



SUDDEN VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# SUDDEN VALLEY VIEWS

March 2026

WWW.SUDDENVALLEY.COM

## SVCA Board approves road repairs, culverts replaced

By Bill Helm  
Editor

SUDDEN VALLEY — Sudden Valley Community Association's Board of Directors approved several capital projects at its Feb. 26 meeting.

But not before it accept resignations from two of its board members.

Rob Gibbs has stepped down as N&E chairman because of "time commitments as president of a non-profit board," Board

Secretary Taimi Van de Polder explained to The Views.

Also, Jo Adams resigned from the board due to time commitments with a new job in another state, Van de Polder said.

The largest of the

Sudden Valley Board's action items approved on Feb. 26 is \$428,714 from the Roads Reserve Fund for the completion of the four road repair and 23 culvert replacement projects proposed for completion in 2026.

Asphalt repairs are scheduled for Yearling Place at \$98,067; Appaloosa Court at \$38,339; Misty Ridge Court at \$32,853; and Fields Park Place at \$24,315.

A Feb. 26 memo from General Manager Jo Anne Jensen to the

SVCA Board identifies 24 culverts that need replacement. However, one of them, Culvert 25, has not degraded since the 2024 inspection and recommend that SVCA push off the replacement to 2030, a statement in which

Impact Design and SVCA staff agree.

"The culvert will be monitored by staff and re-inspected in 2028 as part of the five-year renewal of the 10-year roads and drainage

See **Directors** on 10

## Marina Park improvements

*Enhancing recreation, protecting the lake, serving the community*

SVCA Staff

SUDDEN VALLEY — Marina Park sits within the Lake Whatcom watershed, which supplies regional drinking water.

As stewards of this shared space, the Association must balance recreation, environmental protection, safety and long-term maintenance.

Upcoming improvements are intended to protect water quality and shoreline habitat; clarify park use and reduce conflicts; maintain safe, well-managed common areas; and preserve Marina Park as a valued community resource that will make it more functional, more inclusive and more inviting.

The following are benefits for the whole Sudden Valley community:

- More space and amenities for everyone
- Larger portion of beach available for families
- Resurfaced tennis/pickleball and basketball courts
- Volleyball court relocated for better access
- Pavilion designated as a dog-free gathering space
- Updated horseshoe pits and improved field use
- New barbecues installed
- New play structure to enhance family use
- Reduced crowding at AM/PM beaches

These improvements make Marina Park more welcoming, usable, and en-

See **Improvements** on 9

## SUDDEN VALLEY ARCHIVES FINALLY RELOCATED TO PERMANENT HOME



**After nearly 15 years in temporary storage, the Sudden Valley Community Association's official archives have been moved into a permanent, climate-controlled home inside the Clubhouse.**  
(SVCA photos)



SVCA Staff

SUDDEN VALLEY — After nearly 15 years in temporary storage, the Sudden Valley Community Association's official archives have been moved into a permanent, climate-controlled home inside the Clubhouse.

This marks the end of a long effort to

safeguard the community's historical records.

The documents were originally placed in two rented conex storage containers more than a decade ago, which was intended only as a short-term solution.

A few years later, the Association purchased the containers, which were first kept in the recreation corridor before being relocated to an openair structure in Area Z.

Although the move offered partial protection from the weather, moisture intrusion soon became a concern.

The containers were then transferred to Barn 6, where they remained for several years.

Discussion about relocating the archives has circulated for a long time, but meaningful progress began in September 2025 when directors Linda Bradley and Taimi Van de Polder undertook the extensive task of sorting and evaluating

the stored materials.

After many hours of organization, the pair determined that the Association was finally ready to transition the records into a permanent space.

In January, GM Jo Anne Jensen purchased new filing cabinets, which were installed in the former Accounting offices in the Clubhouse.

On Feb. 18, members of the Maintenance team transported the existing file cabinet drawers from Barn 6 to the new location.

Working alongside staff, Bradley and Van de Polder began the process of refiling and restoring the Association's archived documents.

The move marks the first time in more than a decade that Sudden Valley's historical records have been housed in a dedicated, secure environment — an important milestone for preserving the community's institutional memory.

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

**AROUND THE VALLEY**

# February weather was ‘better than expected’

February was a busy month at Sudden Valley as staff took advantage of the better than expected weather to work on several Spring Cleaning projects.

Work was completed to refurbish trails, to relocate and reorganize our records archive, and to ready the golf course for another season of play.

We also saw more residents taking advantage of sun breaks to visit our trails and parks; Spring is definitely in the air.

## Administration

### Activity Summary

- Reorganized Administrative files to improve access to records and shred documents beyond their retention dates
- Conducted an audit of HR files to ensure compliance
- Moved SVCA's architectural records archive from the Ice Barn to the Clubhouse
- Removed redundant documents and reorganized architectural records so that they can

be accessed more quickly when needed

- Shredded Accounting files that were past their retention date; moved Accounting records to a secure storage area in the clubhouse
- Researched options to replace the software and hardware used in SVCA points of sale (POS). Our current software stopped working in several locations due to a malicious cyber-attack on the vendor that supplies it. (Note: The POS at the Welcome Center is still working correctly.)
- Continued developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to reflect current processes
- Continued development of a process to register and manage short- and long-term rental properties within the Association
- Began implementation of software to streamline the onboarding process for new employees
- Began process to identify more affordable healthcare options for employees

### Successes

- The results of the HR file audit confirmed that SVCA is compliant and would pass a state or federal inspection
- Creating a document archive that is easily accessible and temperature-controlled will ensure that SVCA can respond to record requests more efficiently and contributes toward the long-term health of our irreplaceable records

### Planned Work

- Finalize process to register and manage short- and long-term rental properties within the Association
- Continue updating SOPs

### Maintenance

#### Activity Summary

- Repaired landscaping at Barn 8
- Installed new fence posts and repaired leaky faucet at Area Z
- Refurbished bulletin board at Clubhouse
- Removed tree from over Alder Court trail
- Filled potholes in various locations
- Installed stop sign at Yearling Place and Meadow Court
- Repaired faucet in Men's room at the Rec Center
- Replaced stop sign on Dawn Break Court
- Assembled and delivered file cabinets to the Welcome Center
- Replaced headlights on SP-6 with LEDs for longer lifespan

- Cleaned storm line and catch basin on Polo Park bridge
- Straightened curb stops at dry storage area at the Marina
- Refurbished picnic table and chairs for Welcome Center
- Serviced OP-20, OP-29, OP-26, and OP 22
- Built and installed new door on trash collection area at the Clubhouse
- Organized storage area at Marina office
- Had re-call work performed on UTV
- Improved drainage on Sudden Valley Drive near Little Strawberry Ln
- Installed new signage at emergency access entrance at the Rec Center
- Cleaned and organized Area Z wood chip storage area
- Repaired sign at Gate 5 Park
- Performed trail maintenance on Area Y trail
- Cleaned out lower Clubhouse and prepared access for upcoming HVAC project
- Washed and cleaned all maintenance vehicles
- Replaced disconnect switch on Backhoe 420E
- Serviced brine pump and trouble shoot running issues
- Replaced battery on Vac-Trailer and serviced pump
- Refurbished benches at Rec Corridor tennis courts
- Cleaned up trash that was illegally dumped at Gate 28
- Trimmed low hanging branches on Sudden Valley Drive
- Trimmed vegetation at various intersections to improve visibility
- Improved access points at Picnic Point trail
- Cleaned area around AM/PM park pavilion
- Moved files to new archive storage area
- Assembled and installed new desk at Welcome Center
- Applied anti-ice brine to SVCA roadways
- Installed snowplow on OP-30 to be ready for potential snow in gates 5 and 28
- Repaired sander brackets on OP-25
- Replaced batteries in OP-24
- Replaced vapor canister purge valve on SP-6

- Built new shelves in archive room to increase storage
- Started painting project in the game room and hallway at the Rec Center
- Repaired urinal in Men's room at the Clubhouse
- Made trail improvements on Beaver Ridge Trail
- Replaced no parking signs AM/PM park
- Repaired stop sign on Grandview Lane
- Repaired street sign on Lost Fork Lane
- Repaired road shoulder damage on Sudden Valley Drive
- Repaired damage to the boat launch gate at the Marina
- Removed path lighting at the Rec Center
- Repaired several potholes on Grandview Lane

### Successes

- We have been able to complete several trail projects that had been deferred
- Lack of snow has allowed us to continue catching up on deferred projects

### Planned Work

- Refurbish Rec Center gazebo
- Continue trimming vegetation to improve visibility at intersections
- Complete repairs to Beaver Ridge Trail
- Replace handicap parking sign at Dance Barn
- Complete painting at the Rec Center
- Gravel restoration of parking areas and keyways
- Pool start up maintenance
- Spring cleaning - Mailboxes, entryways, sidewalks
- Sharpen blades on Zero Turn Mower
- Install new kayak rack at AM/PM park

### Golf

#### Activity Summary

- Completed two Winter Series events
- Booked several outings and sent out contracts
- Attended demo for new web site design

See **Valley** on 10

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# VIEWS

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SV 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](mailto:bill@lyndentribune.com). For advertising information and deadlines, please contact Mitze Kester at [mitze@lyndentribune.com](mailto:mitze@lyndentribune.com) or call 360.354.4444.

## SVCA governing documents to be aligned with WUCIOA

**By Jo Anne Jensen**  
Sudden Valley General Manager

As I wrote in previous issues of the Views, the Washington Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act, or WUCIOA, has already changed some of the ways SVCA operates.

The new law will change even more when it comes into full effect in 2028.

SVCA will start to prepare for these changes by revising our Bylaws and Rules & Regulations this year.

SVCA uses the following documents as its instruction set for managing the Association: the Restrictive Covenants (RCs); Bylaws; Policies; Resolutions; Rules & Regulations (R&Rs); and the Fees & Fines Schedule. All of these can be found at [SuddenValley.com](http://SuddenValley.com).

**Which documents will be revised?**

The RCs do not need to be revised to keep SVCA in alignment with state law.

However, the Bylaws and the R&Rs do need to be revised.

Because the Bylaws cannot be amended without a vote of the membership, the board will begin the revisions this year, to be presented on the ballot at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) this November.

This timing gives SVCA the opportunity to make further revisions at the 2027 AGM, if some of the proposed revisions do not pass in 2026.

**Why do we need to revise our governing documents?**

The Association must conduct its operations in compliance with the laws of Washington State.

When the law conflicts with our governing documents, it can be-

come very confusing to both staff and members.

A great example of this confusion occurs every year during the election. WA State law says that an HOA budget approved by the Board of Directors will pass unless a majority of owners votes against it. There are 3,116 lot owners in SVCA.

To defeat a budget, 1,559 members must vote against it. Generally, about 1,000 members vote in each annual election.

Even if every single member who voted said no to the budget, there would still not be enough votes to defeat it.

This is confusing to members because this threshold is not established in the Bylaws - it only exists in state law.

**Sharing proposed revisions with the community**

This year, the board plans to work with SVCA's legal counsel to draft proposed revisions to the Bylaws and the R&Rs. When the board has approved the revisions, documents will be posted to the website and made available at the Welcome Center for members to review.

At least one Town Hall meeting will be held to present the proposed changes and give members the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Members will then have the opportunity to vote on the revisions during the annual election.

If two-thirds of those who vote approve the revisions, they will come into effect.

If the revisions are not approved by members, the process will be repeated in 2027 and voted on in the election next year.

### Understanding SVCA's Governing Documents

**Restrictive Covenants**

The Restrictive Covenants (RCs) are rules that "run with the land." These rules are recorded against the deed of each lot and the responsibility to follow these rules passes to each owner of the land. SVCA's RCs establish the basic rules of the Association: all lots are for residential purposes only, only single-family homes may be built and an Architectural Control Committee has the power to deny the permission to build if the plans do not meet the required criteria. The RCs also include some rules that are more specific; for example, as much of the natural setting as possible should be maintained when lots are developed, members are required to maintain their properties, and are prohibited from keeping livestock. There are RCs associated with each division within Sudden Valley. SVCA has 39 divisions and 39 sets of RCs. Most of the RCs are the same, but some of the later divisions' RCs include extra restrictions. To change the RCs, a majority of the owners of the lots in each division must agree to the amendment. So, if there are 100 lots in a division, 51 of the current owners must vote "yes" to the proposed amendment to change the RCs.

**Bylaws**

In general, the RCs tell us what we need to do, and the Bylaws tell us how we will do it. The Bylaws establish the Board of Directors and describe how the board will be elected, how the board is organized, when and how they meet, and what their duties are. The Bylaws also establish committees of the board and define their responsibilities. Last but not least, the Bylaws include a "miscellaneous" section (Article VI) that defines several aspects of the Association, such as the timing of its fiscal year, how it must send notice to members, the annual Financial Audit, how the Bylaws can be amended, lot consolidation, leasing of property, indemnification of board members, and the establishment of a newsletter. The Bylaws govern all the divisions of Sudden Valley and may be amended at any Special or Annual General Meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members. (This means that if two-thirds of the members who vote in an election vote for the amendment, it passes.)

**Policies & Resolutions**

Policies and Resolutions are passed by the board to create guidelines for how the Association will be managed. Policies and Resolutions can be adopted or revised by the board at any time, after a vote of the board. Only a majority of the board needs to vote in favor of a policy or resolution in order for it to be passed. Policies and Resolutions, along with the annual budget, provide an "instruction set" for the General Manager, who directs the day-to-day activities of the Association.

**Rules & Regulations**

SVCA's Rules & Regulations (R&Rs) are also established by the board and can be adopted or revised by the board at any time, by a majority vote. The R&Rs apply to the members of the Association and govern how properties will be maintained, how members should behave in the common areas, how the amenities will be used, and what penalties will be used to enforce the rules. These rules are then enforced by the General Manager and his/her designated agents.

**Fees & Fines Schedule**

The board sets the amounts charged for the use of amenities and to access services provided by the Association, such as making copies or having documents notarized by approving the Fees & Fines Schedule. The schedule also lists the amount of fines that can be assessed when members break the rules. The board can revise the fees & fines at any time, by a majority vote.

## 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](mailto: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.



SUDDEN VALLEY VIEWS  
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COMPLIANCE CORNER

# Navigating the curbs: A local's guide to parking in Sudden Valley



By Allen Helvajian  
Compliance Manager

one of those topics that gets a lot of airtime but often leads to a bit of head-scratching.

To clear the air, the Sudden Valley Community Association (SVCA) is working to make life simpler for all of us by streamlining the "where" and "how" of parking, particularly within Rules & Regulations, Section 3.3.

If you remember only one thing from the handbook, make it this simplified standard for our roadways: Check your tires. SVCA's effort to simplify policy boils down to a very clear visual cue. If any part of your car or truck — even just a sliver of a bumper or a tire — is resting on the asphalt of the roadway, it is a violation.

Think of the fog line, that white stripe on the edge of the road, as a "do not cross" boundary.

- On the Asphalt: Violation.
- Off the Asphalt: Not a violation, provided you are in a spot intended for vehicles.

This rule keeps our traffic

lanes clear and ensures emergency vehicles can get where they need to go without playing an obstacle course game.

It's a common neighborhood legend: "I put the gravel down, so that's my spot." While it feels like part of your yard, most of those roadside gravel pads are actually SVCA right-of-way. Technically, they are open for public use rather than being the exclusive property of the homeowner.

To stay in the clear, your best bet is to stick to your home base designated areas: your garage, carport, or driveway. While a grassy knoll under a tree might look like a picturesque spot for your sedan, parking on lawns or unpaved areas under the open sky is a no-go.

### 72 hours

Planning a camping trip or having the grandkids visit in their RV? The clock starts at 72 hours.

- Recreational Vehicles: Boats,

trailers and RVs shouldn't hang out in your driveway for more than three days unless they are tucked away in a screened area or garage.

• Temporary Passes: If you need a little more time, the Administration office is your best friend. You can grab a temporary parking pass for yourself or visitors. They are free for the first three days, just \$10 for each day after that.

• The Safety Valve: If your driveway is overflowing, the lower Golf Course parking lot serves as our community's overflow valve. Just make sure to grab a 72-hour pass from the Welcome Center first.

### Keeping the valley beautiful

At the end of the day, these rules aren't just about being sticklers for code; they are about keeping the Valley looking great and staying safe. This is why the community asks that inoperable

or project cars stay garaged or under an approved cover. If a vehicle is left abandoned or in disrepair for too long, the SVCA will reach out to ask for it to be moved or repaired so we can all enjoy the view.

For the deep divers who want to read every line of the fine print, you can always find the full Board Resolutions and Rules under the Resident Resources tab at [suddenvalley.com](http://suddenvalley.com).



We've all been there: you're coming home with a trunk full of groceries, or you have friends visiting for a weekend BBQ. Suddenly, the question of where to put the car feels like solving a Rubik's cube. In Sudden Valley, parking is



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## One Vacancy on Sudden Valley Board of Directors

The Sudden Valley Community Association (SVCA) has an-

nounced that, due to the resignation of Director Jo Adams, a vacancy has opened on the Board of Directors.

We thank Director Adams for his service to the community and wish him well in his future endeavors.

The Nominations and Election Committee is now accepting applications to fill this open seat.

The appointed director will serve until the next Annual General Meeting in November.

Community members interested in contributing to the leadership and future direction of Sudden Valley are encouraged to

apply.

Applications are available at [suddenvalley.com/wp-content/uploads/Candidate-Application-update-2026-0227.pdf](http://suddenvalley.com/wp-content/uploads/Candidate-Application-update-2026-0227.pdf)

Copies of the application are also available at the Welcome Center.

Completed applications may be submitted in person at the Sudden Valley Welcome Center. Email submissions cannot be accepted.

Application deadline is 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 30.

We appreciate your engagement and commitment to our community.

# Sudden Valley

# Builder Meeting

## For Builders & Residents



**March 24, 2026 | 5:00 PM**  
**Multipurpose Room A | 8 Barn View Ct.**

### For Builders

Review Architectural Control policies, the Fees & Fines Schedule, and common procedures for submitting applications.

### For Residents

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# February 2026 Hitting the Road

By Sudden Valley  
Community Association

Well, neighbors, while the frost on our windshields has been thick enough this month to require a chisel and wish, it seems some folks' patience for the local ordinances has worn a bit thinner.

While we all wait for the thaw, the Sheriff's department has been kept hopping by a valley that seems to be dreaming of summer a little too loudly.

### Dreaming of the open road (and water)

It appears a good portion of the valley is already itching for a change of scenery.

We've had a regular parade of "unauthorized residents" popping up in driveways across the community.

Between eight trailers hitched up and resting where the sun doesn't shine and five boats anchored firmly on residential pavement, it's getting a bit crowded out there.

The spirit of adventure is a fine thing, but we've also had four recreational vehicles cited for overstaying their welcome at various homes.

Remember, folks, if it has wheels or a hull, our community bylaws say it belongs in the shed or the lot — not blocking the view of your neighbor's winter garden.

### Asphalt ambitions and green space grief

Our local roads saw plenty of drama this month, mostly involving folks who treat parking signs like mere suggestions.

We dealt with eight cases of illegal parking where "just for a minute" turned into much longer.

### Lighting up the night

In a move that surely had the local moth population working overtime, the night sky had some stiff competition from the ground this month.

We had two instances where Bistro lights, also known as Café lights, went a bridge too far, turning cozy backyards into something resembling a small airport runway.

One additional resident was cited for excessive outdoor lighting that was bright enough to make a barn owl consider early retirement.

We all love a bit of ambiance, but let's try to keep it to a dull roar so the rest of us can actually see the stars.

### Keeping the peace

Finally, the concept of neighborly love took a bit of a back-seat at five different disorderly homes over the last few weeks.

Our deputies had to drop by to remind everyone that keeping the volume down after 10 p.m. is part of the deal when you live in a place as nice as this.

### A note from the Sheriff:

"We're a small community and we thrive on being good neighbors. That means keeping the trailers tucked away, the lights dimmed, and the noise levels respectful.

Let's keep Sudden Valley the kind of place where the only thing keeping you awake at night is wondering if you remembered to lock the back door."



If you would like to see your child featured in our kid's views section, please send your submissions to [bodvandepolder@suddenvalley.com](mailto:bodvandepolder@suddenvalley.com).



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# Sudden Valley siblings spotlighted by WCLS

*Whatcom County Library System's annual publication spotlight teen artists and poets*

Each fall, teen artists submit original artwork to be considered for WCLS's popular teen art anthology, Whatcomics. Submissions are accepted Sept. 1 through Oct. 31 annually, with the anthology published the following January. Then Jan. 1 through March 15, teens turn in poetry for WCLS's second anthology, A Forest of Words, which is published in the spring. Both publications are edited and designed by WCLS staff. The books are printed locally and become part of the library system's collection.

Teen artists featured in the 19th edition of Whatcomics gath-

WHATCOM — Day in and day out, Whatcom County Library System staff help local teens explore new ideas and express their creativity. WCLS's Teen Services really shine during the Pacific Northwest's darkest months.



**Sudden Valley residents and siblings Caleb, Hallie and Lilliana Hathaway show their artwork that was included in the Whatcom County Library System's 19th Whatcomics publication. Caleb's piece, "Elemental Titan," is on page 27; Hallie's piece, "Little Sister," is on page 50; and Lilliana's piece, "Jerry," is on page 47.** (Photo courtesy Whatcom County Library System)

ered at the Lynden Library on Jan. 10 to celebrate, receive a copy of the book and to see their artwork on display. The Whatcomics exhibit featuring 150 pieces of art continues at the Lynden Library through Feb. 28.

WCLS staff selected the artwork of siblings Caleb, Hallie and Lilliana Hathaway to be included in this 19th Whatcomics. Caleb's piece, "Elemental Titan," is on page 27; Hallie's piece, "Little Sister," is on page 50; and Lilliana's piece, "Jerry," is on page 47. The Hathaway children are homeschooled and visit the South Whatcom Library in Sudden Valley.

Lilliana was the model/inspiration for Hallie's illustration. Caleb said he had the idea to make

a character out of a volcano, and that was the starting point of his illustration. He enjoyed adding details like the ice-capped mountains, the green forest and — look closely — a dragon's nest.

The Hathaways' mother, Laura, said Hallie "has always loved drawing."

"As she got more confident in her skills she has encouraged her younger siblings in their own art journeys," Laura Hathaway said. "Each one has encouraged the one younger than them and they have one more sibling in elementary who is just starting to draw."

Mother explained that her children are all homeschooled and they get "a lot of time to work on their art."

Hallie Hathaway first submitted to Whatcomics in 2023 "when she first heard about it."

"It was so exciting for her to see her art in a book," Laura Hathaway said. "That excitement spilled over to her siblings. Caleb first submitted in 2024 and this past fall was Lilliana's first time. The youngest, Elliot, is looking forward to joining them in two

years when it will be Hallie's last year."

Hathaway said that along with art her children "love making up stories and fan fiction to their favorite books and shows."

We are so thankful for this opportunity. Let me know if there is anything else you need.

WCLS Teen Services Coordinator Tamar Clarke said one of the hopes of WCLS is that by participating in Whatcomics or A Forest of Words, "artists gain a community."

"In a mostly rural county as large and spread out as Whatcom, we know that the library is one of the few places where teens can find others who share their interests," Clarke said. "We are grateful to the artists and poets who share their work with our community."

Learn more about WCLS's teen art and poetry anthologies at [wcls.org/teens](http://wcls.org/teens) where you can also flip through digital copies of the books.

-- Contact Bill Helm at [bill@lyndentribune.com](mailto:bill@lyndentribune.com)

## LIBRARY EVENTS

SOUTH WHATCOM LIBRARY • MARCH-APRIL

### Upcoming Events

**Craig Romano Presents: Urban Trails, Vancouver, B. C.**

Drawing from his new release, Urban Trails Vancouver, BC, Craig will be highlighting trails in one of the world's most beautiful cities.

*Space is limited; registration is required.*  
Thursday, March 5, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

### Library Giving Day

Join the Friends of the South Whatcom Library for a book sale and kids' activities while helping us raise \$15,000 to help keep our local libraries resilient. Consider making a donation to support library programs and services.

Wednesday, April 1, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM

### Poetry Collage Workshop

Combine collage techniques with poetry and make some art to take home in this workshop with collage artist and poet Crash Solo.

*Space is limited; registration is required.*  
Wednesday, April 15, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

### Recurring Events

#### Valley Book Club

Share your current read and hear from others. There is an optional monthly reading challenge theme.

MARCH - Art  
APRIL - Poetry  
*Space is limited; registration is required.*  
First Friday of the month, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

### Friends of the South Whatcom Library Meeting

Help plan activities and support the library. All are welcome.

3rd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

### South Whatcom Social Hour

Come to the library to connect with others.

3rd Thursday of the month, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

### Teens (grades 6-12)

#### A Forest of Words 2026

Submit your original poetry for publication in our annual teen poetry book. Ask library staff or visit [wcls.org/teens](http://wcls.org/teens) for the rules and entry form. Submissions accepted through Sunday, March 15

#### Teen Corps

Help us with library programs for kids. Gain event experience and have fun working with library staff.

*Space is limited; registration is required.*  
All About Space: Sat., March 7, 1:45-3:15 PM  
All About Gardening: Sat., April 18, 1:45-3:15 PM

### Tweens (grades 4-7)

#### Graphic Novel & Manga Book Club

Do you love to read graphic novels or manga? We'll talk about your favorites and based on a theme.

MARCH - Sci-fi  
APRIL - Sports  
2nd Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM-5:30 PM



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# Importance in maintaining Sudden Valley's trails

By Kumiko Juker  
SVCA Staff

The Sudden Valley Maintenance team allocated additional time to trail maintenance this winter.

While trail work is a regular process for maintenance, the season's milder weather allowed for more upkeep.

"We try to walk all Sudden Valley trails twice a year and check conditions," Maintenance and Facilities Manager Mike Brock said. "A lot of times logs and branches fall, and we clean those while we're walking. If there's things we need to come back to, we schedule it."

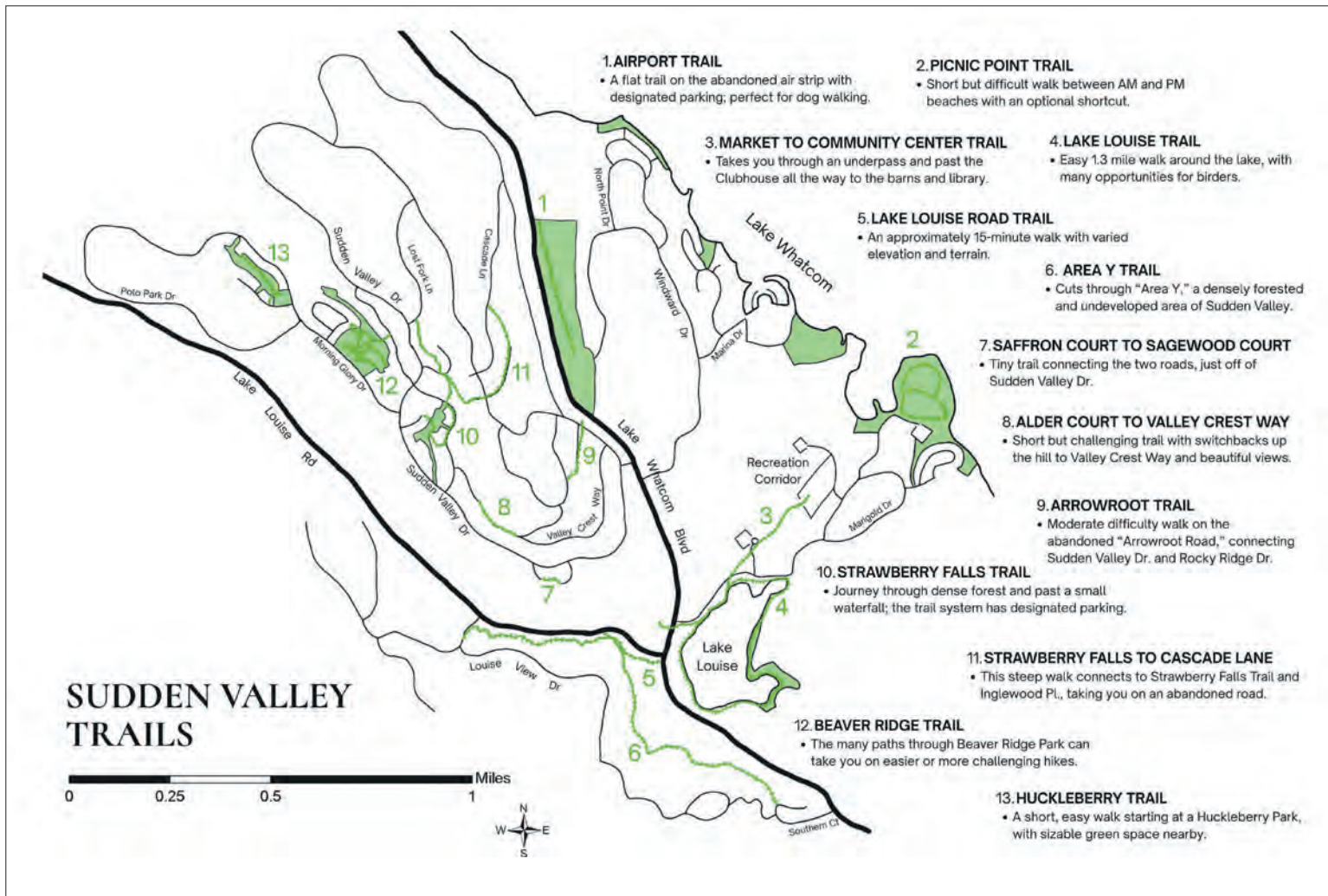
Sudden Valley is home to more than 10 miles of trails connecting streets, neighborhoods and parks.

One high-priority item on the schedule was the Lake Louise Trail, a popular 1.3-mile loop.

"There were some wet areas on both sides of the lake, one of which became a lot worse in heavy rains this past winter," Brock said. "As soon as that dried out, we were able to get some gravel in."

The maintenance crew also trimmed back vegetation and cleared fallen trees around the lake. Fallen trees and branches are a common issue across trails.

Maintenance cleared five fallen trees off of the Area Y trail and removed similar detritus from the Picnic Point, Alder Court and Inglewood trails.



"A lot of our trails are fairly remote, so we do rely on residents to let us know when there's trees down. We get out as soon as we can and take care of it," Brock said.

Other maintenance included

installing a new path to the tennis courts along the Market to Community Center Trail, refurbishing benches and improving trail access.

Small foot bridges can be seen around Sudden Valley, pre-

venting hikers from crossing uneven ground at trail entrances.

If you see an issue while walking one of SVCA's trails, please report it to Administration by calling 360-734-6430, or sending an email to Office@

SuddenValley.com.

If you would like to participate in Community Volunteer Trail-Clearing Events, please visit [suddenvalley.com/residents-resources/volunteer](http://suddenvalley.com/residents-resources/volunteer) and sign up.



**Sudden Valley is home to more than 10 miles of trails connecting streets, neighborhoods and parks. One high-priority item on the schedule was the Lake Louise Trail, a popular 1.3-mile loop.**  
(SVCA photo)

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# Sudden Valley Board of Directors approves golf bridge repairs

*Also approves resolution regarding WUCIOA-related statutory amendments*

**By Bill Helm**  
Editor

SUDDEN VALLEY — The Sudden Valley Community Association golf course has eight bridges, of which two are in need of repair.

On Feb. 12, the SVCA Board of Directors approved the allocation of \$56,243 from the Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund, also known as CRRRF, for what Sudden Valley General Manager Jo Anne Jensen called “urgent repairs” to the course’s No. 1 and No. 4 bridges.

Jensen wrote in a Feb. 12 memo to the board that on Jan. 14, Turfcare Superintendent Greg Wadden drove over the No.

4 golf bridge “and heard a crack.” “He stopped to inspect the bridge and discovered that a large crack had appeared in one of the main support beams,” Jensen wrote. “He immediately closed the bridge and alerted me and Tyler Andrews, SVCA’s capital projects manager.”

Jensen explained in her memo that golfers are currently detouring to avoid using the No. 4 bridge but that the No. 1 bridge is still in use “as the engineers felt that it was safe for lightweight equipment and golf carts.”

“Turfcare’s heavy machinery is not using the older bridges,” she stated.

According to Jensen, the proposed repairs would take about six working days to complete.

However, the steel support beams require three weeks for manufacture and delivery.

In addition to the CRRRF monies to be spent on the project, the SVCA Board also authorize Finance Director Joel Heverling to close the 2025 golf cart path repair project (9725.09) and move \$2,813 in residual funds to



**On Feb. 12, the SVCA Board of Directors approved the allocation of \$56,243 from the Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund, also known as CRRRF, for what Sudden Valley General Manager Jo Anne Jensen called “urgent repairs” to the course’s No. 1 and No. 4 bridges. Pictured is bridge No. 4.** (SVCA photo)

the 2026 golf bridge repairs project.

The association’s 2026 CRRRF Capital Budget includes \$101,226 to replace Bridge No. 1 in 2032. Jensen explained in her memo that completing the repairs in 2026 “at a much lower cost” will extend the “useful life” of the bridge to 2041.

“Further, by replacing the wooden supports with galvanized steel, we make it possible to replace the wooden planks that form

the surface of the bridge on as needed basis, extending the life almost indefinitely,” she stated.

The 2026 CRRRF Capital Budget also includes \$80,052 to replace Bridge No. 4 in 2035. Jensen stated that completing the repairs in 2026, also “at a much lower cost,” will extend the “useful life” of this bridge to 2041 “with the same possibility of repairing the wood planks to further extend the life of this asset.”

The Sudden Valley Board also

acted on the following measures:

- Adopted a resolution regarding WUCIOA-related statutory amendments, which became effective on Jan. 1.

- Approved ACC policy revisions

A breakdown of these action items is in the board’s Feb. 12 agenda packet, available at [suddenvalley.com](http://suddenvalley.com).

-- Contact Bill Helm at [bill@lyndentribune.com](mailto: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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Intermediate (Ages 18 - 28)	\$1,175	\$105	Intermediate (Ages 18 - 28)	\$1,275	\$115
Junior (17 and Younger)	\$360	\$38	Junior (17 and Younger)	\$390	\$43

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**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: \$150 / year (\$175 / year with GHIN Handicap Service)**

# Senior High Tea comes to Sudden Valley



On Feb. 17, Sudden Valley held its second senior high tea event. More than four dozen residents -- 53 to be exact -- spent the afternoon chatting and enjoying tea, sandwiches and desserts. Thank you to Taimi Van de Polder for hosting high tea and to Linda Bradley, Ray Meador, Anne Meador, Lish Jamtaas and Jessie Marshall for preparing sandwiches and dessert trays. Also, thank you to all our recreation staff for their help as well. We hope to host another high tea in the fall. Stay informed of all upcoming Sudden Valley events in The Views and the weekly e-blast. (SVCA photos by Nakell Jones and Carmen Urtecho)



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## Improvements: Are coming

Continued from 1

joyable for all residents.

### Dog Park improvements

- A high-quality dog park — better managed for long-term use
  - Off-leash area will be securely fenced
  - SVCA key card access for members
  - Non-members must pay a fee for entry
  - Controlled access improves safety, cleanliness, and fairness
- These changes help preserve one of the most valued dog parks in the area while protecting shared spaces.

### What this means for Sudden Valley

- A balanced approach to shared spaces
- A responsibly managed dog park that keeps our neighborhood welcoming for everyone, dog owners and non-dog owners alike.
- Safer, clearer recreation areas for families
- Amenities that serve more

members, more often

- Protection of Lake Whatcom and shoreline habitat

Community input is welcome as improvements move forward. Together, we can ensure Marina Park remains a place that will better serve the entire community now and in the future.

★★★★★

*"Shane and crew did a wonderful job maintaining my large yard this last year, as well as two different clean up projects from past wind storms. The quality of work they have provided was amazing and the care they took to assure my yard met my expectations was unmatched. I will continue to utilize Elite landscape for future needs and highly recommend this company to anyone looking to have projects completed and or on going lawn services. Thank you Shane and crew!"*

- Lindsay R.

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# Valley: February weather ‘better than expected’

Continued from 2

- Finalized new golf score card design
- Taking sign-ups for PGA Junior League that starts in late April
- Met with three candidates to discuss volunteer work at the course
- Met with WGA to go over itinerary for Women’s Four Ball in May
- Set dates (June 11-13) for three-day event with North Bellingham, Shuksan and Sudden Valley
- Set up Winter Series event on Feb. 28
- Met with several returning seasonal staff for 2026 season
- Finalizing Capital request for driving range equipment
- Booked two new outside events for 2026
- Updated our bulletin board with course information and flyers
- Installed new driving range ball trays
- New score cards have arrived with new course ratings

- Successes**
- New January revenue record. \$18K over previous best January month in 2023
  - Winter weather has cooperated and February has been another strong revenue month

**Planned Work**

- Meet with surrounding golf courses to discuss marketing for Whatcom County courses
- Set up schedule and registration for 2026 Junior Golf Camp
- Draft letter to membership with information on the upcoming season
- Promote and prepare for the Winters Series event on Feb. 28
- Work with Club Prophet on the design of our new website
- Send out informational letter to membership including member event schedule
- Promote our final Winter Series Event on March 21
- Install new tee markers on the course
- Meet with Ladies Club to go over itinerary for Ladies Invitational
- Finalize new website and email marketing platform

**Turfcare**

- Activity Summary**
- Blackberry mowing work throughout the course completed
  - Repaired non-operating drain ditch on No. 15 hole
  - Cleaned out drainage ditch on No. 1 hole
  - Called for sod delivery for new forward tee box on No. 8 tee
  - Tree removal permit submitted for tree on No. 14 hole

- Application of lime on all putting greens completed
- First early season seedhead suppression spray applied to all putting greens
- Removed dead tree behind No. 4 Green
- Re-graded temporary cart path behind driving range for pathway while bridge is out
- Drafted capex memos together for replacement equipment 2026
- Removed perforated drain line on No. 11 fairway.
- Ordered greens topdressing sand for first round of light topdressing
- Met with Washington Golf to discuss course condition expectations for May event
- Turfcare building renovation complete
- Tree removal permit submitted for tree on No. 14 hole
- Second early season seedhead suppression spray applied to all greens
- Ordered greens top dressing sand for first round of light topdressing
- Constructed pipe rack next to building to store pipe scattered around the yard
- Begin garden cleanup and bark mulch application around clubhouse
- Cleanup garden bed at driving range tee

- Repaired damaged golf cart front suspension
- The new Kubota tractor was delivered to turfcare

**Successes**

- General winter maintenance practices are going as planned
- Finally moved back into office/breakroom. Happy crew

**Planned Work**

- Fairway aerating and sand topdressing set to go for next few weeks
- Improve drainage line on No. 5 fairway
- Listed old tractor for sale on Facebook Marketplace; sold for \$2,500
- Fairway aerating and sand topdressing set to go for the next few weeks
- Layout sod on No. 8 and No. 13 tee boxes
- Replace battery in weather station to get it active for the season
- Clean out all irrigation satellites pedestals for the upcoming season

**Recreation**

- Activity Summary**
- 35% of Marina and Kayak renewals completed; Marina and Kayak Renewal period ended Feb. 25
  - Stickers being placed on boats

that have completed their renewal

- Open Mic Night on Jan. 30 was fantastic, nearly 50 people attended

- Trivia questions and slides created for Feb. 20 trivia night in the barn
- Trivia Night on Feb. 20 had 78 participants
- High Tea event was well received with 50 people attending
- Submitted quotes for Fitness Center equipment replacement project
- Outline of 2026 Valley Fair approved
- Working on spring and summer programming with the YMCA
- Formalized SVCA Clubs and Groups Policy

**Successes**

- We have handled running Kayak and Marina renewals at the same time very well
- Our events have been well attended

**Planned Work**

- Updated signage for Pools and Area-Z
- Plan March Events: March 5 Open Mic Night, March 20 Trivia Night, March 28 Spring Market
- 2026 Valley Fair planning
- Offer open kayak racks, dry slips and wet slip
- Add stickers to all renewed vessels

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# Directors: road repairs, culverts

Continued from 1

plan,” Jensen wrote to the SVCA Board.

The next largest capital project the SVCA Board approved on Feb. 26 was for \$232,505.60 from the Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund, also known as CRRRF, for the purchase of a John Deere 6500A fairway mower, two John Deere triplex mowers and a Toro H-11 greens roller.

In a Feb. 26 memo to the SVCA Board, Turfcare Superintendent Greg Wadden explained that the equipment has “well exceeded their life expectancy with no residual value left other than private resale or scrap value.”

The 2026 capital budget includes \$234,000 for the replacement of the equipment.

The Sudden Valley Board of Directors also approved the following capital projects on Feb. 26:

- \$44,186 in additional funding for the replacement of the Clubhouse HVAC unit, capital project 9724.06.

The board awarded this contract to Lynden Sheet Metal and authorized the general manager to execute SVCA’s standard construction contract.

- \$21,120 in funding for Phase 1 of the marina tennis court refurbishment project.

- \$6,976 from the 2026 Capital Budget: Roads for the required bi-annual bridge inspection.

The Sudden Valley Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in Multipurpose Room A, at 8 Barn View Court.

Agendas and minutes for the board’s meetings are available at [suddenvalley.com](http://suddenvalley.com), as are video.

The Sudden Valley Board will hold its next meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12.

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# Meeting Access Information

## Meetings Overview

Sudden Valley has a Board of Directors and six committees that meet on a regular basis. The Appeals Committee meets on an as-needed basis.

Each meeting has a 15-minute public comment period; Association members must be attending in-person or via Zoom to participate.

## Viewing Meetings

There are four ways to view meetings:

- Join in person (not available for all meetings)
- Participate via Zoom (see instructions below)
- Listen via Telephone (call **360-209-5623** and enter the Zoom meeting ID)
- View on the **Sudden Valley YouTube channel** (BOD meetings are streamed live on YouTube. All other meetings are posted the following day)

## Instructions to Join Zoom Meetings

- Click the BOD/Committee Meeting Link posted on the individual BOD/committee webpages on **SuddenValley.com**
- OR**
- Go to Zoom.com
- Click on "Meet" on the top menu bar and select "Join a meeting"
- Enter the meeting ID in the dialogue box and click "Join"

# UPCOMING MEETINGS

**March 5, 2026 | Architectural Control Committee**

9:00 AM | Zoom | Meeting ID: 83287084478

**March 10, 2026 | Nominations & Elections Committee**

6:30PM | Zoom | Meeting ID: 84647671152

**March 12, 2026 | Board of Directors**

7:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 86704997445

**March 18, 2026 | Document Review Committee**

3:00PM | Zoom | Meeting ID: 82522627180

**March 18, 2026 | Finance Committee**

6:30PM | Zoom | Meeting ID: 84203818928

**March 18, 2026 | Long-Range Planning Committee**

7:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 83511003476

**March 19, 2026 | Safety Committee**

2:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 82499784476

**March 19, 2026 | Architectural Control Committee**

5:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 83287084478

**March 26, 2026 | Board of Directors**

7:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 86704997445

**March 30, 2026 | Nominations & Elections Committee**

6:30PM | Zoom | Meeting ID: 84647671152

*Times, dates, and locations may change. Please check the website for current schedules.*

BOD/Committee	Usual Meeting Day During Month	Time	Location	Zoom Meeting ID
Board of Directors	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7:00 PM	Multi-Purpose Room A	86704997445
Architectural Control Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Thu	9:00 AM	Zoom	83287084478
Architectural Control Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	5:00 PM	Multi-Purpose Room A	83287084478
Document Review Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	3:00 PM	Zoom	82522627180
Finance Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	6:30 PM	Zoom	83670070736
Long-Range Planning Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Thu	6:30 PM	Multi-Purpose Room A	89486224133
Nominations & Elections Committee	Last Mon	6:30 PM	Zoom	84647671152
Appeals Committee	Meets As Needed			
Safety Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	2:00 PM	Multi-Purpose Room A	82499784476



Scan the QR code to view the Sudden Valley Board of Directors & Committee Overview page for more information.

# SUDDEN VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ACRONYMS

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  
 LWWS - Lake Whatcom 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 Wash-

ington  
 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

**SUDDEN VALLEY**

## Pet of the MONTH



**This month's pet of the month is Socko, submitted by Jessica Smith.**

This is Socko Smith, he is an imperial smaller breed Shih Tzu. He turned 1 on June 8, 2025. He absolutely loves everyone and has a way of calming and connecting with other animals. He is a sweet, sweet boy with no aggressive bones in his body. Socko loves his family and having us both home in the same room and will herd us to where he wants us to go if we're out of his routine. Socko knows everyone in the valley and must stop at the salon, library, and office to make his rounds and say hello. We are always smiling and laughing with him around!

**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](mailto:office@suddenvalley.com)

THE SUDDEN VALLEY *Pet of the MONTH* IS SPONSORED BY:



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## Volunteer at Sudden Valley



**Future Volunteer Openings:**

- Clear hiking trails.
- Support community events.
- Help maintain the Welcome Center demonstration garden.

Scan to Apply!



**SUDDEN VALLEY** | 1850 Lake Whatcom Blvd  
 (360) 734-6430

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**SUDDEN VALLEY RENTAL LISTINGS**

*No smoking of any kind, no drugs. Applicants must have good credit. Call for application. Application fee - \$35 single, \$45 married.*

**Ferndale:** 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2-car garage. Available April 1. Rent \$2800

**Mt Baker Hwy:** Private 2 acres. Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom with large attached 2-car garage. Rent \$3200



**1 Lake Louise Dr #42, Lakeridge Condominium** Current Best Buy! Spacious single-level condominium feat. attached single-car garage converted into an office. Open floor plan w/vaulted ceilings, high windows, and stainless-steel appliances. Newer gas furnace and lg primary bedroom w/ensuite bathroom. All appliances are included! The Lakeridge complex offers private amenities including a swimming pool and tennis court. \$137,000 Special Assessment for complete exterior renovations, incl. new windows, decks, roof, siding, paint. Assessment may be paid in full at closing or financed at \$1,100/month at 7% interest. **\$259,000**



**2 Marigold Dr #38** Affordable living in a cozy and private studio condo overlooking the 18th fairway with sweeping views of Sudden Valley golf course and surrounding mountains. The large picture windows provide ample natural light and outside is an open corner deck. Experience the best of Sudden Valley living. The condo is within walking distance of the golf course, restaurants and trails. Area amenities include 24/7 security, swimming pool, library, marina, tennis courts and more. **\$189,000**



**8 Valley Crest Way** Up-sloping vacant lot near Gate 3 in SV. Close to bus service + community amenities in scenic golf course & lakeside neighborhood. Public utilities including water, sewer, electricity, cable, and phone available. Ideal for two/three-story home, privacy and natural beauty in serene community. **\$38,900**



**10 Valley Crest Way** Up-sloping vacant lot near Gate 3 in SV. Close to bus service + community amenities in scenic golf course & lakeside neighborhood. Public utilities including water, sewer, electricity, cable, and phone available. Ideal for two/three-story home, privacy and natural beauty in serene community. **\$43,900**

**FEATURED LOTS**

**Water View** 5487 Wood Duck Lp, Blaine \$359,900  
**Gate 2** 20 Sparrow Ct, Bellingham \$79,000