

CityScene

SEDRO-WOOLLEY

FALL 2021



Inside this issue

Olmsted Park Update
Sedro on the Skagit
Holiday Events

CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER



WARD ONE
Brendan McGoffin
277 Klinger St
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Phone: (360) 333-8783
ward1@sedro-woolley.gov



WARD TWO
JoEllen Kesti
694 Brickyard Blvd
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Phone: (360) 391-7609
ward2@sedro-woolley.gov



WARD THREE
Sarah Diamond
502 Ferry Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 708-4029
ward3@sedro-woolley.gov



WARD FOUR
Glenn Allen
316 Talcott St
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Phone: (360) 885-2216
ward4@sedro-woolley.gov



WARD FIVE
Chuck Owen
833 Waldron Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Phone: (360) 982-0783
ward5@sedro-woolley.gov



WARD SIX
Karl de Jong
1030 Warner Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Phone: (360) 333-8911
ward6@sedro-woolley.gov



AT-LARGE
Kevin Loy
128 Garden of Eden Road
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 P
hone: (360) 421-8396
atlarge@sedro-woolley.gov



CITY DIRECTORY

CITY HALL

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

Mayor

Julia Johnson
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-9922
swmayor@sedro-woolley.gov

City Administration

Doug Merriman, Ph.D.
City Supervisor
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-9921
dmerriman@sedro-woolley.gov

Finance

Jill Scott, Finance Director
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-1661
jscott@sedro-woolley.gov

Serena Mynatt, Deputy Clerk
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-1661

Diane Jones, 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@sedro-woolley.gov

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Frank Wagner, Fire Chief
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-2252
Emergency: 911

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Bill Chambers, Director
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-9924
it.director@sedro-woolley.gov

LIBRARY

Jeanne Williams, Library Director
110 W. State St.
(360) 855-1166
admin@centralskagitlibrary.org

MUNICIPAL COURT

Brock Stiles, Judge
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-0366
courtclerk@sedro-woolley.gov

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 Freiburger, P.E.
325 Metcalf Street
(360) 855-0771
mfreiburger@sedro-woolley.gov

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@sedro-woolley.gov

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

Solid Waste

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

Wastewater Division

Kevin Wynn, Wastewater Division Supervisor
401 Alexander Street
(360) 856-1100

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
- **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, videos and audio 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 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
6:00pm

City Council study sessions:

1st Wednesday of each month 6:00pm

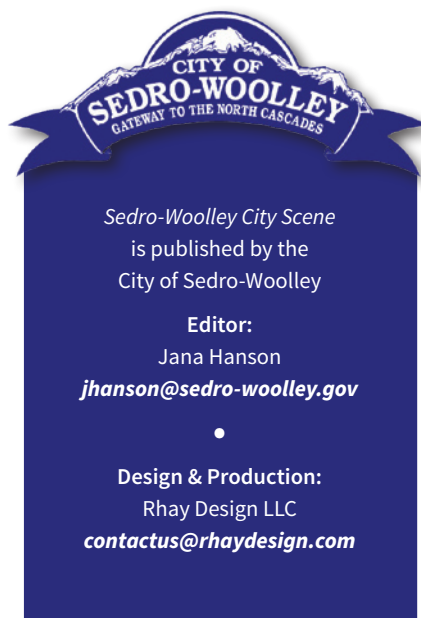
Planning Commission meetings:

3rd Tuesday of each month 6:30pm

City Council Study Sessions, City Council Meetings and Planning Commission Meetings will be held virtually using Zoom Webinar until restrictions due to Covid-19 are lifted. To join in on a City web meeting, go to https://www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us/governing_bodies/city_council/meetings.php then click on City Council and Planning Commission Meetings schedule. Select the desired meeting, click on "More ..." and follow the instructions for joining.

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.



SEDRO-WOOLLEY CITY SCENE MAGAZINE

Philips Publishing Group has unfortunately closed its business, therefore the City of Sedro-Woolley will no longer publish a printed version of *City Scene* magazine.

However, we will continue to provide the same quality of news and stories through an online publication.

The online publication, still under the name *Sedro-Woolley City Scene*, will be available at:

<https://www.sedro-woolley.gov/flipbook>

If you wish to receive *City Scene* via email, you may sign up by going to:

<https://www.sedro-woolley.gov/cityscene>

We appreciate the community's interest and support for *Sedro-Woolley City Scene* magazine. We hope you will continue to read and enjoy the new online quarterly publication.

Thank you!

What's Inside FALL 2021

2 City Hall

- | City Directory
- | Council Corner
- | What's Going on at City Hall
- | From the Mayor
- | City Supervisor

6 City News

- | We say Goodbye to Retiring City Employees
- | Meet Your City Employees
- | Olmsted Park Nearing Fundraising Goals

10 Community

- | PeaceHealth United General Medical Center Acute Rehabilitation Center
- | Pete Haldeen-BSA of America

13 History

- | Sedro on the Skagit, 1880s

14 Events

- | Halloween
- | Veteran's Day
- | Thanksgiving
- | Sedro-Woolley Museum
- | High School Sports
- | American Legion Breakfast
- | Christmas Festivities

COVER PHOTOS:

Photo courtesy of Denise Lucker



The locomotive is a 1913 Baldwin 4-6-0 engine and was Engine No. 2 of the Puget Sound and Baker River Railroad. It was donated to the City of Sedro-Woolley in the 1950s by Scott Paper. BSA of America Scouts restored the engine as a community service project.

Pictured in front of the restored engine from left to right: Cannon Lucker, Life Scout, freshman at Sedro-Woolley HS; Trey Lucker, Life Scout, senior at Sedro-Woolley HS/Running Start; Timothy Duvall, Life Scout, junior at Burlington HS.

In the Face of Turbulence



BY MAYOR
JULIA JOHNSON

SEDRO-WOOLLEY HAS NEVER BEEN AFRAID OF TURBULENCE, and because we have not, we have much to be grateful for. We have continued to expand our narrative of creating cutting-edge technology, while

maintaining our history and identity. We have opened the door to new housing, and in the process designed and built innovative parks, such as Pat's Playground and Winnie Houser Playfields. Knowing this will generate more movement within our community, we are keeping pace with infrastructure by maintaining and expanding roads, fiber, sewer, and additional traffic safety measures, such as crosswalks and lights. More importantly, we have excellent schools that support the best education for our children and provide opportunities to explore career paths through STEM programs; and now, our newest addition a state of the art library for our children, families, and community.

It's true it takes a village, and in this case a vibrant community, and partnership between the city and the District Library, which has once again proven to be a leader in innovation and technology. Our Sedro-Woolley Library just recently won an award from the American Institute of Architects Washington Council for its sustainable strategies. The partnership and collaboration between the city and library was extraordinary, and I think laid the groundwork for the future - our future - as a city, and for the library. I would be remiss if I did not include and extend a huge thank you to all citizens, and especially to those who attended multiple community sessions, who shared ideas, and provided input and guidance as to what you would like to see in our library. We did listen and we did implement many of the suggestions,



*"A bird that fears
turbulence
will never know
how high it can fly."*

— Matshona Dhliwayo

so thank you for being part of the creative and final process.

There was also much thought and consideration that went into the design, and the materials we used in the building and landscaping. The plants and landscape design mimics the Skagit riverbed. Cedar was used on the exterior of the building, and the beams inside the building are Douglas Fir, both representing our forest and timber industry. The industrial materials and look within the interior design are a nod to our technical and industrial history, present day and future.

It was almost fortuitous that Keith Wagoner was appointed to fill Kirk Pearson's Senate position, allowing him to establish partial funding for design and build. I want to make mention and extend our sincere gratitude to Representatives Eslick and Paul, along with those legislators who approved the funding for our library.

If you have not had opportunity to visit our new library, please make time to do so; you'll not be disappointed. Jeanne Williams is our Library Director, and she is a talented, intelligent, and gifted librarian who has not only increased our library patronage exponentially but has put into place a myriad of programs for children of all ages, preschool to young adults.

"A bird that fears turbulence will never know how high it can fly." Sedro-Woolley is a unique community that continues to soar. With increase in our talent, ingenuity, and technology, our parks, trails, housing, schools, museum, and library, we are a people who persevere and value our family, friends, our heritage, and community, in essence, quality of life.

In my opinion, that makes us exceptional people who do not fear the turbulence.

Mayor Julia Johnson

It has been a Privilege - Thank You!

AFTER 33 YEARS OF WORKING IN PUBLIC SERVICE, I will be retiring on November 30 of this year. I recall a conversation with my Grandmother who shared with me how quickly time in a career passes. As it is with many of the valuable conversations I had with her in my younger days, I value her counsel even more so in the present, ...especially when reflecting on the time I've been privileged to work at the City of Sedro-Woolley. It has been my honor, these last few years, to contribute as a member of the city team towards accomplishing the many projects and efforts to help move the city forward.

Over my career, I have worked at the state, county, and city levels and have experienced different work cultures and a varying degrees of community involvement. Working here for the city, these last few years, has truly been the most enjoyable. The city is fortunate to have such a dynamic mix of community members, elected officials, and City staff. The city is equally fortunate to have Mr. Charlie Bush joining as the city's next City Administrator. Charlie brings an amazing municipal skillset to the city organization. I know you will all enjoy working with him.

I will be retiring, but no doubt will not have idle time. I see some long-delayed travels on the horizon with my wife Sandy, and know I will be answering the call to spend time and play an important part in the lives of the nine little grandkids who call me "Papa". I'm looking forward to this next phase!

Thank you to Mayor Johnson, to the members of the City Council, and to the city staff and community friends for allowing me to give some value-added to the community. I've truly enjoyed my time here.

Sincerely

Doug Merriman, Ph.D
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

*"It has been my honor,
these last few years,
to contribute as a
member of the City
team towards
accomplishing the
many projects and
efforts to help move
the City forward."*



We Say Goodbye to Retiring City Employees

I AM FORTUNATE TO HAVE SPENT MOST OF MY WORKING YEARS AT THE CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY. I was first employed in the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Court in 1989 as a part-time Court Clerk. We were located upstairs above the Fire Department in the old City Hall at 720 Murdock Street. At that time, there was also the SCAT Theatre located upstairs. Since there was no elevator, I have

memories of sending things through the dumb waiter to the main floor, wading through water from a leaky roof in the office during Court and surviving a small earthquake, among other things. It was a highlight when we were able to re-locate to the new, current City Hall at 325 Metcalf Street.

After taking some time volunteering/working at the Concrete School District

and working for the Town of Concrete, I returned to the City of Sedro-Woolley in 1996 to work in the Finance Department. My jobs have been what I refer to as the three C's, Counter (Front), City Council and Cemetery, among many other duties. There have been a lot of transitions over the years, especially in technology. We used to copy piles of paper and hand deliver City Council packets to Council Members and now they can receive them almost immediately via the web. I will especially miss working with the Cemetery, helping families with arrangements in their time of need, responding to many genealogy requests and I'm looking forward to seeing the new upcoming Cemetery software implemented. The pandemic has definitely changed things in all aspects of my job, forcing us all to communicate remotely via zoom and email. (An interesting fact about me is both my dad and my grandson were born during a pandemic.)

I have had a great family of co-workers, both past and present, and I feel blessed. Being able to work with my son, Nathan, Public Works Operations Supervisor, for the past 20 years has also been fun. Looking back, the time has gone fast. I will miss everyone including all of you, who I have served over the last 27 years!





SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS!



xpress BILL PAY

ALREADY HAVE AN XPRESS BILL PAY ACCOUNT?

- Step 1: Go to www.xpressbillpay.com and log in
- Step 2: Click "View Bill" under the account you would like to be paperless
- Step 3: Locate the "Paperless (Off)" button
- Step 4: Click the button to turn "Paperless (On)"

REGISTER AND SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS:

- Step 1: Go to www.xpressbillpay.com
- Step 2: Click "Sign Up" on the top of the screen
- Step 3: Fill in your email and password, then click in the "I'm not a robot" box and follow prompts
- Step 4: Complete the short registration form and click "Next"
- Step 5: Go to your inbox and open the verification email, click "Verify Email" and "Continue" to log in
- Step 6: Select your billing organization
- Step 7: Enter your account number and last name, then click in the box to opt in for paperless and select "Locate Bill" and select "Locate Account"



RETIRING EMPLOYEES

I CAME TO WORK FOR THE CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY IN 2007 as an Accounting Clerk in the Finance Department. For my first few months of employment the Finance Department was still located in the old City Hall; however, the new City Hall was under construction. What an exciting day that was when we relocated to the new building!

When I first started with the city my primary role was to process payroll along with other responsibilities. Over the years, my responsibilities expanded to include the duties of Civil Service Secretary as well. I have always enjoyed my job with the city. It has been a pleasure to be of service to my community and co-workers in the town where I was born and raised. Welcoming new employees to work at the city was one of the favorite parts of my job.

I have been blessed to work with some amazing co-workers over the years who became like my second family. I will miss everyone. It's hard to believe that 14+ years have passed since I first came to work for the city. In some ways, it seems like just yesterday; but I'm looking forward to retirement and all that it has to offer. I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the citizens of my hometown.



Teresa Nesheim
ACCOUNTING CLERK/HR ASSISTANT

There's no such thing as the Poop Fairy

Only you can make your pet's waste disappear.

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and parasites that make people and pets sick. When it is left on the ground, it washes down storm drains and contaminates our streams and rivers.

Scoop it. Bag it. Trash it.

Logos for participating organizations: SKAGIT Conservation District, MOUNT VERNON, BURLINGTON, Port of Skagit, and Oak Harbor.

FIGHT F.O.G.
Help Keep Fats, Oil & Grease Out of Your Drain.

Prevent Sewer Backups in Your Home, Business & Neighborhood

360-856-1100
www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

©2017 Goldstreet

THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH

CLOG

Maxi pads & tampons/applicators
Cotton swabs & hair
Dental floss & whitening strips
Kitty litter & condoms
Baby & cleaning wipes
Bandages & OTC medications

Protect Your Family and Pets from Sewer Backups and Overflows!

360-856-1100
www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

Meet Your City Employees



Chelan Meyer
ACCOUNTING CLERK

SEDRO-WOOLLEY IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL TOWN which makes me thankful to have lived here all my life! I am so happy to be a part of a great and fun team in my new position as Accounting Clerk in the Finance Department.

I was raised on a 50-acre farm with my parents and three brothers. Over the years my brothers moved on, leaving the farm, however I stayed on, enjoying farm life. I love every minute of it!

My fiancé' Bryan and I are taking over the farm from my parents so they can relax and enjoy a life of retirement. Every year we raise animals to butcher for feeding ourselves and selling to customers. We keep a variety throughout the year of beef, pork, lamb, goat, rabbit, and chickens, as well as a small garden. Bryan and I love to continue learning about farming and expanding the farm a bit more each year.

When we are not farming we enjoy traveling to local and distant barrel race competitions where I compete with my painted rescue horses. We also enjoy, fishing and crabbing, mushroom hunting, rodeo and spending time with family & friends.



Debbie Burton
FINANCE DIRECTOR

I AM SO BLESSED TO SERVE THE CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY as your Finance Director. In my prior position I worked for the City of Snohomish for over 14-years, first as economic development manager and then as finance director. In 2019 my husband, Darrell

and I purchased a piece of property in LaConner in hopes of someday building our dream home. While we were working from home during the past year we decided why wait for someday let's build now! We are looking forward to moving in to our home in October.

I earned my degree in Business Administration with an accounting major and computer science minor from Montana Technological University in my home town of Butte, MT. After graduating I moved to Washington and spent a few years as a CPA in an accounting firm and then transitioned to non-profit and government staff career positions. In Sedro-Woolley I

have the privilege to lead a fantastic finance team. The finance department is going through some transition as two long-time staff members have retired and Serena Mynatt has been promoted to Deputy Clerk. Christine Salseina and Teresa Nesheim will be missed but I wish them all the best in their new seasons of life. I am excited to welcome Diane Jones as our new utility billing clerk, Jeanine Goss, as our payroll-human resources assistant accounting clerk and Chelan Meyer as our part-time accounting clerk. Trina Wolfe and Carole Knipper round out the talented staff. I'm really enjoying serving the residents of this community and watching their visions become a reality such as a growing business district, improved infrastructure or new services to support growth like the beautiful new library.

I enjoy the Seahawks, country music concerts, camping, and travel but most of all spending time with my grandchildren. I look forward to exploring and learning more about this wonderful city and finding ways to get involved in completing the community's vision. I encourage you to reach out to me if you want to learn more about the city's finances



Nicole McGowan
ASSISTANT CITY PLANNER

IF YOU'RE EVER OUT HIKING ON THE WEEKEND, keep an eye out for me on the trails of the North Cascades, because that's most likely where you will find me – or I may be in the garden of my new house on Pacific St. – or out making friends with people in

town. I'm learning all the best ways to spend life in Sedro-Woolley because as of September 1, this is now the place I call home.

In the short time that I've spent here, this place has already given me so many firsts. I completed my first internship here doing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and environmental education with Seasoned Harvest. I made a lot of connections with people from Sedro-Woolley and participated in the Farmers Market that year, which gave me the chance to

experience the community here in Sedro-Woolley. I absolutely loved it. It reminded me a lot of Arlington, where I originally call home. I graduated in June of 2020 from Western Washington University with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies (minors in Urban Planning and Geography) and, soon after, was offered my first job as a professional city planner here! I was ecstatic to be accepted onto the team and work in this city that I'd already grown to love. I love it so much that I decided to move here, purchasing my very first home, which I am incredibly excited about. I've even taken up kickboxing with Livewire MMA in town – something I've never done before but it really is a ton of fun!

I can't wait to learn all the ropes of planning and build new relationships with all the friendly people I've been so lucky to meet. I'm all about meeting new people and trying new things so, please, come introduce yourself and share any tips on places to go or things to do around here. I'd love to make a new friend.

OLMSTED PARK

Development Project Nearing Fund Raising Goals

BY NATHAN SALSEINA, PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS DIVISION MANAGER

The 14.8-acre city owned property will soon become the city's newest destination park thanks to a significant fundraising boost in addition to grant funding received from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The \$500,000 HUD grant will go towards phase two of the project which includes building an onsite caretaker's residence, a playground, and several covered picnic buildings. The funding was secured through Congressman Rick Larsen's office. Other sources of funding that have been secured for the project includes a \$500,000 grant through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, and local contributions from the Port of Skagit County and the City of

Sedro-Woolley Park Impact Fee Fund. Every time a new single-family residence, apartment, or condo is built in the city, the builder is required to pay what's called a park impact fee which is meant to help the city grow its park and public spaces inventory as the city's population grows.

Phase one of the project which will include grading and drainage, utilities, parking, restrooms, and walking pathways is in final design, and is on track for a spring 2022 ground-breaking and completion in fall 2022. Once complete, this park will become a destination, with similar picnic facilities and amenities to Riverfront Park. The signature feature of the new park will be Thompson Pond, which is open year-round for youth fishing, and is home

to the Wildcat Steelhead Club Fishing Derby. The Skagit Trail Builders is also working on invasive ivy removal and restoration around the banks of the pond. Once restoration work is complete, there will be a looped walking trail around the perimeter of the pond that will also serve as fishing access. As our city and community continue to grow, the development and care for parks and open spaces will continue to be a priority for the city.

For more information on the project, please contact: Nathan Salseina, Public Works Operations Division Manager at nsalseina@sedro-woolley.gov, or by phone at 360-855-0771



PeaceHealth United General Medical Center Acute Rehabilitation Center

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CARE TWO YEARS AND GROWING

BY SHARON RUTHERFORD, UGMC'S DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL SERVICES

CARING FOR COMMUNITY. Three clinician leaders—Angela Kok, RN, Nurse Manager; Scott Buckingham, OT, Program Director; and Janessa Chang, MD, Medical Director for the PeaceHealth United General Acute Rehabilitation Center (ARC)—agree this is their focus.

It's been two years since the 10-bed, private-room rehabilitation center opened its doors to serve the Sedro-Woolley and North Sound Community. One of just 11 acute rehab facilities in the state of Washington, ARC has since cared for 392 patients – proudly returning 86 percent of them safely back to their homes and community environments – and expanded the complexity and diversity of services. The program has grown to offer care for patients with a wide variety of debilitating conditions such as mild traumatic brain injuries, traumatic spinal cord injuries, physical weakness or sensory problems, and limb amputations.

Patients transition to ARC as early as one week following hospitalization, which is a critical time for patient healing, both physically and psychologically. "It's important that a compassionate and trained staff is ready to guide the patient," Chang says. "The nurses and therapists work collaboratively to see that patients take care of their 'whole body.' It's rewarding to see their daily progress."

ARC's steady growth underscores the need for local acute inpatient rehabilitation services. The center's beds have been consistently occupied since opening in July 2019, in part due to the presence and integration within



Scott Buckingham, OT, Program Director; Janessa Chang, MD, Medical Director; and Angela Kok, RN, Nurse Manager for the PeaceHealth United General Acute Rehabilitation Center (ARC)

the referring medical community. It's a tenet of ARC's approach to have a community presence, and it's these relationships that support care and successful transitions back home. "Our smaller physical environment has better staff-to-patient ratios and an encouraging, family feel that directly benefits our patients," says Buckingham. "Patients find incredible support from the care team, visiting family members and peer-to-peer support from fellow patients." Chang agrees, adding that she also appreciates how staff are deeply invested in their patients' accomplishments.

The ARC received a three-year Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities accreditation on its first attempt – a huge accomplishment that demonstrates the commitment of this team. And

in September 2021, ARC—one of just 11 acute rehabilitation facilities in Washington state--was ranked No. 4 in the state in *Newsweek's* annual rankings of rehab facilities.

ARC is continually looking for ways to grow and improve. In early fall, the ARC nursing staff will take classes to become certified as rehabilitation registered nurses.

Celebrating two years and these program milestones, Buckingham and Kok say they feel grateful to lead the ARC program and its exceptional team of caregivers, and to advocate on behalf of patients and the staff caring for them.

"It's what brings us to work each day," says Kok, "Like our patients, we are part of this small community. We want it to be healthy – to thrive – and we are invested and committed to its success."

We Should All Take the Boy Scout Oath

BY PETE HALDEEN

IN 1966 WALT DISNEY RELEASED THE FILM *FOLLOW ME, BOYS!* starring Fred MacMurray as a Boy Scout troop leader, with Vera Miles as his love interest and Kurt Russell as the “bad boy” whom they adopted. *Follow Me, Boys!* was both panned and praised for being a folksy, cliché-ridden, irrelevant, but charming movie about the Boy Scouts at a time when America was experiencing race riots, the Black Panther party was formed, US troops in Vietnam topped 200,000, and Grace Slick joined *Jefferson Airplane*.

Despite its naiveté, *Follow Me, Boys!* illustrates an important truth, that good character and personal responsibility are essential elements of a healthy society, and are taught through a tradition of leadership and example. Fred MacMurray’s character was the model of a good man quietly making a difference in a small town, acting as a mentor by helping boys to develop good character and moral values through scouting and public service. In this tradition, three scouts recently made a much-needed public service contribution to Sedro-Woolley.

Trey Lucker, Cannon Lucker, and Tim Duvall, of Troop 4067, BSA America, painted and restored Engine No. 2 of the Puget Sound and Baker River Railway, and the tender, caboose, and deck, located at the intersection of Cook Road and SR 20. The train was in rough shape and needed the attention. Their contribution to our community was part of their path to becoming Eagle Scouts, the highest rank in scouting. To become an Eagle Scout, the Scout must earn 21 merit badges, demonstrate an ideal attitude based upon the Scout values and oath, and demonstrate service and leadership. The Scout must complete a major public service project that the Scout plans and performs for their community. Only 4% of all Scouts reach this level of leadership. It is a substantial accomplishment.

Trey Lucker painted the engine and tender with fresh black paint. Cannon Lucker painted the red caboose. They are the latest in their family to complete their Eagle projects. Scouting has been a tradition in this retired military family. Their fellow troop member, Tim Duvall, replaced rotten boards on the deck around the caboose, pressure washed and stained the deck. He started Scouting as a Cub Scout. The entire project took about three weeks to complete.

Boy Scouts of America, now BSA America, was founded in 1910, three years before the “Two-Spot” engine was built. The locomotive is a 1913 Baldwin 4-6-0 engine and was Engine No. 2 of the Puget Sound and Baker River Railroad. It was



BSA of America Scouts left to right: Tim Duvall, Trey Lucker and Cannon Lucker



donated to the City of Sedro-Woolley in the 1950s by Scott Paper, which acquired it as part of the assets of the Lyman Timber Company. It and other steam locomotives were used in logging operations in Skagit County through the 1940s, when they were fully replaced by logging trucks. Engine No. 2 was relocated to Bingham Park, and at least two generations of children climbed into the engineer’s cab and tender and walked the catwalks of a real steam locomotive from their grandparents’ era. The city’s insurance company was probably horrified, and the engine was moved and fenced off to protect us from ourselves. It is an important artifact of our city’s industrial history.

All of these teenagers have family support for Scouting. Tim’s mother, Becky Duvall, believes that “Eagle [Scout] is a great activity. But kids are not involved in it as much as they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

IMAGINE: *Sedro on the Skagit, 1880s*

BY SHARON HOWE, RESEARCH LIBRARIAN SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM

Riverfront Park is a good place to imagine Sedro-Woolley's first incarnation as a town. You must exercise your imagination mightily because dams and other flood control measures have changed the meandering Skagit River, just as long-term use of the site for the Sedro-Woolley garbage dump changed the land's shape and elevation.

A few settlers had taken up homesteads in the vicinity by 1884, when town founder, Mortimer Cook, traveled up the Skagit by sternwheeler in search of his next fortune. At age 58, he had made and lost several fortunes, the most recent at Santa Barbara, California, where Cook built a bank and served two terms as mayor. After his bank failed in 1878, he spent several years rebuilding his fortune, then sold his holdings for \$10,000 (more than \$250,000 in 2021 dollars) and headed north looking for a new enterprise. A former business partner, John Warner, suggested he look at opportunities for a lumber business on the Skagit, where homesteaders were ready to sell land for a town site, timber, and a shingle mill.

If you imagine yourself visiting the town that Cook initially called Bug in June 1885, you will arrive by sternwheeler at a wharf, where you will see Cook's typical false-front store and post office, with one difference. He wanted his town to look more prosperous, so he had a window installed in the false second story. Next door to the west you will see a neat white cottage, which was home to Cook's newly-arrived family: his wife, Nancy, and teenage daughters, Nina and Faerie. These buildings are believed to have been in the vicinity of the amphitheater and barbecue pits at today's Riverfront Park.

If you imagine a return trip in 1886, you will land at an expanding town that is



By 1889, these are some of the business buildings that had been added to the east of Mortimer Cook's 1885 store. The Bank Exchange, belying its name, was a gambling hall, hotel, tavern, and most likely the town's first brothel. Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Fredricks had it built about 1886. Note the butcher shop to the left and a building under construction to the right. The town was built on pilings to help protect against regular flooding from the Skagit River.



Mortimer Cook's general store and post office and his family's home next door, both built in 1885 by carpenter, David Beatty. Just visible at left in front of the house is Cook's 16-year-old daughter, Nina, on her pony. In her diary, she wrote enthusiastically about her pony and her boat to row on the Skagit.

now called Sedro. After residents made it clear they did not wish to have their mail addressed to Bug, Cook wanted to name his town Cedar, but there were other post offices by that name. The Spanish word for cedar, Cedro, also was taken, so he changed it to Sedro in his quest for a unique name.

On this trip, imagine a large shingle mill to the west, complete with dry kiln. Cook saw the possibilities of the shingle market, but he wanted to ship them East by the Northern Pacific, which had arrived at Tacoma. He knew freight rates would not allow a profit outside the regional market unless he could reduce the weight of the shingles. Cook negotiated a rate with the railroad to profitably ship kiln-dried shingles by steamer and rail to the Eastern market.

To the east, imagine more frame buildings housing new businesses. The buildings and mill you see at Sedro owe their existence to the carpentry skills of an earlier arrival, David Batey, who already had built his substantial home and a hospital between Sterling and Sedro for his wife, Dr. Georgiana Batey. In addition to the Cooks and the Bateys, you meet business people and homesteaders from the area, as well as new arrivals at the steamboat landing looking for their own fortunes. Many stayed to build Sedro-Woolley from the start that was made at what later was commonly known as Old Sedro.



Portraits of the Cook Family made in 1874 before Mortimer set off for the Skagit. Faerie was 15 and Nina was 14. Top: Mortimer Cook and Nancy Cook, Bottom (left to right): Faerie Cook and Nina Cook

For a more detailed history of the founding, growth and death of Old Sedro, visit the Sedro-Woolley Museum's exhibits on the town's founders and builders. To delve more deeply into the history, visit the Museum's Research Library. Among its collections is the 1885-1886 diary of Nina Cook, who was 16 when she arrived at Sedro. She describes the trip from California, as well as her new home and the people she met there.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

used to be". It does seem that Scouting, as well as Girl Scouts, Camp Fire and similar programs, are less popular today than in the past. Still, we owe these teenagers, Trey, Cannon and Tim, a big thank you. We hope that they continue to be involved in our communities after scouting, and perhaps in civic leadership positions, such as elective office.

Times have changed. Fifty-five years after *Follow Me, Boys!* premiered, a mob of Americans attacked police and stormed the US Capital building to reverse an election. Civic education and public service have never been as important as they are

today. Character-building activities such as scouting are based on the premises that *values can be taught*, and that *public service by men and women of good character is an essential civic duty*. As citizens, we are responsible for the choices we make about our city and country, and we have responsibilities to our community. These principles are at the core of Western civilization and are as old as Plato's *Republic*. They are also essential American values when we rise to the occasion. You cannot learn moral values and civic responsibility from Tik-Tok or the Tinder app. Thank God for the ideals of the BSA America, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, and 4-H Clubs.



HALLOWEEN • OCTOBER 31 TRUNK FOR TREATS

The Chamber is organizing this event at 4:00 pm
on Woodworth Street between the Post Office and Museum.

Public participation is welcomed to help hand about 500 pieces of whatever! It doesn't have to be candy, it can be small toys, crayons, pencils, things that kids enjoy. Please keep in mind not to pass out small hard objects to those little goblins under 3- years old, we don't want any choking going on. This Halloween will be different from previous years and COVID-19 protocols may require us to cancel the event. At this time, we have received a tentative okay from Skagit County Health Department, but they recommend everyone wear a mask (and we are not talking Halloween masks). Merchants will generally be closed so we are asking folks and service clubs to jump in and make sure our kid have fun.

Please visit the Chamber website for up-to-date information on the event www.sedro-woolley.com

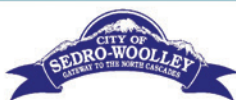
Auto Pay: Sign Up Today...

AND NEVER MISS ANOTHER PAYMENT!

It is hassle-free—set it up once and
never think about your bills again.



xpress BILL PAY



Login or create an account at www.xpressbillpay.com to sign up today!

• It's FREE!

Xpress Bill Pay does not charge you anything for the Auto Pay service.

• Fast set-up

It takes only a couple of minutes to set up you're Auto Pay. We make it simple, fast and easy!

• Multiple Payment Methods

Use your credit card, debit card or checking account.

• Regular Notifications

You will receive an email when your bills are ready and when they are paid. No need to respond to these emails—we just want to keep you informed.

• Real-time

Your payments are in real-time and posted with the same date you set your payment date.

• Flexible Payment Days

You are in control. Choose the payment date that works best for you.

• Expired Credit Cards

We notify you via email 30 days before your card expires.

• Secure

Your account and payment information are securely encrypted and in compliance with all industry security standards.

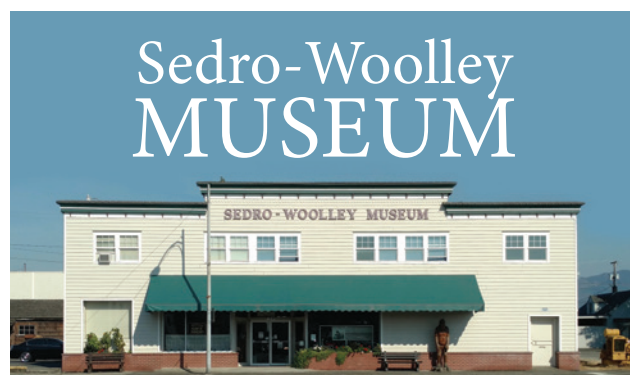


VETERANS DAY PARADE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

The traditional Veterans Day Parade put on by Mary Purcell Elementary and Central Elementary schools will take place on November 10 at 9:45 am. The parade will assemble in front of Central Elementary at 6th Street and Talcott to begin the parade. Joining the elementary schools will be the High School marching band and both the Sedro-Woolley Fire Department and Police Department will provide support and escort along the parade route. Veterans, parents and family are welcome to participate.

PARADE ROUTE:

West on Talcott Street • North on Metcalf Street
East on W Ferry Street • South on Puget Street
East on Talcott Street • Back to Schools



The Sedro-Woolley Museum and Gift Shop is now welcoming visitors Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from noon to 3:00 pm. Current rules require masks and social distancing. Admission is by donation: suggested \$3.00 adults; \$2.50 children and seniors. We offer new and refurbished exhibits to enjoy and new merchandise and books in the Gift Shop.

The Museum is planning Christmas season events in December, with complete information and plans to be announced.

The second annual Meet Santa at the Museum event will be scheduled to coincide with other community Christmas events. Chad Lindberg will once again present the popular Spirits of Christmas Past. Specific information and dates will be announced as plans can be firmed up.

With the uncertainties this season, please contact the Museum or check the website and Facebook for up-to-date information.

The Research Library is open by appointment. Mail and e-mail research requests will be answered. For appointments call the Museum or Sharon Howe at 360-854-9814.

THE SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM

725 Murdock Street
Phone: (360) 855-2390

e-mail: swmuseum@comcast.net

web: sedro-woollemuseum.com

Facebook: [@WoolleyMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/WoolleyMuseum)

Instagram: [sedrowoollemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/sedrowoollemuseum)



We ask that you help those in need.

Please check with local charities like Helping Hands Food Bank, and the Boys and Girls Club to name a few.

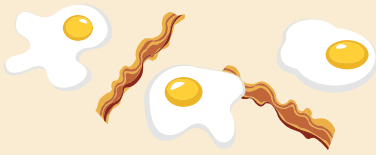
The Chamber will be closed until Monday, November 29.

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.



EVENTS



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



PHOTO CREDIT: ANDY PORTER / ANDYPORTERIMAGES.COM

Join the fun **Saturday, December 4 at 5:00 pm**
for the traditional **TREE LIGHTING** event
followed by our celebrated **CHRISTMAS PARADE**.
We kindly request that those in attendance mask up for
everyone's safety.

Due to the ongoing risks
associated with the
Covid 19 pandemic
some of the regularly
scheduled holiday and
seasonal events are on
hold. Please check
with the Sedro-Woolley
Chamber of Commerce
www.sedro-woolley.com
for up to date event
information.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 11 • 8:30–11:00 am
Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific Street

Hosted by Preceptor Alpha Omega
chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. Kids enjoy a
FREE breakfast of pancakes, sausage links,
fruit, milk or juice (parents by donation).
Santa will be on hand to talk with each
child, please feel free to bring your camera
for pictures.

*Note: Should COVID restrictions change
we will alter our plans and provide a drive
thru/take out sack breakfast.*

SPONSORED BY the Hampton Inn and
Suites, Rallye Auto, Fisher & Sons, Oliver
Hammer Clothes Shoppe, Sedro-Woolley
Family Dental, Lemley Chapel, Janicki
Industries and Marathon Petroleum.



L-R: Marge Swint,
Sharon Dillon, Marlene
Klein, Debbie Allen,
Audrey Mattingly getting
ready to cook.