



If I Were Mayor

By McKenna Phifer



Mental Health

Although many things have changed in the last year, the role of the mayor remains the same: keeping the citizens of Happy Valley safe, healthy, and happy. However, COVID-19 has caused many people to suffer from anxiety, depression, or loneliness, so if I were the mayor, I would make mental health one of my top priorities. To address this, I would publish contact information for mental health help in the Happy Valley paper, and I would partner with schools to organize fundraisers for supporting mental health organizations. In addition, I would arrange a socially-distanced “mental health fair” at City Hall, where I would invite local mental health professionals to teach others about topics such as coping techniques, when and where to seek help, and how to help others who may be struggling.

Building Community in a Pandemic

Happy Valley's warm community has always been one of the city's highlights, so I would work to nurture relationships between people while still attempting to keep COVID - 19 from spreading. We could start virtual clubs or socially - distanced clubs for people to join, helping them meet new people and discover new interests. We could also encourage people to join already - existing clubs or groups, such as the Teen Space at the Happy Valley Library. This will bring people together, ultimately strengthening the community.

Caring for the Environment

Oregon is known for its beautiful nature, so I would work to preserve that by organizing a city-wide clean-up day twice a year, which would make the city cleaner and help people bond. I also think that we should implement more glass-bottle and can exchanges, which would motivate people to exchange their intact drink containers for money rather than littering the streets with them.

Getting People's Input

Mayors should always be in tune to the people's wants and needs. If I were mayor, I would hold monthly meetings in Happy Valley Park for anyone who wanted to attend. At these meetings, I would share current and upcoming news with the citizens, as well as allow questions, suggestions, or advice. I believe that this act of a consistent, personal gathering would create a strong rapport between the city's government and its people essential to leadership.