism, simple circuitry, ornithology, wolves, fossils, lego robotics, Bernolli principle. An articulate and in-depth presentation by the prize winning Bfpp Future City Club dazzled all.

Outside community groups from Happy Valley, Fairhaven, and greater Bellingham provided lots of opportunities for students, parents, staff, and visitors to learn and do. The **City of Bellingham** provided important

information on why is it important (dog) pooper scooping nurtures a cleaner environment for all. **Ragfinery textile transformation** displayed its mission to re-purpose fibers, nurture on-the-job training, create art, and reduce / reuse philosophy. **Padilla Bay Reserve** had critters on view with microscopes. **WWU's S.M.A.T.E Club** (Science, Math, and Technology Education Club) had electric circuits to actively engaged Bfpp kids and

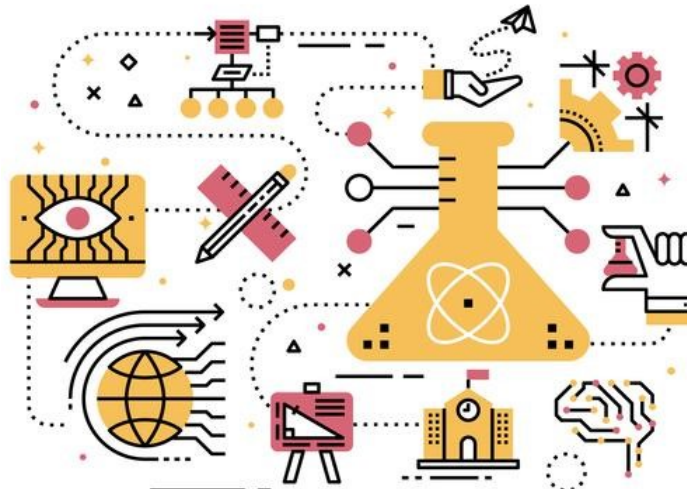
families. The **Whatcom Museum's Family Interactive Gallery (F. I. G. Club)** offered insights into their work with art, nature, and NW history. **Launching Success** enticed visitors with snap circuits.

The buzz of questions, animated conversations, and confident presentations all flowed from another core planning team concept, "Finding students' passions and

expanding on that gives ... great joy!"

The S.T.E.A.M. planning team savored all that the parent group, staff, kids, and community members contributed to this joint effort. "It was truly a whole community effort to do this!", said Ms Bass. The Bellingham

The Partnership Program looks forward to doing the S.T.E.A.M. Fair biannually.



(image courtesy of 'vecteezy.com')

April 6th Work Party at Connelly Creek Nature Area

59 volunteers came to a work party that was organized by Bellingham Parks and Recreation staff, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, Trout Unlimited, and the Happy Valley residents. Over 1,300 pounds of invasive Himalayan blackberry plants were removed along Connelly Creek! Removal of the blackberry allows native plants to re-grow and improves salmon habitat. Spreading 20 cubic yards of mulch after the invasive removal will prevent invasive plants from returning.

In preparation for the work party, Parks Dept arborists removed 30 invasive English hawthorn trees from the Connelly Creek Nature Area between Donovan and McKenzie Ave. This work focuses on actions identified in the *Management Plan for Connelly Creek Nature Area*, developed by Geoff Middaugh and HVNA, and adopted by the Parks Board in 2010.

Our next work party will be Dec. 7 from 9:00 - 12:00 at Connolly Creek N.A.

-- Wendy Scherrer

Fresh Paint Renews HV's Street Rosette

On August 18 about 50 people participated in a day of re-painting Happy Valley's most vibrant intersection. The project, located at 23rd Street and Harris Ave., was initiated five years ago by HVNA Board member Aaron Walters, *The Table*, and a crew of neighborhood volunteers. The paint itself is designed for street applications like this but needs to be refreshed every few years to keep its glory. Walters said the total cost for the day was about \$300, including closing the street, of which HVNA contributed about half. Lookin' Good!



The intersection of 22nd St. and Harris Ave.

For more photos visit: thetablebellingham.org

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

Happy Valley Neighborhood Association Board

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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 Alex McLean at: felixian@comcast.net

The neighborhood association would like to hear from you! Please feel free to attend our board meetings, join our Southside Community Meal, become a member, or submit articles to this quarterly.

HVNA Committees

MEMBERSHIP -- Sam Lockwood

HVNA WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA -- Jake Charlton

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

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 -- Editor and layout; Alex McLean

Request for Submissions

Send us 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 Alex at: felixian@comcast.net with "HVNA newsletter" in the title.

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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happyvalleyyna.com