



**HAPPY VALLEY, OR**  
**EST. 1965**

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION**

City Statements & Messaging

# MARCH 2019: CITY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION

## *City of Happy Valley* *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Happy Valley is becoming increasingly diverse; more than one in every four residents identifies as a race other than, or in addition to, white; and

**WHEREAS**, diverse and vibrant backgrounds, perspectives, and abilities contribute to the health, welfare, and economy of Happy Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is improved when all residents have access and opportunity to equitably participate in the social, civic, and economic fabric of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, a grassroots coalition of community leaders has initiated conversations and learning opportunities about how to build community and make Happy Valley a more welcoming and inclusive community.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council encourages this ongoing community dialogue and learning about building community by the United Community Alliance, which has the following mission: “We strive to build and develop a community where all people are welcome. Our strength lies in the diversity of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, differing ability and cultures of our residents. We seek to create a safe and kind community where we all live and learn together respectfully.”

**NOW THEREFORE**, we, the City Council of Happy Valley do hereby proclaim that the City celebrates and honors the spirit of unity that is bringing neighbors together and making our community the kind of place where everyone feels valued.



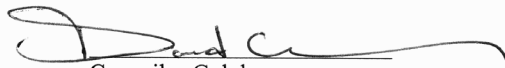
Mayor Tom Ellis



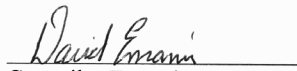
Council President Sherman



Councilor Drake



Councilor Golobay



Councilor Emami



## APRIL 2019: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PROCLAMATION



Preserving  
and enhancing  
the safety,  
livability and  
character  
of our  
community.



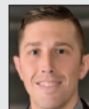
**Tom Ellis**  
Mayor  
503-783-3800



**Brett Sherman**  
Council President  
503-783-3800



**Markley Drake**  
Councilor  
503-290-6023



**David Golobay**  
Councilor  
503-807-2979



**David Emami**  
Councilor  
503-783-3800

### HAPPY VALLEY CITY COUNCIL

Council Meetings are held  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the  
month at 7 p.m. at City Hall  
16000 SE Misty Drive  
Happy Valley, OR 97086  
(503) 783-3800  
www.happyvalleyor.gov

# Welcome David Emami as the newest City Council member

## COUNCIL CORNER

City of Happy Valley

Please help us welcome our newest member to the City Council, David Emami. As many of you may recall, with the election of Tom Ellis as Mayor, it created a two-year vacancy for the remainder of his council position. After reviewing applications and conducting public interviews, David was selected during the March 5 City Council meeting.

Born and raised in Oregon to Iranian immigrants, David is the first Iranian-American city councilor in the state. He believes that "Diversity in our thoughts and opinions is what makes us stronger as a community."

**"Diversity in our thoughts and opinions is what makes us stronger as a community."**

— David Emami,  
City Councilor

He has been an active resident in Happy Valley. Prior to his appointment, David served on the Parks Advisory Committee, Clackamas County Street Light Budget Committee, and was President of the Jackson Hills HOA. He also has extensive volunteer experience with local schools, state educational programs, local charities, and non-profit organizations. Professionally, David is an Account Manager at Ferguson Enterprises, where he has worked for 13 years.

David has lived in Happy Valley since 2013 with his wife, Susie, and their two daughters. In his spare time, he enjoys being with his family, volunteering at school functions, basketball, and hiking.

We are excited to learn from David and look forward to his commitment serving our community.

Finally, while we selected David to fill the position, we want to thank everyone who applied. There were many wonderful people who stepped up to volunteer. Several of the candidates currently serve on City committees and we value their input. The City is already a better place because of their involvement. We believe Happy Valley will continue to benefit from their dedicated service and talent.



David Emami takes the Oath of Office.



Emami is an active resident and has volunteered in several capacities for the city. He and his family enjoy living in Happy Valley.

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



TOM ELLIS

## Diversity and Inclusion

Over the course of the last few months, a grassroots coalition of residents have initiated conversations about how to build community and foster learning opportunities so that Happy Valley is a more welcoming and inclusive City. The group is called the United Community Alliance. Their mission states: "We strive to build and develop a community where all people are welcome. Our strength lies in the diversity of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, differing ability and cultures of our residents. We seek to create a safe and kind community where we all live and learn together respectfully."

During the last City Council meeting, we adopted a proclamation supporting the efforts of this group. Specifically, we proclaimed that the City celebrates and honors the spirit of unity that is bringing neighbors together and making our community the kind of place where everyone feels valued.

The mission of the United Community Alliance is important. Happy Valley is a diverse community. More than one in every four residents identifies as a race other than, or in addition to, white. Beyond race, we all have unique backgrounds, life experiences, and beliefs. As your Mayor, I respect and welcome the thoughts and ideas from everyone. It helps me make better decisions. I'm excited to learn from this group and see the impact the United Community Alliance will have in Happy Valley.

## MAY 2019: SCOUTERS MOUNTAIN PTA

Happy Valley News • May 2019

# Strong opinions inspire Happy Valley mom to fundraise for books about diversity, inclusion

By SHELLEY MCFARLAND

Recently, the Scouters Mountain Parent Teacher Association held a discussion about how the PTA spends funds on inclusive books about diversity and race for the school library. Meetings were held by the PTA with interested citizens to understand how the PTA receives grant requests from teachers and what process is followed. Much of the community discussion was hashed out on Facebook leaving many wanting to learn more about how the PTA operates and what the North Clackamas School District policy is regarding books on subjects like inclusion, diversity, sexuality and race.

Out of the dispute came a quick response from April Dobson, a mother, educator and community organizer, who immediately set up a Facebook GoFundMe account to buy books about diversity and race for Beatrice Morrow Cannady Elementary School, which is slated to open this fall.

"I used Facebook to fund the new library because much of the community organizing and sharing of information around the issue of the Scouters diversity library was happening there. So it was an easy place to gather the people who were already invested in standing up for the little guy... and to focus them forward to the next point of community action, because it's not just about Scouters Mountain, it's about all the schools in the district," Dobson said. Because Dobson, a mother of three children attending different schools in the district, will have one of her children attending Cannady Elementary, she wanted to make certain all children have access to books about diversity.

Over 24 hours, Dobson raised \$650 for the school library. Two other Happy Valley women were inspired to follow Dobson's lead and raised funds for their children's school libraries: \$750 for Vernie Duncan Elementary School, and \$400 for Spring Mountain Elementary School earmarked for diversity books.

"I wanted to run with the momentum the community had after this issue," Dobson said.

Although the elementary schools in North Clackamas School District, including Scouters Mountain and Spring Mountain Elementary Schools, already have an extensive collection of books about inclusion, diversity, race and ethnicity, the fundraising efforts will help purchase newer titles on these topics.

Associate Director of Elementary Programs for NSD, Jennifer Dove-Kiltow, explains

**For more information about district policy, visit:** [policy.osba.org/nclack/1/11\\_11A%20D1.PDF](https://policy.osba.org/nclack/1/11_11A%20D1.PDF)



Local mom, April Dobson, raised \$650 for her child's school library. A social activist, she felt compelled to make a difference after a divisive argument at Scouters Mountain Elementary.

that books for the libraries are acquired through a collaborative process involving input by library staff and local patrons within the parameters of the district collection development.

The district media specialist maintains an evolving list of vetted titles that conform to district policy, and selections are made from this list for orders with the goal of providing comparable access to information and ideas at all schools.

"We work to ensure that books in our libraries reflect our communities. Books, after all, are windows and mirrors offering a view or reflection of our identities and cultures. We want our students to see themselves and their lives in books. The work of making sure that we have books that do this in our schools is an ongoing process that doesn't end. There-

fore, not all schools have the same collection of books," Dove-Kiltow said.

Furthermore, the district encourages families to reach out to the leadership of their school if they would like to support any fundraising endeavors. Parents can support the school with district-approved materials to support a school focus such as books in languages other than English, as well as books that reflect student and community populations or STEM-focused material.

"As a school district, we value equity for every student, and we want our book collections to positively reflect members of our community and the value NSD places on kids and families, embracing race, ethnicity, language, family economics, family makeup, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental and physical ability and religion," Dove-Kiltow said. "Our libraries, just as our classrooms, should support inclusion and acceptance."



## JUNE 2019: BEN'S VILLAGE

**National Police Week**  
Annual nationwide tribute to law enforcement officers  
See PAGE 2



**Heading off to college?**  
Learn to protect yourself  
See PAGE 11



**Blood drive challenge**  
Scheduled for June 6  
See PAGE 9



June 2019  
happyvalleyor.gov

# Happy Valley NEWS

A city, community, a lifestyle — a place we proudly call home

Pamplin Media Group  
ClackamasReview

# Ben's VILLAGE

*Friends, family, community help special-needs boy achieve his potential*

By SHELLEY McFARLAND

It's been said that it takes a village to raise a child. That's true for Ben Kriloff who is defying expectations at Oregon Trail Elementary School.

At birth, Ben was deprived of oxygen for a significant period of time. Called hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, it resulted in severe brain damage.

"Doctors said he may never walk or talk or really have any purposeful or meaningful life," said Emily Kriloff, Ben's mother. "He was on a feeding tube because he couldn't suck or swallow. He came home a few weeks later from the newborn intensive care unit (NICU) and was having seizures. We weren't sure he was going to live."

Sent home with a difficult prognosis, the Kriloffs changed their lives to care for their first-born son. Emily, faced with Ben's time-consuming care, left her job as a pediatric nurse while Sean Kriloff, Ben's father, an active-duty naval career counselor guiding his comrades in the Northwest, asked to be stationed close to home.

"All I remember is I so badly wanted him to walk. Now I think, I just want Ben to talk more," Emily said. "You have all of these dreams for your kid, and with Ben, he wasn't going to do any of those things, and we asked ourselves 'what does this actually mean for us?'"

Ben started physical therapy with early intervention a few weeks after being brought home. He received private therapy by the time he was 3 months old. Today, Ben, 6, receives occupational therapy and attends Oregon Trail Elementary School as a first grader.

"Last year we thought he was doing well as a kindergartner, but there was still crying, and we were struggling with communication and behavior. But this year he has changed 100 percent. He's come so far. He's talking and saying phrases, he's more patient, and he's trying to commu-



PHOTO BY SHELLEY McFARLAND

Ben Kriloff attends Oregon Trail Elementary School and receives help from his transitional teacher's assistant.

## Making her way

*Isabelle Paylor set to attend Stanford in fall*

By SHELLEY McFARLAND

Since she was young, Isabelle Paylor has had an insatiable appetite for learning. Which subjects? Her mom, Brenda, joked that there isn't a subject Paylor doesn't find interesting. This fall Paylor is set to further her academic career at Stanford University, where she will seek a double major in computer science, possibly cybersecurity or artificial intelligence, and physics, with a concentration in astrophysics.

Along the way, Paylor said she had many wonderful teachers at the Happy Valley schools she attended.

"Everyone made a difference. I've gotten a lot of support from all of my teachers and the people at school and my friends," Paylor said.

School has been relatively easy for Paylor, but this year, the Clackamas High School senior has a stacked schedule, which is a challenge. She is taking honors humanities (a dual-credit class through Portland State University).

See PAYLOR / Page 19



Clackamas High School student Isabelle Paylor will be attending



## JUNE 2019: UNITED COMMUNITY ALLIANCE & SCHOOLS MEETING

# City, school principals team up to improve community

By SHELLEY McFARLAND

Two years ago, in an effort to improve connections with residents, the City of Happy Valley reached out to the principals of Happy Valley schools to establish a forum for conversation.

"The city is always looking to improve our connection with people, so partnering with the schools was a great idea. We meet with the principals of our schools to bridge the communication gap and build trust and relationships," said Steve Campbell, director of Community Services and Public Safety for the City of Happy Valley.

"Schools are a large entity in the community. We can complement each other well, but only if we know each other's needs, interests and challenges. We are all here to make life better for our youngest residents."

The meetings encompass everything from growth boundaries to community events, youth council, City Hall tours, traffic concerns and equity issues. Attendees include representatives from police, fire, library, community involvement, communications, planning and the assistant city manager.

The main topic at most meetings is school safety. At a recent gathering, the city detailed the Super Block Project that will impact Happy Valley Middle and Elementary schools.

The project will offer contiguous sidewalks linking sections

of Southeast Ridgcrest/Southeast 132nd Avenue and Southeast King Road/Southeast 147th Avenue. The project will increase safety for both pedestrians and motorists, and will include lighted crosswalks.

The Super Block 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.

"The main issue we work with is on safety. If an incident

happens we want to coordinate properly and work efficiently together," Campbell said. "Forming these relationships will help us all be effective to deal with the matters at hand, rather than wasting time understanding who the players are."

Because of the open communication between both groups, many principals advocated for and received traffic improvements near their schools.

"As a new principal to the area, I've found the meetings to be very helpful in understanding what is happening in the community that I serve. I appreciate hearing about the projects that are going on and how that will impact the families that we work with," said Jessica Son, Principal at Spring Mountain Elementary School.



PHOTOS BY: SHELLEY McFARLAND

The City of Happy Valley and school principals work together to build relationships to coordinate city improvements with schools and understanding the needs of each school.

"I also appreciate having time to ask questions of how to best access the resources that the city has to offer. I've worked with Steve Campbell to address concerns regarding traffic in our area, specifically at drop-off and pick-up," she said. "As a result of these meetings, I've been able to apply for a safety grant. The grant will provide safety features to our area for students and the community."

"The encouragement and support from Steve made me feel confident that our safety goals and the grant were in alignment."

During the latest meeting on May 9, Happy Valley Police Chief Scott Anderson asked whether the police "could do anything better when answering threat calls at the schools."

Each principal was handed a packet of statistics with detailed emergency-call logs from their respective schools. The packets are a tool to help the principals evaluate the nature of emergency calls that police and fire personnel are responding to and to compare their statistics with the other schools in Happy Valley.

Safety aside, the city also is concerned with the emotional well-being of the students living in Happy Valley. Diversity and inclusion are not just North Clackamas School District touchstones; the city wants to do its part to make all students feel safe and welcome.

At the May 9 meeting, Campbell addressed a recent incident involving offensive graffiti found on structures near a popular trail and the city's immediate response to eliminate it.

Tiffany Parret and Nicole Nix, co-chairs of the United Community Alliance, a diversity-centric group in Happy Valley, attended the meeting to explain their group's mission to build a stronger, tolerant and united community to serve all residents regardless of race, religion or lifestyle preferences.

Campbell said the benefits of the meetings are twofold — the city can keep the principals updated on city plans, goals or needs; conversely, the principals keep the city informed about the schools' plans, goals or needs.

"It's nice to work within a city that is so committed to support-

ing its local schools. City leaders use the time to really listen to our suggestions on how they can best support us as building principals," said Curtis Long, principal at Scouters Mountain Elementary School.

"Also, since building principals rarely have an opportunity to sit down for lunch at all — let alone with colleagues — it's a great time to visit and share success stories about all the awesome things taking place within our city's schools," he said.

The partnership between the North Clackamas principals and the city aligns resources and keeps channels of communication open. As such, it is a working model for other cities to adopt.

"NCSD deeply appreciates these conversations between Happy Valley city officials and local principals. Schools are integral components of any community, and efforts to establish effective, two-way communication can result in mutually beneficial outcomes," said Jonathan Hutchinson, communications director for the North Clackamas School District.

Because of the success of the program, Campbell sees the meetings continuing into the next school year. The biggest benefits are to "share challenges, celebrate successes and enrich the lives of our youngest residents. These relationships benefit the entire community," he said.



## OCTOBER 2019: BEATRICE MORROW CANNADY ELEMENTARY



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

City leaders, school principal, students and North Clackamas School District representatives officially cut the ribbon to open Beatrice Cannady Elementary School.

# New school year in new digs

*Beatrice Cannady Elementary School welcomes its first students*

By SHELLEY MCFARLAND

The opening of the new Beatrice Cannady Elementary School was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and community open house in September. Construction of the school began in April 2018.

"The open house was great because it was the first welcoming opportunity, and everyone is excited. We were able to share our vision of the school being a place where everyone gets to come, and everyone is loved regardless of your identity or race. This is a place for you," said Diana Ngai, BCES principal.

"This is your school family, your home away from home, and your safe place. It's a diverse community, and to be represented by Beatrice Morrow Cannady and her work in our area was monumental."

The students will learn about the school's namesake

through lessons.

"We are going to be a school that teaches equity and civil rights and how we can support people in our community," Ngai said.

Cannady (1889-1974) was the first black woman to graduate law school from Oregon. She fought for civil rights in Oregon and was editor of the Advocate, Oregon's largest African American newspaper at the time.

The construction budget to build the 61,700-square-foot school was \$25,555,891 with Robinson Construction costs coming in at \$25,123,793. Nearly 400 students attend the 25-classroom school with a capacity of 550.

BRIC Architecture designed the school, which includes areas bathed in natural light and mature Douglas fir trees that were preserved and surround the grounds.



PHOTO CREDIT: SHELLEY MCFARLAND

Above: The new elementary school features a library living room feel where the center of the school is an open-concept library.  
Left submitted photo: Beatrice Morrow Cannady left an indelible mark on Oregon's civil rights.



## OCTOBER 2019: ALL ABILITIES PARK



Many hands make light work! Members from Rotary of Clackamas, Happy Valley City Council, and a large group of volunteers came together on Sept. 14 to begin installing equipment at Happy Valley's new All Abilities Park.

# Happy Valley's all abilities park gets ready for grand opening

*City of Happy Valley*

The Rotary Club of Clackamas and the City of Happy Valley teamed up with volunteers from the community on Saturday, Sept. 14 to begin building the new structures that will comprise the much anticipated All Abilities Park.

The playground will serve all kids, regardless of physical or developmental abilities, and will be in proximity to several other communal areas within the Park. Thanks to generous donations from the Fuller Family, Lyla J. Husband, and Bill McCracken and Pam Husband, the project's official grand opening is slated for later this month.

Located near covered area A at Happy Valley Park, the all abilities park boasts spacious areas that can be traversed by various means and will have equipment designed specifically for mobility and sensory challenges. Children will have access to a variety of activities that promote safety, tactile interest, and of course, fun! Installation day was a sight to behold



as a large group of Rotarians, City staff, and volunteers came out to help. Mayor Tom Ellis, Council President Brett Sherman, and Councilors Markley Drake and David Emami were also on hand to hammer stakes, tighten bolts, and even pour cement. By the end of the day, most of the play structures had been completed. The City's Public Works team is finishing most of the final details, including the installation of a special rubber flooring that will offer a safer and more comfortable

foundation for those using the area.

While funding for the project has been secured, there are still opportunities to be part of history. Between now and November 2019, a brick can be purchased for \$125 and the purchaser's name or special message will be engraved. Bricks will be set in front of several benches placed around the play area and will serve to signify the community support for the project. The cost of the bricks is tax deductible.



### CELEBRATE THE ALL ABILITIES PARK GRAND OPENING

**LOCATION:** Happy Valley Park (near covered area A)

**DATE:** Saturday, Oct. 19

**TIME:** Noon-2 p.m.

While the Clackamas Rotary supports the local community, it has taken on international projects as well. It most recently raised funds to remodel a maternity ward at a hospital in Gambia in efforts to support safe and clean medical practices and decrease infant mortality rates.

If you would like more information or want to contribute to the All Abilities Park, please contact Thomas Joseph at [thomasjosephino@gmail.com](mailto:thomasjosephino@gmail.com) or Joel Mobley at [Joelm74@comcast.com](mailto:Joelm74@comcast.com). To learn more about Rotary Club of Clackamas, check out [www.clackamasrotary.org](http://www.clackamasrotary.org).

The new park will include a variety of play equipment that allows ease of movement, stability, and sensory exploration.



# MAY 2020: STATEMENTS REGARDING MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

**City of Happy Valley, Oregon** May 29 · 🌐

Mayor Ellis, City Council, City of Happy Valley Police Department, and Clackamas County Sheriff's Office stand together in condemning the actions taken against Mr. Floyd in Minnesota. There is no place in our society for anyone to be treated so terribly. Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Mr. Floyd. We know this has touched many people in our own community. We are committed to working together for a better future by building stronger relationships.



**Happy Valley Police Department**

May 29 · 🌐

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"  
—Martin Luther King Jr.

Happy Valley Police join several Law Enforcement leaders from the Portland Metro... [See More](#)

FLASHALERTNEWSWIRE.NET

[www.flashalertnewswire.net](http://www.flashalertnewswire.net)

2,784

People Reached

341

Engagements

Boost Unavailable

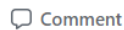


148

8 Comments 3 Shares



Like



Comment



Share



Most Relevant ▾



Comment as City of Happy Valley, Oregon



**Shonna Schroedl**

Thank you Mayor Ellis and City Councilors for your sincerity and leadership..

1

Like · Reply · Message · 9w



**Tiffany Parret**

Thank you for this statement. I know the city is working hard to improve our community for ALL it's citizens. I look forward to seeing the progress we can make. Calling out and Standing up against injustice are the first steps. Thank you.

2

Like · Reply · Message · 9w



**Stephen Sirkin**

I'd be interested in seeing what we as a community can do to address the racial inequalities that have led to this terrible situation.

1

Like · Reply · Message · 9w



**Deshawn Hardy**

It's good to see this being acknowledged..

1

Like · Reply · Message · 9w



**Marylee Herington Walden**

I am so glad to see this post. Thank you.

1

Like · Reply · Message · 9w



**Happy Valley Police Department**

May 29 · 🌐

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"  
—Martin Luther King Jr.

Happy Valley Police join several Law Enforcement leaders from the Portland Metro Area in condemning the actions and the lack of humanity displayed by a police officer in Minnesota this week.

Like many of you, I had a range of emotions when I saw the video. Disgust, sadness, outrage and disappointment all came to bear this week.

The actions of that officer are in stark contradiction to the values we hold in this profession. With his arrest today, justice can begin to heal the wounds we all felt this week.

Happy Valley Police are committed to working with all of the communities we police to repair and build the trust that is damaged by actions like those we saw this week in Minnesota.

- Chief Scott Anderson

[http://www.flashalertnewswire.net/images/news/2020-05/1128/134775/Metro\\_Law\\_Enforcement\\_Partners\\_Joint\\_Statement\\_5-28-2020.pdf](http://www.flashalertnewswire.net/images/news/2020-05/1128/134775/Metro_Law_Enforcement_Partners_Joint_Statement_5-28-2020.pdf)

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[www.flashalertnewswire.net](http://www.flashalertnewswire.net)

4,816

People Reached

615

Engagements

Boost Post



170

12 Comments 11 Shares



Like



Comment



Share



Most Relevant ▾



Comment as Happy Valley Police Departm...



**Maggie Sheldon**

Thank you Chief Anderson. I will always have faith in Happy Valley and Clackamas County Law Enforcement

1

Like · Reply · Message · 9w



**Syreeta Spencer**

Thank you. I truly hope change will come. I am happy to see you acknowledge that it is your responsibility to repair and build the trust with the black community. I hope that other officers feel and act the same. I don't want to fear for my dad, my bro... [See More](#)

4

Like · Reply · Message · 9w



**Ana Tiwari Sarish**

We needed this 🙏 It's leadership like this that makes our community so much stronger. I'm so proud of you and I'm so proud of our law enforcement! Thank Chief Anderson.

1

Like · Reply · Message · 9w




**Vanessa Valdez**


I am forever grateful and thankful to see these words Chief.

1

# MAY 2020: RESOURCES FOLLOWING MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD




 **Happy Valley Library**  
May 29 · Instagram · 🌐

Picture books that celebrate black lives, culture and beauty. Ebooks available to check out in Cloud Library with you library card












470  
People Reached

29  
Engagements

   21

2 Shares

 Like  Comment  Share 

 Comment as Happy Valley Library    


 **Happy Valley Library**  
May 29 · Instagram · 🌐



Looking to help kids and teens gain a deeper understanding of race and racism in America? Check out *Stamped: Race, Racism and You* by the brilliant Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi. Available as an ebook and audiobook in Cloud Library.







303  
People Reached

10  
Engagements


 7

 Like  Comment  Share 


 Comment as Happy Valley Library    



# JUNE 2020: RESOURCES FOLLOWING MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

**Happy Valley Library**  
June 1 · Instagram · 🌐



BLACK STORIES MATTER! Check out these fantastic recent chapter books for kids by African American authors. Available as ebooks in Cloud Library or place books on hold for no contact pick up at HVL.




628  
People Reached


37  
Engagements


Boost Post


  13


5 Shares





 Like


 Comment

 Share



 Comment as Happy Valley Library

**Happy Valley Library**  
June 2 · Instagram · 🌐


An Anti-Racist Reading list. Ebooks available in Cloud Library or place books on hold for no contact pick up at HVL.




634  
People Reached


38  
Engagements

Boost Post


 13

2 Comments 1 Share

 Like

 Comment


 Share



Most Relevant




 Comment as Happy Valley Library

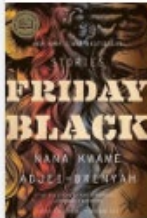


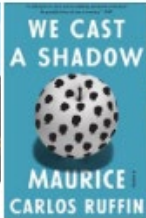
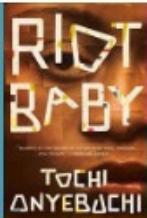

   

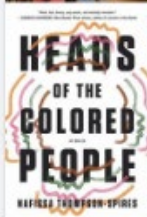
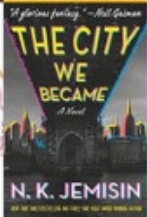
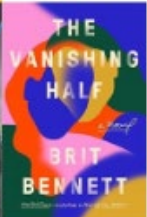



View comments

# JUNE 2020: RESOURCES FOLLOWING MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD


**Happy Valley Library**  
 June 3 · Instagram ·

Black voices in fiction. 12 exceptional books from the past few years. Download them from cloudLibrary or place them on hold for no contact pick up at HVL.




















386  
People Reached


9  
Engagements

Boost Post




 9

 Like
  Comment
  Share


 Comment as Happy Valley Library


**Happy Valley Library**  
 June 3 ·

An opportunity tomorrow afternoon (4 pm) for both kids and grownups.



**#KIDLIT COMMUNITY  
RALLY FOR BLACK LIVES**

JOIN US **JUNE 4, 2020**  
 ON FACEBOOK LIVE @THEBROWNBOOKSHELF

**7:00-7:45 PM ET — WE TALK TO YOUNG PEOPLE**  
**7:45-8:30 PM ET — WE TALK TO PARENTS, EDUCATORS AND LIBRARIANS**

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COMMUNITY'S CALL TO ACTION, WITH:



|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| JACQUELINE WOODSON | K.A. HOLT            |
| JASON REYNOLDS     | KWAME ALEXANDER      |
| GENE LUEN YANG     | DENENE MILLNER BOOKS |
| JERRY CRAFT        | NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS  |
| RAUL THE THIRD     | VERSIFY BOOKS        |
| RENEE WATSON       | AND MORE!            |
| CHRISTOPHER MYERS  |                      |




**THU, JUN 4**  
**Kidlit Rally for Black Lives**  
 Literature · 21,968 people


372  
People Reached

32  
Engagements

Boost Unavailable



 14

 Like
  Comment
  Share


 Comment as Happy Valley Library



# JUNE 2020: HAPPY VALLEY PEACE MARCH



City of Happy Valley, Oregon is 🥰 feeling inspired.  
June 3 · 🌟

A group of residents, visitors, and friends made their way through Happy Valley this evening to peacefully protest the death of George Floyd and mourn members of the Black community that have lost their lives to acts of hatred and racism.

The procession began at Clackamas High School and concluded at Happy Valley City Hall where there was a united call for equality from those who gathered. Throughout the event, participants remained peaceful and focused on communicating messages of solidarity. Thank you [Happy Valley Police Department](#) and [Clackamas County Sheriff's Office](#) for being a partner with us in helping ensure tonight's march remained safe for all who came out to partake.

This was an event that truly encouraged our community to unite and it was largely comprised of our City's youth. It was inspiring and uplifting to share in this experience. We want to extend a huge thank you to all the organizers of this event as well as the [United Community Alliance of Happy Valley](#). Thank you for bringing this community together in such a meaningful way.



35,352  
People Reached

10,013  
Engagements

Boost Post

778

145 Comments 172 Shares

Like

Comment

Share



Most Relevant ▾



Comment as City of Happy Valley, Oregon



City of Happy Valley, Oregon ✓  
June 4 · 🌟

In a follow up to the Peace March last night, we wanted to share a few more pictures from the event. This peaceful march encouraged open dialogue, empathy, and understanding. We know this is just the beginning of a broader movement. The City, in partnership with community, is excited to work collaboratively in moving the needle toward justice and equality.

All photos by local photographer, John Higgins.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/28429510@N05/albums/72157714571411353/>



FLICKR.COM

Peaceful Protest

Explore this photo album by John Higgins on Flickr!

2,392  
People Reached

553  
Engagements

Boost Post

175

2 Comments 20 Shares

Like

Comment

Share



Most Relevant ▾



Comment as City of Happy Valley, Oregon



View comments



Happy Valley Police Department  
June 4 · 🌟

Happy Valley Police would like to thank the group of citizens who came out to peacefully demonstrate last night.

It was an awesome demonstration of a community coming together to share an important message.

The group started at Clackamas High School and peacefully marched almost 2 miles to Happy Valley City Hall where they observed 9 minutes of silence and heard from some community members and leaders.

The organizers of the event and the citizens who participated showed us all why Happy Valley is a great place to live and work. It was our honor to work with the organizers to assure the event was peaceful and successful.

Thank you!

Chief Anderson



27,857  
People Reached

5,840  
Engagements

Boost Post

436

35 Comments 188 Shares

Like

Comment

Share





# JULY 2020: HAPPY VALLEY PEACE MARCH RECAP

**CITY OF HAPPY VALLEY  
PARKS & RECREATION**  
Upcoming Summer  
events at the park  
See page 4, 5, 12

**Hoping  
for real  
change**  
See page 14



**Theresa  
Martin  
retires  
after 33  
years**  
See page 14



**Fourth of  
July yard  
decor  
contest**  
See page 17



July 2020  
happyvalleyor.gov

## Happy Valley NEWS

A city, community, a lifestyle — a place we proudly call home

Pamplin  
MediaGroup  
ClackamasReview



Organizer Monnie Spears (second from left) and her father DeShawn Hardy (third from left) march a group of roughly 2,000 protestors into the grounds of Happy City Hall on June 3.

PHOTO BY: JOHN HIGGINS

### Happy Valley residents join march against racism

"Social media creates an openness of information that people can see. Racism has been going on all our lives, but it just wasn't always recorded. ... Now we really see racism, and it's different when you see it."

— DeShawn Hardy

On June 3, Happy Valley joined the nation to protest racism. Organized by 2017 Clackamas High School graduate Monnie Spears, roughly 2,000 demonstrators held signs and chanted as they marched eastward on two lanes of Sunnyside Road. Starting at CHS, the march ended at City Hall, where organizers spoke about violence affecting Black people nationwide, along with the effects that systemic racism has on Black Americans. "This is not just a moment, but a movement. Our community came out, and we saw the signs and the marchers. We don't take away from the moment, but the movement part is important. We must now look at policies and make changes. Standing together and having people together is wonderful, but that doesn't change things," DeShawn Hardy said. "There has to be policy change in institutions and when there comes change, we as Black people need to be present at those tables to help with police reform, laws and racism. That's where the change comes."

An organizer himself, Hardy is a fourth-generation preacher and reverend at Emmanuel Church. He also is the father of Spears and



Signs of all shapes, sizes and colors were displayed by marchers who showed up to the Peaceful Protest to

PHOTO BY: JOHN HIGGINS

response would be and wondered if people would yell at us. But the people were hungry for it; they were waiting for it and wanted it. People came up and thanked me and my family and Monnie for organizing the march because they wanted to do something, but just didn't know how to do it," Hardy said. "Everybody plays a part in this movement. Some are going to sit at the table, some are going to march, and some will support, but to see our community come together was great." At City Hall, Hardy and Spears spoke about their experiences with racism and the changes they want to see. North Clackamas School Board member Libra Forde, and Happy Valley's United Alliance Committee member Tiffany Parrot also spoke. In attendance were all Happy Valley city councilors, Mayor Tom Ellis and Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Happy Valley. "It was one of the most moving and powerful nights in our city's history. It will forever be special to me," Bynum said. "It reaffirms the inclusiveness of our community and those values, plus it shows our kids that they can peacefully protest, and they will be supported." The march, which Hardy called "electric," and the speeches helped

### Direct ACTION delivers

Monnie Spears organizes peaceful protest and thousands respond



DeShawn Hardy and march organizer Monnie Spears say they were surprised at the turnout to the Peaceful Protest.

After learning of the killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, Happy Valley resident

needed to be heard in a positive way. Spears knew she could post on social media all day, but thought a march would be more

# Diversity & Inclusion

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



TOM ELLIS

I want to take this opportunity to recognize current events we find ourselves in. First and foremost, the City Council and I stand together in condemning the actions taken against Mr. George Floyd in Minnesota. Second, I'm grateful the Happy Valley Police Department and Clackamas County Sheriff's Office also expressed their condemnation of these actions. There is no place in our society for anyone to be treated so despicably. Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Mr. Floyd. We know this incident, and more like it, have affected many people in our own community. Please know that we are committed to working together for a better future by building stronger relationships.

Throughout our country, we have seen demonstrations and protests take place daily since the news of Mr. Floyd's death was

reported. As many of you know, Happy Valley had one of the largest demonstrations in our area. Families and friends in the thousands from our community engaged in a peaceful protest to express their opposition to systemic injustice. Of particular note, this event was largely comprised of our City's youth. The march began at Clackamas High School and concluded at Happy Valley City Hall where there was a united call for equity from those who gathered. Throughout the event, participants remained peaceful and focused on communicating messages of solidarity. It was inspiring and uplifting to share in this experience. We want to extend a huge thank you to all the organizers of this event as well as to the United Community Alliance of Happy Valley. Thank you for bringing our community together in such a meaningful way.

I also want to thank the Happy Valley Police Department for working collaboratively with the event organizers to help ensure the march remained safe for all who came out to participate. I've seen many demonstrations on the news, but this was the first one that included a thank you from the organizers to the local police and City staff members.

On a final note, there is no doubt we are in the midst of a new movement. Several months ago, the City Council established a goal for 2020 to support and foster a community and organizational culture that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are in the early stages of developing a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Task Force to assist with this important work. I'm eager to move the work forward on addressing these issues to build stronger relationships in our community.



## JULY 2020: HAPPY VALLEY PEACE MARCH RECAP

# HOPING for real CHANGE

*How one Happy Valley couple is talking to their kids about racism*

By **SHELLEY McFARLAND**

For Chip and Cynde Dunn, the recent flood of race talks is nothing new. Chip has dealt with racism, and how he is perceived, every day of his life.

Chip is a Black man who grew up in southern California where race issues were prevalent, while Cynde is white and grew up in Milwaukie. Their two children, Charlie, 10, and Isaac, 7, are witnessing a shift in America culture, and their parents are helping them understand the significance.

"We saw the video (of George Floyd), and then to have a bedtime conversation with a 10-year-old is hard. Charlie told me he didn't want his dad to leave the house, and he didn't want to go outside to play. He's just a kid. From my perspective, that's awful," Cynde said. "But that's his reality. Can I really tell my children that nothing will happen, and everything is going to be OK? I can't. I can't reassure them, and as a mom, that's what I want to do, but it's giving them false hope."

Recently, the Duns took their boys to the Happy Valley march on June 3, where they saw friends and neighbors join in the rally to end racism. The Duns hope the national momentum of the protests can create real change and people will expose their children to more diversity through books, events and friends.

"Now our conversations have changed drastically. Before, race was something we just touched on, and we've always talked about how mom and dad look different from each other. But with the current events, it's been taken to a whole new level," Cynde said. "It's saturated in the news. At first, I just wanted to protect my kids. We didn't want to, but we can't not have these talks. It's impacting them because they're seeing it, and they have to be pre-



The Duns recently attended the Peaceful Protest in Happy Valley on June 3 to denounce against racism and police brutality.

pared because they are facing it already."

Earlier this year, Charlie was exposed to the "n" word for the first time during recess at school. While Cynde and

the school dealt with it quickly, it saddened her to have to explain what the word meant and to give him strategies for dealing with racism.

"Charlie had never heard

that word before, not in music or movies; he's not exposed to it. We protected him from it. But with the narrative that is happening now, we must be transparent with him and give him the information to prepare him.

"The conversations that our white friends are having with their kids are not the same conversations about race that I am having with my children. And why aren't they? They should be the same conversations, because when something happens, those are the kids who need to step in and support Charlie and not leave him by himself," Cynde said. "When I've asked friends if they are having those conversations or if they think their kid would stand up for Charlie



The Duns, Cynde, Chip, Isaac 7 and Charlie 10.

**"The conversations that our white friends are having with their kids are not the same conversations about race that I am having with my children. ... They should be the same conversations, because when something happens, those are the kids who need to step in."**

— Cynde Dunn

and they say, 'no,' I think it's the responsibility of the parents to have these talks so there will be real change."

Cynde said her parents did not have any discussions with her about race when she was growing up because it didn't impact her life. Her school only had a couple Black students and Black history education was reserved for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. She hopes all families will start to have the difficult conversations confronting racism, even in predominantly white neighborhoods.

Chip's experiences growing up in California were vastly different.

When Chip was a child, he learned a second history from his parents, a more accurate history of the Black experience in America, along with celebrating the valuable accomplishments of his race.

Chip's grandfathers each contributed to improvements in the lives of Black people. One was a Pullman porter for the railroad. Up until the 1960s, porters were exclusively Black. The group has been credited with helping create a black middle class.

Chip's other grandfather was a member of the Tuskegee Army, composed of African American and Caribbean American military pilots. The two Tuskegee units, the 332nd Central Postal Directory and the 477th Central Postal Directory, were part of the Tuskegee Army Air Forces fought in North Africa and Europe during WWII.

While Chip continues teaching his children to celebrate their collective history, he wishes he didn't also have to talk about racism.

"In the big picture, I hope the world sees my children as no different, they are treated the same and are allowed the same opportunities as everybody else without judging them based on how they look. It's that simple," Chip said. "The same things that were happening 60 years ago are still happening today, and as this movement progresses, I hope there is a break in the chain and the system will start to change in a way that is equitable for everybody, primarily for people of color."

"It's impossible to heal from the emotional, psychological and physical trauma when the racism continues."

**Trash it,  
Don't Flush it!**

**NO WIPES OF  
ANY KIND IN**





# JUNE 2020: PRIDE MONTH

**City of Happy Valley, Oregon** June 15 · 🌞

June is Pride Month, a time filled with celebrations that inspire solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community. While the pandemic has certainly led to a change in plans for this year's Pride festivities, the underlying message of this movement is as important as ever. Together, the City stands with our LGBTQ+ community and advocates for the celebration of love, diversity, and equality.



2,009 People Reached 187 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️👤 You and 117 others 1 Share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🏠

Most Relevant ▾

**City of Happy Valley, Oregon** 🏠 📷 📺 🗨️

Most Relevant is selected, so some comments may have been filtered out.

**Happy Valley Library** June 16 · Instagram · 🌐

LGBTQIA+ kids, teens, parents, and families: we see you! LGBTQIA+ authors and stories are in our collections. Your stories matter. We have picture books & parenting resources for gender nonconforming kids, queer comics for all ages, books to support questioning kids and teens, and more. We are here for you. You are part of our beloved library community! We want everyone to find and enjoy positive representations of themselves in our books and informational resources.

Read more on our blog <https://www.happyvalleyor.gov/happy-valley-library/blog/rainbow-reads/>



556 People Reached 31 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️ 10 3 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🏠

**Happy Valley Library** 🏠 📷 📺 🗨️



# JUNE 2020: PRIDE MONTH



Happy Valley Library

June 24 · Instagram ·

Looking for elementary and middle school books featuring LGBTQIA+ characters? We've got you covered! Here are a few new titles we love.

Read more and find links to place holds on our blog,  
[happyvalleyor.gov/library/blog](http://happyvalleyor.gov/library/blog)

.... See More



261

People Reached

13

Engagements

Boost Post



2

1 Share



Like



Comment



Share



Comment as Happy Valley Library



Happy Valley Library

June 29 · Instagram ·

Celebrate pride with new LGBTQIA+ nonfiction titles for kids and teens: history, biographies, information about gender identity, health, & more.

KIDS

INTERSECTIONAL ALLIES: WE MAKE ROOM FOR ALL by Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council & Carolyn Choi. Illustrated by Ashley Seil Smith... See More



310

People Reached

7

Engagements

Boost Post



3



Like



Comment



Share



Comment as Happy Valley Library



# JUNE 2020: JUNETEENTH

**City of Happy Valley, Oregon** June 19 · 🌐

Today, June 19, communities around the nation are celebrating the significance of Juneteenth, an annual holiday observing the end of slavery in the U.S. The [Happy Valley Library](#) has been providing some excellent resources for anyone who would like to learn more and has additional links to many other titles that may help encourage open dialogue.



**Happy Valley Library** June 18 · 🌐

Happy Juneteenth: Here are some picture books by Black authors and artists that celebrate African American culture, history, resistance and achievement. We hop... [See More](#)

1,260 People Reached 61 Engagements [Boost Unavailable](#)

👍❤️ You and 33 others 2 Comments 3 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 📷

Most Relevant ▾

**City of Happy Valley, Oregon** Comment as City of Happy Valley, Oregon 📷 📷 📷 📷

**Deshawn Hardy** Great job posting about this ! With these small steps towards equality our community can become a better place for all 🙌

Like · Reply · Message · 6w 1

**Dinaya K Gallaher** I love my town. Yes, HV for people of color 🙌🙌

**Happy Valley Library** June 18 · 🌐

The National Museum of African American History & Culture is hosting a free online Juneteenth celebration all day Friday & Saturday, June 19 & 20.

Juneteenth is a time to celebrate, to gather as a family, to reflect on the past and look to the future. Engage in history, learn where you came from, and discover (or share) ways to celebrate this holiday. On this day they are bringing the Museum to you through presentations, stories, photographs, and recipes.

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/event/juneteenth-celebration-resilience>



NMAAHC.SI.EDU

**Juneteenth: A Celebration of Resilience**

Juneteenth is a time to celebrate, to gather as a family, to reflect o...


216 People Reached 4 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 📷

**Happy Valley Library** Comment as Happy Valley Library 📷 📷 📷 📷



# JULY 2020: FUNERAL PROCESSION FOR THE DEATH OF RACISM








Happy Valley Police Department  
July 6 at 3:12 PM · 🌐

Happy Valley PD helped with traffic control during a procession of cars that left Clackamas High on Saturday, July 4.

The procession (<https://www.facebook.com/events/267976610933053>) was designed to "empower ideas and actions independent of racism."




We were happy to help. Chief Anderson was on hand, and we had some very positive interactions with event organizers.



7,416  
People Reached

983  
Engagements


Boost Post

 You and 87 others


Like

Comment


Share



Most Relevant ▾





Comment as Happy Valley Police Departm...



Monica Borden  
Thank you. This is public service and Policing at its finest. ...

Like · Reply · Message · 4w

 2

# Procession to symbolize death of racism

Recently, the UCA organized a funeral for Racism. Hundreds of cars joined in the procession on Sunnyside Road.

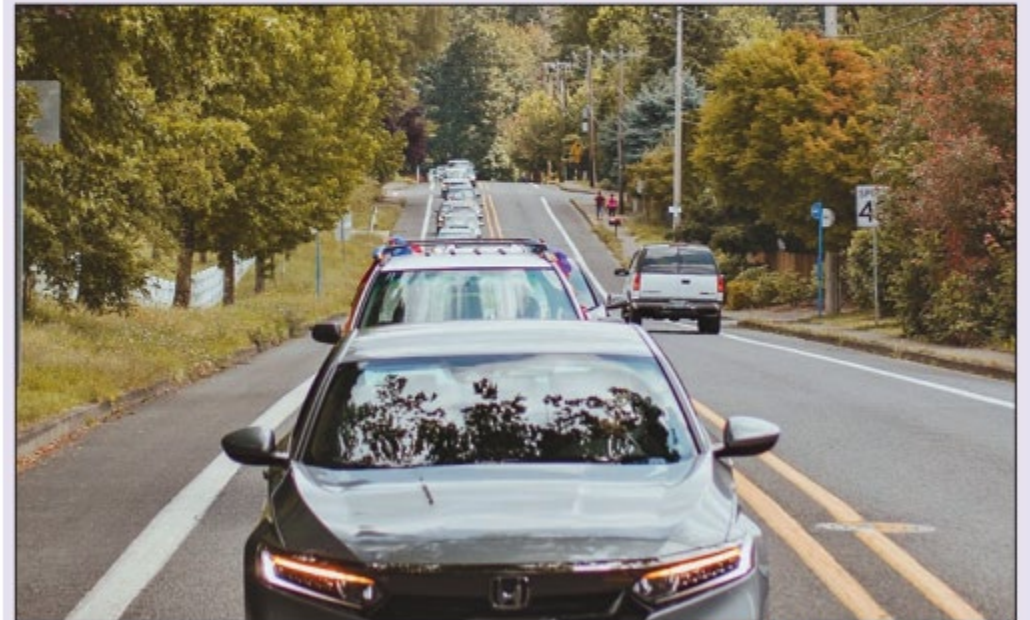



PHOTO BY: JESSICA CLARK REDFRED PRODUCTIONS

## JUNE 2020: CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

**Happy Valley Library**  
June 17 · 🌐

Tomorrow at noon, the Oregon Historical Society hosts a timely discussion: Bringing together scholars who have studied the physical and economic displacement of black Americans as well as the Black Power movement and white supremacist organizations, including their interactions with the police, this program will offer perspective on the news of today.  
<https://www.ohs.org/events/racism-protest-and-law-enforcement.cfm>




OHS.ORG  
**Racism, Protest, and Law Enforcement: Historical Context for Contemporary...**  
Images of anti-racist and of anti-government protesters have filled media feeds during recent weeks, making us eager to consider the historic...





273  
People Reached


6  
Engagements

Boost Post


 2

 Like     Comment     Share    

 Comment as Happy Valley Library       

**Happy Valley Library**  
June 28 · 🌐

TED has a whole playlist of videos on the topic of racism. From passionate pleas for reform to poetic turns of phrase, these talks take an honest look at everyday realities of Black Americans and illuminate the way forward.  
[https://www.ted.com/playlists/250/talks\\_to\\_help\\_you\\_understand\\_r](https://www.ted.com/playlists/250/talks_to_help_you_understand_r)









TED.COM  
**TED Talks to help you understand racism in America**  
Thoughtful talks on a deeply complicated issue.






407  
People Reached

18  
Engagements

Boost Post

  11

 Like     Comment     Share    

 Comment as Happy Valley Library       



## JULY 2020: CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION



Happy Valley Library

July 7 at 12:12 PM · Instagram · 🌐

Borrow these Black Lives Matter titles in Libby now, no waitlist or holds:

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Me and White Supremacy by Layla F Saad

So You Want to Talk about Race by Ijeoma Oluo

Borrow titles with Libby/Overdrive: Library2gGo/Oregon Digital Consortium

New to Libby or need assistance with e-books? Give us a call, 503-783-3455

·  
·  
·

#readblackbooks #blackstoriesmatter #blackauthors



338

People Reached

14

Engagements

Boost Post



7

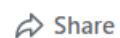
2 Comments 2 Shares



Like



Comment



Share



Most Relevant ▾



Comment as Happy Valley Library



View comments

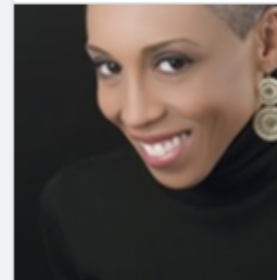


Happy Valley Library

July 12 at 5:08 PM · 🌐

"...books are like lightbulbs — they shine brightest when we turn them on."

<https://www.opb.org/artsandlife/article/npr-no-reading-no-peace-the-power-of-black-stories-out-loud/>



OPB.ORG

### No Reading, No Peace: The Power Of Black Stories Out Loud

The difference between owning a book by a Black author and experiencing its power lies in reading it aloud — particularly for kids' books,...

299

People Reached

11

Engagements

Boost Post



7



Like



Comment



Share



Comment as Happy Valley Library



# JULY 2020: CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION



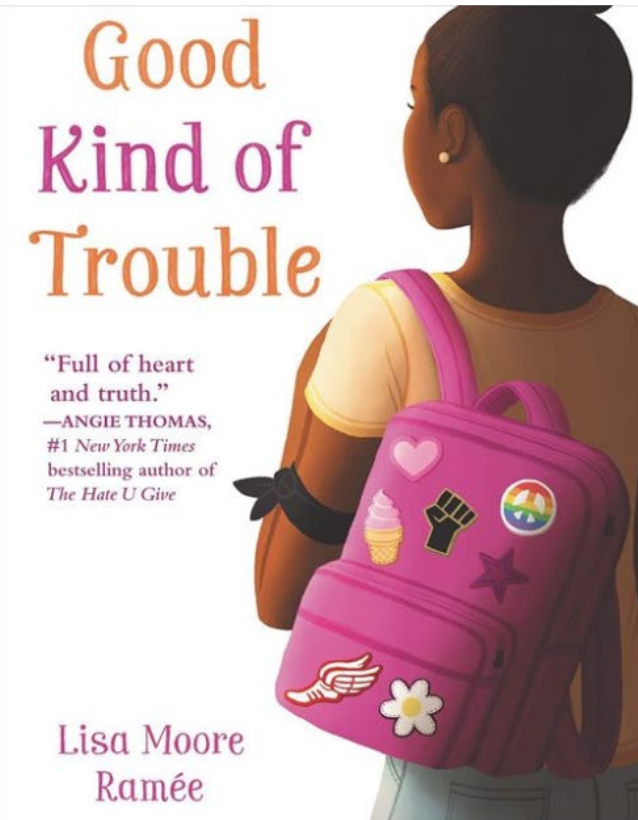
Happy Valley Library

July 9 at 5:47 PM · Instagram · 🌐

Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramée is the first We Need Diverse Books Summer Reading 2020 pick!

Borrow this wonderful middle grade book or ebook from the library, and visit [www.diversebooks.org/blog](http://www.diversebooks.org/blog) for an author interview and more resources to help families to engage in discussions about race and diversity.

#weneeddiversebooks #wndbsummerreading #blackkidsbooks



198  
People Reached

1  
Engagement

Boost Post



1

Like

Comment

Share



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Happy Valley Library

July 21 at 4:36 PM · 🌐

Diverse Board Books: A Place to Begin

To learn more and place titles on hold, visit our blog  
<https://happyvalleyor.gov/library/blog>



209  
People Reached

3  
Engagements

Boost Post



1

Like

Comment

Share



Comment as Happy Valley Library





# JULY 2020: REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

 **Happy Valley Library**  
July 18 at 11:40 AM · Instagram · 🌐

Remembering John Lewis.  
Check out his award winning autobiographical graphic novels.

·  
·  
·

#march #CivilRights #library #GraphicNovel



312  
People Reached


13  
Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

👍 7 1 Share

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share    🌐

 Comment as Happy Valley Library    😊 📷 GIF 🗨

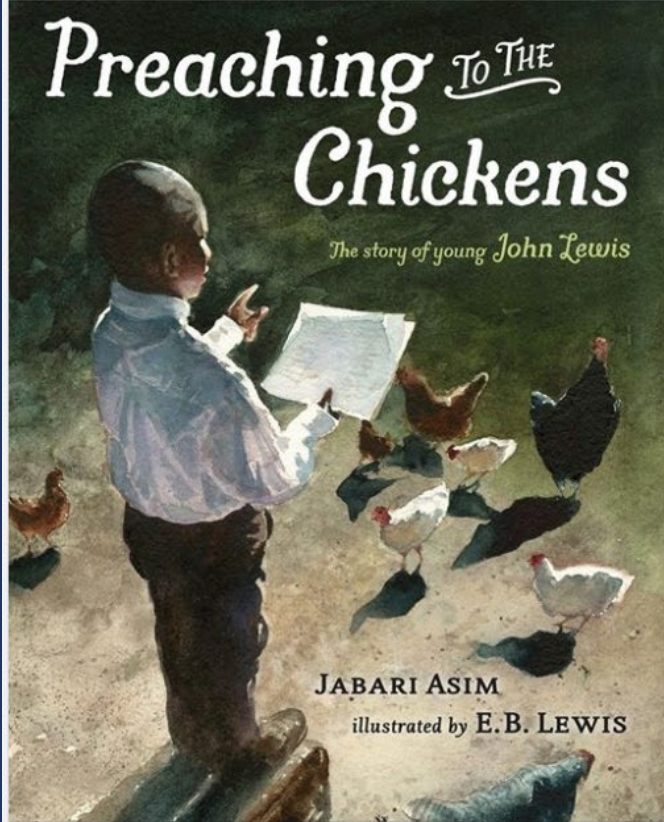
 **Happy Valley Library**  
July 20 at 2:11 PM · Instagram · 🌐

Remembering and honoring the mighty civil rights leader John Lewis (1940 - 2020)

Want to discuss the legacy of John Lewis with your children? Share *Preaching to the Chickens* by Jabari Asim, an award winning picture book about Lewis' childhood.

·  
·  
·

#johnlewis #johnlewisgoodtrouble




354  
People Reached

10  
Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

👍❤️ 2 3 Shares

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share    🌐

 Comment as Happy Valley Library    😊 📷 GIF 🗨



## AUGUST 2020: SPOTLIGHT ON UNITY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

# United Community Alliance gains traction promoting diversity

*Grassroots group fosters discussion, safety for Happy Valley families*

By SHELLEY McFARLAND

Happy Valley residents Tiffany Parret and Nicole Nix, both white, wanted more than just playmates for their biracial children.

Each had lived in Happy Valley for a few years and were searching for a sense of community and representation for people of color when they decided to reach out to others. What started as a small group, is now having a deep and positive impact on Happy Valley.

"After my children's father moved here from New York, we started having regular conversations about the lack of diversity here. Because I grew up in Oregon, I never really noticed just how white it is here, but to someone who has lived in other major cities and is a Black man, it was not only evident, it was uncomfortable," Parret said.

"We would encounter so few people of color that we would actually count them and report back to each other with excitement. There were so few, and the need for more representation was constant."

While out with her children, Parret sometimes encounters microaggressions, like people asking her where she got her children or touching her children's hair.

"These actions are frustrating, especially as a parent. I want other kids, including my own, to feel accepted in their own community," Parret said. "Our concern was at school, with only a few Black children, are other kids going to stick up for my child if they are being mistreated? At a more diverse school, there would be a whole group to stand up. That's where I felt I needed a community for my children to look up to and represent them."

Parret started a small Facebook group in 2017 called Mixed and Beautiful and Nix joined. The two became friends and wondered how they could broaden their group to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nicole Nix and Tiffany Parret started the United Community Alliance and have watched it grow into an important organization in Happy Valley helping with issues of equity and diversity.

reach more people and effect possible change.

The group, originally started for moms, was popular and soon included all races, genders and sexual orientation wanting "an inclusive space for everyone." Nix originally

moved to Happy Valley seeking a safe place for her biracial child and schools that would be equitable.

"The group is now called Diverse-ly Beautiful and is a safe zone for families to be able to talk about various things. It was a small commu-

"We have brought a community together and highlighted concerns by talking to the City Council and staff and making them aware that there are ways to improve the city with regard to race and equity."

— Tiffany Parret

nity to support each other," Nix said. "Then the school naming happened in Happy Valley, and we saw that there were others who needed our community group."

What started out as a small Facebook group has branched into the United Community Alliance when City Councilor Markley Drake reached out to Nix. With a few other friends, including North Clackamas School District board member Libra Forde, a small group formed to talk about race in Happy Valley.

The grassroots group shared stories, and within a few months, they decided on a name and mission statement. Today, the UCA has nearly 30 members and meets bi-monthly. In March 2019, the city issued a diversity and inclusion proclamation recognizing the organization and has since made efforts to further its cause by commissioning a task force on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Currently, the city is interviewing for an outside diversity consulting firm to help guide the task force in partnership with UCA with regard to race issues in Happy Valley.

"The city realized that because of our work in the UCA a task force is needed to dive deeper into diversity, equity and inclusion," Parret said. "And the city is helping direct a formal plan for Happy Valley. Our group is proud of the work we have done to reach this point."

Recently, the UCA, with member De'Shawn Hardy and his daughter, Monnie Spears, helped organize the Peaceful Protest march on June

3. UCA members organized and volunteered during the Funeral for the Death of Racism procession on July 4. The group also has helped defuse tense issues regarding books at Happy Valley schools and continues to strive to bring diversity and race awareness on a civic level.

"We feel that we have brought a community together and highlighted concerns by talking to the City Council and staff and making them aware that there are ways to improve the city with regard to race and equity," Parret said. "The city has recognized this. Commissioning a task force and the development of a formal strategic plan, along with hiring a consulting firm, is huge."

"Most of the consulting firms we interviewed told us they had never had a city interested in hiring them, and we are proud to be a part of that," she said. "Our goal is to elevate voices that need to be heard and we are accomplishing that."

The UCA hopes to reach nonprofit status, grow their group numbers, and help Happy Valley be a welcoming community for all people and a model for other cities to tackle race issues and provide more outreach for residents. Additionally, UCA hopes the city will go beyond the temporary task force and form a formal diversity, equity and inclusion committee in the future.

For more information, visit United Community Alliance of Happy Valley or Raising Tiny Warriors Against Racism on Facebook.



# CITY WEBSITE RESOURCES

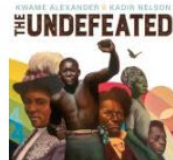
Books & Beyond

## Social Justice for Kids



BY ANNA B.

MAY 29, 2020



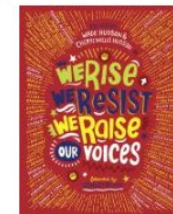
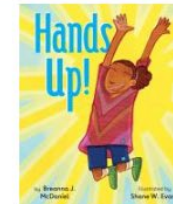
Parenting is hard. Having big discussions, even with other grownups much less kids, can feel daunting. Navigating what to share, how much detail and all of the other decisions can make you feel like it's easier just not to talk about it. But kids know stuff happens. They hear it from friends, hear their grownups talking, see videos online and more. Opening that conversation can lead to your child being a better informed citizen, with an understanding of history, better social/emotional knowledge and the empowerment of knowing they have a voice, even at their age.

For an idea of what these conversations can look like, read this [fantastic article from School Library Journal](#) that highlights local librarians at Multnomah County for their work on talking about race with preschoolers. Yes, preschoolers! Amazing books like [Undeclared](#) by Kwame Alexander and [Hands Up!](#) by Breanna McDaniel can help parents start the conversation of injustices past and present.



Wanting to talk about what to do about it? Try Ilene Cooper's [The Golden Rule](#) or Dave Egger's [Her Right Foot](#) (I cry so much reading this one—happy tears, promise!). Follow that with [We are the Change](#), an amazing collection of 16 award-winning children's book artists illustrated the civil rights quotes that have inspired them.

For grade school and middle school age kids, Taylor Worley, another Oregon librarian, compiled this incredible list of [social justice books](#) that includes both fiction and non-fiction titles. There are so many excellent titles on this list, but I especially appreciated [Ghost Boys](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes and [We Rise. We Resist. We Raise Our Voices](#) by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Hudson.


[#ownvoices](#)
[book recommendations](#)
[education](#)
[parenting](#)
[social justice](#)

# CITY WEBSITE RESOURCES

Books & Beyond

## Asian & Pacific Islander Voices



BY LISA T

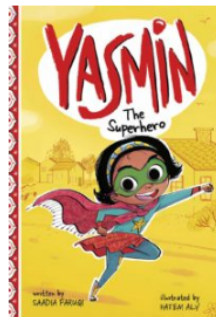
MAY 18, 2020

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage month, and in honor of this, we have put together a list of recent titles by authors of Asian and Pacific Islander decent. We are aware that Covid-19 has brought particular hardship to our Asian American communities — we stand with you against racism, hate, and discrimination.

We believe kids need to see characters who look like they do in stories, and we strive to have a collection that allows all children to see themselves in books. We hope that these titles can offer kids who may not often see themselves reflected in the media, the chance to imagine starring in their own adventures.

While at home, we invite you to explore new worlds both real and imagined, and to voyage through time with these great new titles featuring a diverse array of Asian and Asian American characters. Whether these books serve as mirrors or doorways for you and your children, we hope that you will enjoy reading them, and that they help to build greater empathy and understanding.

### Chapter Books for Kids



**Yasmin: The Superhero** by Saadia Faruqi 2019

New readers, join spunky heroine Yasmin on her quest to be a superhero in a new installment of this charming series.

Get the [book](#) or [e-book](#)



# CITY WEBSITE RESOURCES

Books & Beyond

## Diverse Board Books: A Place to Begin



BY LISA T.

JULY 21, 2020

When should you start talking to your child about race? Today! Babies as young as [6 months old notice and categorize people by race](#). Ibram X. Kendi, in his new book, [Antiracist Baby](#), outlines nine steps to raise an antiracist child. Number one is, "Open your eyes to all skin colors". Here is a list of board books that illustrate the beautiful range of skin tones in our world. When you look at books with your baby, talk about what you see, and add skin color to the mix. If we don't talk about it, children learn that race is a taboo subject. Let's do our part to make sure that all kids from birth onward see media that acknowledge difference and celebrate diversity.

We hope you and your child enjoy these board books that feature a diversity of babies! How do we choose books to share? We take care in selecting diverse books: we look for books with respectful and authentic depictions, and we seek out books by creators who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

You can place holds on specific titles by following the title links. Give us a call or use our [book bundle](#) form to request a set of diverse board books.

