

Peace tree

Surviving atomic bomb seeds from Hiroshima brought to Oregon

See PAGE 10



Musical prodigy

Lu shares her love of the Chinese Dulcimer and Guzheng

See PAGE 13

January 2020
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Happy Valley NEWS

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HAPPY (VALLEY)

New Year



NEW BEGINNINGS

Happy Valley has great plans ahead for 2020

January brings the beginning of a new year and decade for Happy Valley and I am excited for what's to come.

With the support of City Council and our amazing team of dedicated staff members, the City made many strides in 2019 that will lead to investments in infrastructure, improve livability, and create the groundwork for future happenings. In the past year, the City successfully launched or completed a myriad of projects that are worthy of highlighting. These activities include:

- Established funding for future investments in transportation infrastructure, parks, housing opportunities, and a downtown through a tool

called Urban Renewal.

- Broke ground with the Superblock Sidewalk Project that will create contiguous sidewalks linking sections of Ridgecrest and 132nd and King Road and 147th, establishing better traffic flow and safer means to traverse this area by foot and bike.

- Established a new community tradition with an annual Oktoberfest, a family centric festival that joined forces with our City's beloved Harvest Fest gathering.

- Partnered with Rotary of Clackamas to fund and build an All Abilities Park, an inclusive play area that all kids can enjoy regardless of ability, age, or social status.

See NEW YEAR / Page 4



Mayor Tom Ellis taps the ceremonial firkin at 2019's inaugural Oktoberfest. The occasion is the newest addition to the City's community event line up and was just one of many highlights from the year. As 2020 unfolds, Mayor Ellis wants to wish all residents a Happy New Year.



Culture celebration creates connections

Annual Happy Valley Elementary School event teaches kids about diversity

By SHELLEY MCFARLAND

On Dec. 10, Happy Valley Elementary School Cougars enjoyed a day of learning and honoring cultures from around the world. Students set up booths and gave presentations during the morning assembly and throughout the day. All students participated and numerous cultures were represented.

The idea for the event was planted a few years back when two HVES students and English Language Development Specialist Kelsey Easterly were invited to present at Lot Whitcomb's Cultural Connection Day. The three were impressed with the event and decided to orga-

See CULTURE / Page 16



At the second annual Culture Day, students (seen here dressed in traditional clothing) gave presentations to both students and parents about various cultures.

PHOTO BY: SHELLEY MCFARLAND

THE POWER OF HOPE

Chaplain Mike Vermace serves community through caring, compassion

By SHELLEY MCFARLAND

Mike Vermace just might be the nicest man in Happy Valley. On any given day, the chaplain is helping Clackamas County first responders and citizens mitigate the challenges of hardship.

Vermace, a 1987 Gresham High School graduate, started his college career at San Jose (Califor-

nia) Christian College (now William Jessup University). Originally, he wanted to study forensic pathology, joking that he watched too many episodes of "Quincy, M.E." as a kid, but decided to major in pastoral studies instead.

While in college, Vermace worked in a funeral home and as a youth pastor. While at the funeral home, he saw firsthand the importance of the delicate role filled by funeral directors, religious officials and first responders.

"In college, I thought I would go down the pathology route, but I

See COMPASSION / Page 14



Clackamas County Sheriff's Office chaplain Mike Vermace holds Boomer, a puppy he was recently gifted from a community member. Vermace volunteers to help first responders and citizens deal with traumatic situations.

PHOTO BY: MARCUS MANDOZA

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INSIDE

Calendar 7
City Council 4

Clackamas Fire 6
HV Police 13
Library 8-9

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Making the play

Former Raven Rashaad Carter teaches kids about football, life



Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Rashaad Carter now lives in Happy Valley where he offers personal training to football athletes through his company CarterFor6. The former NFL football player is a wide receiver coach at Clackamas High School. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

By SHELLEY MCFARLAND

Since he started playing tackle football at age 4, Rashaad Carter has been in love with the sport.

As he grew up, the wide receiver from Atlanta made a name for himself at Stephenson High School, a football powerhouse, and eventually landed with the Baltimore Ravens. Yet his road to success took unforeseen turns, which made Carter learn to appreciate his life more.

Carter said his father strongly influenced him to play football and succeed. For many years it was just the two of them, and his father started Carter in football early.

“Everybody was at least two years older than me when I started, but it helped me out down the road,” he said. “I watched guys like Deion Sanders and Jerry Rice. I was able to watch them in their prime, and I used to mirror my game to Randy Moss, he was my favorite receiver.”

During his high school years, Carter was on a team with numerous standout players and earned scholarship funds to play at Tusculum University in Tennessee, a D-2 school. Though he normally played quarterback, he was switched to wide receiver because he rarely dropped the ball due to his large hands, which easily palmed the football. After majoring in digital media, Carter was asked to play in an all-star game where numerous NFL scouts were in attendance.

“I was nervous because it was all D-1 guys, and I had the chance to play. But when I was out there, I knew I was supposed to be there. I only did two one-on-one reps and that’s when I was noticed. By the next morning, I had 16 NFL interviews,” Carter said. “That’s how I was in touch with the Ravens who called me in for a rookie camp, and it’s how I earned my spot.”

Carter signed with the Ravens in 2012 and quickly thereafter learned he had a heart murmur caused by mitral valve regurgitation. Because the blood was leaking back through the mitral valve, surgery was required. Carter said finding a surgeon to perform the operation was difficult because no one wanted to operate on someone so young; he was 22.

“Many doctors told me that I’d



Carter played one season for the Baltimore Ravens and subsequent years for arena football teams before landing in Oregon. He looks at life like a football game where players get tackled but get back up to try again, a philosophy he is teaching kids.

never play football again. I had to find a doctor to perform a surgery without cutting me down my chest, and there were only three doctors at the time who performed this robotic surgery. I found a doctor in California who had success with it on basketball players,” Carter said.

Six weeks after the surgery, the Ravens brought Carter back to training camp, but it was determined he needed much more time to heal.

“Coach (John) Harbaugh asked if I was ready to come back, and I told him I was, but the doctors weren’t sure I would be ready to take a hit. After the 2012 season, the Ravens signed me back and I played the 2013 season,” he said.

Carter’s season was short-lived, though he played numerous games. He was released from the Ravens and in 2014 Carter, who had never been to the West Coast, started a new career in arena football playing

for the Spokane Shock for two years.

“I liked arena football because the fans were right there, and you could really feel the energy in the arena,” he said.

After some changes in the league, Carter played for the Virginia Destroyers, South Carolina Ravens, Atlantic City Blackjacks and ended up in Oregon playing for Portland Steel. After playing a season on an injured ankle, while recuperating Carter was presented with an opportunity to coach youth basketball.

Because of his numerous sports contacts, he was put in touch with former Clackamas High School football coach Joe Bushman who offered him a coaching position. At the time, Carter was a substitute teacher for special-needs classrooms in the North Clackamas School District.

“It was a crazy turn of events, how I was able to meet people and

make relationships. I built a whole community around me out here by who I am and how I interact with people,” he said.

Now in his third year at CHS, Carter has extended his professional career as a trainer through his company CarterFor6 where he teaches speed, agility, catching technique, route running and efficiency, breaking press coverage, footwork and blocking in one-on-one or group sessions.

“I want the kids to know me as someone who would do anything for them. I coach them and have fun, but I kept it real with football and life. Growing up, the coaches I had were hard and pushed us to our limits, but they were honest with us,” he said. “That’s what I want to bring to the kids in this community because real life, it’s real. I’m not going to sugarcoat it. It’s about scoring in life.”

Carter said his reputation is help-

ing his business but wishes Oregon would adopt spring season football like in the South. He said that while there are numerous outstanding football players here, the South is ahead as far as signing players.

“One thing I can say is we’re behind here. There were 16 kids from Oregon that signed D-1 scholarships last year. In Georgia at my old high school, we were signing 20, just at my high school. One year they signed 32,” he said. “I’m trying to help out here to get the kids motivated and start with signing them early.”

Although he is training young athletes to be better football players, Carter spends time helping the kids navigate the difficulties of life. When he was 10 years old, he was next to his beloved grandmother when she died. The seminal moment gave Carter perspective that life is not always kind, but there are good moments awaiting everybody, and working hard will help kids realize their dreams.

In his spare time, Carter has volunteered at various kids’ camps, and one in particular for kids with heart conditions, which he said meant more to him because of his history.

“Life is not easy. I come at these kids with real-life situations. I want kids to know that football is a game of adjustments, like life. You’re not going to score on every play, you’re going to fumble or run out of bounds. There are different obstacles. But you huddle back up, figure out the next play and go out and execute it. I relate that to life,” Carter said.

“My obstacles were heart surgery, going to a Division 2 college over a Division 1 school, having to earn my spot and fighting to come back to play after people told me I wouldn’t, playing arena football and figuring out where to play after my team folded,” he said.

“Those were my obstacles, those were my tackles, and I got back up to score. I get up to score, not only in football, but in life.”

For more information, visit carterfor6.net or email Carter at Carter-for6@gmail.com.

Training sessions are \$30 for a single session or \$75 for three.

Community remembers William ‘Bill’ Bersie



An active member of the community, Bill Bersie passed away on Dec. 12. He will forever be remembered for his philanthropic spirit and love for the City.

City of Happy Valley

Last month, the City of Happy Valley lost one of our most dedicated volunteers. William Arthur “Bill” Bersie, of Happy Valley, OR passed away on Dec. 12, 2019 after a long battle with prostate cancer.

For nearly the entire decade, Bill served on the City’s Parks Advisory Committee where he brought a wealth of knowledge as a former Parks and Recreation Director in California. With his experience, Bill also represented the City on the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District Advisory Board and Milwaukie Community Center Board. Showing his passion for the City beyond parks and recreation, Bill served on the City’s Budget Committee for six years.

As an avid lover of sports and recreation, Bill was a strong advocate for the upgrades to Happy Valley Park in recent years, such as the resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts, upgrade of the boardwalk, and construction

of the All Abilities Playground. As a result of his passion and advocacy, Happy Valley is a better place.

Bill was born in San Francisco, CA on February 10, 1943. He graduated from San Francisco State and received his BS in Recreation Administration. After his college graduation, Bill served four years in the Army during the Vietnam war. On July 4th, 1987, Bill married Tomma in Ridgecrest, CA.

Bill worked as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City for Ridgecrest, CA for 29 years. He was responsible for establishing a variety of sports and enrichment programs such as, the Senior Center, youth sports, preschool programs, youth dance and gymnastics for the citizens of Ridgecrest until his retirement in 1997.

In 1997, he relocated with his wife to Vienna, VA. Bill soon came out of retirement and worked for a brief time for the City of Herndon in their Parks and Recreation program before taking on the position of Executive Director

for the McLean Community Center in McLean, VA. Bill continued to provide his leadership skills and down-to-earth approach to managing an important center for the McLean, VA community.

In 2006, he officially retired and moved with his wife to Happy Valley, OR. Upon relocating to the Portland area, it was important for Bill to find a community with nice parks, an active community with healthy government involvement. He found it in Happy Valley, OR and quickly fell in love with the people and the folks that managed the city. He loved volunteering for the City of Happy Valley.

Bill loved sports, especially baseball. He loved collecting baseball and sports memorabilia, going to baseball games, and was quick to adopt the Portland Trailblazers as his basketball team of choice. Besides his love of sports, Bill loved to travel and he adopted his wife’s love of animals. He loved taking his beloved dog, Kingsley, on long walks through the Happy Valley Park, where true to his nature, met lots of Happy Valley neighbors and their dogs.

Bill is survived by Tomma, his beloved wife and best friend of 32 plus years. He is also survived by his five children, Mike Bersie and his wife Stacie, their eight children; Lucinda Webb and her husband Dow, their two children; Don Hire and his wife Heather, their two children; Stephanie Morton and her son and Lisa Hire. Bill was the very proud of his 13 grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother, Marie and his step-father, Melvin Schubert and his beloved brother Richard Schubert and his wife Denise.

Bill also leaves behind his loving dog Kingsley who misses his daily walks with his “Dad”. Bill was proceeded in death by his brother, Terry Bersie and his father William Edward Bersie.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Friends of the Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek DR, Milwaukie, OR 97222, in memory of William A. Bersie. For information, please visit: <http://ncprd.com/milwaukie-center>



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Council Meetings are held
1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the
January at 7 p.m. at City Hall
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Superblock Sidewalk Groundbreaking

Despite a cold and rainy December day, we officially broke ground on the Superblock Sidewalk Project! Councilor Emami and I were joined by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Traffic and Public Safety Committee, as well as the principals of Happy Valley Elementary and Middle Schools for this important milestone.

Completing missing sidewalk gaps in the bowl of Happy Valley has been discussed for over a decade and I couldn't be more excited that work is now underway.

Providing better connections between neighborhoods, schools, and Happy Valley Park is important for livability and safety. The City Council and I have observed residents walking in the street to get to Summer Concerts and we've heard the concerns from residents about this at City Council Meetings. To that end, we directed our staff to coordinate plans and engineering designs to fill these critical sidewalk gaps.

As you might imagine, some sections of missing sidewalk are easier to complete than others. Often, completing sidewalk gaps is more complicated because it requires the movement of power lines, improvements to the storm drainage system, and



The groundbreaking celebration included from left to right: Traffic and Public Safety Vice Chair TJ Milashouskas, Happy Valley Middle School Principal Lajena Broadous, Traffic and Public Safety Chair Kevin Bailey, Happy Valley Elementary School Principal Heather Hull, City Councilor David Emami, and Mayor Tom Ellis.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



TOM ELLIS

minor road work. To get as much of the project completed as soon as possible, you will notice phasing of this overall project.

We broke ground on the first phase which will include completion of smaller gaps along Ridgecrest Road

and 132nd Ave. In addition, the City will be installing mid-block crossings on King Road next to the schools and on 145th Ave to connect neighborhoods.

I'm hopeful the City can complete additional phases this year. These re-

maining phases include a few of the longer stretches of sidewalk, bike lanes and road improvements. Much more coordination with adjacent property owners, the utility companies, and others is required to bring this overall package together.

New Year

■ From Page 1

■ Approved a settlement agreement with Clackamas County and the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) to resolve a two-year legal dispute over parks and recreation services.

■ Supported the passage of the City Police Levy which will increase the number of dedicated police officers keeping Happy Valley safe.

■ Continued community discussions that will help shape the future of the Pleasant Valley/North Carver Comprehensive Plan.

■ Improved the durability and appearance of City streets through projects like Slurry Seal and paving.

This list represents just some of the work the City has undertaken this past year. There have been numerous other projects carried out that the staff at City Hall, Public Works, and the Library have all contributed to or helped complete. Not only have the City staff made significant progress on the City Council's priorities, they continue to provide high quality customer service while processing a record number of requests from residents in the community. This team is hard at work throughout the year, often working after hours and coming in early to prepare for



committed to working with residents. I believe residents provide a wealth of ideas and perspective, and working in collaboration with the community is a major priority for me and the Council as this year moves forward. Happy Valley is a wonderful community because of the contributions of everyone who lives and works here and I am very proud to represent this city we call home.

As I look ahead to this exciting year, it's my hope for all residents, that 2020 is ultimately filled with opportunity and joy, and that we can celebrate another year together in this beautiful city.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

-Mayor Tom Ellis

community events. They spend countless hours talking to residents, listening to concerns, and finding ways to meet the needs of our community. It's truly the quality of their work, not just in the quantity, that impresses me most. This team is passionate

about what they do and enjoys helping those they serve.

I am committed to working with City Council to continue our efforts in the new year. Together, we are excited to keep the momentum going when it comes to projects and events in the works. I am also very



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A recent settlement will allow the City of Happy Valley and North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District the ability to move forward following a two-year legal dispute over parks and recreation services.

City and county reach settlement agreement on parks, contingent on legislation

City of Happy Valley

Last month, the City Council and the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, acting as the Board of Directors for the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) approved a settlement agreement that resolves a two-year legal dispute over parks and recreation services. This settlement is a monumental milestone that we have all been working towards since 2017. The agreement calls for both jurisdictions to collaboratively develop and

COUNCIL CORNER

support legislation that would remove Happy Valley from NCPRD in exchange for dropping all legal claims. Not only does this settlement provide certainty, it allows both parties to turn the page and focus on building new parks and providing great recreation programs and services to their respective residents. Specifically, the agreement includes:

- Clackamas County and Happy Valley will jointly develop and support legislation in the 2020 legislative session that will withdraw Happy Valley from the district and allow the City to become its own parks and recreation provider.
- Payment of \$14.3 million to City of Happy Valley. The funds for this payment will come from development fees generated in Happy Valley as well as a portion of the Hood View Park sale proceeds.
- Transfer of the following parks to City of Happy Valley, relieving NCPRD of ongoing maintenance and management costs
 - Southern Lites
 - Village Green
 - Ashley Meadows
 - District owned properties adjacent to Mt. Talbert
 - Hidden Falls
 - Mt. Scott Creek Trail
- Agreement from City not to withdraw properties currently inside

NCPRD boundaries if or when they annex to Happy Valley. Finally, the agreement ends several years of uncertainty and potential risks for both parties in ongoing litigation. State Representatives Janelle Bynum and Mark Meek were instrumental in recent negotiations, not just for their support of the legislation necessary to implement the agreement, but also for their commitment to our shared constituents and knowledge of the community. We would like to thank them for helping to resolve this matter. For questions, contact: Ben Bryant, Assistant City Manager, at benb@happyvalleyor.gov or 503-783-3840.

Happy Valley News staff



CITY WRITER
Stephanie Warneke
SWarneke@happyvalleyor.gov



COMMUNITY WRITER
Shelley McFarland
shelley.mcfarland@gmail.com

This publication is a partnership between Pamplin Media Group and the City of Happy Valley.



Publisher's Note: Happy Valley News is always on the lookout for story ideas and suggestions from our readership. If you know of an interesting local story or a person deserving of community recognition, please forward tips to afox@clackamasreview.com and include your name and phone number for contact information.



PUBLISHER
Angela Fox
afox@clackamasreview.com



ADVERTISING
Kathy Schaub
kschaub@clackamasreview.com
971-204-7779



ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Brittany Martin
bmartin@PamplinMedia.com



DESIGN
Molly Filler
mfiller@PamplinMedia.com

CREATIVE SERVICES:
Cheryl DuVal (manager), Dan Adams, Chris Fowler, Gary Jacobson, Dwayne Stowell, Paige Ta, Josh Bradley
**6605 S.E. Lake Road
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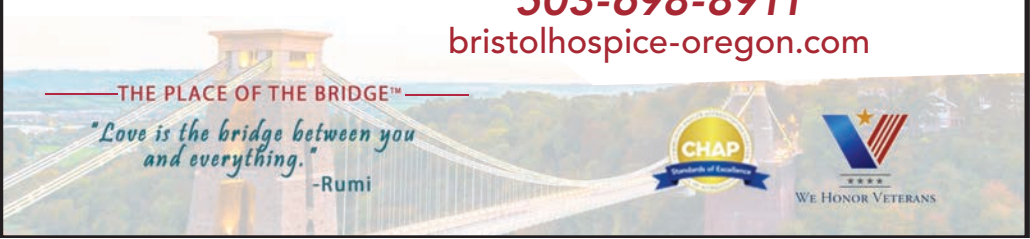
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The healing power of Tao calligraphy

City of Happy Valley

Dr. Rulin Xiu was born and raised in China. She received her doctorate degree from UC Berkeley in 1994 and is a world-renowned quantum physicist, well known for her scientific research.

She is also an entrepreneur, herbalist, singer, healer, avid gardener, and author. Her book, Tao Science is the result of her more than 20 years of work on the grand unification theory, a physics theory that proposes the four fundamental forces in nature (gravitational, mathematical, the weak interaction and the strong interaction) can all be linked. Xiu's research is highly complex and transcends physical science. Co-founder with Master Sha of the Soul Mind Body Science System, Xiu works at the forefront of this new ground-break-

TAO CALLIGRAPHY

Date: Thursday, Jan. 30, 6-7:45 p.m.

Location: Happy Valley Library Community Room
*Space is limited. Please sign up at the front desk to participate.



Dr. Rulin Xiu is renowned for her contributions to physics. Expanding beyond physical science, her work delves deeper, exploring what unifies science, spirituality, everyone, and everything at the most fundamental level.



With Tao Calligraphy, Dr. Xiu believes people can create deep change within themselves and others that promotes healing, health, and joy.

ness, and compassion. You simply must hone your skills and practice bringing positive information into your soul, heart, mind, and body.

In her upcoming presentation at the Happy Valley Library, Xiu will introduce Tao Calligraphy, a practice she contends holds a miraculous healing power. A unique one-stroke Chinese calligraphy, this ancient artform, according to Xiu, can help people heal deep pain and remove blockages in their health, relationships, finances, and even career. Attendees will have a chance to try the activity during the event which Xiu hypothesizes has the ability to bring more joy and peace due to its relaxing side effects.

With 2020 in full swing, this is a great opportunity to try something new. You never know, with an open heart, you may just find what you're looking for.

everyone and everything is created, and how one can become a creator and a manifestor. It is a science of grand unification, as it unifies science

with spirituality, and every aspect of life, at the most fundamental level."

For those of us who may not be as scientifically inclined as

Xiu, the gist of her current work is this: Everyone can manifest what they really want in life and develop their capacity for greater love, forgive-

Heating safety tips

Tips and tricks to prevent heating fires in your home

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths?

With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening. More cost-effective methods, such as the use of wood burning stoves, space heaters, and fireplaces may be the right choice for you and your family. However, they are a major contributing factor in residential fires with half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. These safety tips can help you create a fire safe home this winter:

- Keep anything that can burn at



least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.

- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and

chimneys cleaned and inspected annually, especially if it has not been used for some time, and always by a qualified professional.

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.

- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt re-



A warm fire or convenient space heater may be just what you need this winter, but remember to follow these vital safety tips.

pairs yourself unless you are qualified.


- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.

Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installa-

tion. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call Clackamas Fire District #1 or the gas company.



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– Michael Morrow
Happy Valley Resident & WES Advisory Committee Member

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THAT’S AMORE!

Local fundraiser celebrates 30 years in support of Meals on Wheels

City of Happy Valley

Break out the napkins and practice your pasta twirl because Italian Night is set for Jan. 25. A traditional spaghetti dinner will be the main attraction at the upcoming fundraiser which boasts an Italian Night theme and supports a worthy cause.

The event is celebrating 30 years and benefits the North Clackamas County Chapter of Meals on Wheels. As an independent Meals on Wheels distributor, the Milwaukie Center serves upwards of 200 meals every day and well over 65,000 meals per year. Those utilizing this program generally qualify for this assistance if they are homebound or unable to meet basic nutritional needs due to financial instability. The program, which prepares all meals in-house, serves many seniors in need throughout North Clackamas County, including Happy Valley.

Participating in this year’s event are four local senior living community chefs who will create a variety of offerings including antipasto, Italian sodas, Caesar salad and tiramisu. Also celebrating a milestone is the Milwaukie Center, which will observe its 40th anniversary year. Friends of Milwaukie Center will partner with Clackamas Rotary for Italian Night, so the profits will be felt region-wide!

30TH ANNUAL

ITALIAN

Night

AT THE MILWAUKIE CENTER

Gather under the twinkle lights of an Italian sky to enjoy authentic food, drinks and desserts!

Tickets will be available for purchase for a chance to win dozens of Italian-themed raffle items!

All proceeds benefit Milwaukie Center programs, Meals on Wheels and the Rotary Club of Clackamas.

Benvenuto!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

4-7 P.M.

Milwaukie Center

5440 SE KELLOGG CREEK DR., MILWAUKIE

ITALIAN NIGHT

Date: Saturday, Jan. 25

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Location: Milwaukie Center
5440 S.E. Kellogg Creek Drive,
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222

TICKETS:

Adults: \$12 (\$10 presale)

Kids under 12: \$5

Tickets can be purchased at the Milwaukie Center.

Italian Night will benefit the North Clackamas County Chapter of Meals on Wheels, a program that supports members of the community who are homebound or unable to meet basic food needs due to financial strain.



CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY

January 1 New Year’s Day: City Hall and Library CLOSED	January 21 City Council Work Session: 6 p.m. at City Hall Council Chamber
January 7 City Council Work Session: 6 p.m. at City Hall Council Chamber	City Council Meeting: 7 p.m. at City Hall Council Chamber
January 8 Happy Valley Youth Council Meeting: 6 p.m. at City Hall Council Chamber	January 22 HV Business Alliance Meeting: 7:30 a.m. at City Hall Council Chamber
January 9 Traffic and Public Safety Meeting: 7 p.m. at City Hall Council Chamber	January 23 Pleasant Valley / North Carver Community Advisory Council: 6 p.m. at City Hall Council Chamber
January 16 Public Art Committee Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at City Hall	January 28 Library Board Meeting: 6 p.m. at Happy Valley Library
January 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: City Hall CLOSED	January 29 Design Review Board: 7 p.m. at City Hall Council Chamber

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January 2020 Library Events

Happy New Year from the staff at Happy Valley Library

ADULT PROGRAMS

American Mah Jongg: Fridays, 1-4 p.m.
String-Along Acoustic Jam: Sundays, January 12 and 26, 2-5 p.m. Bring your acoustic guitar, fiddle, ukulele or other stringed instrument to the Happy Valley Library and share some tunes with other musicians.



◀ **Note Night:** Wednesday, January 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Enjoy some live music while you browse for books or sit and savor the sounds. This month features Natalia Hougen performing Russian and Gypsy folk songs and romances.

▲ **Genealogy Club:** Mondays, January 13 and 27, 2-4 p.m. Searching for family roots? All are welcome to come and share questions, strategies, and organizing tips.

FEATURED ADULT LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Classic Movie Night: Thursday, January 9, 6-7:45 p.m. Relive classic films from the silver screen or enjoy them for the first time. Casual moviegoers and film buffs alike are welcome to come and share a cinematic experience at the library. This month's film is a 1937 murder mystery filmed in Paris. Contact the library for movie title.

History of Go: Thursday, January 16, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Learn the storied history of Go (aka Weiqi and Baduk), a Chinese board game that is over 2500 years old. Discuss Go's place in Japanese culture and highlight high-stakes games between rival Go houses in the Japanese imperial court. Neal Wright of the Oregon Go Club will be presenting.

Chinese Hammered Dulcimer Concert: Wednesday, January 22, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Jing Lu began studying YangQin

(Chinese hammered dulcimer) at age four, and she was quickly identified as a child prodigy. She is one of the few Chinese Dulcimer musicians to have performed at Carnegie Hall. Showcasing music of the YangQin and Gu-zheng (Chinese zither) she will perform traditional, folk, modern, and pop styles of Chinese music.

Learn to Play Go: Thursday, January 23, 6-7:45 p.m. Go (aka Weiqi and Baduk) is one of the world's oldest board games. In Go, two players compete to surround both territory and sometimes their opponent's stones in a strategic battle of minds. Learn the simple rules of the game and play against other new players. Space is limited. Contact the library to reserve a seat. A wonderful follow up to the History of Go presentation on Jan. 16, this program will give you a hands-on look at this interesting and historic game.

Tao Calligraphy: Thursday, January 30, 6-7:45 p.m.



Learn all about the History of Go, an ancient game over 2500 years old, at an upcoming presentation that will not only showcase cultural traditions of China and Japan, but challenge your strategic mindset with a look at some of the most legendary matches.

Tao Calligraphy is a unique style of Chinese calligraphy written with one stroke. It is not only a beautiful art, it can help people relax and achieve a calm, peaceful, and meditative state. Learn to release stress, anxiety, and other negative energy through tracing and writing Tao calligraphy. Space is limited. Contact the library to reserve a seat.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Stretch, Dance, Play! With Iris Nason: Jan. 8; at 10:15 a.m., for ages 2-5.
Homeschool Club: Re-Invent It: Jan. 9; at 10:15 a.m., for grades K-5.
Music Time with Chuck Cheesman: Jan. 15; at 10:15 a.m., for ages 0-5.
Let's Lego! Jan. 18; at 1:30 p.m., for grades K-5.
Sign and Sing with Shira Fogel of Tiny Talkers: Feb. 5; at 10:15 a.m., for ages 2-5.
LEGO Creative Building with Blair Archer: Feb. 5; at 4:00 p.m., for grades K-5



Need a quiet space to study before finals? The library is holding Study Hall throughout the month of January. Check out the schedule and swing by the Community Room if you need to crack open the books and prep for those upcoming tests.

Get Prepped for Preschool

Are you searching for a preschool program in the Milwaukie, Clackamas or Happy Valley area? This is the event for you! Visit with 20+ local preschool providers and learn what makes each program special or unique. Staff from the Happy Valley Library will be on site as well to share helpful resources that may complement your efforts.

This drop-in event will have child friendly games & activities, so kids can have a great time, while parents visit with school staff! This is a free community event, no pre-registration necessary. Please contact Chelsea Hamilton with questions: **Call:** (503) 367-9116 or **Email:** ClackamasParenting@gmail.com **Date:** Wednesday February 5, 2020, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.



Location: Wichita Family Center 6301 SE King Rd. Milwaukie, OR 97222

FEATURED YOUTH PROGRAMS

Teen Finals Study Hall: The Community Room is reserved for studying (and study breaks) just for teens prepping for Finals. Jan. 21, 2:30-8 p.m. Jan. 22, 12:5-30 p.m. Jan. 23, 2:30-5:30 p.m. Jan. 24, 4-6 p.m. Jan. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Jan. 27, 4-6 p.m. Jan. 28, 2-6 p.m.

Teen Advisory Board Meetings: Wed., Jan. 8; at 5-6 p.m. For 6th-8th graders. Thurs., Jan. 16; at 5-6 p.m. For 9th-12th graders. Plan programs, make decisions and hang out with other teens.

Spanish Storytime: Saturday, Jan. 25; at 10:15 a.m. Join Vitzah for singing, stories and more fun in Spanish.

Lunar New Year Celebration: Saturday, Jan. 25; at 2-3:30 p.m. Celebrate the lunar new year with crafts, games and food.



Chinese Calligraphy: Saturday, Jan. 11; at 10:15 a.m. For K-5th. Using a brush and paint, kids can explore this ancient writing technique.

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—Melissa S



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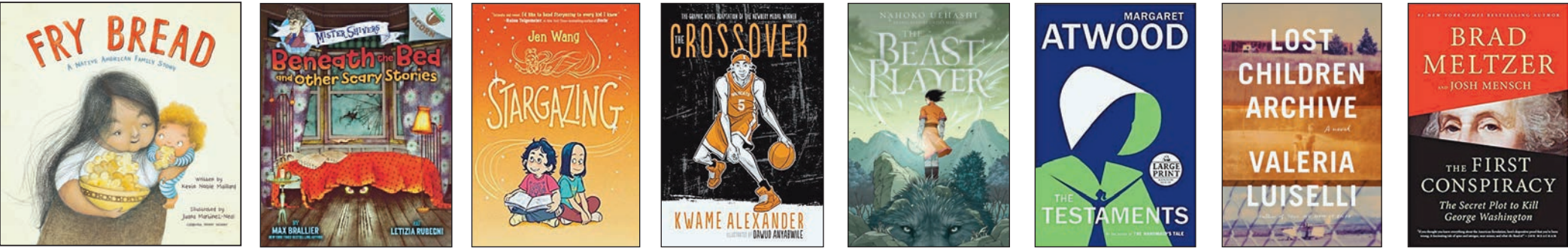
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Favorite books to read of 2019



Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard showcases a visual journey that follows this tasty treat.

Beneath the Bed and other Scary Stories by Max Brallier will keep kids entertained as five scary stories with unexpected twists unfold.

Stargazing by Jen Wang follows two Chinese-American kids as they become unlikely friends in this fantastic graphic novel.

The Crossover (graphic novel adaptation) by Kwame Alexander tells the story of twin basketball stars deal with highs and lows on and off the court.

The Beast Player by Nahoko Uehashi is an epic fantasy about a girl with the special power to communicate with magical beasts.

The Testaments by Margaret Atwood is the sequel to The Handmaid's Tale and finally answers the questions that have intrigued readers for decades.

Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli follows a family of four as they road trip across America, coming closer to a powerful conclusion.

The First Conspiracy: the Secret Plot to Kill George Washington by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch is a story of leaders, liars, counterfeiters, and jailhouse confessions.

City of Happy Valley

Not surprisingly, the Happy Valley Library staff likes to read! Whether it's silly picture books or heartbreaking memoirs, historical dramas or sarcastic heroes, they've compiled their favorite reads from the past year. The following list includes a variety of reads with something for everyone. To view this list with all the book summaries and cover art, check out the Happy Valley Library website!

Want to check any of these out?

Place a hold on a title at lincv.org, give them a call (503-783-3455) or stop in. For even more ideas, just ask your librarian for more suggestions.

Picture Books

- Unicorns 101**
By Cale Atkinson
- Fry Bread:**
A Native American Family Story
By Kevin Noble Maillard
- Where Are You From?**
By Yamile Méndez
- Another**
By Christian Robinson
- Who Wet My Pants?**
By Bob Shea
- Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao**
By Kat Zhang

Early Readers

- Beginning readers, short chapters and lots of fun
- Smell My Foot**
By Cece Bell
 - Beneath the Bed and other Scary Stories**
By Max Brallier
 - King & Kayla and the Case of Found Fred**
By Dori Butler

Let's Have a Sleepover!

- By Norm Feuti
- Penny and Her Sled**
By Kevin Henkes
- Sadiq and the Desert Star**
By Anjan Sarkar

Chapter Books

- Just right for grade schoolers
- Clyde**
By Jim Benton
 - Meet Yasmin**
By Saadia Faruqi
 - Best Friends**
By Shannon Hale
 - Song for a Whale**
By Lynne Kelly
 - Pie in the Sky**
By Remy Lai
 - A Wolf Called Wander**
By Rosanne Parry
 - Max and the Midnights**
By Lincoln Peirce
 - Stargazing**
By Jen Wang

Middle Schoolers

Just right for 6th-8th graders, everything from comics to mystery, poetry to fantasy.

- The Crossover**
(graphic novel adaptation)
By Kwame Alexander
- New Kid**
By Jerry Craft
- The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise**
By Dan Gemeinhart
- Sal & Gabi Break the Universe**
By Carlos Hernandez
- Queen of the Sea**
By Dylan Meconis
- We're Not From Here**
By Geoff Rodkey
- The Lost Girl**
By Anne Ursu
- Other Words for Home**
By Jasmine Warga

High School

Drama, heartbreak, and finding your voice.

- Love From A to Z**
By S.K. Ali
- The Lovely War**
By Julie Berry
- I Wish You All The Best**
By Mason Deaver
- The Downstairs Girl**
By Stacey Lee
- Patron Saints of Nothing**
By Randy Ribay
- On the Come Up**
By Angie Thomas
- The Beast Player**
By Nahoko Uehashi
- Frankly In Love**
By David Yoon

Adult Fiction

- The Testaments**
By Margaret Atwood
- Ninth House**
By Leigh Bardugo
- Sabrina & Corina: Stories**
By Kali Fajardo-Anstine

The Bride Test

- By Helen Hoang
- Good Talk**
By Mira Jacob
- Lost Children Archive**
By Valeria Luiselli
- Gods of Jade and Shadow**
By Silvia Moreno-Garcia
- Where the Crawdads Sing**
By Delia Owens
- Disappearing Earth**
By Julia Phillips
- The Nickel Boys**
By Colson Whitehead

Adult Non-Fiction

- Shout: a Poetry Memoir**
By Laurie Halse Anderson
- How to be an Antiracist**
By Ibram X. Kendi
- The First Conspiracy: the Secret Plot to Kill George Washington**
By Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch
- They Called Us Enemy**
By George Takei

Electronics Recycling Event

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Community talks land use zoning at recent Pleasant Valley/North Carver Comprehensive Plan meeting



City of Happy Valley

On Dec. 5, the Pleasant Valley North Carver (PV/NC) Comprehensive Plan (Community Advisory Committee (CAC) convened to review the draft land use map, commonly referred to as the draft zoning map. The draft zoning map is the amalgamation of months of public discussion, technical analysis, and expert feedback. The proposed zoning designations reflect the CAC's concerns coupled with Metro and State requirements, as well as input from local utility providers. The CAC provided the City and its consultants with some comments that will be considered for the next iteration of the map.

The CAC also received presentations and reports from the Sunrise Water Authority and Water Environmental Services regarding the water and sewer infrastructure that is currently serving the PVNC area and what is proposed for the future. These reports help provide context and background for the continually development of the comprehensive plan. The next CAC meeting will take place later this month and members of the community are encouraged to attend.

For more information about the plan, the CAC, and/or the meeting schedule, please check out the City's PV/NC Comprehensive Plan webpage - <https://www.happyvalleyor.gov/business/planning-division/pleasant-valley-north-carver-comprehensive-plan/>

Why have a Comprehensive Plan?

There are often misconceptions about comprehensive plans and how they are used. To combat this, it might be helpful to explain how Portland Metropolitan Area's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) works. The UGB is a boundary line

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

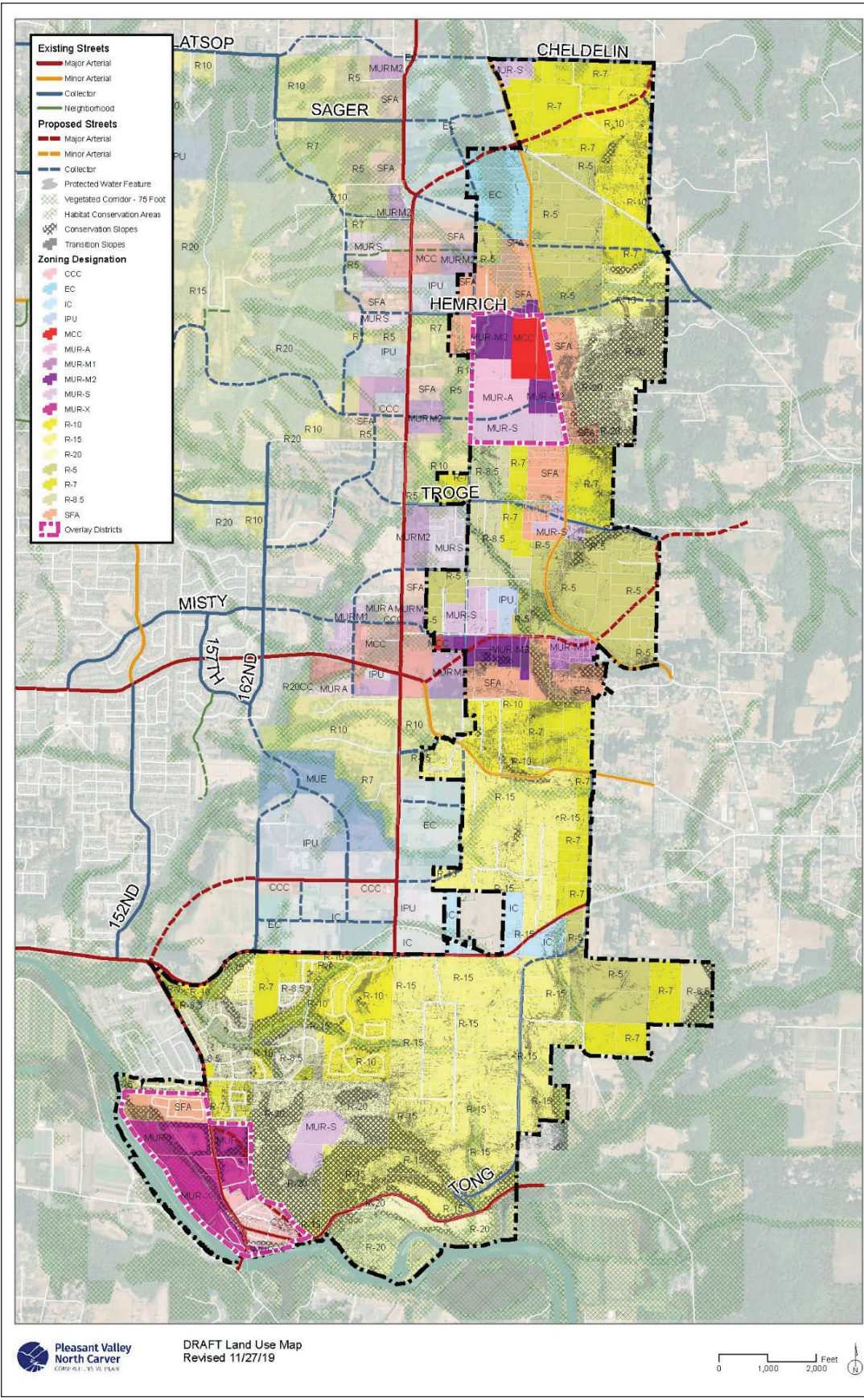
Date: Thursday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m.
Location: Happy Valley City Hall

tool used to control urban expansion. Metro, the regional government for the Oregon portion of the Portland metropolitan area, is responsible for managing the UGB. Its goal is to protect farms and forests from unrestrained expansion and promote the efficient use of land, public facilities and services inside the boundary instead.

Every six years, the Metro Council is tasked with reviewing and reporting on the land supply. During this exercise, Metro estimates the projected population and employment growth for the region over the course of the next 20 years and, and if necessary, adjusts the UGB area to meet the needs of growth forecasted. As population grows and areas are added to the UGB, state law requires that a comprehensive plan be made to assure that current and future housing, employment, and infrastructure needs are properly addressed. The PV/NC area was added to the UGB in 2002 which meant a comprehensive plan would need to be developed.

Comprehensive plans must adhere to statewide rules and goals. While a tedious process, comprehensive planning ultimately ensures that quality public services, like police, schools, and parks are also taken into consideration.

The PV/NC Comprehensive Plan process has included ideas from property owners, the general public, neighboring cities and counties, and other stakeholders. The community, as a result, has been a key participant in the plan's formation. Completion of the PV/NC Comprehensive Plan is anticipated for the Summer of 2020.



Comprehensive Plan's most current zoning designations. Want to be part of the process and learn more about all the ins and outs? Consider attending the next Community Advisory Committee meeting later this month.

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Peace tree coming to HV

City of Happy Valley

To mark the 75th anniversary of the close of World War II, Happy Valley will join 25 other communities across Oregon by planting a special peace tree distributed by the Oregon Department of Forestry in partnership with the nonprofit groups Oregon Community Trees and the Medford-based One Sunny Day Initiative.

Two species of trees are included in this special commemorative event. Seedling ginkgo and Asian persimmon trees were grown from seed collected from trees that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and brought to Oregon by Medford resident Hideko Tamura-Snyder. She survived the bombing, which occurred 75 years ago on Aug. 6, 1945.

Between now and next summer, 36 peace trees in all (29 ginkgo and seven Asian per-



simmons) will be planted across 16 Oregon counties. Most of the seedlings are going to parks, arboretums and schools across the state. The greatest number will be planted in April as part of Arbor Week.

Happy Valley will be planting a ginkgo tree on the grounds of City Hall. Stay tuned for more information about this special event. The City will be

Hideko Tamura-Snyder (center) brought seeds to Oregon that were collected from trees that survived the atom bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. A bombing survivor herself, she got Oregon Community Trees board member Mike Oxendine (left) to germinate the seeds.

working in tandem with the Oregon Department of Forestry to finalize plans.

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Monthly military memorial service honors America’s heroes

By SHELLEY MCFARLAND

On a crisp December day, the quiet solitude of Willamette National Cemetery was broken by the rumble of motorcycles ridden by Oregon’s Patriot Guard Riders rolling up on their Harley-Davidsons to participate in a solemn occasion: the symbolic burial of American servicemen and women.

On the fourth Thursday of every month, along with the Patriot Guard Riders, residents, active and former military, Veterans of Foreign Wars representatives, Oregon Honor Guard, and cemetery officials gather at Willamette National Cemetery to honor service members with a military funeral complete with a flag-folding ceremony; a bugler playing taps; seven VFW members firing three volleys representing duty, honor and country; a pastor-led committal service; and an honor bell ringing after every name.

At December’s memorial, more than 30 veterans solemnly joined together to honor other Oregon military personnel in the symbolic burial. The bell was rung 44 times as each name, branch of service, rank and era was read of a serviceman or woman interred at the cemetery, regardless of whether they had a funeral with full military honors or not. The names were from all branches of the armed forces, including U.S. Merchant Marines and Reserves, with 13 from WWII, 13 from the Korean War and 10 from the Vietnam War; a few servicemen listed had served in multiple wars.

The cemetery has been holding the monthly service for over 20 years, and though many faces have changed, the importance of the ceremony has not. It is one of only three cemeteries in Oregon to hold the monthly event.

“We’re out here every month because these are our brothers. It doesn’t matter how old or which war or branch they served, we are all brothers together and each one of them deserves a military funeral. We will remember and we will honor them,” said Dave Vrooman, chairman of operations for the Portland Council of the Navy League of the United States, USS Oregon Commissioning Committee.

At the service, the chaplain spoke about the sacrifices each service member gave to their country, during wartime and peace, with the understanding of all the risks, including death, involved in serving our nation. After a Scripture reading, the group sang “Amazing Grace.” Then a folded American flag, with stars facing up, symbolizing the national motto “In God We Trust,” was presented to cemetery representative Sarah Platt.

And together, next month, they again will lay more comrades to rest with full military honors.

Willamette National Cemetery

Several veterans’ organizations lobbied to establish a military cemetery in the Portland area as early as 1941. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill to create the national cemetery, but money needed to acquire the land was never allocated. Finally, in 1949 the state donated land for the cemetery, and



With a rumble, the Patriot Guard Riders roll into Willamette National Cemetery with flags and a sense of brotherhood. The riders attend a monthly service to honor recently deceased servicemen or women.



Seven VFW members fire three volleys at the service. The volleys symbolize duty, honor and country.



Though there is a solemnity to the service, the attendees, which also includes VFW members and citizens, enjoy each other’s company and shared experiences.

construction began. Willamette National Cemetery officially opened on Dec. 14, 1950, with the first burial occurring in 1951.

To date, the cemetery encompasses 300 acres and is home to the Oregon Korean Veterans Memorial, a series of black granite walls memorializing the 283 Oregonians

who died in the Korean War. The most notable burials at Willamette National Cemetery include Mark O. Hatfield, the former Oregon governor and U.S. senator, and Carson Lee Bigbee, a professional baseball player for the Pittsburgh Pirates and a WWI veteran.

The military memorial ser-

vice is held at 2 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Willamette National Cemetery, at 11800 S.E. Mt. Scott Blvd. The public is welcome.

For more information, visit www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/willamette.asp or call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 503-273-5250.

Are you a Happy Valley resident and a veteran?
If so, we would like to share your story. Please contact swarneke@happyvalleyor.gov or shelley.mcfarland@gmail.com.

The Patriot Guard Riders was originally founded in Kansas as an honor guard for military burials where protesters were present. They are known to rumble their motorcycle engines to drown out protesters and form a flag-held honor guard to block the view of protesters from burial attendees. Their motto “Standing For Those Who Stood For Us” unites the various chapters across the nation.

PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHANIE WARNEKE



The American flag is folded ceremoniously by military representatives. Each of the 13 folds represents principles the military holds dear. When folded and tucked in, the stars are uppermost, reminding people of the national motto: “In God We Trust.”

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Hands for hearts♥

City of Happy Valley

Paige Martin is a member of both the Happy Valley Library Teen Advisory Board and the Happy Valley Youth Council. Recently, she applied for and was awarded a grant to fund a series of free, non-certification cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes that includes CPR practice, automated external defibrillator (AED) training, and choking relief. Purpose of the classes is to equip parents and caregivers with life saving skills that can be used during an emergency.

When Paige designed the classes, her hope was to offer helpful training parents, especially underserved families that may not have access to such life-saving programs due to financial hardship. CPR classes can be expensive, sometimes costing anywhere from \$45 to \$115 per person. For families that need help with basic necessities, classes like this might otherwise be unattainable. The Hands for Hearts program provides these families with the tools they need to be more confident in using CPR to save a life in their own homes, increasing the chance of survival until advanced medical help can arrive.

The Happy Valley Library will offer a class next month to help support Paige's efforts.



"I'm hoping that Hands for Hearts will jumpstart a chain of teen facilitators and a whole community of people who feel confident in saving a life,"

— Paige Martin, creator of Hands for Hearts.



HANDS FOR HEARTS TRAINING CLASS

Date: Sunday, Feb. 2

Time: 2-4 p.m.

Location: Happy Valley Library Community Room

*Space is limited to 16 participants per class. Please sign up at the library's front desk.

Etiquette for flying American flag

By SHELLEY MCFARLAND

Do you know the official days when you should fly the American flag? We all know Old Glory should wave on Veterans Day and Independence Day, but some other dates might surprise you. Let's unite to show our patriotism in Happy Valley.

According to Military.com and the U.S. Flag Code here are the days when the flag should be displayed:



■ New Year's Day.....	Jan. 1
■ Inauguration Day.....	Jan. 20
■ Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.....	third Monday in January
■ Lincoln's Birthday.....	Feb. 12
■ Washington's Birthday.....	third Monday in February
■ Easter Sunday.....	April 12, 2020
■ Mother's Day.....	second Sunday in May
■ Armed Forces Day.....	third Saturday in May
■ Memorial Day (half-staff until noon).....	the last Monday in May
■ Flag Day.....	June 14
■ Father's Day.....	third Sunday in June

ETIQUETTE

When flying the American flag, make sure to display it between sunrise and sunset. It may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminat-

ed at night. Do not let it become tattered, do not let it drag on the ground, do not wear it, and do not take it out in inclement weather. When disposing the flag, it should be burned properly.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: www.military.com

Merry and bright

City of Happy Valley

Residents and friends gathered once again at City Hall on Dec. 1 as Happy Valley's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony helped jump start the holiday season. Cheerful music, warm cocoa and an abundance of cookies got everyone into the spirit of the event. The beautiful lights and festive decorations added to the family friendly celebration.

The Rock Creek and Happy Valley middle school bands engulfed City Hall with beautiful holiday tunes and the anticipation of Santa's arrival kept everyone excited. Horse drawn carriage rides added to the fun.

This annual event serves as a tradition for many Happy Valley families and serves as the City's official start to the holidays. Attendees of the event also had the opportunity to contribute non-perishable food and new toys as part of the community's efforts to support Clackamas Fire's Operation Santa Claus donation drive.

This event would simply not be possible without our Community Involvement Specialist, Stephani Hern, who ensures every detail is



In addition to kids crafts and writing letters to Santa, children had fun in the holiday photo booth.

executed to perfection. Thanks to our Public Works crew who put up all the pretty lights, the Happy Valley Library, which helped children make holiday ornaments that will last for many holiday seasons to come, and Clackamas Fire who provided Santa's sleigh for the night.

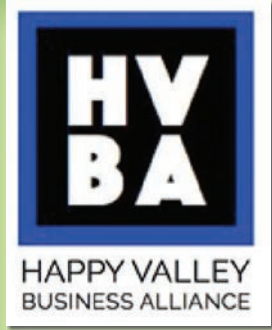
Finally, a big thank you to our business sponsors New Seasons Market and Kona Ice. We hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season with loved ones.



Santa listened carefully to children's hopes and wishes for the holiday.



Horse drawn carriage rides were a popular activity this year.



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The City’s Instagram Contest offered a variety of fun challenges, perfect for posting on social media. The City’s Instagram account @CityofHappyValley debuted in 2019.

And the winner is...

City of Happy Valley

The City’s Instagram Challenge is a wrap! In 2019, the City launched its own Instagram account and to celebrate the occasion, unveiled a fun contest that anyone could partake in. The contest, which debuted in last year’s Happy Valley Magazine, encouraged participants to complete challenges around town and earn credit for tagging the City in photos with the special #ExploreHappyValley hashtag.

Entries were calculated based on successful completion of the challenge depicted and inclusion of the corresponding hashtag. Entries were accepted through December 2019 and a winner was drawn at random.

The City is excited to share that Ryan S. Hassan, MD is our big winner! Dr. Hassan works in Happy Valley as a pediatrician at Clackamas & Oregon Pediatrics. His winning entry depicted challenge #6 which called for a photo at a summer Concert in the Valley. Well done, Dr. Hassan! He wins a gift basket that includes a variety of items from the City and members of the Happy Valley Business Alliance.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the challenge and don’t forget to follow us at @CityofHappyValley and tag us in your Happy Valley photos. We’d love to see the City from your perspective!



Who knew an Instagram pic could lead to a big win? Congratulations to Dr. Ryan Hassan, who’s photo at a recent summer concert landed him the grand prize!

Musical prodigy to showcase the dulcimer in concert

City of Happy Valley

Jing Lu has long been interested in music and emerged as a child prodigy when at the age of four, she demonstrated a special knack for playing the yangqin, also known as the Chinese dulcimer. She received the highest scores in the country when it came to her ability to play and was admitted to the Central Conservatory of Music for classical yangqin at the age of 12. She has since gone on to study music, receiving advanced degrees at Columbia University and the Central Conservatory of Music in China.

Lu’s musical talents have provided the opportunity for her to perform in many cities throughout China and the United States, and she even has participated in an off-Broadway production of David Henry Hwang’s Golden Child in New York. Other productions she has been affiliated with include the Sound of Summer Concert at Central Connecticut State University, Jasmine Blossoms in the City of Roses Chinese Dulcimer Concert at Portland State University, and the Bridge Chinese Dulcimer Solo Recital at Carnegie Hall.

Today, Lu calls Portland home and currently teaches the Chinese dulcimer at Portland State University. She also serves as Special Music Project Coordinator for the Confucius Institute at the university. Her projects include coordinating annual music concerts and International Summer Music School programs in China.

Lu will be sharing her musical talents at an upcoming performance at the Happy Valley Library where she will showcase several pieces of music featuring the yangqin as well as the guzheng, or Chinese zither. Lu enjoys a variety of

CHINESE HAMMERED DULCIMER CONCERT

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 22, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Location: Community Room



Jing Lu, a musical prodigy, will share her love of the Chinese dulcimer and guzheng at an upcoming performance at Happy Valley Library.

genres and tries to incorporate these in her performances. At the library, Lu will play traditional, folk, and modern Chinese styles, and plans to incorporate some Chinese pop music as well. Attendees will have the chance to ask Lu questions and hear more about each instrument as well.

25 MPH, 35 MPH, 40 MPH, SLOW DOWN!

City of Happy Valley

As you drive around the city, you may have noticed several flashing speed signs letting you know how fast you are going and even telling you to slow down.

The City installed “driver feedback” signs on six neighborhood streets around town. These signs are meant to alert drivers that they are exceeding the speed limit by providing instant feedback for self-correcting education. Let’s face it, most of us try to do the right thing by obeying the traffic laws, but every now and again a flashing LED reminder may be needed.

These are smart signs too, with the units capturing information on traffic volume, vehicle speeds and other data useful to officers when finding the best time to conduct enforcement. The deployment of the new feedback signs is just one of the educational tools we use to reduce speeds in city neighborhoods.

The City’s Traffic and Public Safety Committee used funds given to them by the City Council to purchase the signs. Each year, the City Council allocates funds to be used for pedestrian and motorist safety improvements. The committee selected these signs because they provide both education to drivers and capture valuable data helpful to police. Another benefit is that these signs are portable and can be moved around the city based on requests or complaints.



Flashing speed signs serve as a visual cue to take note of your speed and slow down if necessary.

Coming soon, the City will be able to share all the traffic data collected from these signs on our website. Traffic

safety is an important issue and we all need to find better ways to promote safety and maintain our neighborhood livability.



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City arborist shares her passion to encourage tree health

City of Happy Valley

As the City Arborist, Leslie Gover consults with such departments as Public Works and Planning. Working on a contract basis, she assesses the health of City owned trees and has helped offer insight into the preservation of Happy Valley’s tree canopy. But she doesn’t really regard what she does as work. For Gover, it’s a calling that took roots when she least expected it.

Gover recounts her experience as a sixth grader at Outdoor School where one of the staff members at the time, a woman who she recalls must have been in her eighties, explained with such energy how plant life worked and how everything was interconnected. The woman made the subject relatable, breaking down each complex ecological concept, so it was easy to digest. The entire experience was life changing for it ignited a passion she didn’t even know existed. She was so intrigued by everything she learned that week that right then and there, she knew hands down, that plants were her “thing.” “I was one of those fortunate people who graduated from high school knowing exactly what they wanted to do,” Gover says with a smile.

When it comes to plants, everything Gover says is accompanied by a sense of genuine warmth that seems to confirm her career choice was spot on. In college at Oregon State, she chose horticulture to study. When she graduated, her husband landed a job in the small town of Ukiah in Eastern Oregon teaching mathematics. Gover wasn’t sure what the little town had in store for her, but with a goal to simply find a job, she ended up walking down to

City Arborist, Leslie Gover, is available to speak to any aspects of Happy Valley Municipal Code section 16.42.040 and 0.50 regarding tree maintenance and preservation. She can provide verbal assistance to both homeowners and HOA’s regarding open spaces and private tree management. She’s also a resource for all aspects of street tree maintenance and preservation.

Is my tree supposed to look like that?

If you have a question about the health of a tree on your property, parking strip, shared space, or City owned property, contact City Arborist, Leslie Gover. Just Email cityarborist@happyvalleyor.gov!

the Forest Service Office to introduce herself. To her surprise, she ended up getting hired and soon found herself doing a variety of tasks over the next three years. She worked in timber, helped with animal management, and even worked on rock

weirs, small dam-like structures that are used for fish habitats. The most memorable task, she says, was picking up smoke-jumpers during wildfire season.

When she and her husband returned to Portland, she took a job working for an arborist. She went to people’s properties and assessed areas, looking at tree growth and evaluating concerns. Gover loved this work as it reminded her of those early days at Outdoor School when she was learning how one element of the ecosystem impacted another. She got to help clients figure out how to remedy challenges and get their trees back on track. Since her horticulture degree focused on crop production, Gover had a desire to ex-

plore that side of the industry as well. This led to her all-time favorite job working at Joy Creek Nursery in Scappoose. At the time, perennials were beginning to become very popular and with new varieties coming from England, Gover was learning how to nurture and grow a whole new set of plants.

The excitement in Gover’s face as she recalls her work is contagious. She explains that because the Oregon climate is so close to that of England’s, growing those perennial varieties here worked out very well. It opened the door for other species from parts of Asia and Russia to make their way here, too. For Gover, this is prime “plant nerd” fodder as

it stirs that passion she has for plants even more. She loves the idea of diversifying the options people can choose from when planting their own gardens or designing their yards.

These days, Gover lives in Happy Valley. Her husband now works as a Senior Quality Engineer for Meggitt Polymers and Composites and the couple has two children. Katherine is a junior at Clackamas High School and Wyatt is a 7th grader at Happy Valley Middle School. Gover loves Happy Valley and has been enjoying her work with the City. As a resident, her work is extra meaningful since she’s helping establish practices that affect her own

Stay tuned for future articles featuring plant care tips and tricks from our City Arborist, Leslie Gover.

community and its livability. Her main goal as the City Arborist is to help trees in Happy Valley make it to maturity. This can be a challenge sometimes, she says, because of utilities, overhead wires, and placement issues that can create barriers to success. When she’s consulting with the City, she focuses on ways staff can maximize planting efforts and be intentional with design plans that create long term success.

Residents of Happy Valley can even contact Gover if they have a concern about a tree on their property as she will come out and make an assessment. If the tree in question is owned by the City and there is a problem that needs to be fixed, Gover will write a full report and work directly with Public Works to provide any and all necessary follow up. If the tree is the responsibility of the homeowner, Gover will provide an onsite verbal assessment and refer the homeowner to a private company if she thinks further work needs to be carried out. Both assessments are completely free of charge to the Happy Valley resident. For HOAs with communal spaces or natural areas that may need upkeep, Gover may be an excellent resource to have at your next meeting. The City is happy to offer this service as a way to work collaboratively with residents who also want to see the Happy Valley tree canopy succeed.

Compassion

■ From Page 1

knew that I needed to do one thing: ministry, specifically being a pastor. I considered military chaplaincy, which actually aligns to what I am doing now,” he said. “I went to funerals every day at the funeral home, and I had a chance to see a sacred moment of our lives. It’s more than empathy, it’s how we care. Yes, funeral services is an industry, but I feel it’s where God really developed my heart for what I do.”

Vermace attended Western Seminary in Portland and spent his days ministering to people. His most recent position was assistant pastor at Abundant Life Church. When he was offered a position to help first responders in Clackamas County, Vermace remembered his old desire to become a military chaplain and jumped at the opportunity. Over a year ago, Vermace dedicated himself to the volunteer position full time.

The position is unique: Vermace wears a uniform, and is sworn, but as a chaplain, his duties are focused on ministering to community members who are experiencing loss or misfortune and to the first responders who continuously witness and deal with traumatic situations. Currently, Vermace works for Clackamas Fire District #1, the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office, Oregon City Police, Lake Oswego Police and Lake Oswego Fire.

“When you see me, you might see me as a deputy, but I’m a chaplain. I’m not a cop, my role is a chaplain. I’m not out patrolling, but I ride with patrolling deputies and police officers,” he said. “Every day is different for me; I attend roll call and ride with the

deputies and officers because my job is about relationships.

“I help with peer teams and wellness to make sure our officers and their families are doing well, and I get paged to critical incidents to assist with officers and the interactions with the community. My wife jokes that if there’s an incident on TV, I’m usually there.”

Through his work, Vermace feels honored to help first responders while providing comfort to citizens in crisis.

“There is the gap for the officer who is trying to do his job, but also a family who is experiencing the worst day of their lives,” he said. “I can walk with the family and be an emotional and physical support for them and give them resources. I’m there to stand in the gap. That gap is where the officers are trying to do their work but also help the family, the officers’ hearts are also breaking.

“Our ears hear and our eyes see things that our hearts sometimes cannot understand, and it is doubly hard for our officers. The world doesn’t understand that. Every call is an anticipation of negative.”

With his work with first responders, Vermace feels that they, like him, were called to their career choice.

“It is a mantle of leadership first responders have all taken on, they feel called to. I feel God put that upon them for a reason, and they are special to the task. But it doesn’t mean they don’t get tired. It’s more than a physical tired, it’s an emotional heart tired, too. It’s why I’m there,” he said.

“It’s sacred. I get a chance to stand with them and stand for them. Nobody calls our officers with an invitation to coffee and cake. They’re only called with peril issues.”

Vermace, who has lived in Happy Valley for 16 years, helps his brethren chaplains through a unique orga-



VERMACE

nization, Public Safety Chaplaincy, which leads Oregon Chaplains Academy, a progressive nonprofit that trains all first responder chaplains in the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST).

The organization, the only one in the nation, offers standardized training and instruction to chaplains while providing means specific to crisis situations.

“Oregon DPSST has really done a great job of wanting to make sure that people are cared for and being intentional with care. All those pieces are important within our communities, not only for our officers and fire personnel or EMS, but for those who care for them. This includes chaplains and administration,” he said.

To protect himself from the same

tragedies officers see and citizens live through, Vermace has created a strong support system for himself. He finds strength in his wife, two sons, and a dedicated therapist, and he leans on his faith.

“There’s the passage in the Bible, ‘we can do all things through Christ that gives us strength’ and I pray. I pray for others and for myself. I have folks who I can talk to because we all need that. We all need to unload because we can’t wrap our head around some things,” Vermace said.

“That’s the thin blue line. It’s not just a phrase or a support system for officers. Our society really needs that thin blue line for protection and care. And caring is more than just showing up. I’m grateful that our society never sees some things law enforcement has to handle, that’s the thread of why our first responders do what they do and the blessing of the place that I get to work and be a part of,” he said.

While Vermace admits that many of the relationships he has are forged in tragedy, there are the uplifting moments he shares with people that keep him positive — the weddings, memorials and joyous occasions that see him acting not only as a chaplain, but also a friend.

And when Vermace follows up with people he has served, another layer of relationship forms. At a coffee shop recently, an acquaintance brought Vermace a puppy. With a chuckle, Vermace talks about the unusual moment and his subsequent new family member named Boomer.

“Chaplaincy is a ministry of presence. As I look at it, it’s a ministry of moments; these incredible moments that we get to care for people. I look at my history and it’s in these moments that are sacred. It matters that you are there,” he said.

Though Vermace may feel blessed

to do his work, others feel blessed to have him nearby when needed.

“When I first met Mike, he was working for a large church in Happy Valley and doing chaplaincy on his own time. Although Mike had the pastoral care position, it was obvious he had a passion to be a full-time chaplain. When his position at the church changed, he sensed the Lord was moving him into full time chaplaincy,” said Jerry Gaidos, retired Portland police officer and director of Oregon’s Chaplain Academy.

“He has a commitment and dedication to his people that’s obvious. Mike is physically a big guy, but his compassion and caring are even bigger. If I were still a working police officer, Mike would be at the top of a short list of people I would want as my chaplain,” Gaidos said. “He’s intelligent, up to speed on current trends in chaplaincy and first responder culture, but his best quality is humility. Mike is unassuming, just quietly doing whatever needs to be done to support first responders.”

For Vermace, each day brings new challenges dealing with unimaginable tragedy, brotherhood and a continued desire to connect with the community he loves. In a career of moments, Vermace finds value in the hundreds of stories that reaffirm his work and the relationships he has created.

“I had someone tell me that I saved their life. And I didn’t do anything, really. I did nothing but call on them and hang out. It’s my favorite story. It’s the one-on-one with people and the connections. It’s the cards and the coffee, a meal or getting stuck in the snow with someone. Those are the best times. That’s what I love. There are always the crazy calls, but it’s not about the call, it’s about the individual,” Vermace said.



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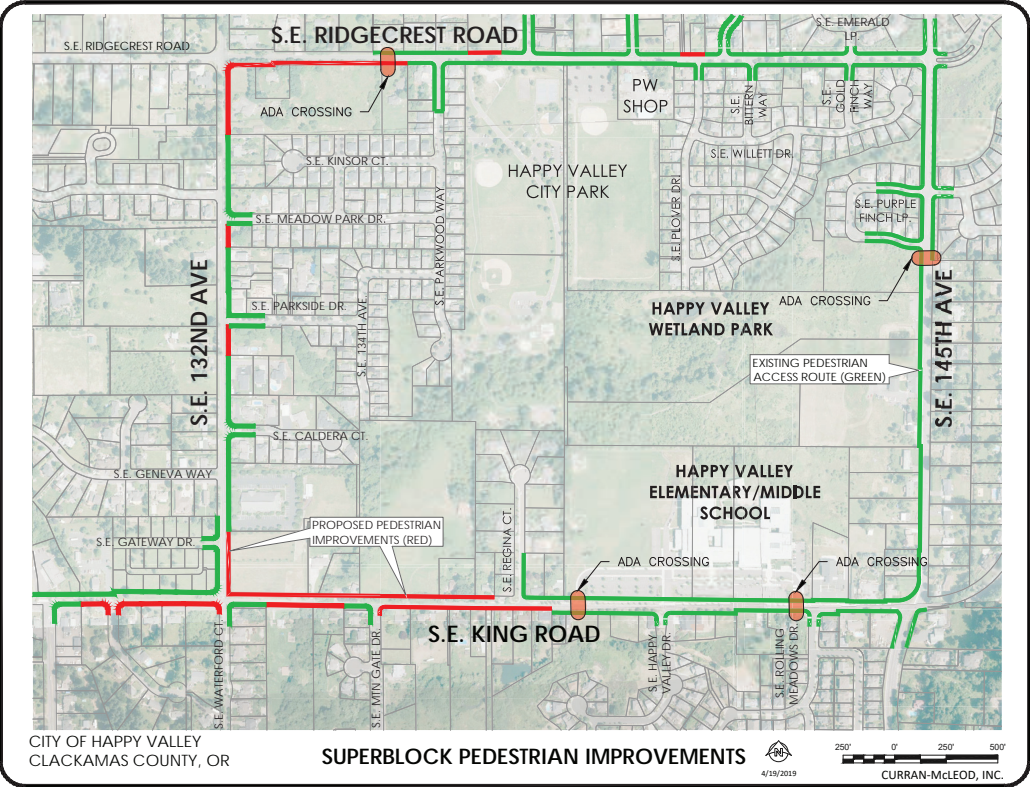




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The corresponding map shows the scope of the superblock project that will create a walkable area within Happy Valley. The project aims to increase safety for both pedestrians and motorists and provide more recreational opportunities for those wanting to explore the community. Construction of the entire plan will occur over the course of several years.

Superblock project is underway

City of Happy Valley

The City celebrated a monumental event on Dec. 10 as the highly anticipated Superblock project officially broke ground. The project will bring contiguous sidewalks that link sections of Ridgecrest and 132nd and King Road and 147th and will increase safety of both pedestrians and motorists.

The Superblock will allow for better traffic flow and connectivity between the sections of land that currently have gaps, allowing for increased usability of the space. This is of paramount importance to the City's youth, elderly and those with disabilities. Being able to safely traverse the area not only promotes healthy recreational activity by way of exercise, but it also helps boost cross-visibility between those on foot and those using the road.

Superblock phase I efforts include sidewalk improvements on Ridgecrest Rd. and



City of Happy Valley Public Works Director, Chris Randall (far right), will be managing and coordinating much of the Superblock project.

132nd avenue. It also includes three new Rapid Flashing Beacon pedestrian crossings. Two adjacent to Happy Valley Elementary (King Rd.) and one along 145th avenue adjacent to Denali Drive.

City staff anticipates that this Phase I effort will be completed by the end of January.

During construction residents can expect flagger-controlled work zones and sidewalk closures/detours. No extended traffic delays are expected. If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please contact Public Works Director, Chris Randall at 503-783-3800.

American who thwarted terrorist train attack rings Salvation Army bell

By SHELLEY MCFARLAND

On Dec. 5, Alek Skarlatos, donated his time to raise money for the Salvation Army to provide relief for those affected by homelessness, hunger and disaster.

The former Army National Guardsman received France's highest honor, the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor from French President Francois Holland after he and two friends, Spencer Stone and Anthony Sadler, stopped a gunman's terrorist attack on an Amsterdam-to-Paris train in August 2015. Skarlatos also was awarded the U.S. Army Soldier's Medal from President Barak Obama.

The movie "The 15:17 to Paris" starring Skarlatos, Stone and Sadler, as themselves, was directed by Clint Eastwood and based on their autobiography. Besides being known in his hometown of Roseburg, Skarlatos often is recognized in airports. He competed in the ABC competition "Dancing With the Stars" and currently is running for Oregon's 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives against Peter DeFazio.

"It's going to be up to the voters to decide if I have a future in politics. It's a competitive race and I'm confident and optimistic," Skarlatos said.



Alek Skarlatos, stands with a Salvation Army representative. The Oregon Reservist helped prevent a terrorist attack on a Paris-bound train and is currently running for office in Southern Oregon.

PHOTO BY: SHELLEY MCFARLAND



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