

CityScene

SEDRO-WOOLLEY

WINTER 2019

SWSD

LEADING THE WAY IN STEM EDUCATION

Inside this issue
Skagit STEM Network
2019 City Budget
WoodFest, Wine & Tea

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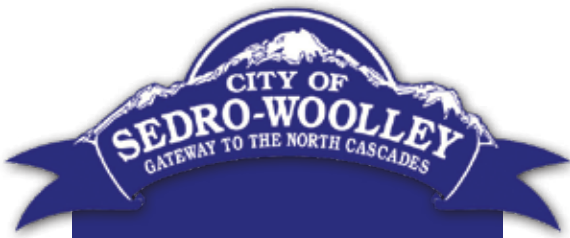
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STEM: Providing Opportunity for our Children



BY MAYOR
JULIA JOHNSON

“Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource.”

—John Fitzgerald Kennedy

I WAS RECENTLY AT A community function and the question was asked, “What is STEM?” If you’re asking the same

question, then know you’re not alone. STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines—science, technology, engineering and mathematics and utilizing those concepts in real-world lessons in order to prepare students to compete in the new economy. The Skagit STEM Network, which originated in Sedro-Woolley, focuses on career pathways, linking students and educators with industry leaders within our community and preparing students with the skills needed to access STEM jobs.

In the following pages, you will have the opportunity to read about one of those partnerships between STEM classes at Sedro-Woolley High School and Habitat for Humanity. STEM skills are not only critical for our students, but as Congressman Rick Larsen said, “By encouraging students to become more engaged in STEM education, the Skagit STEM Network is making an important investment in the next generation of workers and in the long-term health of our economy.” With the exposure our students are receiving through the Skagit STEM Network, they can move forward with greater understanding and knowledge of what their future (and ours) could be. As Nelson Mandela shared, “Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”

A WORD OF THANKS:

Christmas has come and gone, and all the ornaments may be put away, but before we move too far into 2019, as Mayor, I would like to say *Thank You* to the Chamber, Pola Kelley, city staff, and all the volunteers who hung lit tree branches on our street lamp posts, placed another magnificent Christmas tree in the center of our town, and helped with the coordination of the parade.

And to those who advertise their businesses in our *City Scene* magazine, we send many thanks. Your continued support ensures our publication will continue to inform and connect with our community in a way that no other city in the county does.

“Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together.’ ‘Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.” —Paul Ryan and Henry Ford



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Sedro-Woolley Snow Plans



BY ERON BERG
City Supervisor/
Attorney

YOUR CITY CREWS ARE READY FOR SNOW AND ICE. ARE YOU?

When snow and ice strike, the city, county and state all work together to sand, plow and remove snow from city streets, county roads and state highways.

City crews begin snow removal operations when there is an accumulation of two inches or more, when there are icy conditions which seriously affect travel, when there are snow drifts that impact travel or when slick roads or intersections cause hazardous skidding of vehicles. Snow removal is done by zone with the first priority given to the most heavily used routes and hilly areas of the city. For

specific details on zones and snow plow routes, please visit the city's website and look on the public works operations page.

Certain neighborhoods, such as those located at Sauk Mountain View Estates, may have restricted parking and access during snow events as a result of the narrow street rights of way and topography. If you live on Portobello, Vecchio, Arezzo or Cascadia, please remain aware of snow forecasts and be prepared to park off street.

One of the most common calls to City Hall during snow events are complaints about snow berms blocking driveways resulting from snow plow operations. These are a normal result of snow plowing and it is the responsibility of the driveway owners or users to clear their own driveways. Likewise,

snow removal on sidewalks is also the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

As we step into winter here in Sedro-Woolley, we encourage you to be prepared at your own home. Some common tips for preparation include: ensuring adequate supply of food and medicines in case you can't leave your house for several days, making sure flashlights work and having extra batteries, have a snow shovel and snow melting salt on hand, and maintaining a full tank of gas in your vehicle.

Sedro-Woolley has fared well in recent winters, and crews are on-call to sand and plow 24/7 if the snow strikes. I am always happy to hear from you; if you have any questions, please email me at eberg@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us or stop by City Hall.

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Jeanne Williams, Library Director
802 Ball Street
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admin@centralskagitlibrary.org

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Wastewater Division Supervisor
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With Grateful Hearts,

We Thank You Jo Ann

BY MAYOR JULIA JOHNSON

“To give real service, you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity.” —Douglas Adams

One of Sedro-Woolley’s greatest strengths is the individuals who are devoted to our community; for the last 25 years, Jo Ann Lazonon has been doing just that. Some of you may know her from City Hall, where she works in the Building/Planning/Engineering Department assisting with permits and providing answers and information to all who come looking for assistance. But with the cooperation of the Chamber, Jo Ann has also been the driving force behind Sedro-Woolley’s Christmas Parade, and the beautiful tree lights that adorn downtown each year. Though she makes it look easy, Jo Ann puts much energy and many hours of her own time into the planning, coordination, implementation, and the determination needed to create the festive lights and magical parade that many of us look forward to year after year. She will tell you Sedro-Woolley’s Christmas Parade is the best in the county, and I agree. Each year the lights and festivities brighten the holiday season and generate joy for young and old alike.

Over the years, Jo Ann has received help from many volunteers in our community, and she would be the first to acknowledge and thank those who have faithfully assisted. Jo Ann, and a long list of individuals and groups, were honored at the December 12 City Council meeting. The list was impressive and the event heartwarming.

Jo Ann will be retiring in June; 2018 was her last year organizing the Christmas Parade and lights. I hope the next time you’re in City Hall, you’ll stop by her office and thank her for all she has given. Robert Kennedy Jr. once said, “It is more important to be of service than to be successful.” Jo Ann has been both, and we are honored to call her one of our own.

With grateful hearts, we thank you Jo Ann!



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, Hillview 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.

2019 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

BY DOUG MERRIMAN, PH.D., FINANCE DIRECTOR

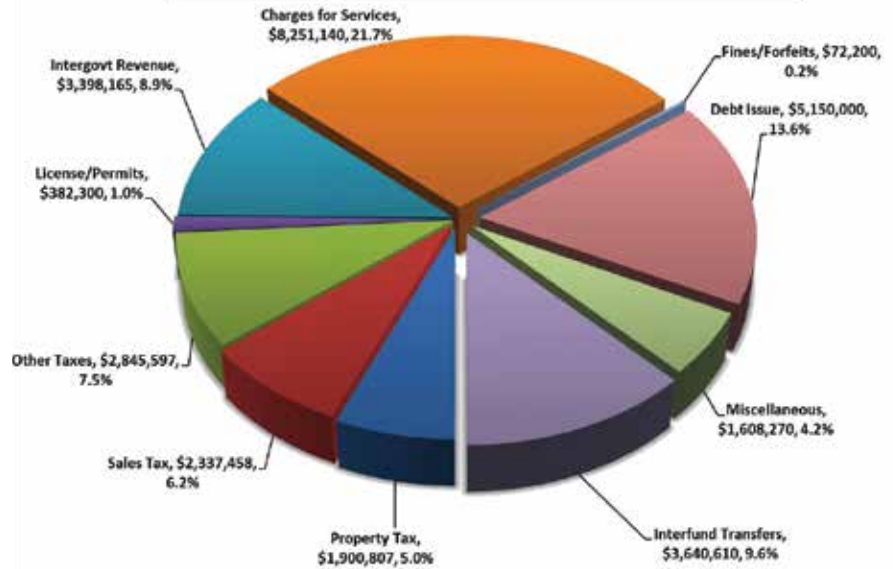
IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF fiscal challenges, the City of Sedro-Woolley’s continued dedication to strategic financial management and continuous operational improvement has led to the city delivering a balanced budget that provides increasing value to the community.

During the November 28, 2018 City Council meeting, the Sedro-Woolley City Council approved the city’s 2019 Annual Budget. The \$38.1 million budget is structured to maintain or improve services, particularly in expanding public safety, maintaining public works infrastructure, and enhancing information technology capabilities.

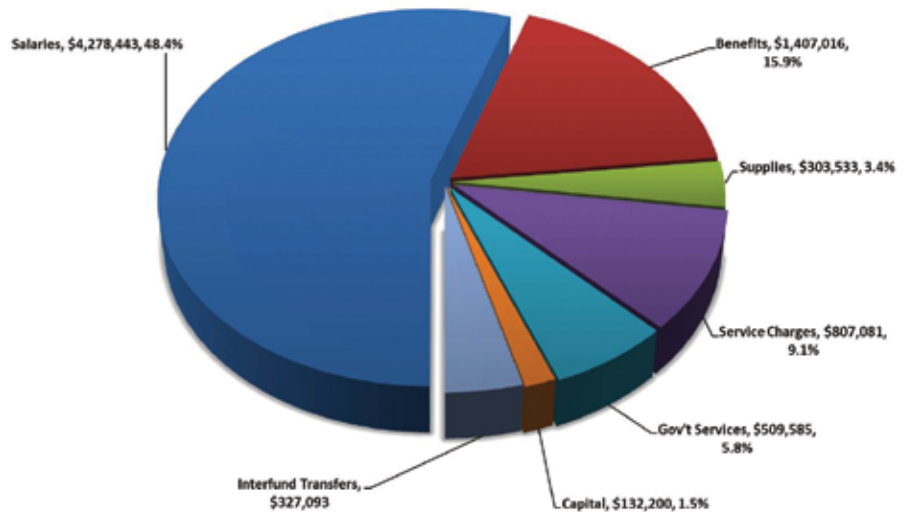
“My 2019 balanced budget maintains existing levels of service and improves the city’s ability to maintain those services by supporting public safety and public works” wrote Mayor Julia Johnson in her 2019 Budget Message. Specifically, these improvements include the addition of support staffing for the Police Department, and the addition of a new Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport division in the Fire Department, which will include hiring eight new full-time firefighter/paramedics to be funded by a combination of Skagit County’s Emergency Medical Services levy and patient transport revenue. The 2019 Annual Budget also includes funding authorization for the Phase I design effort for a new Public Works facility needed to safely store and properly maintain vehicles and equipment. The funding for these improvements will come from a combination of utility user rates and an increase in utility tax rates on city utilities of 2%.

With current growth projections, the budget includes funding for an Associate Planner in the Planning Department to provide enhanced customer service to meet the projected increasing activity. Also funded is the addition of an Information Technology Specialist to assist the city in utilizing technology to bring higher levels of efficiency to work functions city-wide. It is this effort of continually

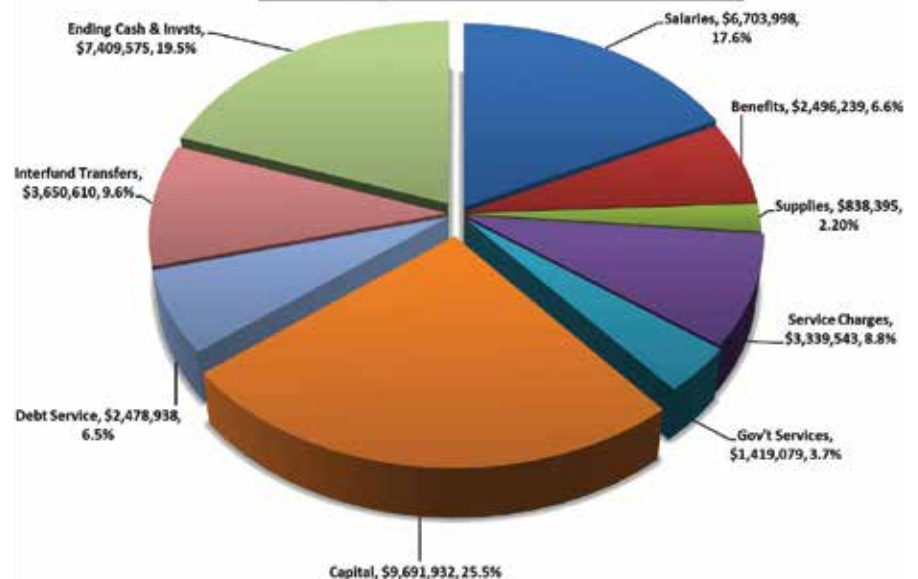
2019 Projected Revenues - All Funds



2019 Expenditures - General Fund



2019 Expenditures - All Funds



looking for efficiencies and finding new ways to enhance customer service that gives you, as citizens, value-added benefits for citizen investment in the city organization.

By the city matching economic resources with adopted council goals, other 2019 budget highlights are:

- \$367,000 for major improvements to Winnie Houser Park & Playfields with \$297,000 being funded by a State grant;
- Design and construction of a new parking lot at the SWIFT Center Park, in financial partnership with the Port of Skagit;
- Capital improvements to add an additional office for the new Information Technology Specialist (\$15,000) and to expand the Police Department's evidence room (\$10,000). In addition, \$20,000 is provided to upgrade the audio/visual recording equipment in the City Council chambers, and \$40,000 in Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding to partner with the Sedro-Woolley School District on a new community message board;
- Rate adjustments in city-owned utilities to keep pace with the cost of inflation on operations. Included is a 9.36% solid waste rate adjustment for waste disposal fee increases imposed by Skagit County and other increased recycling costs as a result of the shifting world market in recycling commodities;
- \$100,000 for ADA compliance projects on city sidewalks;
- \$120,000 for local street improvement projects, funded by REET funds, and an additional \$250,000 for arterial street improvements funded by the city's Transportation Benefit District Fund;
- \$20,000 to continue economic development support, which includes work on the Skagit STEM Network, the SWIFT Center project, and the Sedro-Woolley *City Scene* magazine;
- \$7,500 for EDASC (Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County) to support business growth and job creation in Sedro-Woolley.

For additional information on the City of Sedro-Woolley, please see our website at www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us/departments/finance.



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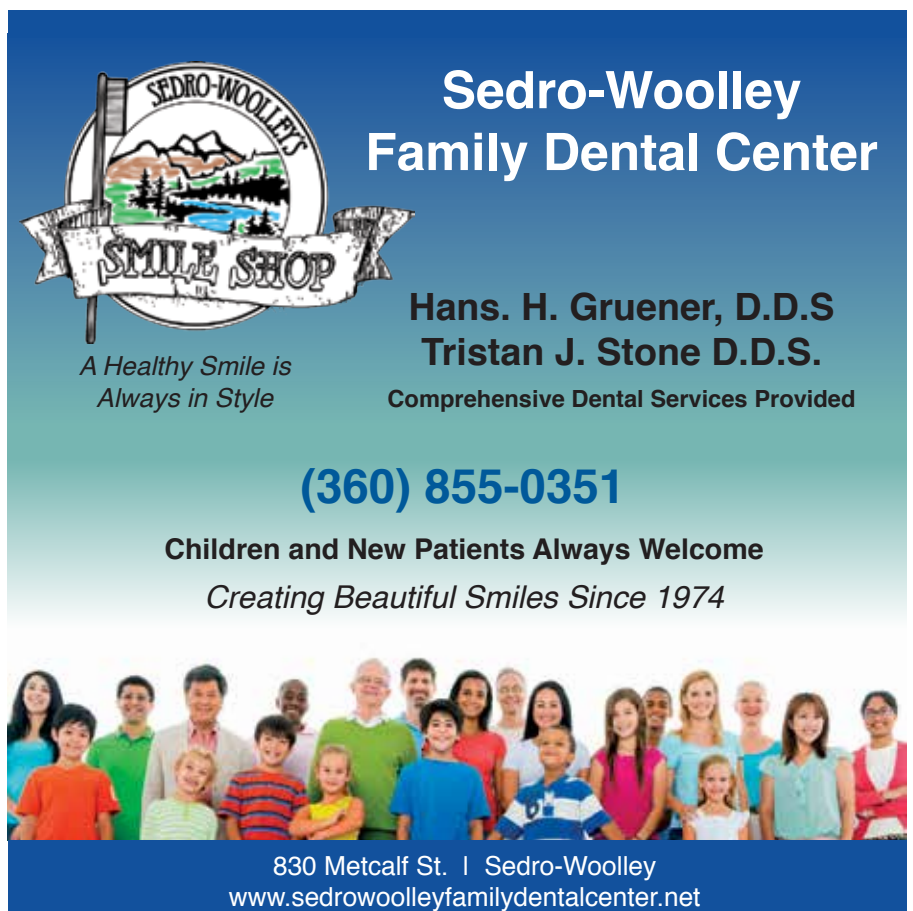
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Looking Forward to Another Great Year!

BY POLA KELLEY, SEDRO-WOOLLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sedro-Woolley is experiencing amazing change. I hear about it not just here in town or across the valley, but throughout the state and even nationwide. When I travel, people want to know, "What is behind your growth, growth that has created so many jobs, and new businesses?" Young people are returning to our community to raise families and engineers, who are just starting in their careers, are finding work that is groundbreaking and challenging. Sedro-Woolley is being recognized as the place to be, for all generations.

2019 will see more changes as Sedron Technologies, LLC. breaks ground at the SWIFT Center, which was recently acknowledged in an award given to the Port of Skagit; Janicki Industries continues its unprecedented growth in manufacturing; and downtown is filling up with beautiful new stores and restaurants. Recently, we welcomed Quilting Foxes, Primal Coffee and the Third Street Café to downtown, and work is currently underway at the old bowling alley... what will it be?

Events in town remain popular and as well-attended as ever. Our newest event, the Brewfest, experienced a successful

second year despite the rain. The event raised funds for Helping Hands Solutions Center, which has become a model for food banks, nourishing individuals and families with more than just food.

One disappointment this past year however, was failing to pass the school bond for the much-needed replacement of Evergreen Elementary. Our schools are the finest in the county, winning awards in excellence. However, while other communities strive to keep up with us academically, we struggle to provide safe places for learning. The school district works very hard to provide an education in which every child can

succeed and learn skills that will best enable them to grow into contributing adults. If you have not familiarized yourself with the CTE and STEM programs, you really should do so. Our new library will be a great asset to the community and in supporting STEM learning.

On February 14, Sedron Technologies, together with BYK Construction and the Chamber of Commerce, will host a Multi-Chamber Event from 4:00 to 6:00pm at 133 W State Street. This is an opportunity to tour the beautiful building and learn about how both businesses are making a difference in our community.



Self-Serve taps at Woolley Market



Primal Coffee grand opening



Shelby, a Primal Coffee barista

Teresa Nesheim

I began my career with the City of Sedro-Woolley in 2007, after a 17-year career as an office manager for a small aerospace manufacturing company in Burlington. At that point in my life, my daughters were nearly grown, and I was ready to work full-time again.



My position with the city as an Accounting Clerk/Human Resources Assistant includes processing payroll and assisting with various human resource duties. I also serve as the secretary to the Civil Service Commission. My favorite part of the job is welcoming new employees to the city and assisting existing employees with any questions they may have regarding payroll and benefits. I truly enjoy working with such a wonderful group of co-workers.

I grew up in Sedro-Woolley and graduated from Sedro-Woolley High School. My husband Mike (a Burlington-Edison grad) and I have been married for 35 years, and we have four grown daughters; Amanda, Anna, Emily and Erin. We live in Sedro-Woolley with our spoiled cat, Bella.

In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, traveling, reading, crafts, sewing and spending time with my family and friends.



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I WISH TO LIVE IN A WORLD filled with DIY projects that clean up after themselves, where it is neither strange nor considered “clinical hoarding” to own a plethora of dogs under one roof, and where my home is equipped with a forcefield around the sink and tub drains that repels and removes all traces of any human hair.

As a state commissioned Police Officer of nearly four years for the City of Sedro-Woolley, I am currently assigned to the patrol unit and participate in the collection, editing and releasing of Public Information via social media. I successfully completed the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in 2015; my training and experience includes handling 911 calls for service and other patrol procedures, knowledge of and an oath to protect each individual’s Constitutional Rights, understanding and enforcing Criminal Law, performing traffic enforcement, and interviews and interrogation. I received additional training including regular legal updates, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Reid Interviewing Techniques and have recently become involved in the Domestic Violence Victim’s Panel in affiliation with Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS). I have also received the Distinguished Service Commendation in 2017 and the Life Saver Commendation in 2018.

When I’m not suited up in my Kevlar exterior vest and Gore-Tex boots to detect and deter crime in town as “George 15” (radio-pseudonym), I’m enjoying hiking the variety of trails available in the Pacific Northwest, baking delicious desserts without following the recipe, or binge watching a favorite series on Netflix for the 10th time.

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Skagit STEM—

Preparing Students for the Future



BY MICHELLE JUDSON,
Director, Skagit
STEM Network

THE SKAGIT STEM NETWORK was formed in 2016 through a partnership between Keith Wagoner, mayor of Sedro-Woolley, Phil Brockman, superintendent of the Sedro-Woolley School District, and members of the Sedro-Woolley business community. It

was their belief that a partnership between education, industry, and community could be a key element in delivering the vision of where the City of Sedro-Woolley wants to be now and in the future.

Even though we've grown to include all of Skagit County, the Sedro-Woolley School District continues to be the home of the Network and provides overall leadership.

The work focus of the Network is on preparing students with the skills and credentials that have labor market value and provide access to family-wage jobs. Currently in Washington State, there is a significant gap between the demand for skilled workers and the number of students with required credentials. Today, 31% of students earn a credential beyond high school. In order to meet the number of projected job openings, the statewide goal is that by 2030, 70% of students will earn a credential beyond high school.

Skagit Valley is attracting new businesses, and existing companies are evolving to require increasing levels of 21st-century skills from employees. Our region is home to growing maritime, healthcare, engineering, and advanced manufacturing industries. The post-secondary attainment rates for Skagit students mirrors the state numbers at around 32%. We are working to close this gap so more students will be on track to earn the high-demand credentials needed to fill the projected job openings in our community.

Skagit STEM Network supports and promotes activities that no single member of the Network can address alone. This includes advocating for equity for

all students and for the value of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education leading to high-demand, living-wage jobs for students; supporting a range of Career Connected Learning experiences that move young adults toward lifelong learning; and working to bridge the gap between education and industry.

We are one of Washington STEM's 10 statewide STEM Networks. Washington STEM convenes the Network directors quarterly, so we can share our challenges, best practices, and scale our successes.

A part of our work is to educate policymakers about strategies that expand student opportunity. Key issues for the upcoming state legislative session include expanding Career Pathways for Washing-

ton students, particularly students from underserved communities so that all youth can benefit from access to programs that prepare them for high-demand, family-sustaining careers in Washington. A second priority is growing STEM education infrastructure through increasing computer science education, increasing system capacity to deliver equity-focused Next Generation Science Standards; and expanding capital funds for STEM teaching and learning spaces.

If you would like to learn more about our work, visit www.skagitstem.com. A separate article by Shaun Doffing in this issue provides highlights of the Career Connected Learning programs we support and opportunities for involvement.

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CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING — Connecting Students with Business

BY SHAUN DOFFING, CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING COORDINATOR-SWSD

From the very beginning of the Skagit (Sedro-Woolley) STEM Network in 2016, we felt strongly that Career Connected Learning (CCL)—which is a continuum of experiences for students that builds their career awareness and abilities—would be one of the most important components of our work. We continue to put a great deal of our efforts towards CCL. Here are a few of the highlights from last school year:

STEM Like Me!: More than 500 (almost 350 from Sedro-Woolley) students from four school districts participated in the STEM Like Me! program, learning and interacting with at least four Industry Mentors from diverse STEM-related careers sharing their education pathways. Close to 40 Industry Mentors throughout Skagit County took part in at least one STEM Like Me! program. As long as we continue to have Industry Mentors from STEM-related careers donate two hours per year to this program, our goal of doubling the number of students impacted by this program will be achieved.

Skagit Girls Tech Event: 314 middle school and high school girls spent a day listening to and interacting with professionals from various technology careers. Talks focused on each speaker's career path. Through personal stories, these professionals demonstrated to the girls that there are no barriers to pursuing a career in technology. A similar event is planned



for March 2019, focusing on women in STEM careers.

Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS): A record number of Skagit County High School Seniors, representing every school district, were awarded scholarships up to \$22,000 through WSOS. Since 2016, Skagit has seen a yearly increase in scholarships (13 in 2016, 40 in 2017, and 53 in 2018). Last school year was the first time students from all school districts in the county were awarded scholarships. With the continued effort of WSOS champions throughout Skagit County, we hope to see the trend continue to grow.

Career Connect WA Grant: A joint application submitted by the Northwest Workforce Council and Skagit STEM Network secured \$957k in funding to help continue the Career Connected Learning efforts in Skagit County. The Skagit STEM Network will continue to focus on Career Connected Learning for the foreseeable future. The opportunity for students to learn about STEM careers is dependent on

the involvement of the business community. It is so important that local businesspeople and the community have an impact on the skills their future workforce is learning.

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can get involved in Career Connected Learning in Skagit County, please contact Shaun Doffing at 360-941-6929 or sdoffing@swsd101.org.

The Power of STEM

BY EKATERINA MATSKO (KATYA)

My name is Katya Matsko, I am 15 years old, a sophomore at Sedro-Woolley High School, and as a person, I consider myself very determined...

Throughout my life, I have been to many places—different schools, conferences, and school programs—and for a while, have had a language barrier to challenge me though all these experiences. In 2010, my family and I moved to America from Russia. At the time, I was seven years old and just about to start second grade. Overcoming the language barrier made me a stronger person and lit a spark in me to always fight for my dreams and never give up. From this experience, I gained many mentors, who inspire me every day: teachers, counselors, and just in general, people in the world around me.

This summer I was given the amazing opportunity to attend a STEM Cryptography course at Stanford University. It was an eye-opening experience that helped me grow as an individual and gave me the chance to explore STEM to a greater extent. After I graduate high school, it is my goal to attend Stanford University and graduate with a degree in Astrophysics and Engineering or International Relations. Then, it would be my ultimate objective to one day work for NASA or the government and help make people's lives, as well as planet Earth, a better place.

None of my determination and success would have been possible without STEM. STEM has played an enormous role in my life. When I was in kindergarten, my grandfather started to teach me math, and I absolutely fell in love with it. I was fascinated with the processes and would spend hours trying to engineer a solution to a problem. I realized that the knowledge and skills I acquire through STEM will help take me anywhere in the world. To me, STEM is a way of life. I use these powerful tools and skills, such as critical thinking and problem solving, every single day of my life. I am extremely thankful to STEM for helping me become the person I am today; Katya Matsko, a curious person who loves to ask questions about the world and never gives up.



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SEDRO-WOOLLEY CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL BREAKS GROUND ON HABITAT PARTNER BUILD



BY RUTH RICHARDSON,
PUBLIC INFORMATION
OFFICER,
SEDRO-WOOLLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



*Chris, Jackie and the girls in front of the
SWHS CTE building.*

Having a home to call their own will completely change a Sedro-Woolley family's life by late 2019. The couple and their three daughters will most likely be able to move into the house on Batey Road in the fall.

And it's partly because of a new partnership between Skagit Habitat for Humanity, the Sedro-Woolley School District and the Northwest Career & Technical Academy (NCTA).

"We often ask our community to support our students," said Jerry Grisham, Career & Technical Education (CTE) Director at Sedro-Woolley High School. "This is a way for our students to support their community's investment in education. It's our way of giving back through projects like this."

CTE students started working on clearing the land in October under the guidance of first-year agricultural teacher Jacklyn Bennett.

"My horticulture students were excited to take part in this project that partners up with so many different entities outside of our classroom," Bennett said.

Students had to pass safety tests and wait for decent weather in order to start the project. They learned about proper procedures for running weed eaters and how to use landscaping hand tools safely.

"Having a real-life application for these skills was a huge motivator," Bennett said. "They really looked forward to spending time outside the classroom contributing toward this project."

Geometry in Construction teacher, Daniel Caldwell said he is excited to see how this partnership allows students to better understand the concepts the school is trying to teach by integrating hands-on, real-world skills.

"As a supporter of the skilled trades, my hope is that this experience opens some students' eyes to the great career opportunities available within those trades," Caldwell said.

Business teacher Jodi Jorgensen's students are working on the marketing aspect of the Skagit Habitat project.

"Bringing real-life application through participating in this project is providing valuable hands-on experience to my marketing students," Jorgensen said.

"This project partners us up with so many different entities, including the Sedro-Woolley Downtown Association and Perkins Farm, in a collaborative effort to support Skagit Habitat for Humanity. My students are learning basic project management and marketing skills and combining them with their 21st Century

Skills to create marketing campaigns for the three groups, and planning a cumulative event that will benefit Skagit Habitat."

Jorgensen said the community should be proud of SWHS students for being actively involved in improving an already wonderful town.

"The biggest benefit will be seeing alumni from our own high school have their dreams come true of creating a home of their own," Jorgensen said.

Part of the project's requirement is that the local family spends 500 hours working on the home as well, which allows them to build skills alongside the volunteer students.

Having both moved around a lot growing up, the Sedro-Woolley couple cannot wait to have a house that is truly their own.

"You see people in the movies that have grown up in a house where there are growth charts notched in the kitchen doorway—we're excited to get to do that with our girls," the couple said.

Skagit Habitat continues to solicit donations to help low-income families realize the dream of home ownership. For more information, visit www.skagithabitat.com or contact Kimberly Bell, Resource Development Coordinator, 360-708-1162.

Cascades Academy Steams into the New Year

BY KEVIN MEENAGHAN, ACADEMY DIRECTOR

It's full speed ahead for Cascades Job Corps College and Career Academy. We're excited about the accomplishments over the last year and ready to do more and better in the New Year.

We ended 2018 with 213 great students. We had seven Connections Academy High School graduates, 89 High School Equivalencies completed, 228 Microsoft Imagine Academy certifications, 11 Adobe certifications, our first students completing their internships in Information Technology and Healthcare careers and much more. We're also up to 129 hardworking people on the staff team.

Cascades Academy continues the Student Centered Design model. Based on student performance in college-level courses, we instituted the College Readiness Assessment Program to ensure our student's success. This six-week syllabus assesses their cognitive, as well as their non-cognitive skills, to be sure they're ready to enter college and do well. We also have 31 students attending Northwest Career and Technical Academy, and so far, they're all earning A and B grades!

In 2019, we will reach our maximum student capacity of 300 in the first half of the year. Cascades Academy will also have its first graduation, although we don't know exactly when that might be. Additionally, we expect to have some slight modifications to our academic programs, based on feedback from the business community and our students. We are also planning to begin rehabilitation and construction on our final two buildings, with completion in 2020.

We are able to provide this incredible opportunity for our students because we're supported by an amazing community and partners. We are thankful for Skagit Valley College, Northwest Career and Technical Academy, Sedro-Woolley School District, the Port of Skagit, Microsoft and a host of others, including the City of Sedro-Woolley.

Speaking of community, the Cascades Academy students donated 1,888 hours of community service time in 2018, and the top cohort of 10 students gave 201.5 hours. The Student Government Association also recently donated \$250 to the Skagit Food Distribution Center.

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Please mark your calendars for the next Cascades Academy Community Relations Lunch, scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, as well as our next Workforce/Industry Council on Tuesday, April 16.

Governor Inslee visits Cascades Academy June 29, 2018 and delivers Dean's List awards to students.





YOUTH TAKE THE LEAD

United General District 304 Awarded National Drug Free Communities Grant

BY MARJORIE BELL,
COMMUNICATIONS AND GRANT WRITER

Ask a teenager how many of their peers use alcohol and marijuana and they are likely to say “everyone”. Fortunately, we know this is a misconception; most Sedro-Woolley (and Skagit County) students do not use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. The perceived norm that “everyone is using” is about to be challenged in an exciting new program coordinated by United General District 304 in the Sedro-Woolley School District.

For the past several years, the Skagit County Child and Family Consortium (a program of United General) has convened a Substance Abuse Prevention Committee (SAPC). The group has been monitoring youth substance use in Skagit County and found that Sedro-Woolley students report slightly higher use of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana than their county and state peers. In addition, fewer Sedro-Woolley students perceive that substance use is harmful, or that their parents or peers disapprove of substance use.

In response to local needs and readiness, SAPC mobilized partners to apply for a Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant in 2017 specifically for the Sedro-Woolley community. DFC grants are provided by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which leads the nation’s efforts to prevent youth substance use.

SAPC members from 12 sectors of the community met weekly to prioritize goals, select activities, and write an Action Plan. Members to-date include committed partners from Sedro-Woolley School District, Police Department, and Boys & Girls Club; parents; youth; Upper Skagit Tribe; United Way of Skagit County; American Legion Post 204; Regional Youth Marijuana Prevention and Education Program; PeaceHealth United General Medical Center; Skagit County Public Health; and United General District 304. When the SAPC’s 2017 proposal was not funded, the group persisted, applied again in 2018, and received the five-year \$625,000 award.

DFC program goals are to see measurable reductions in youth use of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana. The program will be coordinated by Danika Troupe of United General District 304, who shared,

“This represents a really exciting opportunity for Sedro-Woolley. The project engages students, families, school staff, and the extended community and provides funds for youth and adult coalition trainings and activities. It is especially exciting for youth, who will develop and lead local projects and attend national conferences in places like Washington, D.C.” By involving students and the extended community, the DFC project will build “protective factors” that can make a difference when youth are faced with the decision to use or abstain from tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

Lyndie Case coordinates the Skagit County Child and Family Consortium, which brings together community coalitions, service providers, school districts, and other partners serving children and families in Skagit County. Consortium members worked for years building the capacity of SAPC to apply for the grant; the group’s vision is that “every school district in Skagit County has a coalition with dedicated funds for substance use prevention.” With the new Sedro-Woolley DFC grant, they are one step closer to realizing that vision.

Want to be involved? Contact the United General District 304 Program Coordinator Danika Troupe at Danika.troupe@unitedgeneral.org or 360-854-7175.

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Sedron Technologies Signs License to Commercialize the Omni Processor

BY JUSTIN BROWN, SEDRON TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM MANAGER & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SEDRON TECHNOLOGIES, LLC (formerly Janicki Bioenergy, LLC) has been granted a commercialization license for the Omni Processor from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This license will allow Sedron Technologies to transition from a technology development role on the Omni Processor to commercialization and business development of the technology. The Omni Processor is a community scale, off-grid, non-sewered sanitation treatment solution which processes human and solid waste to produce both electricity and clean drinking water.

The development of this technology was funded by the foundation to serve urban sanitation markets in the developing world eliminating pathogens from re-entering the environment and at the same time creating outputs that have commercial value. This solution changes the economic story of sanitation, transforming what has historically been a parasitic cost to society to a profitable business.

The pilot unit of the Janicki Omni Processor has been operating in Dakar, Senegal since May of 2015. The first commercial model, known as the S200, is slated for shipment to another Senegalese site in early 2019. With the issuance of this license, Sedron Technologies plans to extend the development of this technology to a wide range of capacities and operating conditions in order to serve a broad market.

The main focus of commercialization will be in developing nations to both solve their sanitation problems, as well as create business opportunities for local entrepreneurs. The Sedron Technologies team recently presented the Janicki Omni Processor at the Reinvented Toilet Expo in Beijing in November.

Sedron Technologies (then Janicki Bioenergy) received considerable attention for the development of the Janicki Omni Processor. In early 2015, a video published by Bill Gates went viral showing him drinking water that had been processed by the Janicki Omni Processor.



Janicki Omni Processor in Dakar.

Sedron Technologies is a technology development and manufacturing company located in Sedro-Woolley and works in a wide range of industries: from cutting edge waste-to-energy and water treatment systems for developing nations; to novel, off-grid toilet systems; to transformative liquid waste processing and nutrient recovery systems for agricultural, municipal, and military uses. The technologies they develop require multidisciplinary engineering collaboration, from electrical and software to chemical and mechanical engineering. Motivated by a strong desire to equip the world with better tools for the future, Sedron's team of passionate problem-solvers and original thinkers continue to expand the possibilities for practical solutions in water, energy, and waste treatment.

Sedro-Woolley City Scene magazine will feature more information on Sedron Technologies' plans to construct its global headquarters and manufacturing plant at the SWIFT Center in a future issue.



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Rotary Club Continues its Service Legacy

BY RUTH RICHARDSON, SEDRO-WOOLLEY ROTARY CLUB

Rotary's motto is Service above Self.

Local Rotarians take this mantra seriously and continue to serve the Sedro-Woolley community through a variety of service projects.

"We really pride ourselves in serving our community," said Carl Garrison, club president for 2018–2019. "The best part is seeing the fruits of our labor. I attended the Little League State Championship at Tesarik Memorial Field back in July. To see our Rotary symbol on the columns around the park and to hear the positive comments we received from parents was incredibly fulfilling."

The club, chartered in 1922, is made up of current and retired business owners, managers and community leaders. It is one of the largest clubs in the 5050 Rotary District, which incorporates clubs from Everett to north of the Canadian and United States border including Vancouver, B.C. and surrounding areas.

Rotary has completed a number of projects like Tesarik Memorial Field, including building restrooms that are shared between the baseball complex and the skate park. With 98 members, the expertise available for local projects is never-ending. Architects, engineers, surveyors, construction managers, concrete production specialists, and many other vocations have donated their time and energy over the years to create some of Sedro-Woolley's most popular outdoor spaces.



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"Visitors continue to be impressed by the facilities," Garrison said. "But, more importantly, it allows our local organizations to host events because we have the space."

The increased volume of visitors helps area businesses generate extra sales, which equates to sales tax revenue for the city to use.

"It's really a win-win for everyone involved," Garrison said.

People from all over the area can enjoy concerts and picnics at Riverfront Park, skate at the Sedro-Woolley Skate Park and enjoy time at the Farmers Market at Hammer Heritage

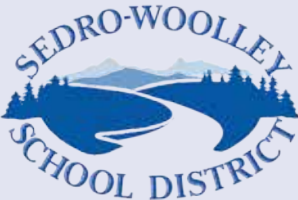
Square, using facilities constructed by Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club volunteers. Students at Evergreen Elementary School and the Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club can use Nathan's Boulder, thanks to Rotary's help moving it from a local Boy Scout Camp to its current location between Evergreen and Cascade Middle School.

The club continues its commitment to a \$125,000 donation to build the new YMCA in Mount Vernon, as well as construction of the new Helping Hands Food Bank in Sedro-Woolley.

Band uniforms at Sedro-Woolley High School and contributions to the Children's Museum of Skagit County were also recent contributions, and Sedro-Woolley and Concrete High School students continue to receive scholarship support from the club.

The club also supports several international projects as well.

"Our club does amazing things locally and internationally," Garrison said. "We have a group of people who are committed to doing projects beneficial to everyone. It's a great club and I'm honored to be part of it."



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SKAGIT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION — We Can Make a Difference BY MARY MCGOFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Skagit Community Foundation gives thanks to its donors. With each dollar entrusted to us, we find a place to watch it grow: a little gladness there, a little relief from misery there, and a little beauty here. So many small gestures that add up to a more humane and just place to live. You can have an impact HERE when you work with the Skagit Community Foundation. We are the link in the chain, a bond of connection between people, building a sense of place where all can thrive. You are part of this place we call home.

Recently a donor entrusted a gift of \$100,000 to the Foundation to help people in need in Skagit County. We reached out to our partner organizations that provide shelter, food, and critical needs and researched and debated over three months how best to distribute this gift. Because the money came after our grant season last spring, we chose to support existing programs in the community. One of the most compelling programs was the Tenant Based Rental Assistance program at Community Action of Skagit County. This two-year program needed funding to close the gap between what renters could afford and what was available at fair market rate. It takes as little as \$100/month to close the gap and to make it possible for a family to move into a home. While in the program, recipients of the funding assistance learn from their case manager how to manage their finances, set education and employment goals and be good tenants. Our Board of Directors felt that this program prevented families from falling into homelessness and provided them with the skills they would need to attain long-term housing stability. It was a hand-up.



Skagit Gleaners, from left to right: Keven Anderson, Keith Johnson, Jeffery Hill, Marvin Yates, and Ken Oliver

The Foundation also gave a grant to Skagit Gleaners to provide a small membership subsidy for homeless people. We learned that the cost to become members of Skagit Gleaners was out of reach for some people, so we offered to provide sponsorships; in exchange, the homeless members volunteered seven hours/month instead of four hours/month. Skagit Gleaners needed drivers to pick up food every day from Food Pavilion in Sedro-Woolley, and this group of men volunteered for the job. Homeless people want to participate and belong, too. We are glad to partner with Skagit Gleaners, the Welcome Home Community Co-op members and the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Mount Vernon to make this happen.

To give a gift or learn more, please visit us at www.skagitcf.org/donate-now.html.



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Inspiring Success, Delivering Excellence

NEVER A DULL MOMENT with Girl Scouts!

BY ANN SKUPNIEWITZ-MARONEY

Since we last checked in with *City Scene*, our Skagit Scouts have been busy building derby cars and trebuchets, having a “play day” at a makerspace, gold panning and a few even sea kayaked in Greece!

Last fall, Girl Scouts of the USA introduced a full complement of badges for all ages of girls in the fields of engineering, computer science, space science, robotics and mechanical engineering. As adults, we have been busy updating our skills to meet the challenge. We began the “training” with an adult “play day” at the Foundry Makerspace in Bellingham. We followed this up with a sampler event for 4th–12th-grade girls. They had an opportunity to create vector files to print on the vinyl printer, create a file to print on a 3-D printer, sampled the world of virtual reality and worked with the Little Bitz system to create electrical circuits.

Making it real, Jenna took her sixth-grade science fair presentation from Evergreen Elementary and scaled it up. Now an eighth grader at Cascade Middle School, Jenna teamed with fellow Scouts Kylie and Melissa (Mount Baker Middle School) to build a full-scale trebuchet. This was a HUGE project, and to make this dream a reality, they developed a business plan and made presentations to local businesses to raise the funding to build it. A big shoutout to the ReStore, T-Bailey and Western Forest Products for their support! Named the Gladiator Gourd Girls, these ladies have participated in the 2017 and 2018 Pumpkin Pitch in Burlington. They are the only youth team... they’d love some competition... anyone?

As Girl Scouts, trying new things is what it’s all about! Troop Leader Erica Fifer teamed with Bethany Schwartz of Mount Vernon and ran a LEGO Junior Robotics team for 6–10 year olds. They learned how to use the LEGOS, motors, and coding to solve simple problems. Our goal is to run another Junior LEGO Robotics team, and at least one LEGO Robotics team for fourth/fifth grade girls in fall 2019. Our limiting factors will be finding community volunteers to help coach, and space to set-up and leave the robotics table during the season.

Satisfying our need to be in nature, we ran a hands-on archeology camp, developed and led by



Counter-clockwise from top: Isabelle at Foundry Makerspace; Seakayaking in Greece; Gladiator Gourd Girls with Congressman Rick Larsen and their full-scale trebuchet

“Named the Gladiator Gourd Girls, these ladies have participated in the 2017 and 2018 Pumpkin Pitch in Burlington.”

local Girl Scout alumni, Shannon Jack (SWHS) and Jaci Scheer (Concrete). Both are graduates of Western Washington University with degrees in Anthropology. 24 girls spent the weekend learning the basics of surveying a site, mapping, and linguistics. They dug and discovered “artifacts” and learned about other aspects of field study. Jaci is busy updating the curriculum to offer another camp this summer.

Three Sedro-Woolley Scouts explored Europe this summer during a 17-day trip they designed with their travel group of 11 girls and three chaperones. One of the highlights of the trip was a day of sea kayaking, exploring an ancient sunken city in Old Epidavros, Greece.

February will find us “exploring engineering with LEGOS” kindergarten-5th-grade girls. We are currently developing an astronomy-focused camp for the Perseids Meteor Shower this fall. In between these times, you’ll find Scouts doing archery, camping around Western Washington, setting goals and, of course, selling cookies to support their activities!



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Who Was **Mary Purcell** and Why Was a School Named After Her?

BY CAROLYN FREEMAN, SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM DIRECTOR

MARY PURCELL WAS BORN in Afonse, Quebec Canada on June 27, 1873. She was the daughter of Christopher and Margaret Purcell. She moved to Custer, Mich., and after her schooling, she began her teaching career. Mary moved to Washington State (we have no record of that date) and taught in Rexville, Wash. before coming to Sedro-Woolley.

It was in 1902 that Mary Purcell came to teach in Sedro-Woolley. Mrs. Winnie McGrath resigned, and Mary Purcell took her place as one

of the nine teachers employed here. There was one kindergarten teacher and one high school instructor at that time. A fact to remember—the first high school graduating class was in 1904, with only two students! All classes were taught in the Franklin School, located on Talcott Street, where Central is now located. Mrs. J.C. Roe was principal.

In 1909, Mary Purcell was made principal of the Franklin School while continuing to teach. In 1925, she became principal of both Franklin and the newer Irving School, which had been built across the street. It was in 1926 that these two schools were demolished and the present Central School was constructed; by that time, the high school on Third Street had been built. Mary became principal of the new Central school until her retirement in 1947. She was succeeded by Delbert Boulton.

On Sunday, September 16, 1951, Sedro-Woolley's new \$400,000 grade school, Mary Purcell, was dedicated in her honor. The dedication address was made by the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Mary Purcell died in 1959, at the age of 86 and is buried in Sedro-Woolley's cemetery.



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The museum is always looking for photos of the old schools, reunions and people. If you would like to share your photos, please contact the Sedro-Woolley Museum swmuseum@comcast.net or 360-855-2930.

THE IMPORTANCE OF Greenstreet Boulevard

BY PETE HALDEEN

When a steel mill, old-growth timber, and two lumber mills provided family-wage jobs, the people who worked in these industries could afford to own their own home, however modest. Sedro-Woolley had few apartments or rentals until the 1990s. We were a town of owner-occupied houses, which formed the basis of modest family wealth. Many houses are pre-World War II workman's cottages that line Nelson, Alexander, and Ball Streets, which see new life in gentrification. After the war, many families purchased homes with GI loans, and paid their mortgage with mill wages. You can see these cozy, quality houses all over town. After the last real estate crash in 2007, they began to be bought up by savvy investors as rentals, and by younger couples who commute elsewhere to work.

Otto Greenstreet was a Sedro-Woolley real estate developer and builder in the '40s and '50s. He built a development that bears his name, "Otto Greenstreet's First Addition to Sedro-Woolley". It is a row of 21 houses on Greenstreet Boulevard. The plat map was beautifully hand-drawn by A. Mosier, a surveyor known for his drafting skills, but not for the accuracy of his surveys. The plat was recorded in 1948. Greenstreet Boulevard turned 70 years old this year. It was, and still is, a marvel of design.

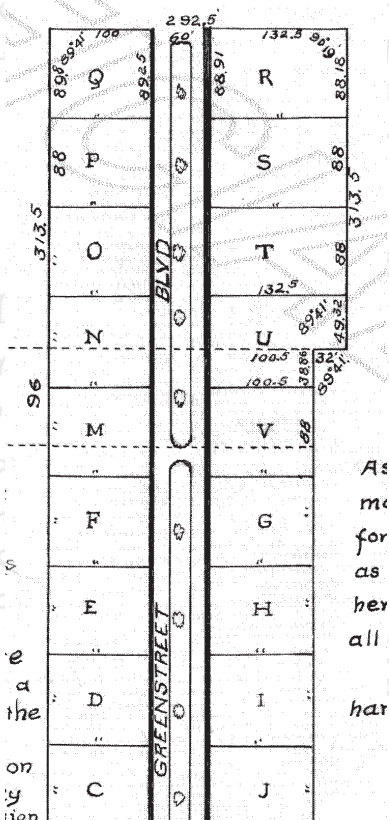
The original Greenstreet Boulevard houses were well-built, with clear fir framing, wood siding, and hardwood floors. They were boxy little homes, with a modern kitchen, a large living room, and two or three bedrooms. The lots were a generous 8,800 square-feet in size. Greenstreet Boulevard is a two-lane road lined with sidewalks and a median strip of grass and trees. Young families grew up with *I Love Lucy* and *The Honeymooners* on Greenstreet Boulevard. It makes me smile every time I drive down "the Boulevard".

Otto could have sold more homes if he made the lots smaller or omitted the median strip and sidewalks. But he didn't. Otto gave up land that could have been developed as additional lots, and spent money to make a better development. He left money on the table. He did the same with his construction quality. He built owner-occupied homes with high-quality materials, good design, and created an attractive neighborhood. Today the estimated value of these houses approach \$300,000. The neighborhood has had its ups and downs, but it is still a generous design compared to some recent plats. In its own way, Greenstreet Boulevard is very beautiful, and its owners should cherish it.

Everything is connected. Greenstreet Boulevard demonstrates the impact of the local economy and good jobs on the quality of our neighborhoods. Quality owner-occupied homes make good neighborhoods, good investments, and stronger families. The most significant historic fact about Sedro-Woolley is that men and women who went to work with a lunch pail could afford to buy their own house in 1948. This made our town a successful, poverty-resistant community. Well-designed neighborhoods of quality-built, owner-occupied homes still require a community with living-wage jobs capable of paying a mortgage. Home ownership is elusive for people making only minimum wage with no benefits.

The challenge for Sedro-Woolley, in its second hundred years, is to build a foundation of family-wage jobs to support a supply of quality owner-occupied homes. Without these twin pillars, our city will lose its unique character. Greenstreet Boulevard is our canary in the coal mine.

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TO
SEDRO WOOLLEY



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Events

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www.wildcatsteelheadclub.org
Riverfront Park - 1001 River Road**

Sedro-Woolley's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, the day before the Easter Bunny's arrival, has become a must-do event for the city's children, who scramble for some 4,000 eggs scattered across Riverfront Park.

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SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM EVENTS

725 Murdock Street

Love That Train Open House

February 10, 1:00-3:00pm

The Sedro-Woolley Museum's annual Love that Train open house will again feature trains and old-fashioned Valentines. Come join us for cookies, juice and coffee. There will be items for auction for the train lover in all of us, and maybe something special for your sweetheart. Hope you look forward to hearing the clackity-clack of our trains!

BINGO

March 16, 1:00-3:30pm

Here at the Sedro-Woolley Museum, we have cleaned up the old 1940's Knights of Pythias bingo set. We would like to invite you to join us for an afternoon of Bingo using the old set, no daubers required; this set comes complete with cards that cover their own numbers. You have to see it to believe it. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. \$2.50 per card and there are plenty available for you to use as many as you wish.



This is a fun event presented by the Wildcat Steelhead Club for children ages crawling to 12 to come down and hunt for candy-filled Easter eggs! The park is divided into separate sections for age groups, and the kids have a ball! For many kids this is the only "egg hunt" they get to have.

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
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or cheese omelet
hashbrowns
biscuits and gravy
pancakes
French toast



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For high school sporting event schedules, please visit **NWCathletics.com**, the official website for Northwest Conference High School Athletic Programs. Click on the Sedro-Woolley link for all sporting event schedules.



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Events

WoodFest: Timber to Tech

BY SARAH JOHNSON, SEDRO-WOOLLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In the spring, Skagit Valley attracts many visitors for the annual Tulip Festival. People travel from near and far to see the stunning tulips in bloom during the month of April. This year, try something new while you are around.

WoodFest: Timber to Tech is an annual festival in Sedro-Woolley, celebrating not only woodworking, but also technological advancements in our community. WoodFest is proud to again be partnering with Perkins Farms and Willowbrook Manor to provide a fun-filled, family-friendly festival!

On April 27 and 28, the Sedro-Woolley High School Gymnasium will be buzzing with WoodFest: Timber to Tech activities. Come see the amazing work by students, from fine examples of woodworking to products created by 3D and laser printing. We are excited to have the Career and Tech Education (CTE) program at local schools taking a larger role in WoodFest. Last year, we had students from Sedro-Woolley, Burlington-Edison, Concrete, Stanwood and Kiona-Burton submit handcrafted woodwork into the competition; and this year, we hope to have even more schools involved. The woodworking students will be competing for various awards, including the Patrick Janicki Award for Excellence in Woodworking. We encourage our guests to vote for their favorite piece and attend the awards ceremony Sunday at 3:00pm.

We are happy to welcome back Toys for Tots, the Northwest Corner Woodworking Association and the Northwest Washington Wood Turners, who provide demonstrations of their craft. Attendees are encouraged to: Come, See, Ask and Learn. **Come to**

the festival, **See** the demonstrations and works produced, **Ask** questions and **Learn** something new.

This year, we will host the Scouts Pinewood Derby Tournament. On Saturday, come and watch Scouts throughout the region compete in the Pinewood Derby race. On Sunday, bring your own pinewood derby car and race it down the track.

The gymnasium at Sedro-Woolley will also be hosting a raffle, silent auction and a variety of vendors providing woodworking, photography, food, jewelry and more. Last year for the raffle, we had three remarkable craftsmen donate one-of-a-kind handcrafted items.

Perkins Farms will be hosting the amazing chainsaw carving work of local artist Tomas Vrba. He will be putting on an exhibition of professional chainsaw carving under the pavilion. Not only can you watch a master at work, but there will also be fantastic family activities. Rock paint with Carly Howard, take a wagon ride and taste some on the amazing beverages produced at Eagle Haven. Don't forget the food truck!

Nestled in the countryside of Sedro-Woolley, the elegant Willowbrook Manor will offer a relaxing break from all the action. Take a moment to relish the beautiful grounds and chamomile fields as you savor a delicious cup of tea. Reservations for English Tea at Willowbrook Manor fill up fast, so make yours today at teaandtour.com.

We are excited to watch WoodFest: Timber to Tech grow and evolve. We hope you can join us and experience the outstanding fun and festivities!

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

This year we are excited to continue our new theme, Timber to Tech, featuring student technology exhibits, woodworking displays and additional events at multiple locations in Sedro-Woolley. All with free admission! For more information visit sedro-woolley.com/events.

EVENT LOCATIONS:

Sedro-Woolley High School

1235 Third Street

360-855-1841

April 27-28

Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm

Sunday 10:00am-3:00pm

Sedro-Woolley's Career and Technology Education will be hosting WoodFest, where regional students showcase their industrial skills in woodworking, technology and more! Not only can you look forward to vendors with handcrafted wood products, but also enjoy demonstrations and displays of woodworking and turning from local master craftsmen. Toys for Tots will be here again, along with the Scouts Pinewood Derby! Be sure to check out the incredible projects created by the students! Prizes will be awarded for their best work on Sunday.

Eagle Haven Winery

8243 Sims Road

360-856-6248

April 27

11:00am-5:00pm

Join us as local wood artist, Tomas Vrba puts on an exhibit of professional chainsaw carving under the pavilion. Rock painting with artist Carly Howard; gourmet food-truck cuisine will also be available.

SPONSORED BY



English Tea at Willowbrook Manor

27420 Minkler Road
360-218-4585

April 27

10:00am-6:00pm
teaandtour.com

Reserve your seat for an English Tea session at our elegant Manor House, including a tour of the grounds and art exhibit. For more information, including fees, visit our website.

Pancake Breakfast

American Legion
701 Murdock Street

360-855-1841

April 28

8:00-11:00am

Bring your appetite for this all-you-can-eat breakfast of eggs, omelets, pancakes, bacon, and more! All for only \$8. Proceeds support veteran's activities.





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