



SUDDEN VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SUDDEN VALLEY VIEWS

August 2025

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SV Board approves opioid-related support

Naloxone (Narcan) kits to be kept at SVCA facilities

By Bill Helm
Editor

SUDDEN VALLEY — On June 10 inside the Community Center, Sudden Valley staff encountered someone who showed signs of opioid impairment.

Although no overdose occurred, Sudden Valley General Manager Michael Bennett and Recreation Manager Kyle Kaltenfeldt wrote in a June 24 memo to the board and the SVCA executive team that this incident “highlighted the potential risk of opioid-related emergencies in our facilities.”

The SVCA Board of Directors, at their July 10 meeting, voted in favor of keeping Naloxone (Narcan) kits at SVCA facilities. The action item also stated that SVCA will implement the Naloxone Emergency Response Policy and associated staff training and extend up to \$500 from the 2025 Operations Budget.

According to the memo, which was included in the board’s July 10 agenda packet, Washington State law (RCW 69.41.095 & RCW 70.54.440) “permits laypersons and organizations to possess and administer Naloxone without liability.”

Several peer HOAs and municipal recreation centers in Washington already maintain Naloxone kits alongside AEDs “as a best-practice life-saving measure,” Bennett and Kaltenfeldt wrote in their memo. “Deploying Naloxone kits mitigates fatality risks, supports our duty of care and demonstrates proactive risk management.”

According to the memo, “costs are minimal” as a two-dose nasal spray kit is \$34.99 at Walgreens.

See **Opioid** on 11

Sudden Valley to launch new Parks Parking Use Assessment Plan



By Taimi Van de Polder
The Views

To better manage and preserve community resources, SVCA is launching a new Parks Parking Use Assessment Plan, which introduces a structured data collection and registration process for parking at all community parks and beaches.

The initiative is set to go live on Aug. 1 and may become mandatory for all park users in the future.

Purpose and scope

The primary goal of the new program is to gather accurate data on how parking facilities at Sudden Valley parks and beaches are being used, particularly to assess the impact of non-resident vs. resident usage.

See **Plan** on 10

LRPC holds town hall to discuss Barn 6, Barn 8

By Rick Asai
The Views

The Long Range Planning Committee met on July 23 in the Dance Barn in response to the Board of Directors’ Feb. 13 request to explore options for Barn 6 (Ice Barn) and Barn 8 (Dance Barn).

The session, with 60 in attendance in person and another 22 attended via Zoom, consisted of a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period.

Committee Chair Ray Meador opened the meeting and introduced architect Quentin Sutter of Carletti Architects P.S., as well as committee members April West, Elizabeth Huthert, Gary Bara, Ken Van de Polder and Rick Asai.

Meador later introduced Mitch Waterman, who joined late due to a previous commitment.

Committee Member Chad Avery was not in attendance.

Meador reviewed the history of facility removals, including the Rotunda and Barn 7 (Play Barn). That history included the following:

- These buildings were built more than 60 years ago for farm use and not for human occupancy.
- Barn 7 was remodeled to house the Whatcom Branch Library but had to be torn down due to beetle infestation.
- The tear-down of Barn 7 included re-



Architect’s rendering of proposed barn 6. (SVCA photo)

moval of the foundation, resulting in the loss of any grandfathered status for a new building on the same site.

- The library was relocated to the former Adult Center, now the busiest branch in the county.

Past Proposals

- 2017 Revitalization Plan, \$5.9M, was narrowly rejected by a 48–52 vote.
- 2023 Pavilion Proposals, open-air and enclosed, had an advisory vote favoring the open-air concept with \$1.1M funded, but no action was taken.

Current Needs & Proposed Functions for

Barn 6

To compensate for the loss of previous buildings and accommodate a wide age range (~20% children and ~20% seniors), the committee presented conceptual plans for Barn 6, including:

- Dedicated Adult Center space
- Two prep kitchens
- Multi-purpose open space with roll-up doors for badminton, volleyball, basketball, pickleball, skating; also farmers markets and craft fairs
- Elevator for ADA accessibility
- Restrooms, including a family rest-

See **LRPC** on 11

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When the sounds of Sudden Valley get too loud



By Allen Helvajian
The Views

Life in Sudden Valley offers picturesque views and a sense of community, but sometimes, the sounds of daily life can turn from pleasant background noise to a significant annoyance.

From barking dogs to the incessant hum of construction, residents occasionally find their peace and quiet disrupted.

Sounds that grate

“What’s all that noise?” is a common question, as our everyday lives are filled with a cacophony of sounds, some pleasant, others decidedly not. For some,

an intense dislike of certain sounds, known as misophonia, can even be triggered.

Among the top offenders frequently appearing on most annoying lists are car alarms and persistent honking, described as “loud, repetitive, and disruptive.” The stressful sound of crying children can trigger an alert response, while dogs barking, especially at inappropriate times, are also high on the list.

Neighbor-related noise complaints often stem from hammering, banging or drilling.

Many of these bothersome sounds fall within the 2000-5000 Hz frequency range, where human ears are most sensitive, contributing to their irritating quality. Other common culprits include loud music, phone conversations and the buzzing of certain appliances.

When quiet enjoyment is threatened

The Sudden Valley Community Association takes noise seriously. Section 1.7 of their Rules & Regulations (updated Nov. 7, 2019) explicitly prohibits actions that “may be, or may become, an annoyance, nuisance or hazard to adjacent property owners or unreasonably affect the quiet



Sometimes, the sounds of daily life can turn from pleasant background noise to a significant annoyance. Yard maintenance equipment has specific operating hours: Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. (SVCA photo)

enjoyment of any individual, household or neighborhood.” This includes, but is not limited to, “excessive noise, loud music, barking dogs, or motor vehicle noise.” Even tool, machinery, or construction noise after designated hours can lead to a Notice of Violation.

Yard maintenance equipment has specific operating hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Violations related to disorderly behavior or conduct can result in fines as much as \$100 for the first offense, increasing to \$500 for the fifth or more violations.

A special note to dog owners

For dog owners, there’s a particular plea: “Please don’t ignore your pet(s) by keeping them locked out of the house for hours on end.”

A lonely and bored dog can quickly become a noisy, barking dog, and as residents know, sound travels in our valley.

Being considerate of both neighbors and pets is encouraged.

Construction noise: Timing is everything

Construction-related noises are addressed in Section 14.7 of the SVCA Architecture Control Committee Policies (effective Jan. 1, 2025). Contractors performing work that generates noise beyond property boundaries are subject to seasonal restrictions on their hours of operation.

• Summer hours (May 1 – Oct. 31): Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to

5 p.m. (with the exception of concrete placement).

• Non-summer hours (Nov. 1 – April 30): Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with the exception of concrete placement).

Work crews can begin preparation no earlier than 30 minutes before the official start time.

Sunday, holiday, and evening work is limited to activities that exclude machinery noise (e.g., chainsaws, excavators, power tools), unless such noise cannot be detected beyond the property boundary.

Reporting a violation

If you find that the noise you’re experiencing is less than soothing and believe it’s a violation, you can contact Security at 360-319-8200 to report it. This includes concerns about construction noise, barking dogs, automobile speeding and exhaust noises, loud stereos and radios, and even tree and lawn care activities.

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Job change?

Whether retiring or changing jobs, you’ll want to know your retirement account options.

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- Leave it in your former employer’s 401(k) plan, if allowed by the plan.
- Move it to your new employer’s 401(k) plan, if you’ve changed employers and your new employer plan allows for it.
- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.

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VIEWS

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POLICY

The Sudden Valley Views welcomes letters to the editor submitted by members of the Association. Topical submissions of current news interest may be accepted up to six times per calendar year. Letters of up to 550 words are allowed. The editor may edit for style and libel.

DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial submissions (including letters to the editor) for the upcoming issue is the 23rd of each month. Editorial items may be submitted to: bill@lyndentribune.com. For advertising information and deadlines, please contact Mitze Kester at mitze@lyndentribune.com or call 360.354.4444.

LETTERS

We can do better, Sudden Valley

Editor,
 I wanted to bring forward some concerns as we enter wildfire season. Just a few weeks ago, Sudden Valley hosted a community Emergency Preparedness Workshop so that members could be better prepared for emergency situations that could arise.

There were a lot of good discussions and ideas, but I think the threat of wildfires in the valley is very real.

I found it concerning that one of the big highlights of actions taken so far was that yellow lines were painted on roads so that in the event of a fire, people can find their way to the main roads and hopefully escape.

While that is all fine and good, it's not the highlight I expected to hear about. Let's have a more meaningful discussion about some things that hold more weight and actually make us feel safer.

Can we work with the city or county or necessary organizations to see if there are forest roads or trails that could be widened in case of any emergency exit?

These trails do exist and could be used in an emergency situation.

Let's increase the number of Firewise events. Clearly the few we have annually are not enough because each event runs behind schedule with the sheer volume of debris.

Therefore, I, like other members, could

also use our green bin for compost instead of filling it every two weeks with cut up branches that I can't wait six months to drag to the road for a Firewise event.

We all pay HOA fees so that we have services available like Firewise. I got cheers in the last workshop when I mentioned the need for more pickups.

If we are going to say we are doing everything we can to protect our members, let's start here.

Finally, every year we have burn bans and there is an emphasis to limit fires of any kind during the summer months. That's awesome. However, I am struck by the audacity to advertise a flimsy \$100 fee for blowing off fireworks in a dry tinderbox known as Sudden Valley.

It's actually a sick joke in my opinion. A \$100 fee does not discourage folks but rather encourages people to continue with their 4th of July traditions of lighting up the night sky and anything else nearby.

These days, you can easily spend more money taking your family out to eat or driving 10 mph over the speed limit coming home from work than the firework fee. My point is that a \$100 is a drop in the bucket.

I believe that if we actually cared about safety, we would charge a 'no questions asked' fee of at least \$1,500 so that there were actual repercussions for putting families in danger for selfish enjoyment.

I think that the real issue is that nobody actually wants to enforce a steep fine because it might upset a few happy campers on a holiday weekend.

Please don't let me read that the fine is

still \$100 next year. We can do better, Sudden Valley. Seriously.

*Josh Konen
 Sudden Valley*

Our crossroads: A community? Or just a subdivision?

Editor,
 I believe we've reached a significant point in the journey of Sudden Valley.

As a community, we find ourselves at a crossroads and it's time to seriously consider where we want our future to go.

Do we want to continue growing as a true community with shared facilities, activities, and gathering spaces?

Or are we slowly becoming just another subdivision, neighborhoods without a central heartbeat?

I'll be the first to admit, like many of you, I've had my share of "should have, would have, could have" moments when reflecting on past opportunities.

But this is our chance to look forward. If we want to continue having a functional, vibrant community center, we must think long-term. The Barn 8 remodel is coming, and when it does, it will likely be closed for a significant time.

Our remaining facilities won't be able to absorb the demand.

No gym space, very limited classroom space, no fitness classes, no rentals — and yes, that also means lost

revenue, even temporarily.

From time to time, people bring up ideas for increasing revenue.

One major and often overlooked solution is rentable, accessible community spaces, for private events, classes, celebrations, and more.

But let's also be honest: our current facilities have limitations. No proper prep kitchen.

Limited ADA accessibility. If you've ever been in a wheelchair, on crutches, or using a walker, you know how difficult it is to navigate from the dance floor of the Barn to the lower level.

For some, it's not just inconvenient — it's impossible without going outside and walking around the building entirely.

I remember when Barn 6 was open it was an incredible resource, especially in winter. It gave people a place to move, connect, and stay active without battling the weather. It brought life and warmth during our coldest/wettest months.

With today's costs, nothing will come cheap. But that's exactly why we must be intentional. If we want our community to thrive, be inclusive, and generate revenue, we must invest in facilities that reflect those goals.

If we choose not to, then we're inevitably choosing a different path — one that may leave us as little more than a quiet subdivision without a true sense of place.

So here we are. The choice is ours. What kind of future do we want for Sudden Valley?

*Kristy Smith
 Sudden Valley*

Submitting letters to the editor

The *Sudden Valley Views* encourages letters to the editor.

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

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

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

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

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

The *Sudden Valley Views* reserves the right to edit or refuse any letter.

All columns and letters on the opinion page are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Sudden Valley Views* newspaper.

Submitting articles of interest to the editor

SVCA members are encouraged to submit articles of interest for inclusion in the Views. Member submitted articles should focus on areas of interest to the Sudden Valley community.

Opinions, complaints, and politicking belong in the Letters to the Editor, and will not run as a member feature article.

Articles promoting a vendor's services, or advertisements disguised as articles, will not be accepted.

The Views has a separate mechanism for advertising a business, and that is where such information should be kept.

However, to provide fair and equal access, consecutive submissions by a member will not be permitted.

In other words, members who have already had an article published may not submit an article for the following issue.



SUDDEN VALLEY VIEWS
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 www.suddenvalley.com

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Summer in full swing in Sudden Valley



By Michael Bennett
SVCA General Manager

July has ushered in a true Pacific Northwest summer — warm, dry days ideal for outdoor recreation, community events and maintenance projects.

As of mid-July, Sudden Valley has received 23.86 inches of precipitation year-to-date, which is significantly less than the 31.58 inches recorded at this time last year.

This dry trend has accelerated seasonal growth, allowed key infrastructure and recreation work

to move forward, and heightened regional fire risk.

Friendly Burn Ban reminder

As a reminder, a Stage One Burn Ban was implemented by the South Whatcom Fire Authority on June 15, triggering Sudden Valley's automatic burn ban per our Rules & Regulations. This means:

- No open flames or recreational fires are permitted in Sudden Valley, regardless of Whatcom County's broader allowances.
- Only enclosed cooking fires using gas or charcoal are allowed during the ban period.
- A \$250 fine applies to any violation of the ban, and \$500 for repeat offenses.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation in keeping our community safe during fire season.

Community events and recreation

Sudden Valley 5K is in the works for early fall, led by Recreation staff with enthusiastic support from the community.

Also, SVCA Staff & Family Pool Party is being planned for August to celebrate a successful summer season.



Sports programming is growing, with the launch of the Play the Valley Sports Camp and a new Pickleball League.

Pool operations remain strong. Lifeguard training is ongoing, updated pool rules and signage are being implemented, and the team is keeping pace with a steady flow of members and guests, despite running short on popcorn in the lobby.

Golf and turfcare

Highlights include the 42nd Annual Junior Golf Camp, a successful Ladies Invitational, and preparations for the BIAWC Tour-

nament (which took place on July 25) and PGA Junior League finale (which took place on July 22).

Let's all welcome Danielle Bailey, our new First Assistant in Golf Operations.

Turfcare completed sand trap replenishment, removed lily pads from No. 2 pond, and tackled mole activity on No. 13 green.

They also launched excavation of the new Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the Welcome Center.

Irrigation system upgrades and permanent yardage signage installations are underway to improve course playability and water efficiency.

Maintenance and Facilities

With Firewise work completed, Maintenance has caught up on several deferred projects:

- Repairs at the Rec Center, Marina, Clubhouse, and Adult Center
- New signage across parks

and trails

- Boat launch and access gate repairs
- Mailbox replacement at Gate 3

Vegetation trimming, debris removal and tunnel clearing

- Major tasks ahead include:
- Installing crosswalks and signage on Marigold Drive
 - Tunnel lighting improvements near the Welcome Center
 - Repairs to ADA lifts and continued road mowing in Gates 3, 9 and 13

Community Leadership and budget planning

Candidate Forums for the 2025 Board and Key Committee Elections will be held on the following dates at the Sudden Valley Dance Barn:

- Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

See **Summer** on 8

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It's election season in Sudden Valley; applications due Sept. 2

By Nominations & Elections Committee

It's that time of year again — election season in Sudden Valley.

The Nominations and Elections (N&E) Committee has announced that candidate applications for the Sudden Valley Board of Directors (BOD), Architectural Control Committee (ACC) and the Nominations and Elections

Committee (NE) are now available.

If you are passionate about serving our community and helping shape its future, we encourage you to consider running for one of the open seats.

Applications can be picked up at the Welcome Center or downloaded from the Sudden Valley Community Association website.

The following positions are open:

- Three open seats on the Board of Directors

- Four open seats on the Architectural Control Committee

- Five open seats on the Nominations and Elections Committee

Completed applications must be submitted by the close of business on Monday, Sept. 2. All applications must be placed in a sealed envelope and clearly labeled

with "Attention: N&E Committee Chair" on the back.

After the submission deadline on Sept. 2, applications will be opened and vetted to confirm that each applicant is a member in good standing per the SVCA bylaws. Once verified, a random drawing will decide the order in which candidates appear on the October Sudden Valley Views article and on

the official AGM election ballot.

To help the community get to know the candidates, we will host two Candidate Question-and-Answer Forums as well as a Candidate Meet-and-Greet:

- Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Candidate Forum at the Dance Barn

- Saturday, Oct. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Second Candidate Forum at

the Dance Barn

- Sunday, Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. Candidate Meet & Greet

The Candidate Forums will be conducted by the NE Committee, offering structured questions and if time, members to ask questions and learn about each candidate's goals and qualifications.

The Meet and Greet will be an informal event where residents can chat directly with

the candidates in a relaxed setting.

Information about hybrid voting, including how to vote and when, will be provided soon.

We look forward to a transparent and engaging election season and thank all residents who are considering serving our community.

Stay tuned and stay involved — Sudden Valley depends on you.

New Sudden Valley boaters group also builds friendships

Connecting boat owners for community, camaraderie, collaboration



The newly formed Sudden Valley Boaters Group aims to bring together boating enthusiasts of all kinds — seasoned skippers, weekend wanderers, and first-time dinghy dabblers — for connection, support, and shared adventure. (SVCA photo)

By Taimi Van de Polder
SVCA Board Vice President

A new tide is rising in Sudden Valley as local boat owners chart a course toward stronger community ties and smoother sailing.

The newly formed Sudden Valley Boaters Group aims to bring together boating enthusiasts of all kinds — seasoned skip-

pers, weekend wanderers, and first-time dinghy dabblers — for connection, support, and shared adventure.

The group was launched earlier this month by a handful of local residents who recognized the need for a space where boat owners could meet, exchange knowledge and lend each other a hand.

We realized that so many of us were out on the water, often just a few docks away from each other, but had never met.

This group is about changing that. Boating is more fun — and more manageable — when you know your neighbors.

The group's goals are simple yet meaningful:

- Foster connections between boat owners in Sudden Valley.
- Create a support network for practical help and advice.
- Possibly organize social events

We want everyone to feel more confident and more connected.

Whether you're stuck at the dock, out on the lake with an engine problem, or just want some-

one to cruise with, this group's got your back.

Membership is open to all Sudden Valley residents who own or regularly use a boat, no matter the size or type.

Anyone interested can join via the group's new Facebook page (Sudden Valley Boaters), or by contacting bodvandepolder@suddenvalley.com.

In a community surrounded by water and natural beauty, the Sudden Valley Boaters Group is making sure no one has to navigate it alone. We're not just building a boating group — we're building friendships.



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Sunshine, surprises at the annual Valley Fair

By Maxx Robinson
The Views

The 2025 Valley Fair went off without a hitch.

On July 26, hundreds of residents and guests explored the various vendor booths, jammed to live music and enjoyed the great sense of community Sudden Valley has to offer.

Of course, there were some surprises, too.

Kicking off early in the morning, the Valley Fair continued the tradition of hosting live music all day.

Performances by Natural & The Bellfounders, Brittany Collins and Company, Hannah Wyatt, and also the Sudden Valley Ukelele Club helped create a pleasant and inviting atmosphere throughout the fair.

Over 40 vendors attended the fair, selling everything from crochet goods to beautifully crafted tea pots.

Local organizations also showed their support, such as the Washington Native Plant Society and the Whatcom County Library system.

Library members could also check out books and video games directly from the booth.

For younger kids, the Kid Zone was full of free games and prizes. Kids could test their aim in the inflatable target game, and the bouncy house is always a kid favorite.

Food was also plentiful. Hot dogs, tacos, hamburgers and shaved ice were readily available and gathered huge lines.

Street Dogz even sold through most of their hot dogs by the end of the event.

The car show, organized by



The 2025 Valley Fair went off without a hitch. Cruz from El Agave surprised visitors by bringing two beautiful horses that danced along to the live music. These horses were given plenty of attention throughout the day and really stole the show. (Maxx Robinson/The Views)

Doug and staff from Seattle Speed Shop, was far larger than last year's as 40 classic cars lined up along the soccer field, featuring cars such as a 1957 Bel Air in a rare yellow hardtop color and a 1967 midnight blue Mercury Cougar owned by Matt from Sudden Valley Maintenance.

The beer garden, hosted by Menace Brewing, was also a popular spot and provided great views of one of this year's new of-

ferings: the dunk tank.

The dunk tank was a massive success and gathered quite a crowd. Popular targets included Board member Taimi Van de Polder and Long-Range Planning Committee member Mitch Waterman. Other brave volunteers in the dunk tank were Sudden Valley residents Tyler Byrd, Kaelan Van de Polder, Harlow Van de Polder and Elijah Mitchel as well as rec staff employees Owen and Har-

mon. But it wouldn't be the Valley Fair without a few surprises.

Cruz from El Agave surprised visitors by bringing two beautiful horses that danced along to the live music. These horses were given plenty of attention throughout the day and really stole the show.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2025 Valley Fair and helped make it a bustling, exciting event. We hope to see you again next year.

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This year's Valley Fair in pictures



Far left: A surprise guest at the Valley Fair. Center: Mitch Waterman mid-dunk. Right: Nicole from Headwaters Farm in a booth full of flowers. Headwaters Farm provides the flowers at the Valley Market, too. (Maxx Robinson/The Views)



Above: A stunning red 1935 Ford at the Valley Fair car show. (Maxx Robinson/The Views)



Above: The Sudden Valley Ukelele Club performs at the Valley Fair. (Maxx Robinson/The Views)



Above: A view of the vendors at the Valley Fair. (Maxx Robinson/The Views)

2026 Sudden Valley Election

DATES TO REMEMBER

SAT 8/16/25
TOWN HALL
2026 BUDGET
PRESENTATION AND OTHER
BALLOT MEASURES
@9:30AM



TUES 9/2/25
CANDIDATE
APPLICATIONS DUE AT
WELCOME CENTER
@4:30PM

**MON 9/22/25 &
WED 9/24/25**
ELECTION MATERIAL
MAILED



WED 9/24/25
CANDIDATE FORUM @6:30PM
SAT 10/11/25
CANDIDATE FORUM @6:30PM
SAT 10/26/25
MEET AND GREET @3PM

SAT 11/1/25
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS
OF THE ELECTION
INCLUDING THE NEW BOD
AND ELECTED COMMITTEE
MEMBERS @1PM





SUDDEN VALLEY

2026

Life jacket loaner kiosk available at Marina

Eagle Scout service project by Jack Anderson

By Ted Wang
SVCA Safety Committee Member

A new water safety enhancement has been installed at the Sudden Valley Marina. It is the result of collaboration between the Sudden Valley Safety Committee, Washington State Parks and the Eagle Scout Service Project by Boy Scout Troop 4019 member Jack Anderson.

Anderson and his parents are Sudden Valley residents.

Eagle Scout projects are intended to teach the candidate management responsibilities, and Jack worked with the Safety Committee on the design of the structure, acquired the building materials (funding from SV), recruited fellow Scouts and adults, was responsible for safety during construction, made on-site decisions when changes needed to be made, and contributed labor.

He worked as both a leader and a team member.

The Life Jacket Loaner Program is a Water Safety project of our State Parks and Parks supplies the life

jackets -- Personal Flotation Devices or PFDs -- at no cost to Sudden Valley.

However, if residents have PFDs they no longer use, they may be donated through the Recreation Department.

The kiosk operates on an honor system. If someone forgets or simply doesn't bring a PFD when venturing out on Lake Whatcom, one can borrow and then return to the kiosk when finished.

The Safety Committee reminds everyone that all boaters, including paddle boarders are required, by law, to have a life jacket in their possession when on the water.

The Whatcom County Sheriff has the authority to cite if no flotation device is present.

Our waters are cold, even if the surface temperature is deceptively warm, and Cold Water Shock is always a possibility.

It is a more immediate threat than hypothermia and can and does result in drowning. Wearing the jacket will keep one at the surface, even if having gulped in water after falling in.

With appreciation to Anderson and his parents Brett and Kimberly; scouts Corbin Nelson, Jack and Logan Gebhardt; and Kyle Gebhardt and Dave Mazur, thank you all from Sudden Valley.



A recently installed water safety enhancement is the result of collaboration between the Sudden Valley Safety Committee, Washington State Parks and the Eagle Scout Service Project by Boy Scout Troop 4019 member Jack Anderson, a Sudden valley resident.
(Ted Wang for the Views)



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Summer: In full swing in SV

Continued from 4

- Friday, Oct. 11 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- A candidate meet and greet is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 26,

also at the Dance Barn. These events offer excellent opportunities for members to engage with potential leaders and ask questions in a relaxed setting.

The 2026 Budget Process is

now underway, and we encourage members to participate.

Two Special Board and Finance Committee Draft Budget Review Meetings will be held:

- Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Attendance is encouraged in person or via Zoom, as your input helps shape the financial future of our community.

Closing remarks

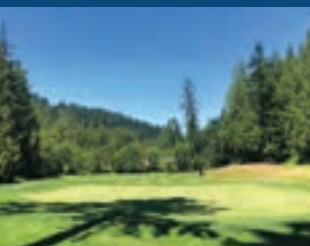
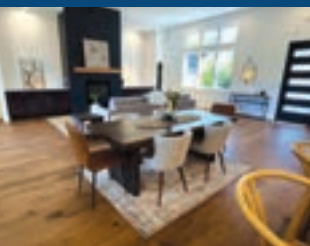
As we reach the peak of the season, Sudden Valley is thriving with activity, from community celebrations to infrastructure improvements.

I hope everyone attended our annual Valley Fair on July 26, observed the burn ban, and is getting involved in the upcoming elections and budget planning process.

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Sudden Valley forms safety committee

Board of Directors also approve quiet pool policy revisions

By Bill Helm
Editor

SUDDEN VALLEY — Until July 24, seven special committees served the Sudden Valley Board as well as the Sudden Valley community.

Those committees are the Architectural Control Committee (ACC), Document Review Committee, Finance Committee, Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC), Nominations & Elections Committee (N&E), Appeals Committee and Short Term Rental Task Force (STR).

On July 24, the Sudden Valley Board of Directors officially agreed to form an eighth committee, the Safety Committee. Manager Michael Bennett explained

in a memo to the SVCA Board that the purpose of the Safety Committee is to support the community's "commitment to community safety by promoting educational resources, events and programs that address household, personal and neighborhood safety."

Further explained in Bennett's memo, the Safety Committee will advise the Board on safety issues that affect the community, propose safety-related events and literature, and also serve as a liaison with local agencies when appropriate.

Membership will include a mix of Directors and SVCA members in good stand-



Rick Asai, chair, SVCA Safety Committee

ing "ensuring broad representation while maintaining Board oversight," Bennett stated in his July 24 memo to the board.

According to the resolution to form the Safety Committee, included in the SVCA Board's July 24 agenda packet, the committee may be from five to seven members, at least two members are to be current SVCA Board members and at least three members who are non-Directors and members in good standing, with the committee's chair to be named by the board.

As of July 29, the SVCA website, suddenvalley.com, posted the names of the committee's inaugural members. Members

are board members Rick Asai (committee chair) and Tom Henning, and non-directors Kolleen Mitchell, Judy White, Debbie Davolio and Daniel Harris.

Sudden Valley's Safety Committee will hold its first meeting at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21 in the Library Conference Room, 10 Barn View Court. More about the new Safety Committee at suddenvalley.com.

Other measures approved by the SVCA Board on July 24:

- Revised Quiet Pool Policy 2025.01
- 2025 Employee Handbook Final Revisions
- SVCA Vehicle Registration Sticker Program

The Sudden Valley Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in Multipurpose Room A. Agendas and minutes for the board's meetings are available at suddenvalley.com, as are video.

-- Contact Bill Helm at bill@lyndentribune.com.

Upcoming Whatcom Disc Golf Club Event, Sept. 6-7

By Adam Tullis
The Views

The Whatcom Disc Golf Club plans to hold a disc golf event at the Mossy Roc Disc Golf Course, Old Campground, Sept. 6-7.

The event will host approximately 60-90 participants per day, with activities starting at 7 a.m. and lasting approximately

10 hours each day. During this time, the course will be closed to non-participants to ensure safety, minimize traffic and help the event proceed on schedule. All participants will be required to be either insured members of the golf club or verified Sudden Valley residents.

To address increased traffic and parking needs, the Whatcom

Disc Golf Club will manage and direct on-site parking, encourage carpooling and provide shuttle service from nearby park-and-

ride locations if needed. Temporary signage will be posted in advance to notify the public of the course closure during the event.

For additional information, please check out the Whatcom Disc Golf Club website at whatcomdiscgolfclub.com.



The Whatcom Disc Golf Club plans to hold a disc golf event at the Mossy Roc Disc Golf Course, Old Campground, Sept. 6-7. (SVCA photo)

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Say hello to Sudden Valley's newest resident



Above: Sudden Valley children had fun recently when they welcomed the community's newest resident - the new dinosaur at the Valley Market. (Photo courtesy Leslie Reed)
At left: Sudden Valley Marina has a few new residents - and they're winning hearts fast. A momma duck and her fluffy ducklings have made the Marina their home and have grown quite comfortable with their human neighbours, Regularly coming up and interacting with the local kids. If you would like to see your child featured in our kid's views section, please send your submissions to BODvandepolder@suddenvalley.com. (Taimi Van de Polder/The Views)

SV children visit duck family



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Plan: Sudden Valley to launch new Parks Parking Use Assessment Plan

Continued from 1

With growing concerns about congestion, wear on facilities and

access limitations for residents, this initiative is designed to ensure that community amenities are equitably and sustainably managed.

This is about making informed, data-driven decisions for the benefit of our residents.

By understanding usage patterns and differentiating between resident and non-resident impact, we can shape future improvements, enforcement and access policies.

Registration process

Beginning Aug. 1, all vehicles parked at Sudden Valley amenities will need to be registered through the new system. The process will include the following:

- **Online Registration Portal:** Residents will access a centralized online portal to register their vehicle(s). The portal will be available through the SVCA website.
- **Vehicle Information:** Users must provide license plate number, vehicle make and model, and owner contact details
- **Resident Verification:** Sudden Valley residents will be required to confirm their residency status by providing proof of address.
- **Permit Tagging:** Once registered, a sticker will be issued with a specific number assigned to the

vehicle and will need to be placed on the inside of the vehicle windshield. Decals will be available at the Welcome Center, Rec Center, and Marina Office. These decals will expire annually to ensure an up-to-date resident list.

Will my information be secure?

SVCA implements comprehensive security measures to protect your information:

- All sensitive data is encrypted using industry-standard AES encryption
- Information is stored in a secure PostgreSQL database with encrypted connections
- Access controls will ensure only authorized personnel can access data
- Secure session management with automatic timeouts prevent unauthorized access
- Regular backups and security updates will maintain protection against vulnerabilities.

The program is being introduced as part of a broader initiative to enhance the quality and accessibility of Sudden Valley's public spaces.

Community members are encouraged to provide feedback to office@suddenvalley.com.

For more information and to register your vehicle, visit sudden-valley-vehicles-mbennett7.replit.app.

Sudden Valley Golf Club

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No matter how often you play, there is a membership that is right for you!

Property Owners	Annual	Monthly	Non-Property Owners	Annual	Monthly
Single	\$2,300	\$195	Single	\$2,500	\$210
Couple	\$3,450	\$290	Couple	\$3,800	\$320
Family of 3+	\$3,650	\$310	Family of 3+	\$4,000	\$340
Young Family (children 15 or younger)			Young Family (children 15 or younger)		
After Noon Play	\$1,625	\$140	After Noon Play	\$1,800	\$155
Senior Limited (62 & up, M-F)	\$1,675	\$145	Senior Limited (62 & up, M-F)	\$1,850	\$160
Intermediate (Ages 18 - 28)	\$1,150	\$100	Intermediate (Ages 18 - 28)	\$1,250	\$110
Junior (17 and Younger)	\$350	\$37	Junior (17 and Younger)	\$380	\$42

Associate Membership: Associate members receive three complimentary rounds of golf, 50% off all green fees, 50% off range balls, handicap service, a locker, preferred tee times, and may play in all Golf Club tournaments and participate in all social events. **Cost: \$550 / year - \$48 / mo.**

Social Membership: Social members receive two complimentary rounds of golf, 25% off all green fees, a locker, preferred tee times and may play in all Golf Club tournaments and participate in all social events. **Cost: \$145 / year (\$155 / year with GHIN Handicap Service)**

AA Right- Steve Kure

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LRPC: Committee holds town hall to discuss Barn 6 and Barn 8

Continued from 1
room
• Office space, meeting rooms, and storage
• Event venue capacity for weddings, reunions, anniversaries with a rental potential of \$3,000–\$6,000/day (according to a local wedding planner)
• Upper level with views of the golf course

and lake that includes outdoor deck for as many as 49 people
• Backup generator for emergency shelter during local disasters
• Estimated 50-year service life if properly maintained
• Design adheres to modern building codes, safety, and energy efficiency standards
Estimated Cost &

Financing Plan
Presented by Rick Asai (LRPC & Treasurer)
• Total Project Estimate for Barn 6: \$8,403,958, which includes taxes and permits
• Design is utilitarian, not extravagant, Sutter stated
• Funding via special assessment (assessment includes contributions to

CRRRF (Capital Reserve):
a. Combined cost for Barns 6 & 8: ~\$24/month (20 years @ 7.25%)
b. Staged approach:
• Barn 6: ~\$13/month
• Barn 8 (when repairs begin): additional ~\$11/month
Architect Remarks
Quentin Sutter commented on the ef-

ficient and functional nature of the proposed design, emphasizing utility over luxury.
Community Feedback
A robust Q&A followed, with several questions addressed during the session. Key community suggestions included:
• Exploring the option of building a pavilion on the Barn 6

site
• Instead of reinforcing Barn 8, consider rebuilding it entirely. This would result in two new structures and eliminates concern over Barn 8's long-term viability even after reinforcement
These ideas will be reviewed further by the LRPC.
Next Steps

• Continued discussion at the committee and board levels
• Possible additional public forums for feedback
Visit the LRPC page at suddenvalley.com to view the recorded meeting.
-- Keith McLean, Linda Bradley and Taimi Van de Polder contributed to this report

Opioid: Sudden Valley Board approves support

Continued from 1
“Providing two kits per location (for redundancy) across six locations totals 12 kits at an estimated \$420, including tax,” the memo explained. “Staff training is available free of charge through the Whatcom County Health Department.” Legal protections under Washington’s Good Samaritan law shield SVCA and responders from civil liability when acting in good faith, the memo continued.
Revised pool rules

Also on July 10, the Sudden Valley Board authorized Bennett to implement revised 2025 pool rules [as included in the agenda packet] “including updated standards for slung diaper usage and conduct expectations to ensure compliance with the Fair Housing Act and preserve the quiet nature of the quiet pool.”
According to the board’s agenda packet, the revised pool rules are in response to legal guidance regarding potential discrimination under the federal Fair Housing Act (FHA).

Bennett wrote on July 10 in a memo to the SVCA Board that in early June a resident “submitted a concern about the exclusion of non-potty-trained children from the Quiet Pool, asserting that this policy was potentially discriminatory against families with young children and individuals with disabilities.”
As a response to the resident’s concern, Sudden Valley General Counsel reviewed the rule and issued a legal memorandum that advised “a categorical restriction on pool access based on age or conti-

nence status may violate the FHA.”
According to Bennett’s memo, the previous Quiet Pool rule “did not allow access to individuals who were not fully potty-trained, which could include young children and adults with certain medical conditions.”
“This exclusion could be interpreted as discriminatory,” he wrote, “especially where a less restrictive means of ensuring pool sanitation exists.”
-- Contact Bill Helm at bill@lyndentribune.com.

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Dr. Chaddock is a western Washington native. He attended WWU and is a 2003 doctoral Graduate of the University of Washington School of Dentistry.




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Sudden Valley Community Association updates pool rules

By Nakell Jones
The Views

As of July 2025, the Board has updated the rules for the Sudden Valley pools. While most of the existing rules remain the same, a few updates have

been made to clarify expectations around behavior and safety.

To support a calm and peaceful environment at the Quiet Pool, new behavior guidelines have been introduced. Electronic devices must be used

with headphones or kept at a low volume. Yelling, loud conversations, splashing, roughhousing, horseplay, diving, and jumping into the Quiet Pool are not permitted.

Additionally, toys, inflatables, and recreational flotation devices are not allowed unless used for therapeutic or medical purposes.

At the Main Pool, the maximum number of swimmers allowed at one time is 100. This is subject to a 1:25 ratio

of available lifeguards to swimmers, which helps ensure a safe swimming environment.

To protect water quality at both pools, updated swim diaper requirements are now in effect. All non-toi-


let-trained individuals must wear a properly fitted swim-specific diaper with secondary waterproof covering. Diaper changes must be done in designated restrooms or changing areas.

Please note that these are just a few highlights of the updated rules. For the full list, visit suddenvalley.com.

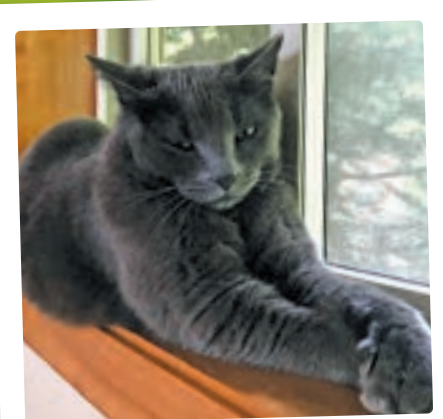
Let's continue the fun and remember to be respectful of others while enjoying the pools this summer.

Let's continue the fun and remember to be respectful of others while enjoying the pools this summer.

Let's continue the fun and remember to be respectful of others while enjoying the pools this summer.



Pet of the MONTH



This month's pet of the month is Ms. Nesbit, submitted by Ramone D.

Ms. Nesbit may be big in size, but she's BIGGER on style! Known for her love of sunbathing, she can often be found lounging in the warmest spots of the house. But what really sets Ms. Nesbit apart? Her paws! This polydactyl queen is rocking extra toes, and she loves to show them off to anyone who'll give her attention. Whether she's gently batting her "mitts" in the air or casually stretching to flaunt her fabulous paws, Ms. Nesbit knows how to steal the spotlight.

Do you have a pet of the month? If you think that your pet is ready for prime time, please send a high resolution photo with your pet's name, your name, and a brief description to office@suddenvalley.com

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SVCA acronyms

<p>ACC – Architectural Control Committee AGM – Annual General Meeting BOD – Board of Directors BMP - Best Management Practices CC&Rs – Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions CIP – Capital Improvement Plan CRRRF – Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund CTK – Christ the King Church DNR - Washington State Department of Natural Resources DOE - Washington State Department of Ecology DRC – Document Review Committee EIS - Emergency Information System FTE – Full Time Employees GIS - Geographic Information System GM – Sudden Valley's General Manager GMA – Growth Management Act HOA – Homeowner's Association LAMIRD - Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development LRPC – Long Range Planning Committee LWPG – Lake Whatcom Policy Group LWWSD - Lake Whatcom</p>	<p>Water & Sewer District MOU – Memorandum of Understanding MPR – Multi-Purpose Room N&E – Nominations and Elections NPDES- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System OPS – Operations PSE - Puget Sound Energy PUD – Planned Unit Development RCW - Revised Code of Washington REC – Parks & Recreation Department RFP – Request for Proposals RFQ – Request for Qualifications ROW - Right-of-Way SGM – Special General Meeting SOP – Standard Operating Procedure SVCA – Sudden Valley Community Association UDR – Undesignated Reserves WCLS - Whatcom County Library System WCOG - Whatcom Council of Governments WCSO – Whatcom County Sheriff's Office WDFW - Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife WTA - Whatcom Transportation Authority WUCIOA – RCW 64.90 – The WA Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act</p>
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63 Lake Louise Drive, Bellingham Affordable Pacific Northwest Living: beautifully remodeled 3-bedroom, 1-bath home nestled in the Sudden Valley Gate 2. Featuring a bright, open concept living space with soaring vaulted ceilings and abundant natural light, this home offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Set on a level driveway and surrounded by mature trees, enjoy year-round privacy and serene territorial views. Just steps from the picturesque Lake Louise trail. Enjoy access to beaches, a marina, golf course, public trails, community parks, and more—all part of the vibrant Sudden Valley lifestyle. **\$398,000**

SOLD



Fabulous 3 bedroom plus office/den home with luxurious finishes throughout. Large living room with fireplace and dining room and lovely side deck and front porch. Home has lots of natural light all day long, with gourmet kitchen and stainless-steel appliances. Stunning hardwood & slate flooring, with master suite with luxurious bath including double sinks, separate soaking tub and shower. All with a low maintenance yard, new roof, on demand water heater and level driveway! **\$599,000**