



NEWS

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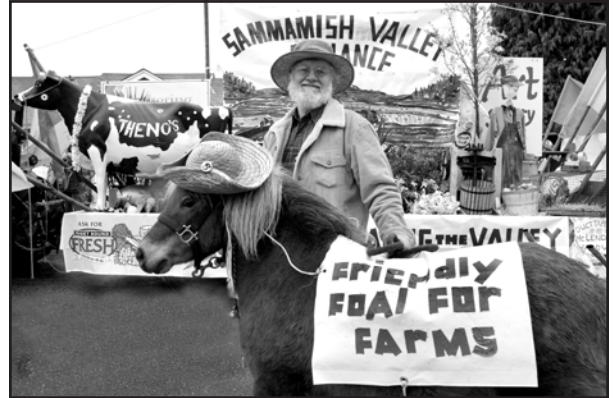
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All Fools Day Parade and the Sammamish Valley Alliance

Shaking up our lovely valley is the new "Sammamish Valley Alliance" (SVA). Their prize-winning "Best Overall Entry" Float in the Woodinville All Fools Day Parade was a delightful introduction of the group to Woodinville. A giant yellow chicken reputed to be Tom Quigley of Olympic Nursery was at the helm of a tractor-towed flatbed with the famous Theno's cow standing proudly in the fore. A lovely mural by the Woodinville Artists Association, which upon close examination was found to be constructed of McLendon Hardware's duct tape, graced the sides of the float. There were flags, fruit and fresh produce from the Valley followed by native plants reclaimed by Sammamish River Stewards, and lambs and chickens from the Red Barn Farm and Sammamish Valley 4H.



Sammamish Valley Alliance steering committee member Ron Baum with his trusty steed Ricky at the Woodinville All Fools Day Parade
 - Photo by Lincoln Potter

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Muller Farm and 60 Acres South Park

King County plans to sell 60 Acres South parkland to Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association have been scrapped in favor of a long-term lease arrangement similar to what the soccer association already has on 60 Acres North. The soccer club has plans for an additional 7 fields (approximately), a picnic area and parking on the property.

According to county officials, this arrangement would include provisions to provide opportunities for other users, such as the soaring society, cub scouts and dog racers, access to the park. It also puts to rest some concerns expressed about the appropriateness of selling a public park to a private entity.

Meanwhile, the related plans for the soccer club to sell the Muller farm to Lake Washington Technical College and King County appear to be on track. The farm is located south of N.E. 124th street between Willows Road and the Sammamish River.

The college plans to use the farm for its horticulture programs that focus on small farm techniques and organic farming. It intends to purchase the largest parcel of the farm, 53 acres, while King County is stepping in and purchasing the smaller 7 acre parcel, which includes the farm buildings, abutting Willows Road. The intent is to keep the farm functionally whole, land and infrastructure, to support the farm's long term viability. Since the college does not currently have the resources to purchase both parcels, the county intends to lease the buildings to the college until funds become available.

If the purchase goes forward, the HHA is hopeful that this will be the final chapter in a 12 year battle to uphold farmland protections in the south end of the valley.

Letter from the President

Defense of our rights requires accepting responsibilities

As I sit in my son's junior high gymnasium, the 7th grade band members are busy setting up to play for the 6th graders' orientation. I watch these young people going about their voyages of discovery, learning to participate in their community, and I wonder what kind of community we are going to leave to them.

So far, our region and, notably, our Hollywood Hill neighborhood have done better jobs than most in accommodating growth while preserving the community qualities that attract us to live here. Our mix of urban and rural elements happened not by chance but by decades of local citizen efforts to leave a better legacy for our community than the typical patterns of sprawl development.

An immediate threat to such local empowerment is the looming Developer's Initiative (I-933). The benefactors of this statewide initiative are actively gathering signatures to get it on the November ballot. It is being marketed as a defense of private property rights, but it would really have the opposite effect. Designed by big development interests, it would gut our efforts, past and future, to manage growth in communities across our state.

Much is made of rights in this country, and appropriately so. Our nation was founded on the concept of inalienable rights. These students buzzing around me, in addition to academics, are also learning that citizenship demands responsibilities along with the exercise of their rights.

Meanwhile, the promoters of I-933 love to talk about rights, but they skip any sober talk of responsibility. The fundamental idea embodied in their initiative is that society should pay citizens for upholding the responsibilities that accompany their rights. But no society can stand if it must pay its citizens to respect one another and the laws.

In a free society, the exercise of our rights incurs the responsibility to respect the rights of those around us. This naturally involves certain limits to our actions as well as recourse when others overstep theirs.

Concerning property, when the effects of our actions stay on our property, we are generally given free rein. But when actions negatively affect the neighbor downwind, downstream or the community at large, then that neighbor and community have a right to defend their property rights by addressing the infringement. In civilized society, we do that through zoning and codes enforced by our local municipality.

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•••Dues•••

Check the top line of your address label to see if your dues are current. If you have not sent in your dues for the current year, an envelope and application form are included in your newsletter. Dues are \$25 per calendar year.

Visit your community web site for more on these and other issues affecting our community.

www.hollywoodhillassoc.org

YOUR ASSOCIATION

The Hollywood Hill Association is a private, state nonprofit corporation, formally chartered in 1976. We are an all volunteer, community based organization, dedicated to the preservation of our community character.

President Mike Tanksley: 483-2529
Vice President Mark Castro: 481-4835
Secretary Jan Hunt: 806-0118
Treasurer Mary Hoshizaki: 402-1216
Directors Karen Mackie: 483-0889
Marsha Martin: 883-8561
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Ron Baum: 806-8044
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Website www.hollywoodhillassoc.org

The HHA is managed by a 9-member Board of Directors. Elections are held by mail each autumn at the time of the HHA annual membership meeting. The existing Board selects candidates from those volunteers who have demonstrated a willingness to actively contribute to the HHA and who support its goals. Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of each month at the homes of Board members. The Board welcomes HHA members who wish to attend these meetings as long as prior arrangement has been made. Because these are business meetings, space availability and legal issues may require closed meetings from time to time. Contact any Board member if you are interested in attending.

All Fools Day Parade

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SVA is a non-profit organization that wishes to promote local, sustainable small-farm agriculture and community building activities in the Valley between Woodinville and Redmond. In less than a year, they have gone from a steering committee with a dream to an organization with a mission.

The hugely successful first SVA event was the 2005 Fall Harvest Tour and deliciously-fresh pot-luck dinner held in conjunction with the King County Harvest Farm Tour. Attendees to their following event, the Winter Solstice Light Evening Celebration, followed luminaria flames to the Woodinville Heritage Garden where they were treated to home-made cookies around a warm campfire. There were sweet strains of seasonal fiddle music and hot cider on a toasty woodstove in the little old cabin. In spite of the gentle rain, a gorgeous warm campfire and lots of candle light and laughter made it a lovely memorable evening.

The group is now holding regular monthly meetings of the SVA. At our last meeting, people gathered to discuss

by-laws and the myriad possibilities the SVA holds in store. SVA has the support of many organizations including the Sammamish Valley Grange #286 and the Woodinville Chamber of Commerce. SVA creates opportunities for networking between farmers, residents, businesses, organizations, and government through quarterly community gatherings, the SVA website and events. Membership is open to local businesses, individuals and groups dedicated to fostering a lifestyle celebrating our agricultural heritage and connection to the land. It aims to encourage stewardship of our resources and takes steps to ensure that small farm agriculture has a place in the socio-economic fabric of the Sammamish Valley. Meetings are held at 7 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at the Sammamish Valley Grange Hall, 14654 148th Ave N.E. (just north of the Hollywood Schoolhouse). Call 425-806-8044 for more info.

Now, more than ever, SVA needs your support. Please join, attend a meeting and find your place in our community. The Summer Solstice Event will fall near the end of June. Come join in the fun!

School Community Service Project Opportunities

Our local high schools now have requirements for students to complete a certain number of community service hours to meet graduation requirements. The HHA has several opportunities for students to earn some hours and help keep our community more livable in the process.

Potential projects include (1) organizing a roadside clean up, (2) building and installing signs/maps along certain trails, (3) general trail maintenance, and (4) native plant restoration in our 10 Acre Woods trail system or in Gold Creek Park. Various members of HHA have experience that they would be happy to share with your student(s) in helping to structure their projects.

For more information, contact: Mike Tanksley 483-2529

Letter From the President

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I-933 would effectively destroy much of the ability of local municipalities to defend our property rights through enforcement of our laws.

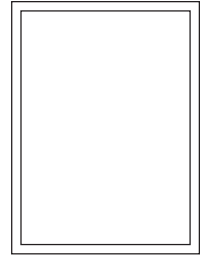
The promoters of I-933 paint it as being all about the small guy, grandmas and apple pie. The reality is that it would create a loophole for big land speculators and LA-style sprawl developers who don't want the bother of respecting local community concerns.

With the slick advertising and paid signature gatherers that big money is putting into the I-933 campaign, this selfish initiative has a chance to make the ballot. If so, we, the voters, will have the last word in November. Washington voters strongly rejected a similar effort 10 years ago. Our best interests will be well served if that wisdom continues to carry the day this time around.

The band is about to strike up a tune. Music is much like our accommodation of growth: if uncoordinated, it results in an grating cacophony. But a sense of common purpose and ability to play through mistakes without throwing away the music will carry us to a more agreeable place. Let's bury this misguided Initiative and play on.

Michael Tanksley

*Hollywood Hill Association
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CHECK YOUR LABEL -- ARE YOUR DUES CURRENT?



E-News from the HHA

*We are continuing to build an email list for anyone who would like to receive the newsletter electronically and for disseminating timely alerts about events that affect our community. Rest assured that the list will remain confidential and that we will minimize community notices. If you would like to be on the list, send a note to our webmaster at: **taylorfamilyfive@comcast.net***



Photo by Lincoln Potter