



SUDDEN VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SUDDEN VALLEY VIEWS

May 2025

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Sudden Valley Board approves three capital requests

By Bill Helm
Editor

SUDDEN VALLEY — At their April 24 meeting, the Sudden Valley Board of Directors approved three relatively minor capital requests, none in excess of \$20K.

In its final approval of the evening, the board said yes to a \$19,025 expenditure from the 2025 CRRRF

Budget — Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund — for the Barn 6 pre-design phase architectural services.

Services will be performed by Carletti Architects, P.S., as detailed in their April 10, 2025 fee proposal.

On April 24, Ray Meador, in his role with the SVCA Long Range Planning Committee, and General

Manager Michael Bennett, wrote a memo to the SVCA board.

The memo explained that the LRPC was tasked by the SVCA board to provide draft project proposals for renovating or replacing Barns 6 and 8.

As Barn 6 is a wood-framed structure initially built for agricultural purposes, it was later used as an ice-skating rink and for as-

sembly events.

The proposed replacement, the memo states, “aims to create a modern, multi-purpose facility while maintaining the barn’s aesthetic character.”

The memo continues to explain that the pre-design phase will include a feasibility study to assess project viability, produce conceptual designs and provide a rough order

of magnitude (ROM) cost estimate to support a capital fundraising campaign.

The memo in its entirety is included in the SVCA Board’s April 24 agenda, available at suddenvalley.com.

Earlier in the meeting, the SVCA Board approved a \$18,223.91 SVCA standard construction contract with Specialized Pavement Marking, LLC for

painting the centerline of the main roads.

Since the board approved a total project budget of \$31,805.02 on Feb. 27, the board approved returning unused funds of approximately \$8,000 to be deducted from Roads Capital Code 9925.4, and have it credited back to the Roads fund, Bennett explained in an April 24 memo to the board.

However, an exact amount “cannot be specified due to unknown contingencies which are allowed in the contract.”

Also, the SVCA Board approved an amount not to exceed \$7,611.21 from CRRRF to cover the cost to paint the exterior of the Welcome Center, a contract the board

See **Capital** on 6

SVCA board approves hazard tree removal

Directors also approve cost of various signage replacements

By Bill Helm
Editor

SUDDEN VALLEY — On April 2, the property owner at 12 Sudden Valley Drive submitted a tree removal request form for a tree that had fallen during the November 2024 bomb cyclone event.

On April 10, the Sudden Valley Community Association Board of Directors approved the expense to remove the tree, mitigate the risk of loose boulders, as well as ensure site safety.

The board also authorized the selection of Rawls Tree Service to do the work.

Although the board approved the \$40,000 expense from CRRRF money — Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund — the board’s agenda packet explained that the final amount is yet to be determined.

According to an April 10 ratification request memo to the board, SVCA General Manager Michael Bennett in his role with the executive committee wrote that the tree is on a steep slope above the home.

“It was recently discovered that the tree’s root ball contains a large boulder and is pushing against the base of another large tree above the house,” Bennett wrote the board.

According to the situational analysis contained in the memo, Bennett wrote that the removal process “is highly technical due to the tree’s location on a steep slope directly above the home.”



On April 10, the SVCA Board approved CRRRF money to pay for removal of a hazardous tree at 12 Sudden Valley Drive. The \$40,000 expenditure will also cover mitigation of the risk of loose boulders, as well as ensure site safety. (SVCA photo)

“Upon inspection, additional large boulders were identified as having been dislodged when the tree fell,” Bennett explained in the memo. “Rawls Tree Service

is the only locally available contractor with the expertise and equipment to complete this project safely”

The SVCA Board also approved two capital requests on April 10.

The first is not to exceed \$20,000 for directional signage at Gate 2, as well as Welcome Center Garden Area and Trail Directional signage.

The second is not to exceed \$15,000 and for Marina Directional Signage.

Both expense will come from CRRRF funds.

In an April 10 memo to the board, Bennett explained that the Gate 2 entrance sign and related directional signage to the Welcome Center, Pro Shop (and) Golf Course “require replacement and addi-

tional signage to direct traffic more efficiently and improve the appearance of the black marble monument sign at the Lake Whatcom Blvd entrance to Gate 2.”

According to the memo, additional Welcome Center signage will be placed at the Welcome Center Native Plant Garden and at the Lake Louise Trail entrance. The board moved that Bennett will contract with the “lowest responsible sign providers to design, source and furnish the necessary signage in April, May and June.”

Marina Directional Signage is scheduled for April and May, Bennett’s April 10 memo to the board states.

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

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

COMPLIANCE CORNER

Speeding Concerns and Safety in Sudden Valley



By Allen Helvajian
Compliance Manager

It can happen in an instant. Two tons of metal and leather don't stop on a dime. From recognizing that something is wrong, to stepping on the brake pedal, to the car slowing, it can take dozens, maybe hundreds of feet depending on how fast the car is going to finally stop.

Throw physics into the mix and you have a bad combination.

Excessive speed, especially in areas with blind corners, narrow roads and pedestrian traffic, presents a significant risk to the well-being of our residents and wildlife. Fawning season is almost here. One of our office colleagues observed a car strike and likely kill a deer just a short time ago. All of these provide ample warning to slow down. Leave earlier and drive defensively.

The Association privately owns and maintains Sudden Valley's roads. While this offers us some flexibility, it also presents limitations.

State and local law enforcement do not have jurisdiction to enforce traffic laws on private roads.

Our contracted security provider, Pacific Security, is limited to observe and report functions. They do not have the authority to stop, cite or detain drivers.

We recognize the urgency of

this issue and are actively exploring meaningful solutions. Some of the strategies currently under consideration include:

- Installation of additional signage and speed limit reminders in high-risk areas
- Deployment of radar feedback signs to alert drivers to their current speed (subject to budget approval)
- Increased visibility of security patrols as a deterrent
- Evaluation of physical traffic-calming measures such as speed humps, speed cushions, chokers, or lane narrowing on key roads (again, subject to budget constraints)

We're also considering working with the Safety Committee to launch a community education and engagement campaign to promote responsible driving behavior.

We welcome your thoughtful suggestions and ideas. Please send any suggestions to office@suddenvalley.com.



Some of the strategies currently under consideration include installation of additional signage and speed limit reminders in high-risk areas. We welcome your thoughtful suggestions and ideas. Please send any suggestions to office@suddenvalley.com. (SVCA photo)

Free wildfire prep event in Sudden Valley Dance Barn

SVCA Staff

Are you concerned about the safety of your home if/when a wildfire occurs in Sudden Valley? Do you want to know how you would be notified of an emergency as well as the plans for evacuation if needed? Are you concerned about

the possibility of your homeowner fire policy being cancelled due to potential fire risk as has already happened to some Sudden Valley residents? What actions can you take to reduce your risk due to wildfire or other emergencies?

To get answers to these questions, please

join us for an important free event on Monday, May 12 at the Dance Barn from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Only 90 minutes long, attend in person (recommended) or via Zoom.

This is a unique, valuable opportunity to receive lots of valuable info from local experts who are giving

us their evening to help SV move forward regarding emergency preparedness, and we need to show up.

There will be a 30-minute question and answer session. Also, valuable free handouts will be provided.

Please join us and help spread the word.

Share this information with your family, friends and neighbors and invite them to join us. Arranged by the Sudden Valley Community Association Safety Committee, the presenters are:

- Whatcom Conservation District Wildfire Resilience (FIREWISE) Program – Fire behavior,

our susceptibility, preparedness and resilience. Robert Walters will also show the 13-minute film "Your Home CAN Survive a Wildfire."

- South Whatcom Fire Authority – Meet our Sudden Valley Fire Chief Mitch Nolze who will provide an update about our SV

Fire Station reopening and answer your questions about evacuation plans, ways to protect your home from wildfire and more.

A Sudden Valley resident will describe their experience with the free Whatcom Conservation District fire risk home assessment.

Boat Inspection Stations now open through Oct. 10

Time to hit the water. The 2025 boat inspection stations officially opened on April 26. As always, a valid 2025 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) permit is required

through the Whatcom Boat Inspection Program (whatcomboatinspections.com) for all boats launching at Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish. You can purchase

your permit now and save \$10 by taking the AIS Awareness Course online at whatcomboatinspections.com, or you can purchase it in person at the inspection station.

Please pay close attention when selecting your permit, as our rates have increased this year to help fund crucial inspection program enhancements, protect lake health, and support contin-

ued access for boaters and recreators despite growing visitation to our lakes and increased proximity of AIS detections to Whatcom County.

2025 AIS Inspection Station Schedule

- Bloedel Donovan and Lake Samish: Open 7 days a week through Oct. 10
- Sudden Valley Boat Launch:

Open weekends/holidays only through Oct. 10

- South Bay Boat Launch: Open weekends/holidays only through Oct. 10

We're looking forward to a great and safe boating season. Together, we can keep new aquatic invasive species out of our local lakes to protect our drinking water and recreation. See you on the water.

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VIEWS

SUBMISSIONS

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. For advertising information and deadlines, please contact Mitze Kester at mitze@lyndentribune.com or call 360.354.4444.

Water lily mitigation

Editor,

Recently, I did a presentation about the Lake Louise lily problem for volunteers and it went really well. Nineteen people showed up, which is about twice what I hoped for. After 25 minutes of prepared material, we had a long Q&A, followed by some organizational planning.

As a result the group plans to meet from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at the Welcome Center for an orientation session.

One of the new volunteers has already created a Google group so we can communicate amongst ourselves: groups.google.com/g/lake-louise-invasive-lily-removal.

The mission statement is “This group serves to notify people about the invasive lily removal project focused on restoring Lake Louise in Sudden Valley, Washington.”

Last Saturday I did another presentation in which 15 people attended, including members of seven households along the lake shore or on the road overlooking it. All are very supportive of the movement.

*Bryan Burke
Sudden Valley*

Let's remember volunteer appreciation month

Editor,

April was Volunteer Appreciation Month, and Sudden Valley would like to thank all of our many volunteers. You help your neighbours in emergencies, serve on

committees, clean up trash in your walks, keep the blessing boxes filled, and so much more. You help make our community a great place to live.

Thank you.
*Taimi Van de Polder
Vice President, SVCA Board of Directors*

A vote for our shared future

Editor,

As Friends of the South Whatcom Library, we believe libraries are the heart of healthy, connected communities. They're where curiosity is sparked, stories are shared, skills are grown and all voices are welcomed. Right now, our library system needs our help.

On the Aug. 5 ballot, the Whatcom County Library System board of trustees asks voters to restore the library levy rate to \$0.42 per \$1,000 of assessed property value — two cents lower than the last approved rate in 2009.

Since that time, our library system has been a model of responsible stewardship. WCLS has stretched those dollars to serve a growing population, now 18% larger, while demand for services — from books and WiFi to early learning programs and the Library of Things — has greatly increased with 56% more library cardholders.

But stretching can only go so far. Today, rising costs and higher use mean the library's expenses exceed its income. Without this levy lid lift, WCLS libraries face reduced hours, fewer staff and diminished access to the very resources that keep our community informed, inspired and connected.

A 'yes' vote on Aug. 5 means protecting what we've built together. It means keep-

ing our doors open, our programs thriving and our collections growing — both on the shelves and online. It means making sure our seniors, students and neighbors — especially those who can't afford costly alternatives — have continued access to the free, vital services they rely on.

WCLS isn't asking for the maximum the law allows — just enough to sustain services and plan wisely for the future. Because libraries aren't just about books. They're about belonging.

When we invest in our libraries, we invest in each other.

Let's continue building a place where knowledge is free, opportunity is shared, and community is stronger than ever. To learn more, visit wcls.org/levy.

Friends of the South Whatcom Library

'No' to open burning of yard debris

Editor,

There is a nearby home in my neighborhood that regularly burns yard debris. It is extremely smokey and it has been going on for three years now.

For the last four hours of this beautiful spring day I have been choking and sneezing on the neighbor's awful damp leaf and twig piles thrown on the backyard smolder.

Please post sandwich board signs at the gates [9 and 13, especially] to inform the community that burning yard debris is prohibited.

Please include the fine on the signs. I really don't want to report my neighbor, but this must stop. Hopefully the signs will be sufficient to cure the violation? It's a first step, at least.

*Forest Cat
Sudden Valley*

Editor's note (from General Manager Michael Bennett): Thank you for bringing this important issue to our attention. I'm sorry to hear that smoke from a neighbor's debris fire has impacted your enjoyment of the beautiful spring day. Open burning of yard debris is not allowed in Sudden Valley and is considered a violation of SVCA's Rules and Regulations. According to the 2025 Fees and Fines Schedule, the fine for a first offense of unapproved residential burning is \$100, along with a referral to the Northwest Clean Air Agency and County Fire Marshal. Repeat offenses incur higher fines up to \$1,000. We really appreciate your suggestion about signage. We will work with our team to install temporary sandwich board notices at Gates 9 and 13, reminding residents that burning yard debris is prohibited and subject to fines. If the burning continues, we encourage you to file a confidential report through the SVCA office so that staff can take appropriate enforcement action. We want you to know that we respect your desire to avoid conflict, and our goal is to address these matters discreetly and effectively. Thank you again for your concern and your care for the community.

Supporting FireWise program

Editor,

We are happy to support the FireWise cleanup program again this year. We are also dismayed at the cognitive dissonance displayed in the management of our forested community.

Yes, Sudden Valley and Whatcom County have commendable policies of removing dead or hazardous trees.

See **Letters** on 11

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
Sudden Valley Community Association
4 Clubhouse Circle, Bellingham, WA 98229
www.suddenvalley.com

Administration Offices / Member Services are
in the Welcome Center, just inside the Gate 2 entrance

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Sudden Valley buzzing in preparation for summer

By Michael Bennett
The Views

As spring blooms in Sudden Valley, our community is buzzing with activity and preparation for the vibrant summer ahead.

The successful Easter events, including the Christ the King Church Easter Egg Hunt, brought joy to residents of all ages.

With the school year winding down, we're gearing up for summer programs and the highly anticipated SVCA Valley Fair on July 26.

Maintenance teams have made significant strides to prepare recreational facilities, while capital projects continue to progress.

The Recreation and Administration teams have processed nearly all Marina slip and Kayak storage renewals as the weather warms and Lake Whatcom beckons.

Community garden startups at Barnview and Area Z are fostering engagement, and our administrative team is enhancing operational efficiency.

We're excited for the upcoming season and grateful for the community's continued support.

General Manager's corner

Spring has truly sprung, invigorated Sudden Valley with blooming landscapes and a renewed sense of community spirit. Easter celebrations were a

highlight, uniting families and neighbors in festive activities.

As we look forward to the end of the school year, our team is busy planning summer events to keep our community engaged and entertained.

The Community Garden startups are sprouting, offering residents a chance to connect with nature and each other.

We're also thrilled to prepare for the SVCA Valley Fair on July 26, a cornerstone event that promises fun, music, and community pride.

Key committee meetings, including Long-Term Planning, Nominations & Elections, Safety, Document Review, and Finance, are shaping the future, and we encourage everyone to attend the open board meeting — either in person or via Zoom — to share their valuable input.

Thank you for making Sudden Valley a wonderful place to live. Let's make this summer unforgettable.

**Capital Projects Update
Active Projects**

- Turf Care Equipment Replacement: The Fairway Top Dresser replacement was approved and is now in service, enhancing golf course maintenance efficiency.

- Clubhouse HVAC Design & Permitting: The permit application is under review, with approval expected soon.

- Bridge Design & Permitting: The designs for the Area Z and Polo Park bridges are finalized, and permit submission is in progress.

The Board approved both bridge replacements and related work at the March 27 Open Board meeting.

- Gate 2 and Marina Signage: The Board approved the 2025 Gate 2 and Marina signage CRRRF projects.

Those sign designs and locations are in process.

Upcoming Capital Requests

- Golf Course: Cart path upgrades and bathroom fixture replacements are proposed.

- Turf Care Building Renovation: We await final permitting from Whatcom County.

The Capital Approval request will be included on the May 8 Board meeting agenda.

- Barn 6-8 replacement/renovation planning continues, with the Long-Range Planning Committee requesting that an Architectural firm provide Pre-Design concepts, drawings, and information for presentation to the community and the Board.

Projects On Hold

- Barn 8 Siding/Structural Renovations: The Long-Range Planning Committee will present recommendations concerning the Barn 8 structural repair proposals to the Board in May.

**Administration & Accounting
Activity Summary**

- Continued onboarding of

seasonal staff across departments, ensuring readiness for the busy summer season.

- Completed the final updates with HR firm One Digital to finalize the employee manual handbook, for review and Board approval in May.

- The Finance Committee reviewed April financial statements and capital project proposals on April 16, ensuring fiscal responsibility.

- Coordinated logistics for the Christ the King Church Easter Egg Hunt and other Easter events, which saw high community participation.

- Administration and Recreation staff began planning for the SVCA Valley Fair, which is slated for Saturday, July 26, 2025. This includes vendor coordination, booking stage performers, and event promotion.

- The board approved the employee Confidentiality and Social Media policy, which has been implemented with all staff, following review by the Board, legal counsel and the Teamsters Union.

- The Compliance Team and the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) continue to be busy. As of April 15, over 20 ACC project submittals were active, and dozens of homes are currently under construction.

Successes

- Streamlined seasonal hiring processes, with many 2024 staff returning for 2025.

- Successful website test migration to a new platform will improve user experience and ac-

cessibility.

Planned Work

- Finalize logistical support for the SVCA Valley Fair and summer election processes.

- Launch a community survey on behalf of the Long-Range Planning Committee to gather input on proposed 2026 capital projects.

Maintenance

Activity Summary

- Serviced swimming pool heaters and repaired filters, preparing pools for summer opening.

- Cleaned and repaired SVCA street signs, replacing those damaged by graffiti.

- Repaired fences at Marina tennis courts and continued temporary repairs at Turfcare.

- Conducted trail cleanup and repairs around Lake Louise, enhancing accessibility.

- Fabricated two additional kayak racks for the Marina and continued the trash container project.

- Repaired potholes, drainage issues, and road shoulders across SVCA roads.

- Removed downed limbs and cleared a tree from the Grandview Lane roadway.

Successes

- Purchased and deployed a new zero-turn mower, improving grounds maintenance, mowing, and landscaping project efficiency.

See **Valley** on 10



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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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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)**

Spring soccer

Spring soccer is in full force, as Sudden Valley resident Karen Borchert photographed her daughter, Daphne, playing for Lakeside Lizards. Daphne scored the first goal of the season for her team who went on to win the game. If you would like to see your child featured in our kid's views section, please send your submissions to bodvandepolder@suddenvalley.com.



KIDS crossword

Name that fruit

S	A	F	P	H	A	G	X	O	A
E	P	F	I	J	K	I	W	I	P
G	R	A	P	E	S	F	C	H	P
C	I	P	P	A	P	A	Y	A	L
K	C	L	B	A	N	A	N	A	E
C	O	U	N	L	E	M	O	N	Y
F	T	M	U	F	I	G	Q	X	B
P	I	N	E	A	P	P	L	E	O
O	M	A	N	G	O	X	Q	D	J
E	H	W	O	R	A	N	G	E	Y

GRAPES
APPLE
ORANGE
MANGO
KIWI
FIG
PLUM
PAPAYA
BANANA
PINEAPPLE
LEMON
APRICOT



Easter egg hunt

Sudden Valley kids enjoying the annual Easter egg hunt organized by Christ The King Church. (Photo courtesy Carrie Van de Polder)

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Sudden Valley swimming pools to open in May

By Nakell Jones
SVCA Staff

Summer is almost here, and that means the pools at Sudden Valley are getting ready to open for the season.

Starting Saturday, May 24, both the Main Pool and Quiet Pool will be open daily through Labor Day Weekend.

The Main Pool will offer lap swim from 9 a.m. until noon, then transition to open swim from 12:30-7:30 p.m. The Quiet Pool will also be open from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. — perfect if you're looking for a more peaceful place to relax.

Planning a birthday party or summer get-together? Private pool rentals are now available. To start a reservation, just fill out the rental application on our website, suddenvalley.com.

For more information, call the Rec Center Front Desk at 360-366-8450 or email recfrontdesk@suddenvalley.com. It's shaping up to be another great summer in Sudden Valley — see you at the pool.



What you need to know about Sudden Valley's dog parks



The Campground, home to an off-leash dog area and a disc golf course. Most parks and trails in Sudden Valley welcome pets, but there are also some restrictions to keep in mind. (SVCA photo)

By Maxx Robinson
SVCA Staff

Sudden Valley has no shortage of dogs, and with the temperature finally warming up, residents are taking advantage of the many parks and trails around the valley.

Most parks and trails in Sudden Valley welcome pets, but there are also some restrictions to keep in mind.

Dogs in Sudden Valley must be on-leash except in designated areas. These designated areas are the Campground, Old Airstrip and Marina Dog Park.

The Campground is just off Lake Louise Road past Gate 13. This area also doubles as a disc golf course, which is open to Sudden Valley residents.

The Old Airstrip is the largest off-leash dog park in Sudden Valley. This park stretches from Lake Whatcom to the back of Gate 1 and can be accessed via Lake Whatcom Boulevard.

Marina Dog Park is the most easily accessible and popular off-leash area in Sudden Valley. This park has lake access and a wide-open field.

However, please be mindful of those outside of the park's perimeter, as other areas,

such as the spit overlooking the marina, are on-leash areas only.

There is an additional dog park at the Recreation Corridor next to the tennis courts.

This fenced-in park is designated for smaller dogs only.

Of course, always clean up after your dog, and be mindful if you walk near any of the community gardens. Additionally, a notable area that excludes pets is AM/PM Beach.

Service animals are exempt from this exclusion, but for those looking for a mostly dog-free zone, AM/PM Beach has you covered.

As for hiking trails, many of the trails in and around Sudden Valley are dog friendly.

On-leash dogs are allowed at Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve, right across from Gate 9.

Lookout Mountain has an abundance of trails and is perfect for longer hikes. Stimpson Family Nature Reserve, which is further up Lake Louise Road, does not allow pets.

Lake Louise trail, which is right in Gate 2, is especially popular with dog walkers. It's a mostly flat trail that's about 1.2 miles long and provides excellent views of Lake Louise.

Remember to stop by the Welcome Center after your walk, as we always have free treats and would love to meet your dog.

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Christina Miller
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Capital: SVCA Board approves three requests

Continued from 1

awarded to CertaPro Painters.

This total is less than the \$16,224 allocated in the 2025 Capital Budget for this project.

According to an April 24 memo from Bennett to the SVCA

Board, the last time the building was painted is unknown.

"Currently, the paint is faded, and, in several areas, wood is exposed on the building and deck railing, accelerating wear and deterioration," the memo states.

The SVCA Board also ap-

proved the following:

- 2025 Budget Calendar
- 2025 Collection Policy
- Request to de-obligate

\$228,131 from Capital Project GL# 8004 (Roads Fund) and to also de-obligate \$251,424 from Capital Project GL# 8003 (CRRRF) and to approve the reclassification of all related November 2024 storm event cleanup costs charged to these funds to the Operating fund in the fiscal years for which these costs were incurred, thereby also reimbursing these capital funds from the operating fund.

More details about each action item is available in the board's April 24 agenda at suddenvalley.com.

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

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Sudden Valley resident pens 13th book

By Danny Langdon
Member submission



Long-time Sudden Valley resident Danny Langdon has published his 13th book, a fascinating tale of his lucky life story, asking: Are we born lucky or do we create our own luck?

The evocative title, “Junkyard Kid: Born in a Warehouse – Traveled the World,” welcomes readers to the way Langdon approached life confidently as a result of numerous lessons learned.

He is the youngest of nine children. According to Langdon, writing one’s life story is a daunting but highly fulfilling task. That is largely “because you identify and link what you have done with the why,” he said.

Perhaps being born in a warehouse, the last child of a scrap metal and hide dealer, contributed to his profound curiosity about things?

Perhaps having his father die when he was 7, and watching his wonderful mother (Mother of the Year in Idaho and first runner-up nationally) take over the business (using a cutting torch and loading tons of iron, representing both a woman and man) made him open to the world? Born at the business’

warehouse and raised in several junkyards meant so much to an inquisitive boy. Langdon was a wonderfully safe community.

He was one of the first to join the Peace Corps -- and also met President John Kennedy -- in 1962.

He was married with two children, remarried and had a remarkably successful and fulfilling professional life as the author of

what is known as The Language of Work Model.

Langdon is a self-professed travel addict, having been to 90-plus countries, many of those three or four times. His 400-page memoir (available at Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble) shares plenty of lessons for achieving a quality life both personally and professionally.

His propensity toward humor adds a special element to his writing and how he approached life. Langdon will schedule a book reading at the Sudden Valley Library in the fall. To be on the invite list, email dannyinbell@yahoo.com. In the meantime, pick up a copy at Village Books, Barnes and Noble, or order online.

Early readers who know Langdon say the book reads just like he is in real life.



Long-time Sudden Valley resident Danny Langdon has published his 13th book, titled, “Junkyard Kid: Born in a Warehouse – Traveled the World.” (Courtesy photo)

No Burn Zone: Sudden Valley prohibits open burning of yard debris

Spring is here, and with it comes a renewed focus on yard care and cleanup.

However, please remember that burning yard debris in Sudden Valley is prohibited.

Whether it’s wet leaves, twigs, or larger yard waste piles, open residential burning violates the Sudden Valley Community Association (SVCA) Rules and Regulations.

The first offense carries a \$100 fine. All violations are referred to the Northwest Clean Air Agency and the County Fire Marshal.

Repeat violations may result in fines up to \$1,000.

In addition to legal and possible wildfire concerns, burning yard debris negatively impacts air quality, triggers respiratory issues, and disrupts the enjoyment of our shared outdoor spaces.

Need to get rid of yard waste? Consider the following alternatives:

- Use curbside yard waste pick-up services.
- Drop off materials at local composting or green waste facilities.
- Participate in community clean-up events (watch the Views and SVCA website for announcements).

If you witness open burning, don’t hesitate to contact Security at 360-319-8200 or SVCA Administration to report the issue confidentially.

Let’s work together. Keep our community safe, clean and beautiful.

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Donating blood is a simple yet powerful act of kindness. Blood cannot be made in the lab. It can only come from willing donors like yourself. Nervous about donating? That’s normal! Check out our [website](#) or watch [Gaard Swanson from Seattle Refined](#) donate for his first time!

Sudden Valley Community Blood Drive

Bloodmobile – Admin. Office | 1850 Lake Whatcom Blvd.

Friday, June 6th
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Scan the QR code, call Bloodworks NW at 800-398-7888, or click this link bloodworksnw.org/giveblood to schedule your one hour donation appointment.

Appointments are required for the best possible donation experience. Photo ID is also required. For safety, we kindly request no visitors under 16 at our donation sites. Eat a hearty meal and drink plenty of fluids prior to donation.

FINANCIALS

Sudden Valley Community Association
Operations - By Department
February 1, 2025 to February 28, 2025
CURRENT MONTH

Whole \$

UNAUDITED Department	Actual Revenue	Revenue B / (W)	Actual Salary Benefits	Salary & Benefits B / (W)	Actual Other Expense *	Other Exp B / (W)*	Net Income / (Loss) *	Net B / (W)*
ACC / Security	9,254	2,266	8,190	(1,075)	40,591	(5,217)	(39,527)	(4,026)
Accounting	2,374	(174)	28,913	1,128	2,491	2,219	(29,030)	3,173
Administration	53	(49)	33,367	3,058	21,690	(13,167)	(55,004)	(10,158)
Common Costs	10,109	6,193	-	-	66,074	(5,437)	(55,965)	756
Facilities	7,473	2,449	4,101	530	17,252	2,076	(13,880)	5,055
Maintenance	-	-	44,739	(8,346)	7,162	11,144	(51,901)	2,798
Subtotal	29,263	10,685	119,310	(4,705)	155,260	(8,382)	(245,307)	(2,402)
Golf	30,756	(19,588)	56,657	2,276	30,526	9,149	(56,427)	(8,163)
Marina	447	357	-	-	1,128	(224)	(681)	133
Rec/ Pools/ Parks	2,532	2,036	21,699	(8,663)	7,091	132	(26,258)	(6,495)
Subtotal	33,735	(17,195)	78,356	(6,387)	38,745	9,057	(83,366)	(14,525)
Subtotal Operations before Ops Dues	62,998	(6,510)	197,666	(11,092)	194,005	675	(328,673)	(16,927)
Ops Dues Earned	237,744	-	-	-	-	-	237,744	-
Curr Yr Bad Debts Activity	(8,375)	-	-	-	-	-	(8,375)	-
Net Ops Dues	229,369	3,263	-	-	-	-	229,369	3,263
Net Operations	292,367	(3,247)	197,666	(11,092)	194,005	675	(99,304)	(13,664)
Net BOD Approved UDR Activity for Operations Legal Expenses - Past Due Account Collections	-	-	-	-	2,274	-	(2,274)	-
Net Operations with Board Approved UDR	292,367	(3,247)	197,666	(11,092)	196,279	675	(101,578)	(13,664)
Other Operating Activity								
UDR Activity	21,969	-	-	-	2,662	-	19,307	-
AR Accrual - Prior Year Reversal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AR Accrual - Current Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lease Income- Library Prepaid Recognized	667	-	-	-	-	-	667	-
Vacation Liability Accrual	-	-	-	-	6,650	-	(6,650)	-
Total Other Operating Activity	22,636	-	-	-	9,312	-	13,324	-
Grand Total Operations Activity	315,003	(3,247)	197,666	(11,092)	205,591	675	(88,254)	(13,664)

* Excludes Depreciation
B / (W) = Better / (Worse) Than Budget

Sudden Valley Community Association
Operations - By Department
January 1, 2025 to February 28, 2025
YEAR TO DATE

Whole \$

UNAUDITED Department	Actual Revenue	Revenue B / (W)	Actual Salary Benefits	Salary & Benefits B / (W)	Actual Other Expense *	Other Exp B / (W)*	Net Income / (Loss) *	Net B / (W)*
ACC / Security	31,899	22,856	14,474	(872)	74,805	1,322	(57,380)	23,306
Accounting	4,340	(774)	55,396	2,020	7,106	(1,517)	(58,162)	(271)
Administration	185	83	64,636	4,993	31,732	(14,768)	(96,183)	(9,692)
Common Costs	18,006	10,174	-	-	103,670	(13,895)	(85,664)	(3,721)
Facilities	16,942	598	8,199	683	28,063	12,110	(19,320)	13,391
Maintenance	-	-	80,546	(10,579)	13,352	7,791	(93,898)	(2,788)
Subtotal	71,372	32,937	223,251	(3,755)	258,728	(8,957)	(410,607)	20,225
Golf	208,531	(13,991)	108,469	5,054	74,742	(7,070)	25,320	(16,007)
Marina	1,002	912	-	-	1,764	(255)	(762)	657
Rec/ Pools/ Parks	4,946	3,788	39,693	(13,622)	12,257	(1,624)	(47,004)	(11,458)
Subtotal	214,479	(9,291)	148,162	(8,568)	88,763	(8,949)	(22,446)	(26,808)
Subtotal Operations before Ops Dues	285,851	23,646	371,413	(12,323)	347,491	(17,906)	(433,053)	(6,583)
Ops Dues Earned	476,199	-	-	-	-	-	476,199	-
Curr Yr Bad Debts Activity	(25,812)	-	-	-	-	-	(25,812)	-
Net Ops Dues	450,387	(1,827)	-	-	-	-	450,387	(1,827)
Net Operations	736,238	21,819	371,413	(12,323)	347,491	(17,906)	17,334	(8,410)
Net BOD Approved UDR Activity for Operations Legal Expenses - Past Due Account Collections	-	-	-	-	8,661	-	(8,661)	-
Net Operations with Board Approved UDR	736,238	21,819	371,413	(12,323)	356,152	(17,906)	8,673	(8,410)
Other Operating Activity								
UDR Activity	42,778	-	-	-	2,872	-	39,906	-
AR Accrual - Prior Year Reversal	(53,456)	-	-	-	-	-	(53,456)	-
AR Accrual - Current Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lease Income- Library Prepaid Recognized	1,333	-	-	-	-	-	1,333	-
Vacation Liability Accrual	-	-	-	-	11,012	-	(11,012)	-
Total Other Operating Activity	(9,345)	-	-	-	13,884	-	(23,229)	-
Grand Total Operations Activity	726,893	21,819	371,413	(12,323)	370,036	(17,906)	(14,556)	(8,410)

* Excludes Depreciation
B / (W) = Better / (Worse) Than Budget

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Mailbox lock replacement update

The Bellingham - Mt. Baker United States Post Office has begun to install the new mailbox locks in Sudden Valley.

However, the process is taking longer than expected due to staffing issues.

The new locks are more secure than the previous locks and should protect Sudden Valley residents against mail theft incidents.

AA Right- Steve Kure

Lock Service & Tree Service

- Lock-Outs: Car and Home \$60
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Residents do not need to replace their mailbox keys. The only locks that have changed are the ones the Post Office uses.

If you have more questions or concerns regarding mail in Sudden Valley, please contact the post office on Orleans Street.

If you believe you are still experiencing mail theft, please use <https://mailtheft.usps.gov> for future reports.

FINANCIALS

Sudden Valley Community Association Income Statement Summary						
UNAUDITED	Current Month - February 2025			Year to Date - 2 Months Ending 2/28/2025		
	Operations & Operating Reserves	Operations Better / (Worse) Budget	Capital Reserves**	Operations & Operating Reserves	Operations Better / (Worse) Budget	Col % Capital Reserves**
REVENUE						
Current Year Dues & Assessments Income						
Dues & Assessments Income	237,744		246,298	476,199		493,173
Bad Debt Reserve	(8,375)		(3,771)	(25,812)		(17,994)
Net Current Year Assessment Income	229,369	3,263	242,527	450,387	(1,827)	94.6% 475,179
Bad Debt Recoveries - Prior Years			9,724			19,013
Golf Income	30,756	(19,588)		208,531	(13,991)	
Marina Income	447	447		1,002	1,002	
Rec Center & Pools Income	1,702	1,310		2,736	1,840	
Legal & Collections Income						
Other Income	14,081	2,349		46,077	26,392	
Rental Income - Other	830	560		2,210	1,615	
Area 2 Rental Income	1,841	1,767		5,679	(765)	
Lease Income	5,632	848		11,263	1,696	
New Home Construction Fees	7,000	5,670		7,000	5,670	
Capital Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets			1,000			1,000
Investment Income	712	129	2,937	1,354	188	6,156
Total Revenue	292,370	(3,245)	256,188	736,239	21,820	501,348
EXPENSES						
Salaries & Benefits	197,666	(11,092)		371,413	(12,323)	
Contracted & Professional Services	24,455	(11,538)		35,899	(3,654)	
CC&Rs/ Mandates	43,067	(6,892)		90,481	(14,314)	
Maintenance & Landscaping	28,605	20,981		63,815	2,909	
Utilities	26,977	(3,195)		38,336	742	
Administrative	9,824	5,565		31,851	(778)	
Regulatory Compliance	44,609	(5,700)	3,264	54,385	(5,934)	30,029
Insurance Premiums	16,254	1,253		32,508	2,506	
Other Expenses	217	199		217	616	
Depreciation Expense			108,710			217,420
Interest expense			4,951			10,587
Total Expenses	391,674	(10,419)	116,925	718,905	(30,230)	258,036
Net Income (Loss)	(99,304)	(13,664)	139,263	17,334	(8,410)	243,312
Net UDR Activity for Operations						
Legal Expenses - Past Due Account Collections	(2,274)			(8,661)		
Net Income (Loss) with Board Approved UDR	(101,578)	(13,664)	139,263	8,673	(8,410)	243,312
Other Activity						
Net Other UDR Activity*	19,307			39,906		
AR Accrual - Prior Year Reversal				(53,456)		(13,625)
AR Accrual - Current Year						
Lease Income- Library Prepaid Recognized	667			1,333		
Vacation Liability Accrual	(6,650)			(11,012)		
Total Other Activity	13,324			(23,229)		(13,625)
Grand Total Activity	(88,254)	(13,664)	139,263	(14,556)	(8,410)	229,687

*Prior year recoveries for operations are deposited into the Undesignated Reserve Account (UDR).
**Refer to the last footnote on the Balance Sheet (prior page) for a discussion of Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 606 and capital dues revenue collections.

Sudden Valley Community Association Balance Sheet February 28, 2025 and December 31, 2024			
	Unaudited** Feb 28, 2025	Unaudited** Dec 31, 2024	Inc / (Dec)
OPERATIONS			
Current Assets			
Operating Cash	\$ 956,043	\$ 857,647	\$ 98,396
Building Completion Deposit Fund	720,250	749,910	(29,660)
Member Receivables - Operations*	-	53,456	(53,456)
Other Receivables	15,909	16,109	(200)
Prepaid Expenses	56,130	68,689	(32,559)
Operating Lease ROU Assets	5,869	5,210	(341)
Inventory	4,587	5,824	(1,237)
Total Current Assets	1,758,788	1,777,839	(19,051)
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	(127,268)	(145,449)	18,181
Accrued Vacation Liability	(87,346)	(76,335)	(11,011)
Accrued Payroll	-	(115,575)	115,575
Prepaid Assessments	(543,945)	(249,179)	(294,866)
Building Completion Deposits	(720,250)	(749,910)	29,660
Other Refundable Deposits	(10,906)	(9,956)	(950)
Operating Lease Liability	(5,869)	(5,210)	341
Prepaid Golf Memberships	-	(112,307)	112,307
Total Current Liabilities	(1,495,184)	(1,464,931)	(30,253)
Deferred Lease Revenue Liabilities			
Deferred Library Lease Revenue	(34,667)	(36,000)	1,333
Total Deferred Lease Revenue Liabilities	(34,667)	(36,000)	1,333
Operating Reserve Funds			
Emergency Operating Cash	364,032	363,815	217
Undesignated Reserves Cash	336,098	302,135	33,963
Total Operating Reserve Funds	700,130	665,950	34,180
Net Operating Assets	\$ 929,067	\$ 942,868	\$ (13,801)
CAPITAL			
Capital Current Assets			
CRRRF (Capital Repair & Replacement) Cash Fund	3,191,124	3,074,179	116,945
Roads Reserve Cash Fund	2,062,568	1,875,442	187,126
Board Density Reduction Cash Fund	87,913	87,889	24
Mailbox Cash Fund	356,479	351,970	4,509
CRRRF Capital Reserve Holding Cash	219,749	219,618	131
Mitigation Assignment of Savings Cash	49,837	49,821	16
LWSD Assignment of Savings Cash	14,939	14,939	
Member Receivables - Capital**	-	13,625	(13,625)
Total Capital Current Assets	5,782,608	5,487,483	295,126
Capital Fixed Assets			
Fixed Assets	17,015,644	17,125,452	(109,808)
Finance ROU Assets	45,694	58,661	(12,967)
Lots Held for Sale	236,456	236,456	
Total Capital Assets	17,298,794	17,420,569	(121,775)
Long Term Liabilities			
CRRRF Loan 2022	(1,494,154)	(1,539,073)	44,919
Finance Leases	(33,541)	(44,203)	10,662
Total Long Term Liabilities	(1,527,695)	(1,583,276)	55,581
NET ASSETS	\$ 22,482,775	\$ 22,267,644	\$ 215,131
MEMBER EQUITY			
Member Equity			
Current Year Net Income: Operations	(14,556)	286,790	(301,346)
Transfers Out from Operations to Capital	-	(145,600)	145,600
Current Year Net Income: Capital**	229,687	1,093,252	(863,565)
Transfers into Capital from Operations	-	145,600	(145,600)
Retained Earnings**	5,519,682	5,212,892	286,790
Capital**	16,747,962	15,654,710	1,093,252
TOTAL MEMBER EQUITY	\$ 22,482,775	\$ 22,267,644	\$ 215,131

*The Association's internal policy is to write off any member receivables that are 30 days past due as bad debts for internal interim financial statement purposes. As per SVCA policy, Management continues to pursue collection of these receivables via all avenues allowed by Washington State laws. In addition, the Association records and bills finance charges on receivables that are thirty days past due at 1% per month. At February 28, 2025, and December 31, 2024, the balances of receivables written off were \$747,410 and \$699,426, respectively.
**Beginning with the 2020 year end audited financial statements, Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 606 requires issued audited financial statements to reclassify unspent capital dues revenue, including related capital transfer fee collections, as a contract liability balance (unearned revenue), which is then reversed out in future years when capital dues/capital transfer fee collections are actually expended on capital related expenditures. This particular accounting standard change is only incorporated into the issued audited financial statements and is not factored into SVCA's internal monthly statements as it would obscure the reality of monthly capital dues/capital transfer fee revenues collected for internal monthly presentation purposes. See SVCA's 2020 through 2023 audited financial statements (2023 represents the most recently issued audited statements), which fully incorporate ASC 606 and comply with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Safety first on the Sudden Valley golf course

By Kevin LeDuc
The Views

With the recent unseasonably warm and dry weather, it's probably time for me to address the issue of non-golfers walking, jogging or riding on the golf course. It is somewhat of a challenging issue because the golf course sits on a beautiful piece of property and has nice paths that seem ideal for a walk, jog or a bike ride. Unfortunately, it is simply not safe to be on the golf course unless you are playing golf. I know that over the years there have been several instances where non-golfers on the course have been confronted by golfers, sometimes politely and other times, unfortunately not so politely. These confrontations, our inability to enforce the policy at all times and the policy itself can leave golfers and non-golfers frustrated. The core of the problem, as I see it, is lack of awareness. Most people who chose to walk the course when not playing are non-golfers. The fact that they don't golf means that they most likely are unaware of the damage that a golf ball travelling upwards of 160 miles per hour can do if it were to strike them.

It can cause serious injury or even death. I have seen mothers with baby strollers walk on the cart paths around blind corners where golf balls were literally flying right over their heads. Clearly these people and others like them have no idea of the dangerous situation they are putting themselves and/or their loved ones in. I know that some community members become offended when asked to not walk, jog or bike on the course. There is a feeling by some that it is a selfish act by someone who is irritated by the presence of a non-golfer on the course. However, it is critical these non-golfers understand that not only is it dangerous for them, but it is also not fair for them to put golfers in a position where they could be the ones responsible for causing serious injury to another person.

When I come upon a non-golfer on the course, I make every effort to calmly and politely explain to the individual why it is that they are not allowed onto the course. I find that almost without exception these individuals appreciate the explanation and are happy to exit the course and refrain from using it for non-golf activities in the future. On the positive side for those non-golfers hoping to walk on the course, we will start our Sunday Foot Golf times on Sunday, June 8. On Sundays through Labor Day, when the lower nine holes are being used for Foot Golf only, there is no safety danger and therefore walking on the golf cart paths on the front nine is permitted. While Foot Golf starts at 5 p.m., we can't allow non-golf walking until 6 p.m. as we need

to allow the traditional golfers to be done playing the front nine holes before non-golfing walkers arrive on the course. As always, if you have any questions about this policy or any other

aspect of the golf program, feel free to call or email me at the golf shop. -- Kevin LeDuc is director of Golf PGA at the Sudden Valley Golf Club



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FINANCIALS

**Sudden Valley Community Association
Reserve Cash Balance & Activity**
2 Months Actual, 10 Months Projected

UNAUDITED

	Capital Reserve Funds						Operating Reserve Funds			
	CRRRF	Roads	CRRRF Capital Reserve Holding: Cash	Board Density Reduction	Mailbox	Mitigation Assignment of Savings*	Total Capital Reserve Funds	Emergency Ops	UDR	Total Operating Reserve Funds
Net Available Cash 12/31/2024	3,074,179	1,875,442	219,618	87,889	151,970	64,760	\$ 5,473,858	363,815	302,135	\$ 665,950
Dues Received	239,951	247,280			4,418		491,649		45,281	45,281
Storm Water Mitigation Plan Fee										
Investment Income	3,437	2,458	131	24	91	16	6,156	217	182	399
Sale of Assets	1,000						1,000			
Mitigation Release										
2025 Expenditures	(127,443)	(62,612)					(190,055)		(11,500)	(11,500)
Net Available Cash at 2/28/2025	3,191,124	2,062,568	219,749	87,913	156,479	64,776	\$ 5,782,609	364,032	336,098	\$ 700,130
10 Month Outlook										
Outlook - 2025 Dues (95% collections)	1,144,993	1,177,598			21,044		\$ 2,343,635			\$ -
Outlook - Prior Year Collections	16,577	17,049			305		33,931		32,736	32,736
CRRRF Loan Payments for year 2025	(277,533)						(277,533)			
Obligated Expenses/Holdings	(994,765)	(512,132)	(219,749)			(64,776)	(1,791,422)		(18,379)	(18,379)
Net Usable Cash Balance 12/31/2025	3,080,396	2,745,083	-	87,913	177,828	-	\$ 6,091,219	364,032	350,454	\$ 714,487
Board Recommended Carryover Balance	(600,000)	(500,000)					\$ (1,100,000)			\$ -
Net Usable Cash 12/31/2025, After Recommendation	\$ 2,480,396	\$ 2,245,083	\$ -	\$ 87,913	\$ 177,828	\$ -	\$ 4,991,219	\$ 364,032	\$ 350,454	\$ 714,487
Net Current Year Cash Increase (Decrease)	6,217	869,641	(219,618)	24	25,858	(64,760)	\$ 617,361	217	48,319	\$ 48,537

*Note, when mitigation period has ended, unspent funds will be returned to the source account, Roads and CRRRF.

Valley: Sudden Valley buzzing in preparation for summer

Continued from 4

• Completed recertification for maintenance staff in bucket and forklift operation.

Challenges

• The Firewise debris removal program, starting April 21, is consuming significant staff time and impacting other maintenance tasks.

Planned Work

• Complete Firewise preparations and mitigation efforts.
• Re-paint parking spaces at AM/PM Park and the Marina.
• Install additional kayak racks at the Marina and finalize Turf-care fence repairs.

Recreation

Activity Summary

• Finalized kayak renewals and filled remaining wet slips at the Marina.
• Organized and supported the Christ the King Church Easter Egg Hunt, a well-attended community event.
• Continued preparations for the SVCA Valley Fair, securing food, crafts, and entertainment vendors.
• Inventoried pool furniture and lifeguard equipment, ensuring readiness for pool season.

• Interviewed candidates for lifeguard and recreation staff positions.

• We are seeking performers for the July 26 Valley Fair. Please contact Kyle Kaltenfeldt with your availability, fees and a description of your act talent.

Successes

• Eliminated the dry slip waitlist, optimizing Marina storage allocation.
• Launched a free monthly community yoga club in partnership with a resident.

Challenges

• Managing the loss of a valued seasonal staff member transitioning to a new career opportunity.

Planned Work

• Finalize 2025 pool staff hiring and training.
• Submit a proposal for 2025 Pickleball & Tennis Leagues.

Golf

Activity Summary

• Hosted the Master Par 3 and Opening Day events, marking a strong start to the season.
• Completed resodding of #9 Green, with an estimated opening in mid-May.
• Aerated and overseeded the

driving range grass tee, targeting an opening before May

• Began Beginner and Ladies clinics, promoting inclusivity and skill development.

• Coordinated with The Skagit Casino for Stay and Play partnership discussions.

Successes

• Improved course conditions due to favorable April weather, boosting player turnout.
• Successfully onboarded seasonal staff, preparing for a busy season.

Challenges

• Wet March weather delayed some maintenance tasks, though recovery is underway.

Planned Work

• Promote upcoming member events and the PGA Jr. League starting May 6.
• Finalize preparations for outside tournaments and the Winter Series Championship.

Turf Care

Activity Summary

• Ramped up golf course mowing to a conditioning pattern, enhancing playability.
• Completed spring aeration of greens, tee boxes and rough areas.

• Charged the irrigation system after repairing initial leaks and breaks.

• Reshaped and resodded the chipping green, with an estimated opening in early June.

Successes

• Completed all winter/fall projects, including extensive Willow tree pruning.
• Nearly finalized full seasonal staffing, with a review planned for late April.

Challenges

• Short staffing due to medical absences, though new hires are alleviating pressure.

Planned Work

• Wrap up sprinkler head clearing and continue irrigation system preparations.
• Monitor and treat #17 green for Crown Hydration injury as temperatures rise.

Community Engagement

Activity Summary

• Celebrated a successful Easter season with events like the Christ the King Church Easter Egg Hunt, which drew large crowds.
• Launched Community Garden startups, with residents actively participating in plot assign-

ments and planting.

• Promoted the upcoming SVCA Valley Fair on July 26, featuring field games, musical acts, a craft fair, a beer garden, a kids' zone and food vendors.

• Began registration for summer Golf Junior Camps and Beginner Clinics, encouraging youth participation.

• Supported the end-of-year activities at Sudden Valley School, including coordinating community volunteers for graduation events.

Successes

• High community turnout for Easter events, fostering a sense of togetherness.

• Strong interest in Community Garden plots, with all initial plots assigned.

Planned Work

• Promote summer events, including Foot Golf, walking times, and the PGA Jr. League.
• Coordinate community volunteers for Sudden Valley School's end-of-year ceremonies.
• Continue outreach for the SVCA Valley Fair, including social media campaigns and local business partnerships.

Weather Historical Rainfall Jan. 1 to April 16, 2024: 21.84" Jan. 1 to April 16, 2025: 19.84"

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. Stay connected through board meetings, E-Blasts, community events, and our evolving website, suddenvalley.com, and let's make this season one to remember in Sudden Valley.

-- Michael Bennett is General Manager of the Sudden Valley Community Association



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SVCA Drop-In Sports

Join other community residents at drop-in sports:

- CoEd Tennis – Tuesday at 5:45 p.m.
- CoEd Soccer, Ages 30+ – Thursdays at 5:45 p.m.
- CoEd Soccer, Ages 8+ – Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
- CoEd Soccer, All Ages – Saturday at 10 a.m.
- CoEd Pickleball – Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

Call 360-734-6430 for more information.

Letters: Supporting FireWise cleanup program

Continued from 3

However, there is a very limited budget and the dying and hazardous trees are triaged to remove only the most dangerous, not simply hazardous.

We also have green belts and vacant lots littered with limbs, downed trees, decades of brush, and tall stumps intentionally left to rot — fuel for a forest fire — creating the foundation for a disaster.

We have seen the dramatic and tragic effects of ignoring consequences of reality, basing forestry practices on ideology, in the near total destruction of Pacific Palisades and other whole towns and cities in California. Sudden Valley is not immune to fire.

Given proper conditions, there would be no stopping a fire from consuming this community. Given that we have extremely limited avenues of egress out of the Valley for emergency evacuations, the casualty toll could easily exceed the deaths in Maui's fire two years ago.

We moved here almost three decades ago because we wanted to live among trees. We also hope to have a more aggressive practice that keeps the chance of a catastrophic wildfire as low as possible. We understand effective practices are expensive. However, it will be much less expensive than the loss of most or all of the homes in the Valley.
George T. Williams
 Sudden Valley

Editor's note: Everyone who lives in Sudden Valley is concerned about the danger of a forest fire here. Last November, mother nature demonstrated that there are other significant natural disasters that can threaten a community. The Bomb Cyclone toppled and damaged many trees not identified as hazard trees, lifting perfectly healthy large trees by their root balls and sent them crashing across roads

and into houses throughout the Valley. The 2025 budget for hazard trees increased by over 50% from last year demonstrating a commitment to funding critical activities of the Association. It is becoming increasingly difficult to fund the association's needs due to rising prices for services, equipment, personnel salaries and unpredictable weather events. I would encourage you to attend the upcoming Firewise Event, Board meetings and the budget town hall later in the year and share your thoughts on the fire danger and how Sudden Valley can improve our response to this issue.

Italian night dinner at El Agave

Editor,
 While Italian food is not on the menu, El Agave chefs possess diverse specialty skills which includes Italian food, which sounded good to our taste buds.

In March, Cruz presented a small group with a tasting meal of five main courses, two different salads and two different breads. We selected chicken cacciatore, shrimp alfredo, lasagna, an Italian bread and a dinner salad. The spumoni ice cream spoke for itself.

On Wednesday April 9, 60 friends and neighbors gathered at El Agave for an Italian buffet dinner.

These members all came to enjoy an Italian dinner complete with chatting up friends old and new. Mike Bennet, our new SVCA general manager, who came for dinner, enjoyed meeting many community members in such an informal setting. Yet again, no politics mentioned or discussed, no we or them, just friendship and conversation throughout the room.

The big difference here was the buffet style, as many trips as one wanted. We gave Cruz a

head count, he planned food accordingly, and there was plenty. The gathering list remained by invite only to control cost which was \$22 plus tax per dinner. Not a complaint in the crowd.

Folks started gathering at 5:15 p.m. and by 5:40 p.m. the dining room was crowded, yet other diners seeking dinner by

menu were also seated. Cocktails, dinner, lots of conversation, introductions and mingling. No politics, great heart-felt community friendship exchanges, smiles galore until around 7:30 p.m. when the group thinned down.

El Agave is in this community. Italian food is not on their menu, but then neither is BBQ chicken/

ribs, which is currently our next idea for a community dinner. They have good cooks with skills in making many different styles of food. If you want to gather a large group for a meal, don't want the cleanup, or leave the valley, give Cruz a call.
Mitch Waterman
 Sudden Valley

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KEEP INFORMED

The following are the Sudden Valley Community Association's various boards and committees. To learn more about each, visit:

<https://suddenvalley.com/committee-information>

- Board of Directors
- Architectural Control Committee (ACC)
- Document Review Committee
- Finance Committee
- Long-Range Planning Committee

- Nominations & Elections Committee
- Appeals Committee

Looking for Sudden Valley news and updates? Learn more through the following outlets:

Online: SuddenValley.com
This website is updated regularly with news, SVCA staff reports, and announcements as well as current meeting minutes, rules and regulations, and much more.

Social Media: Facebook & YouTube

Find the Sudden Valley Community Association on YouTube, where SVCA meetings of the Board of Directors and Committees are regularly posted, and Facebook for weekly announcements.

E-Mail: Sudden Valley Community Association e-Blast

Sign up for our e-blast to receive community event and other important updates delivered directly to your inbox.

Print Media: The Sudden Valley Views

Published each month and delivered by mail to property owners. Also available for pick up in various community locations including the administration building, community center, and at the market. Please contact us if you wish to start or stop mail delivery.

Gate Signs

Meetings and events are also posted one-to-two weeks before they occur.

SUDDEN VALLEY Pet of the MONTH



Finn

This month's pet of the month is Finn, submitted by Allison Andrews. Finn, Blue Heeler, geriatric herding machine. Sunnyside Lane: squirrel central. Leash: essential. 16 teeth MIA. Treats, trash, BALL: my obsessions. See me on the trails, likely attempting to organize the local squirrel population (they're resisting). Come say hi (and bring snacks).

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| ACC – Architectural Control Committee | Sewer District |
| AGM – Annual General Meeting | MOU – Memorandum of Understanding |
| BOD – Board of Directors | MPR – Multi-Purpose Room |
| BMP - Best Management Practices | N&E – Nominations and Elections |
| CC&Rs – Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions | NPDES- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| CIP – Capital Improvement Plan | OPS – Operations |
| CRRRF – Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund | PSE - Puget Sound Energy |
| CTK – Christ the King Church | PUD – Planned Unit Development |
| DNR - Washington State Department of Natural Resources | RCW - Revised Code of Washington |
| DOE - Washington State Department of Ecology | REC – Parks & Recreation Department |
| DRC – Document Review Committee | RFP – Request for Proposals |
| EIS - Emergency Information System | RFQ – Request for Qualifications |
| FTE – Full Time Employees | ROW - Right-of-Way |
| GIS - Geographic Information System | SGM – Special General Meeting |
| GM – Sudden Valley's General Manager | SOP – Standard Operating Procedure |
| GMA – Growth Management Act | SVCA – Sudden Valley Community Association |
| HOA – Homeowner's Association | UDR – Undesignated Reserves |
| LAMIRD - Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development | WCLS - Whatcom County Library System |
| LRPC – Long Range Planning Committee | WCOG - Whatcom Council of Governments |
| LWPG – Lake Whatcom Policy Group | WCSD – Whatcom County Sheriff's Office |
| LWWSO - Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District | WDFW - Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| | WTA - Whatcom Transportation Authority |
| | WUCIOA – RCW 64.90 – The WA Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act |



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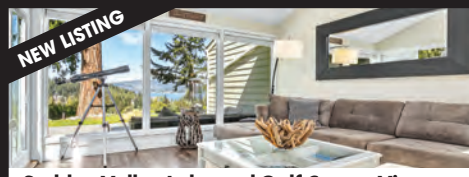
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NEW PRICE
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512 14th St., Bellingham Islands and Bellingham Bay view home. 1930 Craftsman, in prime location on South Hill, extensively renovated but retaining its charm for today's modern lifestyle. All three floors updated with all solid wood trim, hardwood floors. Sun-drenched living room w/gas fireplace & new double pane windows. New KitchenAid appliances, abundant storage & counter space in kitchen. 3 bdrm, 3.5 ba incl. new master bath. Private deck off living rm. New siding w/all new cedar trims wraparound the doors and windows. New plumbing, new electrical and roof. 2-car garage and finished office/art studio in the fully fenced yard. **\$1,898,000**



NEW LISTING
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1011 Night Hawk Way, Everson Just 15 minutes from Bellingham! Open-concept layout and vaulted ceilings in the living room. High-end finishes include custom cabinetry, quartz countertops, gas stove and SS Appliances, a stylish tile backsplash, and durable waterproof vinyl and tile flooring. With 3 bdrms and 2 baths—including a spacious master suite—all on one level, this home is ideal for easy living. Step out onto the back patio and enjoy the massive fully landscaped yard. This home is truly move in ready! **\$569,000**

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