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How Are We Doing?

The City of Sedro-Woolley prides itself on providing excellent customer service, which includes reaching out to our residents and businesses with current information on projects and newsworthy events within the city. That’s why the mayor and city council have continued the successful use of City Scene that communicates in a format that we know our readers find interesting and beneficial. In order to be successful we love to hear your feedback regarding style, content and information covered in the Sedro-Woolley City Scene. Please forward your comments to Eron Berg, City Supervisor eberg@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us or at (360) 855-1661.

Thank you for helping us continue to make the Sedro-Woolley City Scene an effective way for the city and its partners to communicate with its citizens.

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Undaunted

LAST MONTH, WE DEVOTED an entire issue of *City Scene* to the opioid epidemic. The feedback we’ve received has been encouraging. Though this may be one of the greatest challenges our society and community may experience, we remain encouraged and undaunted. As Mayor of Sedro-Woolley, I declared September 2018 National Recovery Month along with other cities around the Nation. As Theodore Roosevelt said, “If we believe we can, we’re halfway there.”

UNSUNG HEROES

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote everyday about the kind of community you want to live in.”

—Author Unknown

We live in a remarkable community with an abundance of opportunity to connect with civic groups, charities and organizations that support, shape and impact our community. This *City Scene* holds within its pages articles about four organizations who are providing basic needs of support, concern, and at times, healing for those who come to them; they are The Landing, Helping Hands, Soroptimist and Family Promise. But these organizations could not exist without the help of the unsung heroes: volunteers. I am sure if you were to ask anyone who volunteers if they feel like a ‘hero,’ they would likely say ‘no,’ as would I if asked. What I would share is the joy that comes from giving; it’s not about me, but about those whose lives touch mine because I chose to be part of something greater than myself.

So I would like to say thank you, first to those civic groups, charities and organizations that have connected with a need and organized to meet the challenge. And second, to the volunteers within those groups who work together to create a stronger community and better quality of life.

There is great opportunity to have a say about the kind of community you would like to live in; volunteering is a powerful way to do just that. Martin Luther King, Jr. once shared, “Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

These last three months, I have been meeting with citizens for Coffee and Conversation. It has been a great opportunity to answer questions, but more importantly, hear what is on the hearts and minds of those who live in Sedro-Woolley. Topics have included affordable housing, senior housing, opioid crisis, mental health, changes in the EMS system, revitalization and growth within our city, state legislation and the impending election. Often, I have included a special guest; State Representative Carolyn Eslick, Police Chief Lin Tucker and Sedro-Woolley Municipal Court Judge Brock Stiles have been a part of the guest list. Even if you are not a partaker of coffee, I invite you to bring your questions and comments to a casual-yet-informative time. Check the city website for dates, times and locations at www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us for Coffee and Conversation.
Emergency Medical Services

THE DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY medical services (EMS) are changing in Skagit County. Starting January 1, 2019, paramedic and emergency medical technician (EMT) staffed ambulances for the central portion of Skagit County will be operated out of Burlington, Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley and staffed with each city’s fire department personnel. This area of Skagit County is bounded by Best Road to the west, the county line to the north and south, and the Town of Hamilton to the east. The City of Anacortes will continue to serve Fidalgo Island and expand to cover the area between Best Road and the Swinomish Channel; Aero Skagit will continue to serve eastern Skagit County.

For Sedro-Woolley’s fire department, this means the addition of eight new firefighter/paramedics to staff this service 24/7/365, as well as the construction of a small addition to Fire Station 1.

After decades of debate and studies about the best approach to EMS, the Skagit County Commissioners voted to move from the current model to a fire-based model. The four cities have been meeting almost daily with each other, representatives from the county, rural fire departments, Aero Skagit and others to ensure that this transition will occur successfully and smoothly by January 1. For citizens, I believe the impact of this transition will be additional units available to respond to emergency calls, and a service delivery model that will stand the test of time and encourage innovations and system improvements. It is also true that the uniforms will be different and the paint on the ambulances will change, but the countywide medical training and protocols will remain consistent.

EMS is primarily funded by a countywide EMS levy, which was last approved in August of 2018. All five of the advanced life support providers are committed to a seamless service delivery model delivered countywide. Regardless of whether you need help in Rockport, at Riverfront Park, on the revetment or crossing the Rainbow Bridge, you will receive a quality response from trained personnel.

I am always happy to hear from you; if you have questions, please email me at eberg@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us.

BY ERON BERG
City Supervisor/Attorney

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Make Sedro-Woolley Vibrant through Volunteering

THOUSANDS OF SMALL ACTS OF DECENCY MAKE A PLACE A COMMUNITY

BY KARL DE JONG
Councilmember, Ward Six

I'VE LIVED IN SEVERAL PLACES throughout my life, and I will say: I love Sedro-Woolley.

Our city has a personality and a uniqueness all its own. That’s why I’m happy to say it over and over;

I love Sedro-Woolley!

I’ve made Sedro-Woolley my home because of the sense of ownership I feel towards this community. When I say ownership, I’m not speaking in terms of taxes paid or the obligation of owning property. For me, ownership is the feeling of responsibility to the wellbeing of your neighbors. It is the sense of pride that you feel when you make a positive impact on someone’s life or to a group of people.

I feel this sense of ownership every time I volunteer.

Along with my duties as a Sedro-Woolley city council member, another way I enjoy participating in our community is by volunteering at the local senior center, washing dishes following afternoon meals and sharing a laugh or a story with the seniors. There is a sense of joy I feel when making a connection with my neighbors and a sense of pride knowing I am serving my community.

Sedro-Woolley is growing. That means there are a lot of new neighbors looking for ways to be part of this vibrant city.

I would like to invite all of our residents—regardless of how long they’ve been here—to find a way to participate and get involved because that’s what transforms us from strangers to neighbors.

Whether it’s working with groups to help clean our parks or roadways; assisting the local school district as a tutor, coach or mentor; or teaching at the local recreation centers and sharing your talents with others, helping our neighbors is what keeps us connected and together.

You don’t have to be a local firefighter, police officer or even an elected official to make a big impact on your city. Heroes can be the local Red Cross Disaster volunteer or even someone willing to read at the local library to children.

With just a little bit of sweat, a tiny investment of time, and a willingness to share your personal talents with neighbors, YOU can help make Sedro-Woolley amazing!

Let’s make an amazing city, volunteer today!
CITY DIRECTORY

CITY HALL
325 Metcalf Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 855-1661

Mayor
Julia Johnson
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-9922
swmayor@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

City Administration
Eron Berg, City Supervisor/City Attorney
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-9921
eberg@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

Finance
Doug Merriman, PhD., Director
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-1661
dmerriman@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

Serena Mynatt, Utility Billing Clerk
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-0929

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
John Coleman, AICP
Planning Director/Building Official
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-0771
jcoleman@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Dean Klinger, Fire Chief
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-2252
Emergency: 911

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Bill Chambers, Director
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-9924
it.director@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

LIBRARY
Jeanne Williams, Library Director
802 Ball Street
(360) 755-3985
admin@centralskagitlibrary.org

MUNICIPAL COURT
Brock Stiles, Judge
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-0366
courtclerk@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

POLICE
Lin Tucker, Police Chief
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-0111
For any emergency or officer dispatch please call: 911

PUBLIC WORKS
Public Works Director
Mark Freiberger, P.E.
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-0771
mfreiberger@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

Public Works Assistant
Julie Rosario
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-0771

Engineering/City Engineer
David Lee, P.E.
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-0771
dlee@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

Public Works Operations: Parks, Facilities, Streets, Stormwater & Cemetery
Nathan Salseina
Public Works Operations Supervisor
409 Alexander Street
(360) 856-5167

Park Department Business Office and Reservations:
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-1661

Wastewater Division
Debbie Allen
Wastewater Division Supervisor
401 Alexander Street
(360) 856-1100

Solid Waste
Leo Jacobs, Solid Waste & Fleet Division Supervisor
315 Sterling Street
(360) 855-1884

SEDRO-WOOLLEY HOUSING AUTHORITY
Hillsview
830 Township Street
(360) 855-0404

What’s Going On At City Hall?

Listed below are locations of posted meetings, notices of public hearings and passed ordinances.

- City Hall bulletin board
  325 Metcalf Street
- Central Skagit Sedro-Woolley
  Public Library
  802 Ball Street
- City website:
  www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us
- All notices of public hearings and passed ordinances are posted in the Skagit Valley Herald.
  - City Council agendas, meeting minutes and videos of regularly-scheduled meetings are posted on the city website.
  - Planning Commission agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the city website.

If you have any questions regarding meeting times, places, agendas or ADA access, please call City Hall at (360) 855-1661 for assistance.

CITY HALL MEETINGS
City Council, Planning Commission, Library Board and Housing Authority Board meetings are generally held at the times and days noted below:

City Council regular meetings:
2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month 7:00pm, City Council Chambers, 325 Metcalf Street

City Council study sessions:
1st Wednesday of each month 7:00pm, Public Safety Training Room, 325 Metcalf Street

Planning Commission meetings:
3rd Tuesday of each month 6:30pm, City Council Chambers, 325 Metcalf Street

Sedro-Woolley Housing Authority Board meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of even months except October at 10:45am, Hillsview 830 Township Street

Meeting times and places occasionally change, so it is advisable to contact City Hall 24 hours prior to a scheduled meeting to confirm the location, date and time.
Lots of New Changes!

BY POLA KELLEY
Executive Director,
Sedro-Woolley
Chamber of Commerce

WHILE IT IS HARD TO say goodbye to an old friend, many folks turned out August 30 to say farewell to a part of our community that has reached legendary status with its motto “good food, lousy service.” Although the biscuits and gravy served up at the Iron Skillet will be missed, we all wish Reba Sines the best as she embarks upon retirement. Thanks Reba, family and staff for everything you have contributed to the community.

The city and Central Skagit Library system have purchased the old feed store and Iron Skillet to build our new library. While it isn’t easy to see an iconic restaurant go, we are seeing the town fill up with new businesses, and here at the chamber, we have welcomed 36 businesses as new members this past year.

What’s your new favorite; Bottorff’s, Chad Lewis’ knife-sharpening shop, or Quilting Foxes? Or is it one of the two new salons, Wildwood Salon and Country Chique Salon; or new restaurants like Magnolia Grill and Tequila Aztecta? Iron Mountain Grill has taken a former sketchy site and created a great place to eat (hint: try the homemade soups). Local 20 Taproom has jumped in with both feet to transform an old flower shop into something new, and we are now waiting for a food truck and coffee shop to be up and operating soon. Shelley’s Shack, with the assistance of landlord Mark Chatt, is transforming the corner of the building at Third and State with garage doors opening up onto the courtyard.

BYK Construction completed a 40-unit apartment building and an office building, both of which are now fully occupied. Martha Rose has demonstrated how the live/work concept can be very effective and was recently featured on the SICBA home tour. The small enclave of City Cabins at Abbott’s Alley is comprised of six live/work units. The RJ Group has sought approval for an Urban Village concept to be built on the pad prepared years ago near McDonald’s (which just completed a redesign too). Dr. Campbell has built new storage units and an office building east of town with plans for more.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the new Helping Hands Solution Center, which had its grand opening at the end of July—what an amazing model created by Rebecca Larsen and team. Thanks to so many who helped see the dream and turn it into reality (See page 22).

The county has purchased land next to Life Care to build a new substance abuse and behavioral health treatment facility, and PeaceHealth is now occupying the office building near United General where many more services are now available, giving us options we want right here in the eastern part of the valley (See page 19).
FAMOUS ARTIST AND WRITER, JOHN RUSKIN once said, “the measure of any great civilization is its cities, and a measure of a city’s greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, its parks and squares.” This quote inspires me in my position as manager of Sedro-Woolley parks. Over the past few years, the parks system has grown to include 10 parks, a total of 112 acres and we continue to plan for new and improved parks and facilities. Below is a look at the projects that are in planning and fundraising stages:

1. **Memorial Park Revitalization:** Memorial Park located at 700 Pacific Street was originally developed in 1946. Due to years of use, the park is in dire need of improvement. The Memorial Park Revitalization project will completely renovate it and include additional parking, new covered picnic buildings, playground and an outdoor splash pad for the community to use to cool off during hot summers. The city has applied for funding from the state Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO).

2. **Winnie Houser Park & Playfield Development:** Winnie Houser Park & Playfields is located at 1400 Rhodes Road. This park development project includes the addition of a restroom, fencing, parking improvements and an in-ground irrigation system to help keep the turf in top condition. The city has applied for funding through RCO.

3. **SWIFT Center Park:** On July 1, 2018, the city acquired a 16-acre piece of property at N Fruitdale Road. The property includes the Northern State Hospital Pond where the Wildcat Steelhead Club holds its annual Kids Fishing Derby. Plans for improvements include a new restroom, paved parking lot, new playground, basketball and volleyball courts, covered picnic buildings, an off-leash dog park and a caretaker’s residence where an onsite park caretaker will live to assist with maintenance and supervision of the park. The Port of Skagit is partnering with the city by providing half of the funding for the parking and restroom facilities.

4. **BMX Bike Park:** The city is currently in the planning stages to develop a BMX bike riding facility. This project is tentatively planned to be built at West Bingham Park. The facility will be designed for all ages and skill levels.

For more information on any of these projects, or if you are interested in helping make these happen, please contact Nathan at (360) 856-5167.
Guided by the mission *Good Jobs for Our Community*, the Port of Skagit owns and operates three key facilities: *Skagit Regional Airport, Bayview Business Park* and *the La Conner Marina*. Combined, these three facilities are home to more than 85 businesses that employ nearly 1,409 people.

*Inspiring Success, Delivering Excellence*
Doug Merriman, PhD., Finance Director

My earliest venture into government service began with my first time flying in an airplane, on my way to St. Louis to begin boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. My next five flights were on various aircraft out of Fort Benning, Ga., with a parachute, as I began my job as an Army paratrooper. With adventure in mind, I applied to go overseas—and got my wish. The Army, seeing that I had grown up in Washington and had experience winter camping and cross country skiing, gave me orders to Alaska, which was considered an ‘overseas station’ to be part of the Army’s Arctic Warfare effort. After serving at Fort Richardson, Alaska, and a follow-up tour with the 82nd Airborne Division located at Fort Bragg, N.C., I returned to Washington State. Looking back, my time in the Army gave me a sense of commitment to something greater than myself, and a sense that sacrifice and duty to public service is an admirable quality for anyone.

Returning to Washington, I attended Central Washington University on the G.I. Bill and studied Accounting and Finance, working as an accountant for the University. I spent the next several years working in banking and in public accounting before taking a position in 1994 as the Budget & Accounting manager for the City of Bellingham. In 1997, I accepted a position as Finance Director for the City of Oak Harbor. In total, I have 27 years of experience in public sector finance in Washington. Being somewhat of a lifetime learner, I’ve continued my education by obtaining a Masters in Management Finance and a PhD in Applied Management & Decision Science, where my research focus was on State and Local Government Finance/Economics.

Having grown up in a small town on the edge of Seattle, I’ve witnessed how both the changes in the economy and sudden growth may change the nature of a small community—in both positive and negative ways. There came a point in my career when I found the most rewarding work is when you can pull together a project or accomplish a task where you can see change—not only in how your city looks, but in how people find enjoyment and pride in living in the community. Being able to contribute to that type of legacy has been more significant to me than “chasing the bottom line” in the corporate world. What attracted me to Sedro-Woolley is the appreciative connection among staff, and the opportunity to accomplish good things for the city through some fun and challenging projects. Being closer to the mountains is also a plus, as I intend to explore some of the trails that call to me.

I look forward to being part of the city’s next steps!

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The New Library Takes Shape

BY JEANNE WILLIAMS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR & ERON BERG, CITY SUPERVISOR

110 W STATE STREET IS THE ADDRESS FOR our new library. The visualization on the cover represents the 90% design as presented by SHKS Architects to the City Council, the District Board and the public on October 10. This new library will be an approximate 11,000-square foot space, including multi-purpose program areas, children's activity areas, teen space, social reading, quiet reading and of course, the backbone—bookshelves to house the future library collection of over 60,000 items. Design began with listening to the community about what was wanted and needed in a new library and progressed through multiple iterations to result in a facility that supports the needs and most of the wants at a price that is within the project’s $8.8M budget.

This larger space and the multi-purpose areas will allow the library to better provide fun, innovative and engaging programs and events that highlight the many resources and materials that it provides to the community. These spaces will make the library more functional, flexible and accessible to users.

Currently the library offers documentary screenings on subjects of local interest, but its small size makes large group activities challenging. The new library will also be adding lecture series, and these types of activities will be much more accessible to patrons in a large meeting area equipped with sound and presentation capabilities. After school programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics also draw larger groups and sometimes those activities get messy. The new building will have spaces that better accommodate these learning activities.

Adults and seniors will have access to large and small meeting rooms, social spaces and quiet reading areas—something that is sorely lacking in the current library. The large meeting room will offer a flexible space allowing for activities ranging from cooking demonstrations to messy science activities to formal computer training sessions. The small focus rooms will provide safe areas for tutoring sessions and other small group activities.

Children and families will have inspiring places where they can take part in learning-through-play and other self-directed studies. Young adults will have a safe and engaging space that will be conducive to both independent learning and collaborative interests.

The park-like area on the south side of the building will provide beautiful outdoor spaces for storytelling, movie night events and gardening programs.

The first visible signs of the project will appear this fall with the demolition of the existing structures, pre-loading the building footprint and fencing. SHKS has begun the development of the construction documents so this project can be put out to public bid in February of 2019. Construction is expected to last about 10 months, which means the library will be open to the public in the spring of 2020.

This is an exciting time for the Library Partnership as we work together to enhance the library’s ability to provide excellence in services to city and district residents.
THE MAKING OF ONE GREAT LIBRARY!

YOUR LOCAL FAMILY LIBRARIES HAVE SEEN A tremendous amount of change in 2018, and we are glad that you are sharing these exciting times with us. The two libraries have become one great library! If you visit the Central Skagit Sedro-Woolley Library at 802 Ball Street, you will find that the floor plan has been strategically laid out to allow for more shelving to accommodate all of the new books, DVDs and audiobooks that are being infused into the collection. You will also find a sunny reading room, a comfortable outdoor space and a small group meeting room ready for your enjoyment.

The library had a very busy summer reading program where over 1,000 children and teens participated. Moving into the fall, we have a wealth of programs for all ages planned. Some things to look forward to include storytime events, STEM activities, Anime Club, documentary screenings and an upcoming lecture series on current subjects of interest in the local community. Visit centralskagitlibrary.org/news.html to view and sign up for our quarterly newsletter.

We are also working on the design of a new library that will give patrons much more room to read, study and work collaboratively with fellow community members. The new library will provide welcoming spaces that will make the already wonderful programs provided even more enjoyable.

And don’t worry—there will be plenty of room for the library’s amazing collection of books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines and newspapers. Staff will be working to build an updated collection relevant to the community it serves. The library will also continue to invest in digital services to augment the physical collection. Enjoy eBooks? We have them. Enjoy streaming movies? We have those, too. Do you like downloading or streaming free music? Come see us, we have that as well.

Library staff is excited to share new resources for our patrons, including digital collections of science and civics content geared towards pre-school and school-aged children. Planning to do some traveling? Check out our travel database for the most up-to-date information and alerts for your destination. Also coming soon are VOX books. VOX books are children’s books that have built-in audio players with narration, so children can read along independently while hearing the story.

Until the new library is built, we are committed to making your library visit an enjoyable and engaging experience. We have even eliminated overdue fees! If you have incurred them in the past, we can work with you on forgiving those so that you can get back to using your public library.

Come in and see what the library can do for you!

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CAREERS BEGIN HERE
Are you excited about the future of our library? There are many ways to support it directly and indirectly by volunteering with the Friends of Central Skagit Library. Get involved in public outreach, book sales, program support or fundraising to help build a better library for our community.

The Friends are a diverse group of individuals of different ages and backgrounds united by the common belief that a modern and vibrant library is critical to the wellbeing and future of our community. Our mission is “to advance and encourage appreciation, understanding, enjoyment and public use of the educational and cultural facilities of the Central Skagit Library, and to partner with other groups to enhance our community’s cultural activities.”

Our accomplishments to date are modest, but we have raised more than $4,000 to support library programs, and some of that money has already been put to good use on summer reading prizes for children and youth.

There are many ways for the Friends group to expand and play a more substantial and supportive role for the library. This includes:

1. **Volunteering.** If you’ve read the library’s quarterly newsletter, you’ve seen the growing list of fun and challenging activities offered. However, the library staff can only do so much and having willing and reliable volunteers available to assist makes a big difference.

2. **Fundraising.** Most donations so far have come through book sales, but also through individual and corporate donations (Thank you, Sedro-Woolley Family Dental and Oliver & Hammer!). At the same time, we will be exploring other fundraising activities to benefit of library programs. New ideas and energy in this area would be very welcome.

3. **Public outreach.** To best fulfill its mission, the library needs friends in the community to get the word out about the opportunities it provides. As a Friend, you can help recruit new patrons and be an advocate in your neighborhood.
ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS!

The library’s friends and other stakeholders are exploring the creation of a library foundation. This entity will oversee major corporate and individual gifts for the new library in downtown Sedro-Woolley. While funds have been secured to build the facility, there are many areas where leaders can step in and provide meaningful contributions—STEM lab equipment, IT and multimedia resources, original artwork, furnishings for the children’s area and more. Please consider making a one-time donation and/or joining the board of the library foundation.

There is no donation requirement to become a friend—the most valuable thing you can give is your time. To join, please fill out one of the forms at the library circulation desk, or find the online form on our website, friendsoflibrary.org. We can be reached at info@friendsoflibrary.org or (360) 421 8423.

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Thriving organizations work hard to create and maintain dynamic energy. Local Soroptimists work very hard, but they have fun, too!

Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley was chartered in June 1949 and will celebrate its 70th birthday in 2019! The Walnut Tree Thrift Shop opened in October 1975, making it one of the oldest continuously-operated businesses in Sedro-Woolley and has been in its current location on Puget Street since 1994. Proceeds from the thrift store fund a variety of local projects.

Originally conceived as a ‘classified’ organization, Soroptimist no longer limits membership to those in the business community. All people are welcome to join, as long as they support the mission of the organization, and in the case of the Sedro-Woolley club, a commitment to work at The Walnut Tree.

Long-time member, Barbara Thompson recalls being introduced to Soroptimist by a friend in the 1960s. Thompson has volunteered at The Walnut Tree for many years, and members rely on her expertise and experience to keep the shop full of bargain-priced treasures.

The Sedro-Woolley club also encourages new membership as part of a growth strategy for overall organizational health. Members come to Soroptimist in many ways; some through personal invitations and some by learning about the club’s local achievements.

Member Hank Schmidt was introduced to Soroptimist through a friend and club fundraiser. “It looked like fun, and I liked the Soroptimist mission,” she remembers.

After retirement and a move to Skagit County, member Caroll Raczkowski was inspired to join...
The Walnut Tree thrift shop is located at 713 Puget Street in Sedro-Woolley. Visit their Facebook page for shopping hours, donation hours and updated information.

WalnutTreeThriftShop

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WalnutTreeThriftShop

when she learned about the club’s goals and how The Walnut Tree funds those goals. “It has been a good decision and very rewarding working with the Sedro-Woolley community” says Raczkowski.

The Soroptimist mission emphasizes education. Soroptimist believes that education is the single most effective anti-poverty strategy for empowering women and girls.

In the United States alone, one out of four girls does not graduate from high school on time.” In Sedro-Woolley, with its high graduation rate (overall 86.5% as of 2016), community support for education keeps the graduation rate high and graduates’ enrollment in post-high school coursework high, too.

That’s why the Sedro-Woolley club places emphasis on funding scholarships for Sedro-Woolley, State Street and Concrete high school graduates through proceeds from The Walnut Tree.

Current president, Elinor Nakis has been involved with education for many years as an employee of the Sedro-Woolley School District. Now retired, she brings vision to her presidency through her appreciation of the variety of skills brought to the club by its members. “Our club is strong in so many ways, but I think a diverse group of individuals with many different strengths and talents make for an unbeatable team. We are such a group, and I am proud to be a member. Our future is bright.”

Soroptimist International has 75,000 members in 122 countries. There are five clubs in Skagit County; three clubs operate thrift shops. The coined word, ‘soroptimist’ means ‘best for women.’ Visit soroptimist.org for more information.

Serves Sedro-Woolley and surrounding areas. The Library offers books, movies, audiobooks and digital resources as well as literacy and enrichment programs for children, teens and adults. Free WiFi and public computers. No overdue fines!

Central Skagit Sedro-Woolley Library 802 Ball Street, Sedro-Woolley 98284 360.755.3985 | www.centralskagitlibrary.org

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Family Promise
Taking Care of Families in Need

BY LAURIN VANCE, BOARD SECRETARY

Family Promise of Skagit Valley (FPSV) is one of more than 200 Family Promise Affiliates in the U.S. When I moved to the valley in 2010, I was curious about homeless children living among us, and what I found was that over 1,100 reside right here in our own valley. I contacted the national Family Promise office and they sent a staff member to help me reach out to the churches that are now the backbone of our program. The national model is churches offering a rotating space for families to be provided dinner, sack lunches, evening activities, overnights and most importantly, fellowship.

Our first general meeting occurred in 2012 and attracted representatives from more than 30 local churches. From that meeting forward, the vision and support grew. We met for three years with pastors, church lay people and others to establish the structure. Finally, in 2015, we opened our doors to homeless families with children. Since then, FPSV has served over 330 children and their parent(s), helping them to find safe housing that is appropriate and sustainable for their family.

Every year, Family Promise of Skagit Valley continues to grow. Initially, we served four families with a maximum occupancy of 14 individuals in our church rotation. In March 2017, we opened our first transitional house, Promise House, which shelters an additional four families. In August 2018, we opened yet another transitional house, Grace Promise House which serves up to four pregnant women.

Grace Promise House began with a call to the Catholic Church. What we received was a blessing we never expected. A rent-free house offered to us by John and Katy Janicki. While cutting the ribbon at our opening ceremony, John and Katy offered words of hope: “When we heard through Family Promise there was a lack of housing for single mothers in the valley, we knew we were called to help. We feel that this home will not only help vulnerable women and children, but could also change the course of life for the next generation.”

Grace House has given FPSV the opportunity to offer grace and hope to soon-to-be-moms.

As Stacy our Regional Director says, “Family Promise is more than a program, it’s a movement.” It’s also what I like to call a “generosity generating program.” With the support of our community we provide high quality services to lift families out of homelessness. As a board member, I have been thrilled by the ways our community of churches, civic groups and individuals have so generously donated money, time and a broad range of in-kind gifts and talents to support the mission of our program. To hear our guests exclaim, “We’ve got a house!” has made all our hard work and your generosity as a community so worthwhile. Thank you!

We welcome volunteers and donors! Please check our website: familypromise skagit.weebly.com or contact audrea@familypromiseskagit.org.

Audrea Woll, Kim Welling, Stacy Pollard and John and Katy Janicki contributed to this article.
The PeaceHealth Sedro-Woolley Clinic is now open and offering comprehensive healthcare services for residents living in our nearly 2,000-square-mile service area covering Skagit and parts of Whatcom County.

The newly-renovated space combines health services previously offered through PeaceHealth Medical Group (PHMG) United General Family Medicine and Sedro-Woolley Family Medicine clinics and integrates several specialty care practices, imaging, pharmacy and outpatient laboratory services in one, easily-accessible location.

Since investing in the community more than four years ago, PeaceHealth has made significant progress in the growth of healthcare services—in addition to increasing primary care availability, we’ve added or enhanced orthopedic and general surgery, cancer services, neurology, pulmonology, women’s health, urology, cardiology and gastroenterology.

This clinic opening is another marker in PeaceHealth’s long-range plan to continue to invest in and expand care for our community. The new location allows us to build upon our success through continued recruitment of additional primary care providers to serve families in our own backyard, as well as integrate more specialty care services into the mix.

Specifically, the new clinic houses:
- eight PHMG primary care providers, including Drs. Denis Harlock, Nadya Volsky, Feng Zhao, Morgan Merrill (beginning on October 1) and Indeep Dhanoya (beginning in November 2018); nurse practitioners, Rosemarie Horner and Desiree Huntly; and physician assistant, Pamela Hassler;
- two PHMG Walk-in Clinic providers: nurse practitioners, Dennis Horner and Leanne Carlson;
- two PHMG orthopedic surgeons: Drs. Jeffrey Krusniak and Kaarsten Lang; and an orthopedic physician assistant, Jamie Danell;
- two urologists: Drs. Vernon Orton II, and John Pettit, both from Bellingham Urology Group;
- one PHMG neurologist (Dr. David Morris);
- one PHMG gastroenterologist (rotating from the PeaceHealth practice in Bellingham);
- one PHMG pulmonologist/sleep specialist (also rotating from Bellingham);
- one PHMG cardiologist (rotating from Bellingham practice);
- Schaffner Pharmacy; and
- Quest Diagnostics

With more square footage in the new clinic, there’s room to grow, and patients and clinicians share a brighter, more comfortable space. The new facility allows us to expand our footprint by offering more services; for example, the walk-in clinic—managing just-in-time issues and illnesses, was previously available only at the Burlington clinic and is now offered at both locations.

With plans to expand services available at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center already in progress—for example, an acute rehabilitation unit opening next summer—the future of community-based healthcare is bright. Additionally, the close connection with PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center, just a short 30 minutes away, provides additional access for more acute care needs.

Developing innovative, transformational and community-based approaches to healthcare is part of PeaceHealth’s strategic direction. We will continue to uphold our responsibilities as a member of this beautiful community and offer expert, compassionate healthcare and service.

For more information about services, please visit peacehealth.org/phmg/sedro-woolley-burlington.
Located in front of PeaceHealth/United General Hospital is an amazing place where grieving children, teens and their families work through grief together. The kids know it as The Landing, a healing place specifically for them.

Imagine what it must be like for a child to experience the death of a parent, sibling or someone else they are close to. Friends shy away because they don’t know what to say or do. It’s difficult to talk to other family members because they, too, are grieving. Children don’t want to make their dad, mom, brother, sister or grandparent any sadder. How does a child cope with the death of a loved one? Who can they turn to for support?

The Landing – A Healing Place for Kids is a peer support bereavement program in Sedro-Woolley that serves families in Skagit, Island, Whatcom and Snohomish counties. It is a safe and loving place where children, teens and their families grieving a death can share their experience as they move through the healing process together.

There is no cost to attend The Landing. Volunteers donate their time because they know what it’s like to lose a loved one, and the importance of helping others grieve in a healthy way. You may be surprised at how many amazing people from our community have been facilitators at The Landing.

The program opened its doors on December 15, 2006 as Sandi Sima’s dream of creating a peer support bereavement program in our community became a reality. Modeled after The Dougy Center in Portland, Ore., the facilitator training sessions are led by their staff. You may have heard of grief programs for kids in large cities, but it is incredible that a program like this exists in Sedro-Woolley. Support from the hospital district, school district, Rotary and Soroptimist clubs, Leadership Skagit teams, community members and people with generous hearts have made The Landing possible.

A child’s attendance is completely optional; however, once they visit The Landing, they are delighted by and drawn to the various activities: an art room, dress-up room, foosball table, air hockey, lighted basketball court, gaga ball, firehouse and cabin, puppet stage, fire pit and volcano room—just to name a few! Consequently, we have never had a child refuse to attend.

Children work through grief differently than adults. Especially for younger kids, healing comes through play therapy. It’s not unusual to see a group of kids dressed up like doctors and nurses pronounce a teddy bear dead after trying to save its life or reenacting a memorial service in the sand table. This might seem a bit morbid to some, but facing death head-on is how children heal. Often after deep discussions in circle, a child just needs to beat up ‘Bob,’ the large stuffed guy or hit the punching bag. Sometimes it’s walking around the labyrinth alone or swinging peacefully on the play structure. Other times, large groups of kids run in...
The Landing is a caring, safe and fun place for kids to learn that they are not alone in their grief. They learn skills to cope with their loss. Even though our Landing kids are wise beyond their years because of their experiences, they leave The Landing free enough to be a kid again. And that is what we strive for at The Landing!

The Landing relies on our dedicated group of volunteers and contributions from our community. If you are interested in being a facilitator, contribute a donation or know of a child who is dealing with a death, please contact us at (360) 420-9390.

“The Landing helped my children know they were not alone, and it gave them a safe place to unleash whatever they were feeling.” — Erica Covert

and out of the firehouse and work as a team to fight a fire. We always end with a snack and closing circle, where we try to switch the focus from grieving to laughter and enjoying life again.

The Landing is a caring, safe and fun place for kids to learn that they are not alone in their grief. They learn skills to cope with their loss. Even though our Landing kids are wise beyond their years because of their experiences, they leave The Landing free enough to be a kid again. And that is what we strive for at The Landing!
July 28, 2018 was the beginning of a new era for Helping Hands. We celebrated the opening of the Helping Hands Solution Center. A huge crowd, with standing room only, was on-hand to celebrate what the community had built together.

Volunteers, community leaders, participants and donors were all there to celebrate this great accomplishment which we have worked so hard on for so many years! From the beginning, Janicki Industries jumped in and offered to be a lead donor. Soon after, the Jack and Shirley McIntyre Foundation stepped up, along with more than 150 other donors to build what is being considered as a new model for the next generation of food banks.

It was the donors who encouraged us to tackle the root problems behind why families rely on food banks; so with this input, we designed a building that will provide a variety of support services intended to help people in need to become more independent and self-sufficient. We thank every one of those donors who believed in us to take this challenge to the next level. Many thanks to the Blackburn Family who sponsored the Community Learning Center, Dwayne Lanes for sponsoring the Community Resource Office and Foothill Toyota/Foothill Farms Family who sponsored the Community Food Center.

Without the financial and in-kind donors, we would never have been able to complete this amazing facility. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you.
The best and probably the only account of who Duke Frederick George was, is found in Ray Jordan’s book, *Yarns of the Skagit Country* printed in 1974. Wm. E. McCarty, a member of a pioneer Sedro-Woolley family wrote this account to Jordan in 1958:

“Duke Frederick George of Bavaria, for whom Duke’s Hill was named, was a wonderful violinist, and the reason he got kicked out of Bavaria was that his uncle, the ruler of Bavaria at the time, had a party, and it seems he disliked one of the guests at the banquet—evidently this guest insulted the Duke, so he took his fiddle and basted it over the guy’s head and knocked him cuckoo, causing his uncle to banish him on a pension. He never told us how he happened to come to Sedro-Woolley.

“He was born in 1875 in Breslau, Germany, arrived in the Sedro-Woolley area in 1905 and purchased 40 acres west of Highway 9, just north of the Bassett Road. He had a home built. Two teenagers, Harry White and Wm. E. McCarty II cared for him until they could find permanent help. The Duke stayed in bed and drank whiskey and milk only.

“Duke Fredrick was a very attractive man, about six feet one inch, and as straight as a ramrod. He had a perfect military bearing. My uncle had him to dinner at my grandparents’, the Edward White’s house, and we were all impressed with his polite manner. Incidentally, he did eat dinner.

“I remember his beautiful wardrobe, as well as the solid silver table service he has in his house. Everything he had was plenty good. He talked about India and Africa, his hunting trips there, and he had on the floors, tiger, leopard skins and other skins that were trophies of his hunting trips and many mounted heads on the wall.

“He had several of the finest guns that I ever hope to see, inlaid with silver, gold and ivory and handsomely carved.

“As I remember, we were there about three months when he arranged for the [Japanese] servant who stayed with him until he went to the St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, where he died on February 5, 1907, at the age of 33. He is buried at the Union Cemetery in Sedro-Woolley where his impressive tombstone still stands.

“While the Duke was in the hospital, his house was burned down. There is no doubt in my mind, and never has been, that someone burned the Duke’s house down after they ransacked it of all his beautiful possessions.”

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Save $35 with this ad!
First real jobs burn into you. I graduated from Sedro-Woolley High School in June 1972. A week later, I was working for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources as a firefighter, and moved out of my parents’ house. I worked with four other Woolley kids my age. We were paid $1.76 per hour with no benefits. It was the most I had ever made. We were hired to fight fires, manage slash burns, wash pickup trucks and firehose, clean campground outhouses and fill potholes on logging roads for three summer months. I was issued a shovel and a hard hat. I broke the shovel handle the first week.

Our boss was a crude but intelligent man named Harry Lumbert. Harry left home at 17 to work in the woods in the 1920s. He learned to fall old-growth timber with cross-cut saws, falling axes and spring boards. He logged 200-foot cedar and fir trees, six feet in diameter with hand tools when he was my age. But after 60, he settled into a softer job running a small fire crew of teenage boys. He had a square jaw, a broad smile and nasty gaps in his teeth. He probably did his own dental work with pliers. He kept us entertained with half-true tales about his youth, big timber and the unpublished history of Sedro-Woolley.

We were assigned to fall snags around clearcuts in preparation for slash burns. The snags were the ghosts of old-growth cedar and hemlock trees, giants left from a time when the hills were covered in climax forest. Burning the recently logged clearcut—full of slash—made it more susceptible to natural reseeding of Douglas Fir. The whole operation looked like World War I trench warfare. But snags needed to come down or they could go up like roman candles and start a major fire.

Looking back, I realize Harry babied us. He took the dangerous task of pulling the saw when the snags fell and had us move to safety. But he had us all run the chainsaw, move the blocks in the undercut to direct the fall of the tree, and drive the pickup over rough logging roads. He tried to teach us something about his craft, in which he took honest pride. I developed an understanding of ‘craft,’ learned to respect him for it.

I learned to love the job and its tools and to cuss like a sailor, a useless habit that took me 10 years to break. There were no boundaries to our lunch-time talk. Harry was a good boss, but no saint. His stories had the perfect mix of sex, humor and history for a crew of 18-year-olds. Harry taught me that there were good people out there who were good in different ways and to keep an open mind about them.

Harry died a few years ago. I saw him a week before he died. We remembered stories and laughed. But I never thanked him. I did not know how. I do not know if he saw that job as something other than a paycheck. But to me and other kids—the specialized logging tools, the smell of gas and oil and cut cedar, the noise of saws and pumps, the color of green morning light through the trees, the hot dusty noon lunches, the slang, crude talk and good stories—were a doorway to adulthood, through a door that no longer exits.

I saved enough that summer to pay for a year of college. That is a powerful thing, but it’s a vanished opportunity as tuition costs outstripped the wages of summer jobs.

We need a federal program similar to FDR’s Civilian Conservation Corp, where kids could trade a summer of work for the DNR (or USFS or National Parks) for nine months of college or voc-tech training each year. It would be a good investment in people, parks and forests. And I hope their boss is like Harry.
Clothes Dryer Vent Safety Tips

BY JOHN COLEMAN, PLANNING DIRECTOR

Did you know that 2,900 residential clothes dryer fires are reported each year? Clogged dryer vents—the exhaust pipe that delivers the hot air to the exterior of the building—are a leading cause of dryer fires. In addition to cleaning your dryer’s lint trap after every use, the US Fire Administration recommends inspecting and cleaning your dryer’s vent once a year. The termination of a dryer vent should have a flap on the exterior of the house to prevent animals from entering the vent. However, there should not be any other cover (such as wire mesh) over the vent termination that can collect lint and clog the vent over time. Clogged vents also cause dryers to take longer to dry and use more energy. Autumn is a great time to inspect and clean your dryer vent before the winter rains arrive. For more information on this topic, visit the US Fire Administration page at usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/clothes_dryers.html.

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Events

**Kids Annual Halloween Parade**

Wednesday, October 31, 4:30pm
Halloween Costume Parade and Trick-or-Treating for the kids. Everyone in Sedro-Woolley loves a parade full of miniature wizards, ghosts and hobgoblins! Downtown merchants will be ready with treats. Parade starts at 4:30pm; lineup at 4:15pm in Wells Fargo’s parking lot.

**Central Skagit Library**

[centralskagitlibrary.org/calendar.html](http://centralskagitlibrary.org/calendar.html)

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**Veterans Day Parade**

Thursday, November 8
The event begins with assemblies at Central and Mary Purcell Elementary Schools at 9:10am and is then followed by a Walking Parade at 10:00am. Both schools will line up near Central Elementary at 6th and Talcott to begin the parade. Parents and family are welcome to participate.
American Legion Breakfast
American Legion Post #43
701 Murdock Street
Sedro-Woolley
8:00–11:00am
Open to the public 3rd Sunday of every month
$8 adults, $5 children 10 and under
Breakfast Consists of:
- eggs to-order
- bacon, sausage links, ham
- Western ham and cheese or cheese omelet
- hashbrowns, biscuits and gravy
- pancakes
- French toast

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Small Business SATURDAY
November 24
Small Business Saturday is an American shopping holiday held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving during one of the busiest shopping times of the year. As it catches on in communities everywhere, Small Business Saturday goes from being a cause to a day of community celebration. In 2017, 90% of consumers surveyed said Small Business Saturday had a positive impact on their community. This is also the day that the downtown Christmas Tree is placed on Metcalf Street!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Saturday, December 8
8:30–11:00am
Sedro-Woolley Community Center 703 Pacific Street
Hosted by Beta Sigma Phi, kids enjoy a free breakfast of pancakes, sausage links, fruit and milk or juice! (Parents by donation). The Cascade Middle School Choir will be there to sing holiday tunes and Santa will be onsite to talk with each child. Please feel free to bring your own camera for pictures.
Sponsored by the Hampton Inn and Suites, Rallye Auto, Fisher & Sons, Oliver-Hammer Clothes Shop, Sedro-Woolley Family Dental, Lemley Chapel and Janicki Industries.

Sedro-Woolleyville Presents
The Magic of Christmas
Saturday, December 1
Events begin at 2:30pm
The season’s premier event highlighting family fun! Train rides by K.I.D.S. Railroad; Crafts by the Boys and Girls Club of Sedro-Woolley; Face Painting by Chelle; and Pony Rides from Lang’s Horse and Pony Farm.

Tree Lighting
followed by the parade begins at 5:00 pm.
Come visit with Santa after the parade.

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1. **Lewis Knife & Tool Services**, located at 825 Metcalf Street

2. **SR 9** – paving, striping, bike lane and sidewalk, north of Cascade Middle School

3. **SR 20** – lane widening, paving, striping and shared-use path, east of Township Street

4. **Shelley’s Shack** expansion, located at 225 State Street

5. **St. James Episcopal Church Community Garden** and expansion, located at 1013 Polte Road
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