



Sudden Valley Board of Directors adopt resolution

By Jo Anne Jensen
SVCA General Manager

At their Aug. 27 meeting, SVCA's Board of Directors adopted a resolution formally denouncing the article published in the August 2026 edition of the Sudden Valley Views entitled, "Please make informed decisions when you vote." The resolution notes that the board was not aware of the decision to publish the article and did not authorize it. The resolution goes on to say that SVCA's monthly newsletter is "for the free exchange of ideas but that, in the interest of ensuring elections are fair and impartial, the newsletter should not be used by official bodies of the association for supporting or opposing candidates for the Board of Directors."

The board took the further step of directing the Document Review Committee to propose bylaw revisions prohibiting the publication of articles from the Board or a committee which either support or oppose certain candidates for the board.

The complete resolution can be reviewed online at suddenvalley.com/2026-board-of-directors-agendas-minutes.

SV Board hosts budget town hall

By Bill Helm
Editor

SUDDEN VALLEY — On Aug. 15, the Sudden Valley Board of Directors held a town hall to discuss the association's proposed budget for 2027. The association's proposed operating budget balances \$5,485,357 in revenues with \$5,485,357 in expenditures.

The proposed 2027 monthly dues for a developed lot are \$177.24, which is \$2,126.88 for the year. That breaks down as follows:

- \$94.36 for the Operations Fund: Annual revenue and expenses for all amenities and HOA services.
- \$42.44 for the Capital Repair & Replacement Reserve Fund: Funds for major repair, replacement and restoration of common area components and equipment.
- \$39.73 for the Roads Reserve Fund: Funding for major roads, bridges and culvert work.
- \$.71 for the Mailboxes Reserve Fund: Anticipated expenses for cluster mailboxes and parcel boxes.

The proposed 2027 monthly dues for an undeveloped lot are \$168.31, which is \$2,019.72 for the year.

Major changes to the 2027 proposed budget include the following:

- Barn 6 site preparation and construction were added.
- Barn 8 repairs & structural improvements were removed to allow time for project planning and community input. Funds for necessary repairs were added for next year.
- The amount of the construction loan was reduced from \$4M to \$3M.
- Replacement of golf carts was moved forward from 2029 to 2027.
- Clubhouse renovations & kitchen equipment replacements were moved to 2028-2029 to coincide with the restaurant's end of lease.
- Timing of the marina basin repair was aligned with dock replacement, as those two projects will be completed under one permit.

A copy of the proposed 2027 SVCA operations budget is at suddenvalley.com/2026-annual-general-meeting.

SVCA PROPOSES CHANGES TO ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

Board approves proposed bylaw revisions during Aug. 27 meeting

By Jo Anne Jensen
SVCA General Manager

In 2026, Washington State laws governing common interest communities changed, superseding some of the provisions in SVCA's bylaws.

To address this, SVCA's Board of Directors adopted a resolution on Feb. 12 which acknowledges the new regulations and asserts that the association would comply with the new laws.

This WUCIOA Resolution is posted at suddenvalley.com/2026-board-of-directors-agendas-minutes.

In the resolution, the SVCA Board states that it will seek member approval

of a comprehensive revision of its governing documents to align with RCW 64.90, which becomes fully effective in 2028.

After the resolution was adopted, the Document Review Committee (DRC) then began the monumental task of revising the Bylaws, in cooperation with SVCA's legal counsel, Richard Davis.

The board approved the DRC's proposed bylaw revisions on July 23 and a document showing the revisions was posted for comment.

Six members of the association made comments and their suggestions were reviewed by both the DRC and Richard Davis.

In response to the member comments, a new format was devised to make it easier to understand the intended revisions, and the changes were divided into two categories: revisions needed to bring the bylaws into alignment with current 2026 WA State law, and revisions needed to align with state laws that will become effective in 2028.

Other changes were made to the bylaws to resolve issues that had been identified during the review period.

The updated revisions were then presented at a Town Hall meeting held Aug. 22.

Members who attended both in-person and via Zoom were given the opportunity to raise questions and make comments.

The cumulative member feedback was then considered as the proposed revision document was finalized.

The Board of Directors reviewed the final revision document and made decisions regarding several issues.

They then approved the document for inclusion in the 2026 election materials that will be sent to members at the end of September.

The process of revising SVCA's bylaws required many hours of work and the involvement of many individuals.

The final product re-

flects both the 2026 legislative changes and the established practices of Sudden Valley.

Member comments helped to develop the two options offered: to approve the 2026 requirements and to approve the additional recommended revisions.

While members may object to some of the changes required by WA State, the Association must follow the new laws.

Retaining bylaw provisions that conflict with the statutes will create confusion.

Members deserve the ability to be confident that the governing documents of the Association accurately describe how the organization operates.

Revising the governing documents of the Association is a serious matter.

We hope that the information that has been shared throughout the year about WUCIOA will assist members in making their decision to approve or reject the proposed Bylaw revisions.

SVCA reduces vendor fees for Holiday Market

By Bill Helm
Editor

SUDDEN VALLEY — On Aug. 13, the Sudden Valley Board of Directors approved a decrease in vendor booth fees for this year's Holiday market.

Cost for an 8-feet by 6-feet indoor booth this year will be \$20, down from \$60 a year ago.

Cost for a 6-feet by 6-feet indoor booth this year will be \$15, down from \$50 a year ago.

This year, the cost of a 10 -feet by 10-feet outdoor booth will be \$10, down from \$25 a year ago.

In an Aug. 13 memo to the board, SVCA General Manager Jo Anne Jensen stated that the association's insurance provider conducted an on-site audit in 2025.

As a result of that audit, Jensen stated that management "was advised that vendors participating in any association-sponsored market events were

required to have business insurance."

"When staff implemented that policy, many vendors could no longer afford to take part in the market events, making them less successful for both vendors and buyers," Jensen's memo stated. "My understanding that a simple, short-term business insurance policy costs about \$50. By reducing SVCA fees, more vendors should be able to participate."

Jensen also explained in her memo that SVCA costs for this event arise "primarily from staff time to market the event, manage the registration of vendors, direct pre-event set-up, decorate the Dance Barn and manage logistics on the day of the event."

"Each year we purchase a small amount of decorative material for the barn at minimal cost," she added.

The board's vote was unanimous.

The Sudden Valley Board of Directors also conducted the following business on Aug. 13:

- Unanimous approval of the revised 2026 Nominations and Elections (N&E) Manual. A complete breakdown of the revisions is at suddenvalley.com/board.
- Unanimous approval of Matt Bilderback as newest member of the N&E Committee.



On Aug. 13, the Sudden Valley Board of Directors approved a decrease in vendor booth fees for this year's Holiday market.
(SVCA photo)

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AROUND THE VALLEY

August sees budget planning, proposed revisions to bylaws

Recreational programs ran smoothly in August and Maintenance returned to roadside mowing and vegetation control. Administration focused on supporting the SVCA Board and committees as they prepared for presentations of the annual budget, the 2026 AGM, and the proposed Bylaw revisions. Golf had another month of strong revenue, including bookings for many smaller groups and events.

Administration Activity Summary

- Finalized the proposed 2027 budgets and presented them to the Board of Directors.
- Revised the budget presentation to prepare for Town Hall meeting.
- Gave a Town Hall presentation of the results of the 2026 Community Survey.
- Posted Community Survey materials to suddenvally.com.
- Finalized the proposed revisions to SVCA's Bylaws document and supported the DRC at a Town Hall meeting to present the changes.
- Created a new website page for the 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and updated content.
- Continued updating election materials in collaboration with the N&E Committee.
- Supported Recreation department hiring needs.
- Began to onboard a new administration staff member.
- Developed content for the September issue of the Views.
- Reviewed recommended revisions to SVCA's Employee Handbook.
- Continued developing Standard

Operating Procedures (SOPs) to reflect current processes.

- Continued work on identifying more affordable healthcare options for employees.

Successes

- Election preparation is on schedule.

Planned Work

- Finalize the new POS software implementation and plan the transition to the new system.
- Research ticketing system software
- Implement events calendar on website.
- Continue updating SOPs.

Golf Activity Summary

- Completed a successful BIAWC event with 144 players.
- Completed the Bucks and Does even with 88 players.
- Completed a successful Member/Guest on Aug. 7-9 with 140 players.
- Hosted several smaller outside events.

- Completed a successful Aslan event with 144 players.
- Preparing for Bellingham Amateur event Aug. 29-30.
- Finalized 2027 golf rate information.
- Hosted several smaller outside events.

Successes

- July revenue was solid, although below 2025, due to some inclement weather days on the weekend
- August revenue has been strong.

Planned Work

- Continued promotion of the Bellingham Amateur at the end of August
- Meet with Shuksan GC to plan inaugural Mt. Baker Trail golf event in September
- Coordinate details with over twelve outside events in September.
- Prepare and promote Ladies and Club Fall Wind-Up events.

Maintenance Activity Summary

- Re-painted overflow parking at AM/PM Park.
- Stayed on schedule with routine mowing of parks and green spaces.
- Repaired the A/C unit and light fixture in the pump house on Hole 17.
- Pruning and edging around the Sofield Park kayak racks.
- Light bulb replacement throughout the Community Center and routed a new low voltage connectivity cable in the Community Center.

See **Valley** on 6

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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 550 words or less submitted by Association 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. Also include name and complete address with submission for verification. 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.

Submitting letters to the editor

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

Meet the five candidates for the SVCA Board

Editor,
The recent Executive Committee article in the Sudden Valley Views encouraged homeowners not to vote for five candidates because we were described as “inexperienced.” We believe Sudden Valley homeowners deserve the opportunity to hear directly from the candidates and decide for themselves who is best qualified to serve.

We also believe an Association-funded publication should inform homeowners rather than discourage them from supporting particular candidates. Rather than dwell on that, we would like to introduce ourselves and share some of the experience we would bring to the Board.

Daniel Rodriguez – Gate 5: Daniel has lived in Sudden Valley for five years and has served as Chair of the Architectural Control Committee for three years. He has worked with hundreds of homeowners, balancing indi-

vidual property rights with the long-term interests of the community. He has also served as a non-voting member of the SVCA Board for those years, giving him extensive familiarity with Board meetings, procedures, and Association issues. His experience has reinforced the importance of listening, collaboration, fairness, and finding practical compromises.

Brad Edwards, MSW, LICSW – Gate 9: Brad moved to Sudden Valley four years ago and is a member of the Long Range Planning Committee. He has more than 20 years of experience as a social worker, mostly in schools working with students and families facing complex challenges. He serves as his school district’s McKinney-Vento liaison, managing a district-wide program supporting families experiencing homelessness. He also has experience helping manage large state and federal grants, owning and operating a private practice, and using data to inform decisions.

Tomi Flack, MS, LMHC – Gate 3: Tomi has called Sudden Valley home for 28 years. She holds a master’s degree in mental health counseling and has more than 30 years of experience working with children, teens, and adults. Her career includes counseling, mediation, community-based programs, emergency-services partnerships, and managing mental health budgets. She has extensive experience bringing people together, finding practical solutions, and helping resolve complex challenges.

Dr. Robert Livingston, PhD – Gate 3:
Bob is retired after a 30-year career at the University of Washington studying medical genetics and DNA sequencing. He served on a professional staff board, managed multimillion-dollar studies, and hired and trained hundreds of scientists. He also brings extensive project-management experience leading complex projects and teams. He is currently a member of the SVCA Finance Committee and regularly attends Board meetings.

James Pinkerton – Gate 1: James brings more than three decades of leadership experience in the

high-tech industry, managing complex projects, working with diverse stakeholders, and emphasizing data-driven decision-making and collaboration. He recently joined the Long Range Planning Committee, where he is applying his experience to issues involving reserve studies, financial planning, and evaluating future projects.

While Daniel has served as a non-voting member of the SVCA Board, all five of us bring substantial professional, leadership, business, financial, planning, and community experience. Collectively, we bring decades of leadership, board and committee experience, business ownership, program and grant management, financial oversight, project management, planning, counseling, mediation, and community service.

Most importantly, we share a commitment to listening to homeowners, communicating openly, making financially responsible decisions, and preserving what makes Sudden Valley special.

We hope you will take the time to learn about all of the candidates, consider their qualifications and ideas, and make your own informed decision. We would be honored to earn your vote.

*Brad Edwards
Sudden Valley*

Improving the mirror to our community

Editor,
Our monthly paper, the Sudden Valley Views, is a vital way for Sudden Valley’s community life to be reflected in words and pictures, and to be informed of ongoing developments and achievements. Regular reports on expenditure, planning and maintenance from the board and our general manager help to anchor update on practical progress.

However, some important elements of our community life appear less predictable. For example, over several weeks in summer 2025, a huge effort by a team of volunteers, led by Bryan Burke, went into clearing the increasingly invasive waterlilies

from Lake Louise. This had an excellent follow-up article and photos.

Later, on Sept. 11, the Board unanimously voted to treat and reduce the invasion, using an environmentally approved company. For many who regularly walk round the lake, little to no public information has been given on the progress of this promise. When will it happen? In a follow-up monthly report will we be informed of its completion and our lake’s outlook for 2027?

Some time ago, our community members were invited to voice opinions on options of how Barn 6 might best be renovated to support our recreational needs. Although permitting takes time, it is important to keep this project’s progress in our community’s public eye, month to month, as it promises to have a significant and positive community impact.

As well the beautiful landscape we live in, and all the infrastructure our dedicated Board and managers and volunteers maintain, the human heartbeat of Sudden Valley is our face-to-face community: Through walks, participating in clubs, meeting at our treasured library branch, in sports and lake spaces, community gardening, our local church, swimming pools, open mike nights, senior teas, our summer Valley Fair, craft events and trivia nights – it is clear that the numerous ways we can meet and build our community are alive and well.

With this in mind, a fine addition to our monthly news could be a regular feature on different clubs and the individuals who bring their creativity and skills to enriching and sustaining them. This could apply to formal positions too.

For example, three members of our Sudden Valley Board were very interestingly featured in the August edition. It would be a fine thing to profile our Sudden Valley librarians, our general maintenance and golf managers, and to publicly acknowledge who is behind successful and productive contributions, and value their work.

Kyle Kaltenfeldt, who recently left us, was an imaginative manager of the Recreation Center for two years. A public statement on his contribution to our community would be welcome.

In this age of online life and

impersonal AI, what Sudden Valley Community has to offer through real human meetings and interaction, can be even more amply reflected in our Sudden Valley Views.

Our community will be stronger through recognition, and continue to be an inspiration to the many families and individuals who have settled here hoping to flourish.
*Michael Preston
Sudden Valley*

Looking forward to marina improvements

Editor,
Recently, in the service of discussing upcoming improvements to the marina and surrounding areas, multiple writers have identified the need for the SVCA to begin better protecting members’ access to and enjoyment of our shared recreational areas.

After all, we pay to maintain and operate these amenities.

It has been accurately observed, in print and online, that on many days the marina complex, AM/PM and the lower SV-designated parking lot at Mossy Roc appear to be filled largely with non-resident vehicles. A potentially viable solution would involve requiring the parking sticker, with security periodically checking and ticketing/trespassing. Regarding the marina and surrounding areas specifically, it seems relevant to clarify a few points that have been consistently misunderstood or misrepresented. The first extended attempt to maintain the dog park boundaries involved simply marking those boundaries.

Due to ongoing problems — and obviously these problems do not impact those using the dog park, but rather those utilizing the surrounding recreational areas — additional security visits and additional signage were added. As the same problems persisted, the plan for fencing was prioritized. This makes sense, given the plan to repair and enhance the surrounding amenities, creating a legitimately multi-use complex.

A frequently invoked analogy asks us to imagine the outrage

See **Letters** on 4



Sudden Valley Views
Sudden Valley Community Association
1850 Lake Whatcom Blvd., Bellingham, WA 98229
www.suddenvalley.com

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

Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. for remote assistance (phone or email)
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for in-person assistance, Monday through Friday

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Recreation Center Front Desk: 360-366-8450
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President: Keith McLean; Vice President: Tom Henning; Secretary: Taimi Van De Polder; Treasurer: Jean Maixner; Members: Linda Bradley, Sean Chaffee, Rob Gibbs, Ray Meador, Laurie Robinson, Daniel Rodriguez and Mitch Waterman.

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COMPLIANCE CORNER

Sudden Valley Community Association's rules for signs



By Allen Helvajian
SVCA Compliance Manager

Whether you are looking to sell a home, building a new addition, or cheering on your favorite candidate, putting up a sign in Sudden Valley comes with a specific set of community guidelines. To help keep our forested neighborhood looking pristine while protecting our shared views, the Architectural Con-

trol Committee (ACC) enforces straightforward policies regarding general signage, construction notices, realtor markers, and political displays.

General signage and permanent identifiers

- Every improved lot is permitted to have one permanent identification sign to display the owner’s name and street address.
- Size and material: These permanent signs must be no more than one square foot in size, stained in a natural color, and crafted with wooden or metal letters or numbers.
- Tree protection: Under no circumstances may any sign be attached to trees or vegetation.
- Small accents: Home security warnings and decorative yard placards under one square foot are also permitted and are not classified as formal signs.

Real estate and construction signage

If you are putting your property on the market or breaking ground on a new project, specific temporary signage rules apply:

- For sale/rent: Homeowners wishing to sell or rent their property can use standardized signs measuring 8.5 by 14 inches obtained directly from the Sudden Valley Administration office for a nominal fee. These displays feature the Sudden Valley logo and contact details, and must be placed at least five feet from the edge of the asphalt.
- Specific commercial realty company signs, such as ReMax or Coldwell Banker, are prohibited.
- Open house signs: Portable open house signs may be placed to direct people to a particular home for sale. Only one such sign for each open house shall be permitted at any one street intersection.
- The owner(s) or qualified sales agent must be present at the open house during any period when such signs are in place.
- Construction signs: Prior to and during any new construction, major landscaping, or structural addition, a designated construction sign measuring no larger than 8.5 by 14 inches must be posted. It must face the road in

plain view — from 5-10 feet from the paved surface — and must be removed within 10 days following the final inspection.

Political and election signs

- Election season brings out community engagement, and political signs supporting or opposing candidates, propositions, or ballot measures are welcome under the following parameters:
- Period of display: Political signs may be displayed up to 45 days before an election and must be removed within 48 hours after the polls close. This year’s election will take place on Saturday, Nov. 7.
- Size limits: Individual signs cannot exceed 18x24 inches, with an aggregate total area of no more than 18 square feet per lot.
- Prohibited features: Signs cannot be lighted, animated, or adorned with reflective ribbons, streamers, banners, balloons, or similar attention-grabbing devices.
- Permissible locations: Political signs must be placed only on the owner’s private lot. They are

strictly prohibited on Association property, neighboring lots, or within the road right-of-way. Furthermore, they must never obstruct vision for drivers or pedestrians entering and leaving driveways or roadways. Any signs found in the road right-of-way or on Association property will be removed and disposed of without notice. Note: Violations of any community sign rules are subject to the Association’s standard fine schedule.

County rules for signs

Whatcom County codes allow temporary signs (intended for three months or less) to be placed on county road rights-of-way if they do not create safety or maintenance hazards. Signs are not allowed by the county if they: are placed on traffic-control or informational signs; are along or within roadway shoulders used by vehicles; are within 75 feet or any “Stop,” “Yield,” or “Railroad Crossing” sign; are at an intersection where they might obstruct a driver’s visibility.

Letters: Looking forward to SVCA marina improvements

Continued from 3

that would accompany establishing physical boundaries to mark

off the golf course or walking paths. This comparison would be apt if golfers had been playing through the parking lot, or hitting

over into the quiet pool. Similarly, walkers would need to be cutting through backyard picnics along Lake Louise. Since these activities have tended to remain within the designated areas, no further effort to establish the boundaries has been necessary. I’m looking forward to the improvements at the marina, and hope that the board will continue to assess how to best serve dues-paying residents’ interests in other shared areas of SV as well. Adam Phillips
Sudden Valley

Transparency, consistency and an equal opportunity

Editor,
We are writing to express serious concern regarding the article in the August 2026 Views about candidates who have announced their intention to run for the SVCA Board of Directors. The article’s characterization of five candidates as having

insufficient experience raises important questions about fairness, transparency and the use of association resources during an election. Sudden Valley Views is funded and published for the benefit of the entire membership. It should not be used by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors to publicly judge the qualifications or readiness of candidates seeking election. Because the article was signed by the Executive Committee, it gives the impression that these statements represent the official position of SVCA leadership rather than the personal opinions of individual board members. Our understanding is that the Nominations & Election Committee is responsible for determining candidate eligibility. If these candidates have met the requirements to run, what authority or objective criteria does the Executive Committee have to characterize them as inexperienced? Eligibility and an assessment of experience are two different matters. If the Executive Committee believes these candidates lack experience necessary to serve, the membership deserves to know exactly what experience is considered lacking and what objective standards were used. Were all candidates evaluated using the same criteria? If so, why were those criteria not explained? Daniel Rodriguez provides a particularly troubling example. Daniel currently chairs the Architectural Control Committee and, in that capacity, already participates in SVCA governance as a non-voting member of the Board. He therefore has direct experience with association issues and board activities. Current Board President Keith McLean previously served in that same position before being



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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.



2027 Sudden Valley Election

DATES TO REMEMBER

TUES 9/8/26
CANDIDATE APPLICATIONS DUE AT WELCOME CENTER @4:30PM



MON 9/28/26 & WED 9/30/26
ELECTION MATERIALS MAILED. E-VOTING BEGINS WED 9/30/26



SAT 10/10/26
CANDIDATE FORUM @3PM
WED 10/21/26
CANDIDATE FORUM @6:30PM
SUN 10/25/26
MEET AND GREET @2PM



SAT 11/7/26
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION INCLUDING THE NEW BOD AND ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS @1PM





2027

COMPLIANCE REPORT

Security team activity levels remained consistent in August

By SVCA Security

In August, the SVCA Security team's activity levels remained consistent with the prior month. Guards were primarily focused on maintaining a visible patrol presence and responding to calls from residents.

The team also helped manage a large number of lost and found items, connecting neighbors with their misplaced belongings.

The security team conducted regular patrols through all gates and common areas. These routine rounds are the foundation of security work, providing a consistent presence on our roads and in shared spaces. Guards also continued to perform checks on active construction sites as part of their duties.

When called upon or during

patrols, our guards documented a range of community matters. Many of these involved routine issues like parking and vehicle rules. The team also noted maintenance items for SVCA staff to address and provided support during medical and fire-related emergencies until first responders arrived.

ers arrived.

The security team appreciates the partnership they have with residents. If you see a safety concern or need to report an issue, please do not hesitate to contact SVCA Security at 360-319-8200.

Your watchfulness helps us keep our community safe.

Security by the Numbers — August 2026	
Total Security Activities	1,232
• Community Patrols	954
• Construction Site Checks	154
• Resident Callouts / Responses	119
• Maintenance & Safety Items	14
• Incidents	24
• Lost & Found Items	45

On Saturday, Aug. 15, Security received a call out for an incident at the Marina Community Park. When Security arrived at the park, it was reported to them that a child had been injured by a dog while playing on the swings.

They also were told that the child required urgent care and sutures for the wounds. Video from SVCA's security cameras confirmed that the dog was off-leash when the incident occurred.

The incident was also reported to Whatcom County Animal Control and a case was opened by the Animal Control officer who responded to the scene.

Security remained on site, gathering information from family members of the injured child and the owner of the dog until Animal Control responded.

Security noted in their report of the incident that the people supervising the dog had previously been informed of the requirement to keep dogs on-leash when outside the designated off-leash area.

Although they complied at the time, the leash was removed when Security left the area.

Note from SVCA Management: This unfortunate event reminds us that even well-behaved pets can react unexpectedly. SVCA thanks those who do their part to keep Sudden Valley safe by following leash rules. We also thank RSU and Animal Control for their professional assistance in responding to this incident.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

ENJOYING SUMMER



Sudden Valley residents are loving the summer here, whether it's block parties, enjoying the beach or playing pool at the rec center. If you have photographs from a Sudden Valley community event and any information, please send your submissions to bodvandepolder@suddenvalley.com. (SVCA photo)

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Open Mic Night

Music | Writing | Talents

Sept. 18th 6:30 PM

Dance Barn

To register for a performance slot, visit suddenvalley.com/calendar/ and click on 'Open Mic Night'.

FREE ENTRY



Valley: Budget planning in August

Continued from 2

- Cleaned camera lens at the Marina.
- Pruned trees on Inlet Circle to improve visibility.
- Removed stored supplies from the front office at the Welcome Center.
- Assembled a new desk for administration staff.
- Removed unused furnishings and made interior improvements in the Guardhouse.
- Evaluated trees surrounding school bus stop shelters.
- Removed a hornet's nest next to the road on Canyon Court.
- Repainted Stop Bars at intersections throughout Sudden Valley.
- Repainted Directional arrows on roadways throughout Sudden Valley.
- Replaced the battery packs for the chair lifts at the pools.
- Replaced ceiling tiles in the gym.
- Chipped tree branches that fell onto Harbor View Drive.
- Chipped tree branches that fell onto Polo Park Drive.
- Cleaned stormwater catch basins in various locations.

- Cold patched asphalt potholes in various locations.
- Replaced the roof on the Gate 1 bus stop shelter.
- Filled holes in the turf at Am-Pm and Marina Parks.
- Pruned vegetation along the Area Y trail.
- Roadside mowing in Gates 2, 3, 9 and 13.
- Replaced a faulty light switch in the Welcome Center.
- Repaired the continuously flushing urinal in the Hole 14 Restroom.

- Successes**
- The Maintenance Worker I position has been filled.
 - The seasonal custodian position has been filled.

- Planned Work**
- Replacing tiles around the main pool.
 - Pruning trees around regulatory signs on SVCA roadways.
 - Roadside mowing.
 - Gravel restoration of parking areas and keyways.
 - Winterizing the pools.
 - Assist with summer road projects.

- Recreation**
- Activity Summary**
- Established regular marina staff tasks, including inventory, weed trimming, and cleaning the shelter.
 - Removed an improperly placed kayak from AM/PM with assistance from maintenance.
 - Managed busy pool days due to the recent heat.
 - Filled opening in Area Z.
 - Filled openings in kayak racks (residents who moved).
 - Trivia Night was held on Aug. 21 with roughly 50 in attendance.
 - Holiday Market vendor applications are now live, with nine submissions so far.
 - In the process of dealing with delinquent kayaks that need to be removed from the Ice Barn.
 - Conducting interviews for the remaining open Recreation staff positions.
 - Wrapping up swimming lessons and water aerobics in partnership with the Y.

- Successes**
- Increase in picnic shelter rentals.
 - Increased attendance for Trivia Night.
 - Increased submissions for Holiday Market.
 - Residents have been happy with the smooth running of the community center.
 - Promoted and trained new lead guard.
 - Filled 2 Recreation staff member positions.

See **Around** on 7



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Around: The Valley in August

Planned Work

- Continue course conditioning for high profile events through end of season.
- Light sand topdressing putting greens and tee boxes.

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- **More community input**



- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
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| ☒ | Brad Edwards | GATE 9 |
| ☒ | Tomi Flack | GATE 3 |
| ☒ | Robert Livingston | GATE 3 |
| ☒ | James Pinkerton | GATE 1 |

Sears Taylor
Dave and Julie Stine
Jamie Thilmony
Sam & Lili Tom
Kathryn Trueblood
Daniel Vink
Jack & Anita Waytz
April & Ryan West
Edward Wightman
Gina Whitaker



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FINANCIALS

Sudden Valley Community Association

Reserve Cash Balance & Activity

6 Months Actuals, 6 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 12/31/2025	3,754,490	2,992,291	219,316	150,789	178,900	64,858	\$ 7,360,644	364,709	314,936	\$ 679,645
Dues Received	732,137	728,775		-	13,014		1,473,926	-	66,649	66,649
Storm Water Mitigation Plan Fee							-			-
Investment Income	9,372	7,959	217	81	181	44	17,854	362	318	680
Sale of Assets	3,004						3,004			-
Sale of Lots (Net Proceeds)				-			-			-
Mitigation Release	-	-				-	-			-
2026 Expenditures	(825,801)	(615,810)	-	-	-		(1,441,611)		(27,616)	(27,616)
Net Available Cash at 6/30/2026	3,673,202	3,113,215	219,533	150,869	192,095	64,902	\$ 7,413,816	365,071	354,287	\$ 719,358
6 Month Outlook										
Outlook - 2026 Dues (95% collections)	711,159	705,653			12,611		\$ 1,429,423			\$ -
Outlook - Prior Year Collections	9,631	9,557			171		19,358		20,642	20,642
CRRRF Loan Payments for year 2026	(166,520)						(166,520)			-
Obligated Expenses/Holdings	(1,064,399)	(1,283,013)	(219,533)			(64,902)	(2,631,847)		(2,870)	(2,870)
Net Usable Cash Balance 12/31/2026	3,163,073	2,545,412	-	150,869	204,877	-	\$ 6,064,231	365,071	372,059	\$ 737,129
Board Recommended Carryover Balance	(600,000)	(500,000)					\$ (1,100,000)			\$ -
Net Usable Cash 12/31/2026, After Recommendation	\$ 2,563,073	\$ 2,045,412	\$ -	\$ 150,869	\$ 204,877	\$ -	\$ 4,964,231	\$ 365,071	\$ 372,059	\$ 737,129
Net Current Year Cash Increase (Decrease)	(591,417)	(446,879)	(219,316)	81	25,977	(64,858)	\$ (1,296,413)	362	57,123	\$ 57,484

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

Sudden Valley Clubs

Art in the Barn

Next Meeting 9/12

10 AM - 12 PM at the Community Center

Boater's Club

2nd Monday of the Month

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM at El Agave

Dance Blast

Mondays

7 PM at the Marina Pavilion

Guitar Club

1st Wednesday of the Month

6 PM - 7 PM in the Dance Barn

Maker's Club

2nd Wednesday of the Month

7 PM in the Adult Center Meeting Room

Mindful Meditation

Every Other Saturday

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM at the Community Center

Needles & Nonsense

Mondays

1 PM - 3 PM at the Community Center

Pickleball Club

Mondays, Thursdays, & Saturdays

Mon. & Thurs. 5 PM, Sat. 9:30 AM at the Community Center Courts

Ping Pong Club

Tuesdays & Saturdays

Tues, 7 PM, Sat. 4 PM in the Dance Barn

Remote Sailing Club

Tuesdays

11 AM - 1 PM at the Marina

Sudden Valley Safe Cycling

2nd Tuesday of the Month

7 PM at El Agave

Tai Chi Club

Thursdays

10 AM - 11 AM in the Dance Barn

Tennis Club

Wednesdays

3 PM- 5PM at the Community Center Courts

Ukulele Club

Fridays

4 PM - 5:30 PM in the Dance Barn

Transparency: An equal opportunity

Continued from 4

elected to the board. If service on the Architectural Control Committee and participation in board activities provided meaningful preparation for Keith's election, why is Daniel's experience ap-

parently being characterized as insufficient?

The same question applies to candidates elected in 2025. What relevant SVCA experience did Sean Chaffee, Jean Maixner or Jo Adams have before their elections? Jean was subsequently

appointed treasurer despite apparently having no prior SVCA Board experience. The candidate statements published in the October 2025 Views do not indicate that any of those three candidates had prior committee or Board involvement.

So, what has changed this year?

Candidates should be evaluated by the membership based on their experience, judgment, integrity, ideas and willingness to serve. If a particular level or type of experience is necessary for board service, that standard should be clearly established, consistently applied and communicated to all candidates — not selectively emphasized during an election.

We respectfully ask the Executive Committee to explain the criteria used to characterize these candidates as lacking experience, identify what experience each supposedly lacks, explain how those standards were applied to prior candidates, and clarify the authority for using Sudden Valley Views and Association resources to make such an assessment during an election.

When an article is presented as a statement from the Executive Committee, it carries the authority and credibility of SVCA leadership. That authority should be used carefully and fairly, particularly when the Board's future composition is at stake.

The membership deserves transparency, consistency and an equal opportunity to evaluate every candidate.

Paul and Teresa Mensch
Sudden Valley

CANDIDATE FORUMS

1 First Forum: Saturday, October 10
3 PM to 5 PM | Dance Barn & Zoom

2 Second Forum: Wednesday, October 21
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM | Dance Barn & Zoom

3 Meet & Greet: Sunday, October 25
2 PM to 4 PM | Dance Barn

Zoom ID: 83145397272

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Deserved more community input

Editor,

I am writing in response to the recent discussion about SVCA's rental registration program.

I am a Sudden Valley property owner and a long-term rental owner within a smaller condominium HOA. I am not

Continued on next page

Sudden Valley lifeguards step up in time of need

By Brad Edwards
Member submission

I attended the Sudden Valley Community Association Board meeting on Aug. 13 and left shortly after the member comment period.

As I was driving out just past Lake Louise, the car in front of me suddenly stopped. I looked ahead and saw a gentleman lying on the ground on the walking path with a woman standing beside him.

The two young men in the car immediately jumped out and ran

to help. I did the same. It quickly became clear that the gentleman was experiencing a serious cardiac emergency.

What impressed me most was how calmly and professionally the two young men responded. They immediately began assessing the patient, and you could see their CPR training kick in as they worked through the steps they had been taught. With their help, along with that of other Good Samaritans, they stayed with the gentleman and provided care until the ambulance crew arrived. The ambulance crew was very

appreciative of their help.

Thankfully, there is a good ending to this story. The gentleman was stabilized and transported to the hospital, and I'm happy to say that he is recovering.

It turns out these two young men are actually lifeguards at the Sudden Valley pool. They had just finished their shift and were heading home when they happened to be in the right place at the right time. More importantly, they were prepared and willing to help. They immediately stepped in, provided care and stayed with the gentleman until the ambu-

lance arrived.

I was really impressed by how calm and professional they were during what was clearly a very serious and frightening situation. Their actions are a great example of how CPR training and a willingness to help can make a real difference in an emergency.

This experience also reminded me how important it is for our community to know where AEDs are located. In this case, an AED was available at El Agave Mexican Restaurant. AEDs are also located at the Welcome Center, Community Center, Area Z and Turf Care.

It might be worthwhile for our community to consider having AEDs available at the Marina and AM/PM beaches as well, since these are heavily used areas during the summer. Having an AED nearby could make a critical difference in an emergency. Also, if you aren't trained in CPR, consider taking a class. A few hours of training could someday make the difference in someone's life.

Thank you to those who stepped up when someone in our community needed help. Sudden Valley can be proud to have you both serving our community.

opposed to rental registration. I completed and submitted the required form and I understand that SVCA needs accurate contact information for owners, tenants and property managers.

My concern is with the \$350 first-year registration fee, the inspection and monitoring process, also the way this policy was rolled out.

From what I have seen, the process appears to have moved from "we need to manage short-term rental problems" to "all rentals must register, pay \$350, be inspected and be monitored" without a careful public distinction among short-term rentals, stand-alone long-term rentals and rentals inside smaller HOA communities.

Those categories do not necessarily create the same issues or require the same solutions. Parking, trash, noise, guest turnover and rule enforcement may be legitimate concerns in some situations. But the problem should be clearly defined and matched to the type of rental before imposing a broad fee and inspection process on everyone.

In my case, my long-term rental is already part of a condominium HOA with its own governing documents, parking rules, oversight, and enforcement process. If SVCA has concerns about parking or compliance within smaller HOA communities, it seems more appropriate and cost-effective to coordinate with those HOA boards or managers rather than impose a separate inspection and monitoring process directly on individual rental owners.

The June 2026 Sudden Valley Views article stated that SVCA had learned a lot about the different rental situations, the

number of rental properties and the types of rentals within the Association. It also stated that the Board would reconsider the annual fee and what further actions, if any, are needed.

I understand that setting up a rental registration system required some initial data gathering. But a \$350 first-year fee is hard to justify when the amount appears to have shifted during the process and was ultimately applied broadly before SVCA had clearly identified which rental problems existed, where they existed and which types of rentals required additional oversight.

To me, the fee appears to have been driven more by shifting assumptions than by clearly documented data.

Notice, deadlines and threats of fines are not the same thing as genuine community engagement. Rental registration may be reasonable. But a broad fee and oversight process should be based on clearly identified problems, meaningful owner input and solutions tailored to the rental situations actually involved.

Judy Fey
Sudden Valley

We knew their names, they knew ours

Editor,

The Sudden Valley that I moved into . . .

I was staining the outside of my home and a security guard drove by, saw me and stopped to introduce himself. He gave me tips on trails to hike, about our beaches, about the barns, clubs I

could join and handed me a card with his cell phone number.

He stopped by once in a while to check on how I was doing, as I had told him this was my first time living alone, and hours from my family. He made me feel safe in this community.

One visit, he told me about a neighbors meeting at the marina pavilion where I met a different security guard who played his guitar, and we all sang by the fire.

Another time, he told me there was live music at our clubhouse and that's where I met his wife. He let me know that his street throws a block party every summer and that's where I met three more security guards.

One winter we had three feet of snow, he stopped by to see if I needed anything, then drove me to our market. One summer a lost puppy showed up at my house. I called security in case they knew who lost her. They picked her up, drove her around in the back of their vehicle until they found her owner.

One day when I was at the dog park, I mentioned to friends that I was going on vacation, security was there. When I saw them next, they let me know that they checked on my house while I was gone.

Sudden Valley Security used to be our employees who cared about our community, as they lived here as well. We knew them by name and they knew ours as well.

My first friend in Sudden Valley was a security guard. I was lucky to have shared 27 years of

friendship with Pete Lane. May he rest in peace.

Then there's the Sudden Valley that we live in now . . .

Tomi Flack
Sudden Valley

Suggested safeguards for SVCA Board

Editor,

The July Sudden Valley Views reported that the SVCA Board voted unanimously on June 11, 2026 to authorize GM Jo Anne Jensen to approach the City of Bellingham about selling three SVCA common-property parcels — Area Y, the campground, and the airstrip — to Bellingham's Lake Whatcom Land Acquisition Program (LAP).

I'm writing to share some safeguards I think we, as members, should ask the Board to commit to in writing before any sale proceeds to a member vote under Bylaws Section 25.

I support greenspace. I support keeping our watershed protected. I support the LAP's goal of limiting development in the Lake Whatcom basin. But "sale to Bellingham for greenspace" and "Bellingham resells to a developer" are not the same outcome, and our bylaws don't fully guard against the second one. Here are the four pre-conditions I'd ask the Board to commit to in writing before any \$25 member vote:

1. Require a Bellingham-recorded commitment that the land will remain greenspace in perpetuity. LAP pays 85-95% of fair market value and acquires the land in fee simple. Once SVCA no longer owns the parcels, Bellingham (or any future owner) could theoretically re-sell, re-zone, or trade the land. We should require a deed restriction or conservation easement recorded at the Whatcom County Recorder's office that binds all future owners to greenspace use. Without that, LAP sale is not the same as greenspace forever.

See **Letters to the editor** on 11

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FINANCIALS

Sudden Valley Community Association							
Operations - By Department							
January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026							
YEAR TO DATE							
UNAUDITED	Whole \$						
Department	Actual Revenue	Revenue B / (W)	Actual Salary Benefits	Salary & Benefits B / (W)	Actual Other Expense *	Other Exp B / (W)*	Net Income / (Loss) +
ACC / Security	101,192	(43,363)	46,382	(3,452)	270,624	53,816	(215,814)
Accounting	17,292	(809)	179,266	1,955	29,304	(809)	(191,278)
Administration	59,256	57,075	212,382	(9,825)	105,350	(28,366)	(258,476)
Common Costs	24,861	361	-	-	212,574	33,274	(187,713)
Facilities	49,866	1,872	27,611	28	94,144	2,912	(71,889)
Maintenance	-	-	181,937	12,162	52,043	(1,401)	(233,980)
Subtotal	252,467	15,136	647,578	868	764,039	59,426	(1,159,150)
Golf	794,384	85,241	387,204	45,653	278,155	17,366	129,025
Marina	249,890	4,089	-	-	9,780	6,268	240,110
Rec/ Pools/ Parks	23,537	6,953	127,021	28,837	76,403	499	(179,887)
Subtotal	1,067,811	96,283	514,225	74,490	364,338	24,133	189,248
Subtotal Operations before Ops Dues	1,320,278	111,419	1,161,803	75,358	1,128,377	83,559	(969,902)
Ops Dues Earned	1,608,342						1,608,342
Curr Yr Bad Debts Activity	(57,389)						(57,389)
Net Ops Dues	1,550,953	26,794					1,550,953
Net Operations	2,871,231	138,213	1,161,803	75,358	1,128,377	83,559	581,051
Net BOD Approved UDR Activity for Operations							
Bylaws and Rules & Reg Revisions-WUCIOA	-				7,130		(7,130)
2026 Community Survey & Support	-				18,400		(18,400)
Net Operations with Board Approved UDR	2,871,231	138,213	1,161,803	75,358	1,153,907	83,559	555,521
Other Operating Activity							
UDR Activity	56,211				2,175		54,036
AR Accrual - Prior Year Reversal	(47,957)				-		(47,957)
AR Accrual - Current Year	-				-		-
Lease Income- Library Prepaid Recognized	4,000				-		4,000
Vacation Liability Accrual	-				22,231		(22,231)
Total Other Operating Activity	12,254				24,406		(12,152)
Grand Total Operations Activity	2,883,485	138,213	1,161,803	75,358	1,178,313	83,559	543,369
* Excludes Depreciation							
B / (W) = Better / (Worse) Than Budget							

SUDDEN VALLEY SENIORS High Tea

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RSVP FOR THE TEA so we can prepare accordingly.

Send your RSVP to: recfrontdesk@suddenvalley.com or bodvandepolder@suddenvalley.com so we can plan ahead.

RSVP FOR THE BAKING COMPETITION so we can plan for entries and judging.

We can't wait to see you there!

SUDDEN VALLEY TO CREATE NEW THREE-WAY STOP

The Sudden Valley Community Association plans to create a three-way stop at the intersection of Glacier Ridge and Polo Park Drive.

Residents informed the association that there are frequent “near misses” at that intersection and asked for the change. They reported that it is challenging to merge onto Polo Park from Glacier Ridge because cars tend to travel above the speed limit on that stretch of the road.

Additionally, cars turning onto Glacier Ridge when coming from Gate 13 cannot see if a car is stopped at the bottom of Glacier Ridge. Signs alerting drivers to the change in the traffic pattern have been placed at the intersection.

Stop signs will be installed the week of Sept. 14.



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Letters to the editor

Continued from 9

2. Require an independent appraisal commissioned by SVCA, paid for by SVCA, before Bellingham’s appraisal is presented to members. Bellingham’s LAP process commissions and pays for the appraisal itself. That gives Bellingham’s appraiser every incentive to set a number that’s defensible to Bellingham, not to SVCA. SVCA should commission

its own appraisal in parallel — paid for out of the existing \$8.1M annual budget, not from any new assessment — and present both numbers to members before the \$25 vote.

3. Resolve the Bylaws Section 25 floor interpretation in writing, before the appraisal. Section 25 requires that “the sales price shall not be less than 90% of the valuation provided to the membership in advance of the

meeting.” LAP pays 85-95% of fair market value. If the valuation means Bellingham’s number, then any LAP offer below 90% of Bellingham’s appraisal cannot be accepted. If the valuation means an independent SVCA appraisal, the floor is higher. This must be decided in writing — by counsel, by the Board, or by member vote — before Bellingham delivers its appraisal, so members know what they’re voting on.

4. Disclose all contacts between SVCA board members, LRPC members, and the City of Bellingham or the LAP program, from 2024 to present. The LAP authorization was the product of an informational discussion between LRPC member Brad

Edwards and the City of Bellingham, according to GM Jensen’s June 11 memo. To my knowledge there has been no public disclosure of any other contacts — direct or indirect, formal or informal — between any SVCA board or committee member and Bellingham Public Works or the LAP program. The membership is being asked to ratify a transaction that was negotiated, at least in part, outside the public meeting process. Before the \$25 vote, members deserve to know the full set of contacts that led to the authorization.

These four pre-conditions don’t slow the LAP process meaningfully. An independent appraisal can be completed in

4-6 weeks. A deed restriction can be drafted in a single Board meeting. A bylaws interpretation can be issued by counsel in 2-3 weeks. A contact disclosure is already a matter of public record if the right records request is filed.

The LAP is a real opportunity to turn under-utilized common property into permanent watershed greenspace, with capital to invest in reserves, infrastructure, or dues relief. I want this to succeed.

The safeguards above are how we make sure it does — for SVCA, for the watershed, and for the members who will be asked to vote on it.
*Rory O’Brien
Sudden Valley*



Meeting Access Information

Meetings Overview

Sudden Valley has a Board of Directors and five 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)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 3, 2026 | Architectural Control Committee
9:00AM | Zoom | Meeting ID: 83287084478

September 3, 2026 | Board of Directors
7:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 86704997445

September 8, 2026 | Nominations & Elections Committee
4:45PM | Dance Barn | Meeting ID: 84647671152

September 10, 2026 | Board of Directors
7:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 86704997445

September 16, 2026 | Document Review Committee
4:00PM | Zoom | Meeting ID: 82522627180

September 16, 2026 | Finance Committee
6:30PM | Zoom | Meeting ID: 83670070736

September 17, 2026 | Architectural Control Committee
5:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 83287084478

September 22, 2026 | Appeals Committee
5:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A

September 24, 2026 | Board of Directors Meeting
7:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 86704997445

September 28, 2026 | Nominations & Elections Committee
6:30PM | Zoom | Meeting ID: 84647671152

September 29, 2026 | Appeals Committee
5:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A

October 1, 2026 | Architectural Control Committee
9:00AM | Zoom | Meeting ID: 83287084478

October 1, 2026 | Long-Range Planning Committee
6:30PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 89486224133

October 6, 2026 | Appeals Committee
5:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A

October 8, 2026 | Board of Directors
7:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 86704997445

October 13, 2026 | Appeals Committee
5:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A

October 15, 2026 | Architectural Control Committee
5:00PM | Multi-Purpose Room A | Meeting ID: 83287084478

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

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”

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



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

Book sharing boxes inspire readers and expand book access for all

By Robert J. Livingston
Member Submission

The first Little Free Library in the U.S. was built in 2009 by the late Todd Bol in Hudson, Wisconsin. It was designed to look like a one-room schoolhouse as a tribute to his late mother, a book lover and school teacher who had recently died.

Bol built and installed more

book boxes across the Midwest and after a while, the idea started to spread. Little Free Library officially incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 2012 with the mission to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers and expanding book access for all.

Bol's goal was the creation of 2,510 Little Free Libraries which would surpass the number of libraries founded by Andrew Carn-

egie, the Pittsburgh-area philanthropist who funded library buildings in cities across the United States. That goal was met in 2012 and currently there are more than 200,000 registered little libraries in neighborhoods on all seven continents around the world. For a fee, the Little Free Library non-profit organization will register a library, provide it with a charter number and put it on their global map.

How they work

The little libraries are community-driven book-sharing boxes that operate on a simple take a book, share a book honor system. Anyone can drop off books or take books home to keep, completely free of charge. Many book boxes also exchange other media such as DVDs, jig-saw puzzles, trading cards, even sticks for our canine friends. Library stewards manage the inventory to keep the collection of offerings fresh.

ACC approval

Installing a book box in Sudden Valley requires a permit from our Architectural Control Committee, which is in favor of the addition of little libraries in our neighborhoods. A simple one-page application describing the location and design of the structure will be reviewed by the committee to ensure the safety of the placement and construction of the book box. Exterior Alteration Request applications are available online at suddenvalley.com and are reviewed within three weeks at no cost.

Construction ideas, costs, kits

Although library construction kits are available from many vendors online, upcycling old furniture is a fast, budget-friendly way to build a book box. Just repurpose an old nightstand, a metal filing cabinet, a bread box or a kitchen wall cabinet by sealing it with weatherproof caulk, adding a latch and painting it with an exterior grade paint.

Although our dark, wet environment is conducive to reading and coffee, it can be problematic to the outdoor storage of books. Weather and wind proofing need to be considered in the box design. Protect the books from the elements by applying waterproof flashing tape to the roof seams and incorporating a drip-edge in the roof cover.

Inexpensive, repurposed pressure-treated lumber for the post and base can be acquired from our local architectural salvage and building recycling suppliers in Bellingham. A nicely designed book box can be assembled for less than \$50.

Sudden Valley locations

In testament to Sudden Valley's community spirit the bibliophiles in our neighborhoods have spon-

sored at least eight little libraries: two in Gate 1, one in Gate 2, three in Gate 3 and one each in Gates 5 and 13.

Inside the entrance to Gate 1 is a nicely appointed book box at 17 Windward Lane. The box is identifiable by its brightly colored yellow door and artfully hand-painted wildflowers.

The North Point Library near 54 North Point Lane in Gate 1 is a wonderful example of an elegant design featuring a repurposed five-gallon planter as a base and simple cedar clad box with a sloped roof. The collection often features romance novels which apparently turn-over frequently, or so I am told.

In Gate 2 in the garden at the entrance to the Richfield Condos at the intersection of Valley View Circle and Marigold Drive is one of Sudden Valley's chartered Little Free Libraries.

Maple Leaf Park at the north end of Gate 3 is host to a large, well-loved book box set on stump adjacent to the play area.

At the top of Green Hill Road at the intersection of Sudden Valley Drive in Gate 3 is an enchanting book box that is reportedly inhabited by fairies and gnomes. It even features a solar powered reading light for evening visits and a stick library for our canine users.

In Gate 3 at 16 Little Strawberry Lane is a cute blue book box at the end of the driveway set back from the street. Set on a solidly designed and seismically stable brick base, this is another of Sudden Valley's chartered Little Free Libraries.

At the entrance to Gate 5 just south of the mailbox cluster and play area in a shady grove of trees sits a charming little library next to one of Sudden Valley's Blessing Boxes.

In Gate 13 on Lost Lake Lane is an adorable book box upcycled from an old newspaper dispenser.

Sudden Valley offers many wonderful amenities, and these neighbor-sponsored book boxes are a true testament to our civic spirit. Our little libraries can often be found as the waypoints on dog walks and stroller stop-overs and are an opportunity to explore a new gate and meet new neighbors.

So why not take a stroll? Our continued patronage truly bolsters community spirit, inspires readers and expands book access for all our neighbors.



Petunia

SUDDEN VALLEY

Pet of the MONTH

This month's pet of the month is Petunia, submitted by Evelyn Leinbach.

Presenting Petunia, our 6-month-old Syrian hamster! A sweet, quiet, yet surprisingly sociable baby girl, Petunia spends most of her days sleeping or being cuddled. She loves blueberries. At night she loves to run on her wheel but doesn't like to be observed doing that. Petunia also goes by Tootie, Tutu, Patootie and Tuners. She's an absolute sweetie and a pleasure to meet.

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

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



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In Tribute to John Kelleher

It is with great sadness that we remember and honor the life of John Kelleher, a truly remarkable person who dedicated nearly five decades of his life to serving the Sudden Valley community. John began his work in Sudden Valley in 1976 as a broker with Sun-Mark Properties, and over the years became a trusted property manager for the many condominium associations throughout the community. His commitment to his work went far beyond simply managing properties. John cared deeply about the people he served and took great pride in helping maintain and strengthen the community he had been a part of for so many years. He was dependable, hardworking, and always willing to lend his experience and guidance. His long-standing relationships with residents, association members, and colleagues were a reflection of the trust and respect he earned throughout the years. John passed away on August 3rd at the age of 79, leaving behind a legacy of service that will not be forgotten. The countless people whose lives he touched, and the community he served so faithfully, are a lasting part of that legacy. His absence will be deeply felt. May he rest in peace, and may his family and loved ones find comfort in knowing how much he meant to the community.

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NEW LISTING



2 Marigold Drive Enjoy affordable living in Bellingham's Sudden Valley community! Remodeled studio condo has new flooring, quartz countertops, double-pane windows, and new appliances. Relax on your private deck while enjoying views of Sudden Valley Golf Course's 18th hole. Open floor plan creates a comfortable, versatile living space, ideal for full-time residence or vacation getaway. Conveniently located near SV's many amenities, incl. restaurants, trails, Lake Louise, fitness center, shopping area, bus stop, waterfront parks, marina, tennis courts, and dog park. Unit also features utility room w/stacked front loader washer & dryer. **\$249,000**



2 Marigold Drive #9 Affordable living in a beautifully remodeled condo nestled in the natural beauty of Sudden Valley. Overlooking the 18th fairway, this light-filled home features new windows, elegant quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, and stylish updates throughout. Take advantage of Sudden Valley's outstanding amenities, including an award-winning golf course, swimming pools, fitness center, miles of hiking trails, private beaches, restaurants, marina access, and more. Don't miss this opportunity to own a move-in-ready condo with golf course views in one of Whatcom County's most sought-after communities! **\$289,000**

NEW PRICE



5 Valley Crest Way Tri-level home near Gate 3 on quiet non-through street, backing to private greenbelt. Cedar siding w/natural stain, open floor plan, and vaulted ceilings w/skylights. 3 bdrms, 2 ba, and huge family rm. Updated kitchen incl. quartz countertops, new hardwood flooring throughout + slate flooring in select areas. Recent upgrades incl. 2-year-old roof, modern updates throughout, and completed energy assessment w/sealing improvements for added efficiency. Over 637 sq ft of deck space. Living rm feat. gas fireplace, and home includes on-demand water heater. All appliances stay, making this home move-in ready. **\$519,900**

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.

3 bedroom 2 full bath, recently remodeled, 3-car garage. Rent \$2800

6 months lease Fully Furnished 1 bdrm, 1.5 ba, lake & golf course view. Rent \$2000

Long term lease Studio condo with golf course view. Rent \$1500

Long term lease Large shop off Mt Baker Hwy. Rent \$2500