

June 2020-Community Newsletter

Dear Residents: Many of you may have heard or read in the Sequim Gazette that our family's company has placed an AD asking some pointed questions about the proposed Mat Clinic. We have joined with a large group of local citizens and businesses, Save our Sequim (SOS), to file legal action against the City of Sequim.

We'd like an opportunity to share what this **is** and **is not** about:

This is NOT a lack of compassion for persons suffering with substance abuse. **This IS real compassion** for individuals who want to get healthy. To be successful in overcoming drug addiction requires patients to have supportive relationships around them—as in family, friends, therapists—and the opportunity to be gainfully employed. Only localized care can offer that. The proposed clinic would instead bus people in daily from distant locations.

This is NOT racism. My side of our family is a true melting pot including Native American. **This IS applause** and encouragement for *anyone* who is seeking help, or truly wanting to help others, regardless of background or ethnicity.

This is NOT choosing between protecting community or helping those with substance addiction.

This IS concern for the safety and wellbeing of Sequim and PARKWOOD residents. Sequim does not have adequate infrastructure nor funding to accommodate patients who choose to not return to their homes. Where will they go?

This is NOT being stingy, This IS being financially responsible. Many questions remain unanswered. Since Sequim and PA already have unused capacity for distribution of Methadone at 90% less cost than the proposed clinic, why take \$7,000,000 of our taxes to duplicate this underused service?? We share SOS's concerns for our local economy, especially considering the financial impact from COVID-19!

This is NOT about interfering with Governmental process. **This IS about accountability** for Government officials to be responsive to the expressed questions and concerns of the citizens they are to serve and represent. We've seen a rushed process behind closed doors that disregards input from the community at large for the benefit of one segment.

This is NOT a PARKWOOD resident action. This IS seeking truth by exposing all the facts to daylight. Government officials must address the questions, not ignore or deny citizens a voice. It's also about requiring constitutional due process, and clearly restating ambiguous and inconsistently applied regulations.

-Jon Gibson for the Gibson Family

Summer is Comin': Let's Talk Gardening

We hope that most of you were able to avail yourselves of the vegetable and flower seeds we provided earlier last month. Since we have already had a bunch of great growing weather, here are some helpful suggestions to keep your lawn and gardens healthy.

WATERING: Your lawn needs about 1-1 1/2 inches of water per week. Watering is best done in the early morning (if possible.) Try placing a few empty, cleaned tuna cans around your lawn within the range of your sprinkler heads or garden sprinkler and note the amount of time it takes to get to the 1-1 1/2 inch level. That will help you figure out how long you should water lawns. If you have low flow drip hoses in your flower/vegetable beds, we suggest watering 2-3 times a week for about 12-15 minutes, depending on how much mulch/humus/peat moss/compost you have in your soil. Soil rich in organic material retains water longer and is the healthiest for your plants. You might want to consider buying a timer for your drip hoses. They make life easier and are more convenient than having to monitor your watering system. Make sure you check your garden periodically, so you see the plants are staying healthy with enough watering. Not all plants have the same water requirements, so bunching together plants with the same water needs is the most efficient way to go! (For example, roses and most veggies are thirsty, but herbs like thyme and rosemary...not so much.) In early summer, if you water deeply (perhaps a bit more than usual), it will encourage deeper root growth for healthy and heartier plants to survive the late summer heat. Whatever you choose to do, we know that most folks enjoy getting out of the house in the fresh air and tinkering with their lawns and gardens.



-Have fun, and stay safe!

COMMUNITY NEWS



FREE HOMEMADE FACE MASKS

I have made over 150 and given them to my family, friends in Parkwood, and some to Avamere. I still have fabric to make more, but would love to see fabric donated so I can continue to make them for free. Also I could use any tights, trouser socks, knee highs, etc. for the ear loops. I can make them out of anyone's favorite fabric as well if they bring it to me. I just finished up 50 with my new sewing machine! When I have them prepared I will put a sign up again and have them out on or near my front porch at 180 Fircrest Drive, or if you need masks delivered, you can call me at 360-477-1153 and I will deliver them to their porch/front door. Please know that this has been a great way for me to keep busy, so really, I don't feel like I'm doing that great of a thing because it benefits me as well. -Debbi Szabo



PARKWOOD BIRD WATCH-The value of Sitting Still

Birding has many levels, from casual observation to the full-on chase. "Chase" is not an exaggeration. Every year there is a competition to count the most different species in North America in a calendar year.

It's called "The Big Year." The record is almost 800 species. I'll never have a "big year," but I still love birding. We can all enjoy birds and even keep count, if we like, right here in Parkwood just by sitting still. Recent events have slowed everyone down, but that isn't all bad. There is a lot to be said for sitting still, a skill my dad taught me when I was a little girl. He had a way of absorbing all the details around him and enjoying the simple things, and he tried to pass that on to me. I find time to sit still every day. For 15-30 minutes, I watch the birds in my yard. By being still, birds will come closer so I can see little things that I would otherwise miss. I wouldn't be able to tell the subtle differences between the visitors to my hummingbird feeders. Last week I was thrilled to notice three newcomers - two recently fledged Anna's and one Rufous. They were a bit awkward at hovering and landing and had a bedhead look, so they stood out among the well-preened adults. They visited all the flowers and trees in my yard before settling on their favorites. Now they have been back each morning.

Many birds are creatures of habit. They return to the same patch of flowers, or the pile of mulch to search for food on a regular schedule. Daily watching helps us find the patterns and notice when something is different. Last year I saw a male House Finch that is orange where they are usually red. Now there are two with this odd coloring. They both like to bath in my birdbaths after foraging under the shrubs each day. A pair of Violet Green Swallows raised another successful brood in the same house as last year, and it looks like a flying circus in the morning. A male White-crowned Sparrow sits atop the same tree and sings, hoping to attract a mate.

There has some drama between the crows and ravens. Both nest nearby. As you may know, crows and ravens don't get along. Crows will raid nests of ravens. They will chase and "yell" at each other. They use their considerable intelligence to try to outwit the other also. Yesterday I witnessed a drama of a different kind. A male and female Northern Harrier were courting on the wing against the backdrop of the mountains. It was thrilling to watch.

Recording what we see is an excellent tool for learning. Many people draw birds they see. I'm not so talented, but I do like to sketch small details to help me ID an unfamiliar bird. Some people are great listeners and can identify birds by ear. Recording their songs is fun too. Many people post their observations online. E-bird.org is one useful resource where you can post what you see and lookup birds in your area. I also like to keep a handwritten diary of my birds. By following a daily log, I can go back and find the first day I noticed swallows last spring, or the previous day I saw a Rufous Hummingbird at my feeder. Or, if I'm lucky, I can record a new-to-me bird! However, you chose to keep track; keeping a record can increase enjoyment and knowledge.

After doing the good work of planting, cleaning, and filling our nectar feeders and birdbaths, we can sit back and enjoy the little oasis we have created. Whether watching birds from our window or patio every day can provide a stress reliever and help us feel connected to nature and even to our loved ones who taught us the value of sitting still a long time ago.

-Jane Nicholas and Ida Domazlicky



PERT: Parkwood Emergency Response Team

June 2020 Update

It is hard to believe that we will be almost half-way through the year, when you read this. For many of us, the time has gone very slowly, while for others who have tackled long-ago-bucket-list projects, we can't find enough time in the day to get everything done.

Which brings me to the topic of burning weeds, we have already had one near disaster in this regard. If the vegetation is dry enough to burn, it is dry enough to cause a catastrophe, should the fire get away from you. Please, use a more natural method of controlling unwanted vegetation. For small weeds, just beginning to grow, a solution of 1-gallon white vinegar, 1 cup of salt, and a couple of tablespoons of Dawn Blue Dishwashing detergent will nip those suckers in the bud. Once you have them dead, cover the area with weed cloth and rocks or some other groundcover. For those weeds that have gotten a hearty start, you might have to get down and dirty. Enlist help if you need it to pull them out by the roots. Shout out to your neighbors who are just itching to take out their frustrations about our pandemic-caused isolation.



Mike Hansen, David Goose and Peggy Green

My second topic is a Thank You to Mike Hansen for his many years of service to the PERT. It was Mike who started the Team and kept it viable for the first hard years. He made it into the standard here on the Peninsula, and we have set the example for other communities and, the local fire departments and other first responders use our approach. We recently celebrated his years of service by presenting him and Peggy with a plaque from the Parkwood Emergency Response Team. The celebration was held by

social distancing in Barb Foulk's driveway. We are nothing if not adaptable. Here are a couple of photos.

When we can again get together as a group, we will have an All-Parkwood celebration to honor Mike and Peggy.

Third. We have been meeting as a team via ZOOM and would be happy to help you get on board with us. Just give any one of us a call, and we will help you. More information is available in last month's newsletter, so that I won't repeat it here. Suffice it to say that we welcome every member of our community to join us and be a part of our Team.



The Parkwood Emergency Response Team (PERT).



Spring Clean Up was a success!

Two dumpsters full and a pile of debris over 40 feet long! Thank you Parkwood residents, for all of your hard work. The park is looking gorgeous!

We're talking about dog poop again! Over the past couple of months, we have received several complaints that dog owners are not picking up after their pets. Please remember to take a bag with you when you are taking your dog out for a stroll. It's gross and rude not to pick it up. Also, please remember that not everyone in the park has a pet and isn't looking for land mines are their daily walks.

Thank you to those of you who do pick up after your pet, and keep Parkwood beautiful.





RESIDENT COMMENTS:

- Our Iris should be in full bloom starting in June, for the walkers and bike riders to pass by and enjoy at 40 Mikelle. -**Sam Chandler**

• Lookee what I bought from our resident woodworker, Bill Fletcher. Well crafted from cedar, built to last, and very affordable. I painted it to match our house. I doubt swallows will nest in it this year because they are already sitting on eggs, but next year will provide hours of interest watching new life take hold. Come by to see it at 31&1/2 Keesha's Crossing. Thanks again, Bill. -

Shannon Goose

- Thank you very much for providing the free garden waste and garbage dump for the residents. It's not only convenient but inspires us to clean up and get ready for the summer season. Thanks again, Parkwood. - **Shannon Goose**

- Tedesco's is back open for curbside and delivery, six days a week, closed on Mondays. - **Beth Schott**

• A pair of Violet Green Swallows have raised and fledged another brood in the park. Two immature Rufous hummingbirds have appeared at my feeder in recent days. Something was digging in my mulch. I was afraid it was a rat. Turned out to be a cute little rabbit! Life does go on; we have to watch for it sometimes. -**Jane Nicholas**

- Sharron Empens Sidewalk art was so sweet and brought joy to so many as they passed by. Thank you, Sharron!

AN EVERYDAY SURVIVAL KIT

Toothpick- to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others

Rubber band- to remind you to be flexible, things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out

Band-Aid- to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's

Pencil- to remind you to list your blessings everyday

Eraser- to remind you that everyone makes mistakes and it is OK

Chewing gum- to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything

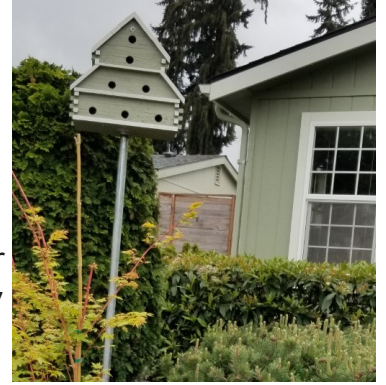
Mint- to remind you that you are worth a mint to your family and friends

Candy kiss- to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or hug every day

Tea bag- to remind you to relax daily and go over the list of your blessings

Best, Trish Holden

- Thank you so much for the opportunity to get rid of all our yard waste. We worked pretty hard last week and had lots of brush. The yard is beginning to come around! Thanks again, **Kathy & Kim Hammond**



I'm sure many of you have been seeing the daily progress of 80 Eric's Way. Erin and Roger Ulm, the new owners have been working tirelessly to overhaul the home. Check out these before and after photos. From paint inside and out to all new landscaping, it's like a whole new home! We are so glad to have them in Parkwood!

