





Happy Valley NEWS

September 2026

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Ben Bryant selected as new city manager of Happy Valley

*Bryant takes over
the role on Sept. 1*

City of Happy Valley

The Happy Valley City Council has appointed Ben Bryant as the next city manager.

Bryant has served as assistant city manager since 2015, overseeing major initiatives like the Happy Valley Library expansion, managing the organization’s administrative team, and guiding strategic planning. Bryant will succeed Jason Tuck, who has led the city for more than 20 years. In making this appointment, the city council sought to provide leadership continuity as Happy Valley continues to provide high-quality services to the community.

As city manager, Bryant will serve as the city’s chief administrative officer. He will implement the policy direction established by the city council and oversee the organization’s day-to-day operations to ensure the city continues to run effectively and efficiently.

“I’m greatly humbled and excited to serve the residents of Happy Valley in this new role,” said Bryant. “During my time here, we have accomplished so much because of the dedication of our employees, the leadership of our city council and the engagement of our community. I look forward to building on that strong foundation as we continue to plan for the future.”

His appointment reflects the city council’s commitment to maintaining strong

See BRYANT / A2

A NEW COMMUNITY PARK IS COMING SOON TO THE VALLEY



Construction is slated to begin in the Summer of 2027



City of Happy Valley

Happy Valley’s parks and trails are some of the best in the region. Now, a new community park will add to that legacy and expand available amenities that residents have requested for years.

The City of Happy Valley is finalizing the design of the new multi-use park focused on outdoor recreation, gathering spaces and community events. This new park will be located on City-owned property east of the roundabout at Scouter’s Mountain Road and 172nd Avenue.

The park is intended to cater to all ages and interests. Planned amenities include:

- All-weather turf sports fields and courts
- Additional grass sports fields
- All-abilities playgrounds and family spaces
- Flexible open lawns
- Gathering and event spaces
- Amphitheater for community events
- Ample parking spaces

Designed with community input

Residents shaped the community park’s design. The process started with surveys and open houses during the city’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan update, where people shared their ideas and priorities. One



See PARK / A2

COMMUNITY PARK LEGEND

- 1 Baseball Field
- 2 Softball Field
- 3 Artificial Turf Soccer Field
- 4 Artificial Turf Soccer/Lacrosse Field
- 5 Flexible Lawn Field
- 6 Tennis Courts
- 7 Pickleball Courts
- 8 Basketball Court
- 9 Playground
- 10 Play Feature
- 11 Hub – with food cart pod, hammock grove, cafe tables and picnic shelter
- 12 Concessions/Restroom Building
- 13 Restroom Building
- 14 Picnic Shelter
- 15 Bandshell
- 16 Amphitheater
- 17 Dog Park
- 18 Open Lawn
- 19 Parking Lot

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Bryant

■ From Page A1

leadership, preserving organizational stability and continuing to provide the high-quality services residents have come to expect.

“Ben has served our residents with professionalism and integrity for more than a decade,” said Mayor Tom Ellis. “He understands our organization, our community and the values that make Happy Valley such a special place. We are confident that under his leadership, the city will continue to thrive.”

Bryant holds a Master of Public Administration

from the University of Kansas and a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Willamette University. Before joining the City of Happy Valley, he served as a management analyst and later as economic development manager for the City of Tualatin. He has remained active in the city management profession throughout his career and was selected by his peers to serve on the Board of Directors for the Oregon City/County Management Association.

Bryant’s tenure as city manager begins on Sept. 1. Jason Tuck will remain with the City of Happy Valley through Sept. 2027, working as a special project manager.

Park

■ From Page A1

of the biggest needs that emerged was for a large community park. After the city purchased the 40-acre site, it conducted another survey in 2024 to learn which features residents wanted most. The city shared that feedback with the Parks Advisory Committee and the city council. The city then hired an experienced landscape architect to turn those ideas into a detailed park design.

Funded without raising taxes

Construction funding for the park is already secured. The city has been saving for years, and the funding dollars include a mix of NCPRD settlement funds, urban

renewal funds and one-time fees paid by new developments.

Project Timeline

- Fall 2025 - Spring 2026: Park design phase
- Summer 2026 - Spring 2027: Pre-construction planning and permitting
- Summer 2027: Construction anticipated to begin
- Summer 2028: Phase I opening

The full construction timeline is not finalized. Some amenities will not be made available until after Summer 2028.

Like all parks in Happy Valley, the new community park will be maintained through the Parks & Recreation Levy, which Happy Valley residents vote on every five years. To learn more information about the park project, visit the City’s website at hv.city/community-park.

Parks Committee Shapes Happy Valley’s Future

City of Happy Valley

Happy Valley’s parks, trails and open spaces are a defining part of the community, offering places to gather, play, explore nature and connect with neighbors. Behind many of the decisions that help these spaces grow and improve is the Parks Advisory Committee.

The City of Happy Valley has seven advisory committees made up of residents and community volunteers who take an active role in local government. These committees meet regularly to consider issues ranging from development and transportation to parks, public art, library services, and the City budget. Ultimately, committee members provide input that helps inform City Council and support the City’s work.

For the Parks Advisory committee, and Chair Erin Bell, that means advising on a wide range of topics affecting Happy Valley’s park system, from operations and maintenance work to park features, improvements and new opportunities.

“There are very few decisions that are made that haven’t run through the committee first,” Bell said. “When I first started getting involved, I thought we wouldn’t necessarily have a lot of power, but it’s the opposite.”

An important part of the work for committee members is engaging with the broader community, to get a sense of what residents in Happy Valley want to see in their parks and on their trails. Every committee meeting is open to the public and has dedicated time

for residents to bring topics and issues forward. Committee members also engage with the public through outreach events and in their regular day-to-day lives.

“We’re active in the community by nature of being part of it – so we are out there listening to what people have to say that we can then bring back to the committee,” said Bell. “That’s what’s so great about having an eclectic group – it opens the City up to a whole network of people that they wouldn’t necessarily have access to otherwise.”

The committee has been busy recently supporting projects like the Mt. Scott Creek Trail improvements, development of the Veterans Memorial and

See FUTURE / A3



Parks Advisory Committee members Ryan Rudge, Erin Bell, Naomi Turrentine and Glen Sachet pose during the City’s volunteer appreciation event. Committee members not pictured include Steven Sonk and Geri Naumcheff.

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Celebrating Happy Valley’s newest neighborhood park!



A grand opening celebration was held on Tuesday, August 11

City of Happy Valley

Mayor Tom Ellis, members of City Council, City staff and community members recently celebrated the grand opening of Happy Valley’s newest park.

Located at 10478 SE Hornaday Avenue, Scouters Mountain Neighborhood Park features an all-abilities playground, a mobility charging station, a tennis/pickleball court, a picnic shelter, restrooms, a dog park and walking trails.

The celebration kicked off with brief remarks by Mayor Ellis, followed by a double ribbon-cutting ceremony: one with the Happy Valley Parks & Recreation Foundation members, City staff, and community partners, and one with some of Happy Valley’s youngest residents, who gleefully enjoyed the new space. The City’s Parks and Recreation staff provided fun activities for the



whole family, and Brain Freeze Shave Ice Bar supplied shaved ice.

The Scouters Mountain Neighborhood Park, like all parks in Happy Valley, will be maintained thanks to the Happy Valley Parks Levy. The levy, which is voted on by Happy Valley voters every five years, supports park maintenance, recreational programming and community events within the city.

Happy Valley has some of the best parks and trails in the region, and this newest addition is no exception. It will be a place for community members to gather for years to come.



Future

■ From Page A2

construction of new parks like Scouters Mountain Neighborhood Park and Village Green Neighborhood Park. The City has also invested in upgrading structures at many parks while emphasizing accessibility and creating spaces that can serve people with a range of abilities.

“I’ve been really proud of the work we’ve done to increase accessibility on the actual play structures themselves,” said Bell. “The thoughtfulness that has

gone into those designs and the commitment to providing spaces that serve more of our residents has been one of the most rewarding things we’ve done.”

Looking ahead, one of the committee’s biggest priorities is the development of the new community park. The new park represents an opportunity to provide new amenities while creating another place for residents to come together.

A meaningful way to give back

For residents considering service on a City committee, the experience can offer a direct way to make a difference. Committees usually meet once every two

months, but the opportunity to make an impact can be significant.

“When I joined, I had no expectation for what this would be, but it’s been rewarding,” said Bell. “I believe strongly that you have to leave something better than you found it. My kids found so much joy playing in our parks and I wanted to model what giving back looks like to them. I can see a strong throughline from the discussions we have, the decisions we make and the impact that has on the community and it’s very profound.”

Bell’s advice for someone considering applying to serve is simple: “Absolutely do it!”

Residents who want to learn more about the Parks Advisory Committee can visit hv.city/parks-advisory or attend an upcoming meeting.

“We are a group of 6 individuals who are incredibly invested in the health and beauty of Happy Valley,” Bell said. “We would love for people who have thoughts on those things to participate as well.”

Whether by attending a meeting or simply sharing an idea, community participation helps committee members understand what matters to residents.

“The more voices that are heard,” she said, “the happier Happy Valley will be.”



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COUNCIL CORNER

Moving forward after Public Works facility fire

City of Happy Valley

At the end of July, a fire destroyed the utility facility at the city’s public works site.

The building stored equipment, tools and materials for street and park main-tenance work. Thankfully, no one was injured, and emergency response crews put out the fire within a couple of hours.

Since then, city staff has worked hard to replace the tools and resources needed to maintain our parks and streets and respond to immediate emergencies. They are also planning ahead to make sure we have the right equipment and supplies to respond to inclement weather this winter.

The site was cleaned up in August, and temporary storage and shop facilities have been secured so the public works team can continue providing essential services. Plans to move the public works facility to an industrial area on Armstrong Court were already in place prior to the fire, and that project is moving forward with an expected opening in 2028.

We’re thankful to everyone in the com-munity who reached out and offered kind words, to the emergency responders who kept the community safe and the local and regional partners who offered sup-port in the immediate aftermath. Our public works team is resilient, and they will continue delivering the high level of service you have come to expect.

Slower speeds, safer streets

Decreased speed zones will improve safety in Happy Valley

City of Happy Valley

As students return to classrooms and everyone settles into the fall season, drivers in Happy Valley may notice some important changes on several streets near local schools and around town.

Several locations are introducing reduced speed limits and new school speed zones to help make our roads safer for everyone.

The choices people make behind the wheel matter every day. Even a relatively small reduction in vehicle speed can give a driver more time to recognize a hazard and react. Slower speeds can also reduce collision severity if one occurs.

Lower Speed Zones on 172nd Avenue, King Road and Idleman Road

Drivers should pay particular attention to updated speed limit signs where posted speeds have been decreased to better reflect the surrounding environment.

- On 172nd Avenue between Southeast Sunnyside Road and Southeast Huckleberry Street, the speed limit will be reduced from 45 mph to 35 mph.
- On King Road between Southeast 129th Avenue and Southeast 145th Avenue, the speed limit will be reduced from 35 mph to 30 mph.
- On Southeast Idleman Road between Southeast Mount Scott Blvd. and Southeast Bob Schumacher Road, the speed limit will be reduced from 35 mph to 30 mph.

School areas are some of the busiest places in the community during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Students may be walking, biking or rolling to school while buses, parents, caregivers and other drivers navigate the same streets. With so much activity happening at once, school speed zones are especially important.



Extended School Speed Zone on Rock Creek Blvd

- The school speed zone on Rock Creek Boulevard now extends between 162nd Avenue and 172nd Avenue. During enforcement peri-ods, the speed limit in this zone will decrease to 20 mph.

Drivers should expect these roads to look different than they did pre-viously. Look for new signs, follow the posted speed limit and allow extra travel time. A few extra seconds behind the wheel is a small investment for a safer trip and a safer community for everyone.





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13660 SE TARALON DR	2524	5	3	ACT	5/22/2026	\$665,000	N/A	N/A
13823 SE NIGHTINGALE AVE	2903	5	3	ACT	2/17/2026	\$799,999	N/A	N/A
16038 SE KINGBIRD DR	1574	3	3	SLD	5/20/2026	\$521,000	\$521,000	24/06/2026
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MAYOR’S MESSAGE

SWEET SUCCESS:

Lemonade stand inspires again

City of Happy Valley

I recently had the pleasure of presenting an honorary business license to local siblings Roslyn and Xavier Creech for their seventh-annual lemonade stand, which raises money for Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.

The national nonprofit organization aims to change the lives of children with cancer by funding research, raising awareness, supporting families and empowering everyone to help cure childhood cancer.

Childhood cancer research is an important cause for the Creech family. Roslyn was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia a few months before her second birthday and spent more than two years undergoing chemotherapy and other cancer treatments. The annual event takes place in August to mark the anniversary of Roslyn completing her treatments.

I continue to be inspired by Roslyn and Xavier, and their dedication to helping others. I’m thankful for the community members who showed up in support of this year’s event.

MAYOR OF HAPPY VALLEY



Tom Ellis



Mayor Tom Ellis presents Roslyn and Xavier Creech with an honorary business license for their lemonade stand fundraiser.



Roslyn and Xavier Creech with their mom Colleen at their lemonade stand fundraiser for childhood cancer.



HAPPY VALLEY NEWS STAFF



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Ashley Hagg
ahagg@happyvalleyor.gov

Publisher's Note: Have an idea for a story? We are always on the search for new people, places, and things to write about. If you have an idea for an uplifting story that would benefit the community, then we want to hear from you!

To submit your idea, send an email to happyvalleyor.gov/contact-happy-valley-news and include as many details as possible, so our publication team can review your story idea. The best stories highlight the spirit and values of the Happy Valley community and showcase meaningful happenings in the lives of residents and local businesses. We invite you to include anecdotes in your story proposal that are funny, astonishing, heartwarming, and inspiring. If we think your story idea is a good fit, our community writer will get in contact with you to discuss the possibility of it being featured in an upcoming issue.



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CLACKAMAS FIRE

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY

As summer winds down, September brings the excitement of a new school year

For the Happy Valley News

The back-to-school season creates new opportunities for learning, growth and reconnecting with friends. It also means adjusting routines, helping students develop habits that support success and safety, and navigating busier roadways. Taking a few simple precautions can help ensure the school year starts on the right foot.

One of the biggest changes that comes with children returning to school is increased traffic on roads, sidewalks and in school zones. Drivers should remain alert, especially during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. They should also watch for school zones and obey posted speed limits. School zones protect children, and motorists should always be prepared to stop for pedestrians and crossing guards.

Walking to school is a great way for students to stay active, but safety should come first. Parents should review walking routes with younger children and remind them to look left, right and left again before crossing the street. Children should use crosswalks whenever possible and follow crossing guards' instructions. Wearing brightly colored clothing or reflective gear can improve visibility, especially during the darker morning hours.

School bus safety is another



School zones are designed to protect children, and motorists should always be prepared to stop for pedestrians and crossing guards.

important consideration. Students should arrive a few minutes early at their bus stop and wait in a safe location away from traffic. When boarding and exiting the bus, students should follow the driver's instructions and remain aware of their surroundings. Drivers sharing the road should know it is not only dangerous but also illegal to pass a school bus when its stop arm is extended and its lights are flashing.

Bicycling to school can be

a fun and healthy transportation option, but proper safety equipment is essential. The most effective way to reduce the risk of serious head injuries is to wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet. Families who need a helmet can contact Clackamas Fire District at 503-742-2600 to receive one. Students should also make sure their bicycles are in good working condition, with functioning brakes, properly inflated tires and reflectors. Following traffic

Families who need a helmet can contact Clackamas Fire District at 503-742-2600 to receive one.

laws and staying alert can help make the trip to and from school safer.

In addition to transportation safety, September is a good time to focus on overall student well-being. Establishing consistent sleep schedules

can help students adjust to the school routine. Packing nutritious lunches and snacks can also support energy levels and concentration throughout the day. Limiting screen time and having parents take time to discuss online safety with their child and report any concerning online interactions are other ways to help kids stay safe.

September represents a fresh start and an opportunity to learn, grow and achieve new goals. By focusing on safety and establishing healthy routines, families can help children enjoy a positive and successful school year. A little preparation today can go a long way toward creating a safe, productive and rewarding back-to-school season for everyone.



City of Happy Valley

At the time of print, the following events were scheduled. Please check hv.city to confirm timing of events and instructions on how to participate virtually. You can also opt in to receive notifications about upcoming meetings by visiting hv.city/notifications

September 15

- City Council Work Session, City Hall: 6 p.m.
- City Council Meeting, City Hall: 7 p.m.

September 22

- Library Board, Happy Valley Library: 6 p.m.

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HAPPY VALLEY

BUSINESS ALLIANCE

MEMBERS MEETING

September Keynote Discussion:

Clackamas Workforce Partnership

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HVBA Business Spotlight:

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HAPPY VALLEY BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Ribbon cuttings highlight recent business activity

By GREGG LEBLANC
HVBA Membership Chair

September is upon us. School starts again, and most of us have completed our summer vacations, but let’s hold off on thinking fall is already here.

Technically, we still have a few weeks of summer left—and some of the best weather Oregon has to offer. With that in mind, try to get out and support our local Happy Valley businesses. Here are a few happenings within our community.

■ **Ribbon Cuttings:** Late last month, we celebrated the grand reopening of **Snap Fitness** and the soft opening of **PriorityPet Urgent Care**, both located at the Sunnyside Village plaza. **The Heights at Happy Valley** apartments on SE Rock Creek Blvd. has its ribbon cutting scheduled for noon on Thursday, Sept. 17. Expect a date soon for a celebration at **Otter Orthodontics** at 14210 SE Sunnyside Rd.

■ **Opening the HV Area:** **Clackamas Town Center** is bustling with new opening announcements. **Buffalo Wild Wings** had its ribbon-cutting on Aug. 31. Later this fall, **Waxing the City** will open, a studio offering a full menu of face and body waxing services performed by licensed Cerologists. Additionally, **Movement Clackamas** is slated to open in 2027, featuring a 31,000-square-foot facility for climbing, yoga, and fitness.

■ **Rumors & Musings:** Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Sept. 15 to head to **Valley Public House** for its fifth annual Ales for ALS Fundraiser and Carnival, benefiting the ALS Therapy Development Institute.



PriorityPet Urgent Care,, located at Sunnyside Village, was just one of the businesses hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Meanwhile, the **Fred Meyer** at Happy Valley Crossroads is expected to complete its remodel in the next few months, and micro-kitchens could be coming to the east side of **Happy Valley Station** later this fall. If you hear rumblings of any other new businesses opening to serve the Happy Valley community, be sure to drop me a line.

■ **Kudos:** During our recent HVBA Member Meeting, local business owners gave shout-outs to their fellow businesses and community leaders, including Joe Cornelius at **Tangent Movement**, **Sah-Hah-Lee Golf Course**, Harry Singh at **Columbia Bank**, Amy Farrara with **Chicago Title**, Linda Temple with **The Springs at Happy Valley**,

and LizBETH Abbott with **Tree City Real Estate**. Kudos continued for the teams at **StretchLab Happy Valley**, **Le Petit Café**, and two local credit unions - **Embold Credit Union** and **iQ Credit Union**. Our first responders were also recognized, including **Clackamas Fire**, the **Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office**, the **Happy Valley Police Department**, and our keynote speaker, Major Harvey from the **Oregon National Guard**.

■ **Connections:** The primary goal of the **Happy Valley Business Alliance** (HVBA) remains connecting Happy Valley business owners and bringing attention to their enterprises. We do this through our Member Meetings and Networking Socials each month, and we welcome the



The remodel project at the Happy Valley Fred Meyer continues.



Snap Fitness Happy Valley recently completed at \$1.2 million renovation.

local business community to attend even if you are not currently a member.

How can the Happy Valley Business Alliance best serve

our community? Reach out to me directly at Gregg@NWNestRE.com with your ideas, business rumors, and suggestions. Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

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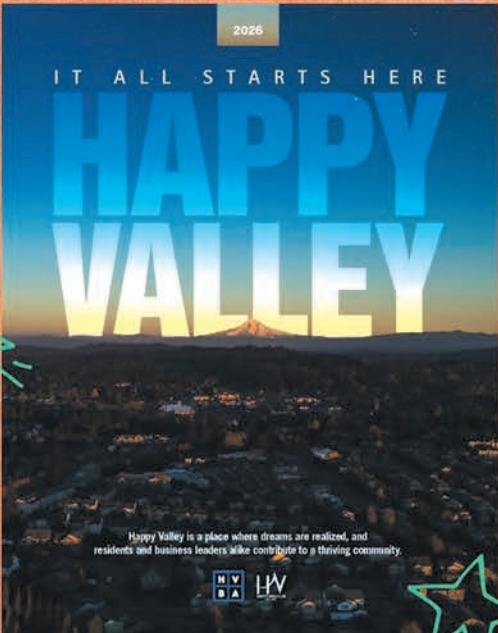
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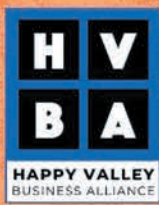
Happy Valley is a place where dreams are realized, and residents and business leaders alike contribute to a thriving community.

Since 2012, We’ve been telling Happy Valley’s story in our annual magazine...

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IT'S A WRAP

Another unforgettable summer of concerts in the valley

City of Happy Valley

Happy Valley Park was the place to be on Thursday nights this summer as the 2026 Concerts in the Valley series brought seven weeks of live music, community fun, and summer memories to Happy Valley.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, whether you attended one concert or made Thursday nights at Happy Valley Park part of your summer routine.

But this summer was about more than just the music! Each week, we made sure something extra was happening in the park to make every concert a unique experience.

Resident Night: celebrated the people who call Happy Valley home, with the first 100 residents receiving an iconic I ♥ HV T-shirt. Concert goers also had the chance to capture the moment with Polaroid keepsake photos, giving them a fun memory to take home from a summer evening in the park.

Volunteer Appreciation Night: gave us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the dedicated volunteers who generously give their time and talents to support our community. Their willingness to lend a hand, show up, and make a difference plays an important role in making Happy Valley such a special place to live. We were thrilled to take a moment during the concert series to say thank you and celebrate the people who do so much for our community.



Youth Entrepreneur Fair: put some of Happy Valley's youngest creators in the spotlight. Local kids proudly displayed and sold their handmade creations, giving concertgoers a chance to shop local while supporting the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of our community's youth.

Car Show: Another summer highlight was the Car Show, sponsored by the Happy Valley Parks and Recreation Foundation, which rolled in an impressive lineup of vintage vehicles. The classic cars attracted plenty of attention — and more than a few camera clicks — as attendees explored the vehicles before settling in for the evening's music.

A huge thank you also goes to the incredible sponsors who helped make the 2026 Concerts in the Valley possible: **Root Mortgage, Sun Glow Home Services, Tree City Real Estate, The Springs Living, iQ Credit Union, Travelin' Toms Coffee, and Kind Kids**



Resident night was a hit! We love our community!



A new food and beverage area for concerts called "The YARD" was opened this year.

Dental. Our concerts would not be possible without the support of these fantastic businesses and their commitment to community events in Happy Valley. We are grateful for their

partnership and for another wonderful summer spent together in the park.

Thank you for making the 2026 Concerts in the Valley a summer to remember.

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MORE INFO HERE: HV.CITY/T-SHIRT-DESIGN

HAPPY VALLEY, OR
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RAISE A STEIN

at Happy Valley Oktoberfest

City of Happy Valley

Raise a stein and celebrate the season at Happy Valley Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Happy Valley Park.

Whether you're continuing a family tradition or experiencing Oktoberfest for the first time, this annual celebration offers a full day of Bavarian-inspired fun, live entertainment, and activities for all ages.

The park will come alive with Oktoberfest charm, featuring festive décor, local food and craft vendors, family activities, and plenty of opportunities to embrace the season's spirit. Large event tents ensure the celebration continues rain or shine, so guests can enjoy the festivities no matter what the Oregon weather has in store.

This year's event will feature a new lineup of live bands performing traditional Bavarian music, creating the perfect soundtrack for an afternoon of dancing, singing along, and, of course, joining in the crowd-favorite chicken dance.

Guests can also look forward to crowd-pleasing competitions throughout the day, including stein hoisting and a variety of eating contests, along with

the always-popular wiener dog races. Younger festivalgoers can enjoy family-friendly favorites like the petting zoo, wagon rides, and pumpkin painting, while shoppers browse unique artisan and craft vendors throughout the park.

No Oktoberfest celebration would be complete without delicious food and beverages. Enjoy hearty festival fare from local vendors while adults can sample regional beer and wine in a festive atmosphere designed to bring the community together.

Whether you're competing for bragging rights, cheering on the dachshunds, dancing to Bavarian tunes, or simply enjoying an autumn afternoon with family and friends, Happy Valley Oktoberfest has something for everyone.

Happy Valley Oktoberfest

- Saturday, Oct. 3
- Happy Valley Park
- 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Happy Valley Oktoberfest is presented by Happy Valley Parks & Recreation in partnership with the Rotary Club of Clackamas and Boys Team Charity.

For event details, contest information, and updates, visit: hv.city/oktoberfest

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I-5 will close for five weeks in the Rose Quarter

Regional traffic will be directed to I-205

Oregon Department of Transportation

The Oregon Department of Transportation is encouraging travelers to plan ahead for one of the biggest roadway closures the region has ever seen.

When traveling during this period, leave early, adjust travel times if possible, and consider options like carpooling, transit, or working from home if you can.

Southbound Interstate 5 will

close as part of the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project starting Friday, Sept. 11, for up to five weeks. Crews will repair and reinforce weak areas, replace bridge joints, repave the surface and repaint lane lines on the interstate.

Depending on the time of day, travel times may take two to three times longer than usual. Congestion could sometimes back up across the Columbia River into Washington and onto

local streets in the Portland area.

“Even if you don’t use I-5, your travel may be affected by the temporary changes in traffic patterns as people use alternate routes and different ways to get around,” Kim said. “So, you might want to plan ahead and give yourself extra time.”

Whether you’re traveling locally or on a long-distance trip for work or pleasure, consider planning how to get around construction – before your trip.

Travel impacts:

- All I-5 southbound travel will be detoured to I-405 southbound. Regional traffic will be directed to Interstate 205.
- I-5 southbound on-ramps from Alberta, Greeley and Interstate 405 northbound/Fremont Bridge will be closed.
- One lane of I-5 southbound will remain open to the Broadway exit by the Moda Center.
- I-84 westbound to I-5 southbound will remain open.
- I-5 northbound will remain open.

HVBA

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HVBA NETWORKING EVENT

Wednesday, September 9th

4:00 - 6:00 PM

The Springs at Happy Valley

13160 SE 172nd Ave, Happy Valley

HVBA MEMBERS MEETING

Wednesday, September 23

7:15-9:00 AM

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Community Room

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Community comes together for National Night Out

City of Happy Valley

Happy Valley Park was filled with community spirit on Thursday, August 6, as residents gathered for National Night Out: First Responders Night.

Held in conjunction with the City's Summer Concert Series, the evening celebrated partnerships between neighbors and the first responders, service members, and organizations that help keep Happy Valley a safe, connected community.

The evening began with special recognition of Mayor Tom Ellis, who attended his final National Night Out as mayor. After eight years of dedicated service and unwavering support for first responders, military members, and the Happy Valley community, residents and City leaders took a moment to thank him for his leadership and commitment.

Throughout the evening, families could meet members of the Happy Valley Police Department, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, Clackamas Fire District #1, and numerous community partners. Visitors explored emergency vehicles, learned valuable safety information, and enjoyed hands-on activities, including the popular Safety Passport program that encouraged kids to visit

each participating booth.

One of the evening's biggest highlights was the arrival of Clackamas Fire's Copter 30, which drew crowds eager to get an up-close look at the aircraft and meet the crew. Guests also enjoyed exploring the Oregon National Guard's vehicles and rock wall, inflatables, SWAT and K-9 demonstrations and displays, and a variety of interactive experiences throughout the park.

As the sun began to set, Slicker kept the crowd on its feet with an energetic mix of country and rock favorites. Adding to the excitement, Clackamas Fire Battalion Chief Josh Santos traded his turnout gear for the microphone as the band's lead singer, while performers from Hive Athletic Arts captivated the audience with a breathtaking aerial silks performance during the final portion of the concert.

The City extends its sincere appreciation to PARR Lumber for sponsoring this year's event, as well as to the many public safety agencies, community organizations, volunteers, vendors, and staff whose efforts made the evening possible. Most importantly, thank you to all of the residents who came out to connect with neighbors, support our first responders, and celebrate what makes Happy Valley such a special place to call home.



Friends and neighbors gather at The Yard.



A military vehicle becomes a popular gathering spot as Oregon National Guard members connect with community members.



Good food and good company bring local law enforcement and Oregon National Guard members together during the evening's festivities.



Clackamas Fire takes a moment for a photo in front of one of their emergency response vehicles while participating in National Night Out.



PARR Lumber, a proud National Night Out sponsor, joins the community celebration.

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CODE CORNER

Is your dog’s license up to date?

City of Happy Valley

Happy Valley’s Animal Control Services support people and animals in a variety of ways.

As part of our animal control responsibilities, we aim to protect pets and wild animals while also protecting people and property from challenges that can arise when animals are uncontrolled. Whether assisting an animal in distress, reuniting lost pets with their owners, or responding to animal nuisance concerns, our team handles the day-to-day work of animal services. We enforce city laws and ordinances and help keep the city safe for people and animals alike.

Whether lost or abandoned, when a dog is seen roaming city streets, community service officers can be called to help. We will try to contain the dog and reduce its chance of running into traffic or getting farther from home if it accidentally escapes. If we can obtain identifying information, we will then help reunite the dog with its owner. This is a primary reason the City of Happy Valley requires dog licensing. It could mean a world of difference, especially if your dog were to become lost.

When dogs get lost

More often than not, a dog gets out when a door is left open, or a gate latch or section of fencing becomes loose. When this happens, your pup escapes and off they go on an unplanned adventure. Our team has found dogs wandering neighborhoods, and thankfully no harm is done, but most concerning is when they get near busy streets like Sunnyside and 172nd Ave. To report dogs running at-large, please contact us at 503-783-3800.

How we can help

If we find a lost dog, we can easily reference the city’s licensing database to locate you for reunification if it has a collar. We also have the equipment needed to scan for microchips. But these efforts only go so far in helping reunite dogs with their owners if the information is up to date. That is why it is so important to keep your dog’s licensure in compliance. Additionally, we can’t emphasize enough just how important it is to microchip your pet. We often find dogs without an identifying collar, and it can take a long time to sift through the database if we have to search by breed alone. So, if you haven’t already, talk to your vet ASAP about microchipping your dog, and remember to update the microchip company with any changes to your contact information if you move or get a new phone number.

Dogs that cannot be reunited with their owner are placed in shelter with our community partner, Clackamas Dog Services. The city’s partnership with Clackamas Dog Services allows us the ability to access shelter for lost or abandoned dogs 24/7, ensuring safety, basic needs, and medical care are provided.

Health and wellness

Another reason dog owners must complete the licensure process is to ensure your pup has a current rabies vaccination. This is absolutely imperative to the health and safety of anyone, including other animals, who may encounter your dog.

Local partners

We’ve made it a point to connect and partner with each Happy Valley veterinary clinic in the city. In doing so, we’ve provided local veterinarians with the resources needed to remind pet owners of the dog licensing requirement during routine visits. Additionally, the city reinforces compliance by cross-reporting with veterinary offices, ensuring that licensing records are consistently updated.

We also work closely with Clackamas Dog Services. Their team sends us an updated document every six weeks that lists dogs in Happy Valley that have received the rabies vaccination. If those dogs are unlicensed, our team will reach out to the owner to complete the necessary paperwork.

Do I have the correct license?

If you reside in the City of Happy Valley and you own a dog, you must have a current dog license on file with the city. In most cases, a Community Service Officer will first talk with you about a concern related to dog licensing before it reaches the level of receiving a citation. Ultimately, as a dog owner, you are responsible for complying. If you possess a Clackamas County dog license or a dog license from another jurisdiction in the state, please contact City Hall at 503-783-3800.

CODE CORNER

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER

JASON THOMPSON

DAVID COAN

PONO KAIMULOA

BEN HODGES



Celebrate the season, celebrate our food

Clackamas County is encouraging residents to make better food choices

Clackamas County

We need food to live, grow, and thrive. We also use food to socialize, share our culture, and show others our cooking skills.

Some of us make our living from food – on farms, at markets, or in restaurants. We owe a lot to food, yet we often don’t celebrate it. Let’s change that this season!

In the United States, we waste 40% of our food. It may be surprising, but it’s true. Some food is wasted on the farms, some is lost during shipping, and some is never bought at stores. But we waste more food at home than anywhere else. Studies show a family of four could save over \$2,900 per year just by eating all the food they buy.

We can do it! Here are four easy steps to create new habits and celebrate food all year round:

Shop with meals in mind. Plan meals for a week. Check your fridge and cupboards for ingredients you already have. Make a shopping list and stick to it.

Prep now, eat later. Prepare ingredients ahead of time. It makes it easier to cook after work or school.

Keep food fresher longer. Store food the right way to help it last. Learn the best places and how to store fruits and veggies to extend their life. Don’t forget the freezer! Freeze meals now and enjoy them later.

Eat what you buy. Challenge yourself to use up leftovers and ingredients you already have. Check the back of your fridge and freezer too!

Let’s challenge ourselves to make our food – and money – go further by not letting good food go to waste. Learn more at: DontLetGoodFoodGoBad.org



FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Debunking five common Social Security myths

Social Security is often one of the most important income sources in retirement. Yet widespread myths about how it works can lead to confusion, unnecessary worry and poor planning decisions. Here’s the truth behind five of the most common misconceptions.

Myth 1: Social Security is going broke. You’ve probably heard this one, but the full picture is more nuanced. According to the 2026 Social Security Board of Trustees Report, if Congress does nothing, the program would need to reduce benefits starting in 2032, paying roughly 78 cents for every dollar owed.

But that’s just one scenario. Congress could raise the combined payroll tax from 12.4% to 16.65%, which the trustees estimate would secure full benefits through 2100. Other options include eliminating the earnings cap subject to payroll tax or adjusting retirement ages. Lawmakers have tools to address this.

Myth 2: Social Security will cover all your retirement needs. Think of Social Security as a financial foundation, not the full building. According to the Social Security Administration, benefits replace only about 40% of pre-retirement income for a median earner. That means you’ll likely need to account for most of your retirement income yourself. Building a strong personal savings strategy now can help close that gap.

Myth 3: You lose benefits permanently if you keep working. Not true. Social Security does have an “earnings test” that can temporarily reduce benefits for people who claim early and keep working. If your earnings exceed a set annual cap – which changes each year – Social Security will withhold a portion of your benefits. But once you reach full retirement age, the Social Security Administration adjusts your monthly check higher to repay those withheld amounts over time.

Myth 4: An ex-spouse’s benefits come out of your own. If you were married for at least 10 years and are currently unmarried, your former spouse may be eligible to collect on your earnings record, or you may be able to collect on theirs. Divorced spouse benefits can be up to 50% of the other person’s full retirement benefit. But those payments don’t affect yours. Your monthly benefit is not reduced by anything paid to an ex-spouse or even a current spouse.

Myth 5: Social Security benefits are no longer taxed. Recent legislation caused some confusion here. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act did not eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits. If your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, you’ll still owe taxes on a portion of your benefits.

The law also created a temporary deduction (available through 2028) for people 65 and older. Eligible taxpayers can deduct \$6,000 per qualifying filer if their modified adjusted gross income is \$75,000 or less for singles or \$150,000 for couples. The deduction phases out at \$175,000 for singles and \$250,000 for joint filers.

The more you understand Social Security, the more control you have over your retirement outcome. Grounding your decisions in facts rather than assumptions can make a meaningful difference in your long-term financial security.

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Senior Living

National Assisted Living Week “Shining Through the Years” 2026

National Assisted Living Week was created by the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) in 1995, providing an opportunity for residents, families, staff, volunteers, and the community to recognize assisted living’s vital role in senior care. At Caring Places, our goal is to educate the public on the importance and benefits of long-term care.

This year’s official theme is “Shining Through the Years”. Taking place from September 13th – 19th, 2026, the observance honors residents’ life histories, cherished memories, and lasting relationships built with caregivers. The theme also coincides with NCAL’s 25th anniversary, celebrating

a quarter-century of advocacy and support for senior care professionals.

Communities can celebrate in many ways. Events can kick off on September 13th for Grandparents’ Day. Communities can decorate common areas for “Decade Days” to spark intergenerational storytelling, organize staff recognition events, and host special activities for residents.

For NALW resources, visit www.ahcancal.org/NALW, and share your celebrations using #NALW. When seeking compassionate, high-quality care to keep loved ones thriving, choose Caring Places for your care needs. Learn more at CaringPlaces.com.

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Take a Ride Back to the Future

City of Happy Valley

Great Scott! Happy Valley Parks & Recreation is bringing back a classic summer tradition with a special drive-in movie featuring the beloved adventure film *Back to the Future* on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Gather your family and friends, load up the car, and join us under the stars at the future site of the Happy Valley Community Park, located off Southeast Foster Road between Southeast Troge Road and Southeast Hemrich Road. Gates open at 6 p.m., with the movie beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Residents can purchase tickets for \$20 per car during the resident pre-sale through Aug. 31. Non-resident ticket sales begin Sept. 1 at \$40 per car. Registration is required, and space is limited to just 300 vehicles, so moviegoers are encouraged to register early.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase on site, making it easy to settle in for a fun night out with the whole family. Only passenger cars and trucks will be permitted. RVs, buses, and trailers will not be allowed.

The event also supports the Happy Valley Parks & Recreation Foundation, which helps enhance accessibility, inclusiveness, sustainability, and opportunities throughout Happy Valley's parks, natural areas, and recreation programs.

Whether you are a longtime fan of *Back to the Future* or discovering the movie for the first time, grab your tickets, hop in the car, and join us for a night of movie magic, community, and a glimpse into Happy Valley's future.

For registration and event details, visit: hv.city/volunteer-appreciation

Honoring those who give back

Annual volunteer appreciation night celebrates the people making a difference in our community

City of Happy Valley

On Aug. 13, the City of Happy Valley hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Night during Concerts in the Valley at Happy Valley Park.

The yearly celebration recognized the many community members who generously give their time, energy, and talents to help make Happy Valley a great place to live.

Volunteers gathered for a fun evening of food, drinks, and live music featuring Red Not Chili Peppers, a Red Hot Chili Peppers tribute band. The event gave City staff a chance to celebrate volunteers and thank them for the ways they support the Happy Valley community.

The City benefits from countless hours of volunteer service each year. Volunteers serve on City advisory committees and commissions, sharing their time, knowledge, and perspectives on important community topics. Their input helps guide conversations and decisions related to transportation, parks, growth, and other priorities that impact Happy Valley.

Volunteerism also extends beyond committees and commissions. Community members give their time to service projects, participate in City events, and support programs and activities that bring neighbors together. These efforts help strengthen community connections and contribute to what makes Happy Valley such a great place to live.



Volunteers enjoyed an evening of food, music, and community at Happy Valley Park.

Volunteer Appreciation Night was a chance to recognize these contributions and celebrate the people behind them. Whether serving on a committee, helping with a community project, or lending a hand at an event, each volunteer plays an important role in the community.

The Mayor, City Council, and City staff would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of Happy Valley's amazing volunteers. Their dedication, generosity, and willingness to get involved continue to make a difference throughout our community.

Those interested in getting involved can learn more about volunteer opportunities and how to apply to serve on a City advisory committee or commission at: hv.city/volunteer-opportunities



Happy Valley volunteers gathered for the City's annual Volunteer Appreciation Night.

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"Great dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion." - Martha Graham

At Happy Valley Dance Academy, we're offering a wide range of dance classes to meet the needs of our community. Something you'd like to see added to our list? Submit a request.

Register now for your free trial class!

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The trip of a lifetime

Local teacher takes a trip to the Balkans as part of an educational program

By JONATHAN DYER
For the Happy Valley News

“It was the trip of a lifetime,” exclaimed Theresa Just, a learning specialist in elementary education for North Clackamas School District, who recently returned from a trip to the Balkans. “A Great opportunity to go somewhere you probably don’t know much about, and be immersed with the people.”

The trip, taken in July, lasted seven days, traveling from Albania through North Macedonia and finishing in Kosovo, and was sponsored by the Center for Geography Education in Oregon (C-GEO). The Gray Family Foundation, a private foundation that promotes education in Oregon through grants and other resource allocation, fully paid for it. Every year, the C-GEO selects an exotic travel location and itinerary, and then picks 12 teachers and pre-educators to participate.

“You have to take a class put on by the C-GEO, and then you become eligible to participate. I took a class on Japanese internment in Oregon, which is interesting to me because I’m half Japanese,” explained Just.

“Once you go on the trip, when you come back, you are expected to reach out to media, and then you write one lesson plan geared towards the students that you teach,” Just said. “I’m a special education teacher, so I’m going to be doing a reading or writing assignment



ABOVE: A medieval church overlooks Lake Ohrid, in North Macedonia. Recently several Oregon educators, including one from North Clackamas School District, returned from a sponsored trip to the Balkans.

LEFT: North Clackamas Special Education teacher Theresa Just stands in a medieval fortress that sits high overlooking the city of Prizren, in North Macedonia. She recently traveled to the Balkans with eleven other teachers from all around the state on a trip sponsored by the Center for Geography Education in Oregon.

about comparing different foods in different countries, or I might do something about Kosovo because of the ethnic cleansing. We spoke to some of the people who lived through that. Reading a little bit about

what it was like for children who were kicked out of school and parents who lost their jobs. Maybe writing about opinions about that,” described Just. Of the 12 teachers who went, only two in her group taught

elementary school. They had high school biology, social studies, and English teachers, among other subjects, coming from schools all over the state. They flew into Albania and spent one day at the beach. From

there, they spent time in North Macedonia, formerly Yugoslavia, traveling around and learning about the country’s history.

“Our tour guide had a master’s degree in archeology. So not only did he take us to different places, he would stop and show us archeological sites he had worked on,” described Theresa.

They visited a UNESCO World Site called Lake Ohrid, “which was amazing,” she said. “We took a boat tour, we spent a lot of time there playing on the beach, but also touring some of the beautiful churches,” she explained.

From there, they crossed into Kosovo, into the town of Prizren.

“My favorite part was it was kind of what you would expect a European village to look like. Lots of cobblestone streets and a town square. We hiked up to an ancient fortress, and you could see the entire city from there. It was absolutely beautiful,” Just said.

The C-GEO focuses on younger educators, giving them the chance to see places they likely wouldn’t be able to see on their own.

“It was amazing to see some of the younger teachers who had never been abroad in their entire lives to be able to see other parts of the world,” described Theresa. “The program is designed so teachers can see different parts of the world and be able to understand that there is a whole world out there and with different perspectives. And then to come back and share their experiences.”

For more information on the C-GEO, as well as information on the Gray Family Foundation, see pdx.edu/geography-education and grayff.org



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Do you enjoy writing and staying connected to your community?

Happy Valley News is looking for a contract writer who can tell local stories with a fresh, engaging voice. If you’re comfortable writing and snapping a few photos, this is a great way to build your skills while making an impact.

Writers work on their own schedules but must meet deadlines.

If you’re interested, send an email with a resume, cover letter, and a couple of writing samples to: happyvalleynews@youroregonnews.com

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A place to perform, a place to belong

Krayon Kids Musical Theatre brings young performers and families together through full-scale productions, community and a shared love of the stage

By **EMMA DAVIS**
For the Happy Valley News

For young performers, the stage can be more than a place to perform.

It can be a place to find confidence, friendship and a community of their own. Children from Happy Valley and communities throughout the region are coming together through Krayon Kids Musical Theatre, where young performers can take the stage in full-scale productions while building confidence and finding a place where they belong.

Founded in 1993, Krayon Kids is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit youth theater organization serving children ages five to 18. The entirely volunteer-based organization produces two main-stage shows each year, allowing young performers and their families to experience the many aspects of putting on a full-scale musical.

Krayon Kids’ productions are designed to give young performers an experience that goes beyond a typical children’s theater program. Miller describes the productions as a “miniature version of Broadway,” featuring full-scale sets, costumes, large dance numbers and quick costume changes.

“The parents of the cast members and our alumni build and create all of the sets based on my vision as the artistic director,” Miller said. “[Sometimes] We have kids that are wearing six costumes in the show and playing six different parts.”

The organization typically brings together a cast of about 40 to 45 children for each production, though that number will grow to about 60 for its upcoming production of Matilda in November. The cast, in all productions, includes children from Happy Valley coming to our studio space, which is in Clackamas, and then our performance space in Oregon City at The Barclay,” Miller said.

For the young performers, the experience extends beyond the stage. Miller said Krayon Kids provides children with an environment where they can build friendships and feel accepted.

“Krayon Kids and really any theater setting should provide this, but I know that it provides that space of acceptance and belonging,” Miller said. “Our kids, they love each other. They support each other in all sorts of things.”

For Happy Valley parent



Young performers take the stage during Krayon Kids Musical Theatre’s recent production of Cinderella.



Krayon Kids Musical Theatre’s production of Alice in Wonderland.

volunteer Colleen Sackos, that sense of community has become a meaningful part of her family’s experience with Krayon Kids. Sackos first became involved after taking her youngest son, Axel, to see his cousin perform in 2024. At 6 years old, Axel was excited to learn he was old enough to audition.

“When he realized this was something he could do, he was thrilled,” Sackos said. “He auditioned and performed in the fall show that year. My daughter, Ruby, was also part of the fall play and we have been with

[Krayon Kids] ever since.”

Sackos said she has since seen her children grow in confidence and independence through their involvement.

“In our time with Krayon Kids I have seen so much growth in their confidence, independence, and ability to put forth huge amounts of effort to make the show the best it can possibly be,” Sackos said.

Those skills are also part of what Miller hopes children carry with them beyond their time in the theater.

“I think that’s something that



Krayon Kids performers bring SpongeBob SquarePants to life onstage.

theater brings to anyone that’s involved, is you’re learning how to collaborate with others and work on a team, and you’re learning about your confidence and all sorts of things that can really carry you through different parts of life,” Miller said.

The community surrounding Krayon Kids also includes the families who help make each production possible. Parents and alumni volunteer with costumes, sets, programs, ticket sales and other production needs, often working alongside the young performers.

“Our parents are making costumes, they’re building sets, they’re working on the program,” Miller said. “They’re doing whatever it is to put the show together, and they’re doing that with their children.”

Former performers also remain connected to the organization after graduating.

“Once a Krayon Kid, always a Krayon Kid,” Miller said. “We have a lot of our alumni that come back to support our shows or help behind the scenes in different capacities here and there.”

Now, Krayon Kids is preparing for its November production of Matilda, which will feature about 60 young performers and allow some younger cast members to take on more prominent roles.

“This gives a chance for some of that kind of “middle-aged” group of our cast to really be featured,” Miller said. “They have been in the shows and in ensemble roles and working really hard to learn new skills and now they get to use those skills in a spotlight way.”

As Krayon Kids continues to grow, Miller encourages families to give their children the opportunity to discover whether theater is right for them.

“So give them that chance. Just let them go for it, and maybe it’s not for them,” Miller said. “Maybe they try it once, and it’s not really what they’re interested in, but at least they tried.” Sackos offers a similar invitation to local families. “Please come see a show,” she encouraged. “If you know kids who are interested in trying theater, Krayon Kids is a great place to start.”

Labor of Love

COMMUNITY 5K RUN

Where?

Nelson High School Track

When?

September 7

Labor Day

Start?

8:30 am

Register Today!

Register before August 21st for a free shirt!

The 1st annual Labor of Love 5k Community Run hosted by the Nelson Cross Country and Track and Field Team is coming!

This event is a fundraiser for our Cross Country and Track and Field team

Official timing is hosted by Eclectic Edge Racing



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SEPTEMBER 2026 LIBRARY EVENTS

The library will be closed on Monday, Sep. 7th and Wednesday, Sep. 9th; bookdrops will be open. Visit go.lincc.or/hvs.

Bridge @ Your Library!



Drop in at the Library for a friendly game of Bridge, great for players of all ages.



This September a new group will be hanging out at the Library – Bridge players! Every Friday morning from 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., those wanting to play “Party” Bridge can drop in for some friendly card fun. “Party” Bridge is a less competitive, easy-going version of the popular card game.

Avid Bridge player and volunteer Wendy Wright approached the Library about starting a group earlier this spring. “It’s an amazing card game that needs few supplies, fosters cognitive skills, and really brings people together,” shared Wendy. “Many folks might have played in college, but it’s like riding a bike, you never completely forget how to play.”

The Library’s weekly Bridge group will accommodate seasoned players as well as support new players. Wendy hopes that players will “have fun, socialize, and practice a mentally challenging activity that promotes learning, growth, and curiosity.” Players do not need to have partners to play, but some knowledge of the game is important.

Homeschooling Connections

Whether you are brand new to homeschooling or a seasoned pro, the Happy Valley Library has many resources to support your journey.

Books and More

Our trained librarians can help you find resources available in our library and throughout Clackamas County libraries. Your library card also gives you access to our collection of online resources, including encyclopedia entries, news articles, and more for kids and teens. Find out more at refweb.lincc.org.

Programs

This month we’re offering two programs just for homeschoolers. Those new to homeschooling in Oregon can meet with volunteers from the Oregon Home Education Network on Saturday, September 12 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. to learn more about local resources, requirements and more. If you’re looking for a chance for your kids to connect with other homeschoolers be sure to put our monthly Homeschool Club program on your calendar. Offered on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:15-11:45 a.m., K-5th graders and their families can drop in for crafts and games.

Cultural Passes

Be sure to explore the Library’s Cultural Passes for free admission to local museums, parks, and other attractions. These can be checked out same day (when available) or booked in advance. Find out more, including how to make your reservations, at go.lincc.org/hvcp.



Your Library provides support no matter what direction your homeschooling journey takes.

Goodwill Classes ARE BACK

Thanks to a partnership with Goodwill Industries of the Columbia Willamette, the Happy Valley Library is offering computer classes for free, Thursdays at 1 p.m.

From computer basics to Google Drive, each weekly class is designed to help build skills and confidence. No registration is necessary.

Computers are provided when needed for the class. This month, drop in for the following:

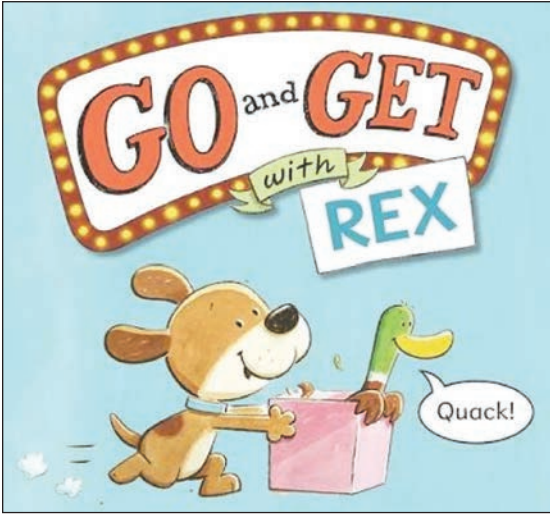


Brush up on your computer know-how with help from Goodwill Industries of the Columbia Willamette.

September 24 at 1 p.m.: Computer Basics	October 1 at 1 p.m.: Gmail	October 8 at 1 p.m.: Google Drive
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Storywalk: Go and Get with Rex

Each month you can enjoy a story along the path in Happy Valley Park. Walk along and read the story *Go and Get with Rex* by David LaRochelle starting at the All Abilities playground now through the end of the month. This project is made possible through the support of the State Library of Oregon and Friends of Happy Valley Library.



Practice first letter sounds with Jack, Jill, and Rex in this silly story that just might inspire your own game of Go and Get!

PROGRAMS

All Ages Programs

All Together Now programs are designed as intergenerational programs with people of all ages coming together to create and play.

Chess Meet Up

Saturday, Sept. 5 & Oct. 3, 10:15-11:45 a.m.
Meeting Room

Calling chess enthusiasts of all ages and levels, it’s a morning of chess playing fun at this friendly meet up! *Some boards available.*

Adult Programs

RSVP for programs at <https://go.lincc.org/hvRSVP>

English Classes

Community Room B
Intermediate: Mondays, 10:15 a.m.
Advanced: Mondays, 1 p.m.
NEW! Beginner: Mondays, 4 p.m.

All are welcome to drop in to this weekly class. Each student will receive a free textbook to use in the classes.

NEW! Bridge

Fridays, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Community Room A

Those who play Bridge are invited to join our fun and friendly group! In “Party” Bridge no partners are needed, but some knowledge of the game is important.

Mah Jongg

Fridays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Community Room A

Those who enjoy playing American and/or Chinese Mah Jongg are invited to join our fun and friendly group! For those playing American Mah Jongg, be sure to bring your current National Mah Jongg League cards. Contact the library if you would like to learn to play.

Genealogy Club

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 1 - 3 p.m.
Community Room B

Searching for family roots? All are welcome to come and share questions, strategies, and organizing tips. Insights are discovered and pathways revealed as we attempt to solve the mysteries of our ancestors’ elusive stories!

NEW TIME! Crochet Club

Thursday, Sept. 17, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Community Room A

All levels are invited to bring your crochet project for a social sit and stitch! This friendly group offers an opportunity to share ideas, get help with tricky projects, and hang out with other crochet fans. You bring your supplies and the Library will provide hot water, tea, and a cozy atmosphere. *RSVP available.*

How to: Computer Basics

Thursday, Sept. 24, 1-2 p.m.
Community Room B

Starting with the basics of logging in, to accessing computer settings, this class offers all computer users valuable information. *RSVP available.*

Puzzle Exchange

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2-4 p.m.
Community Room A & B

Do you love jigsaw puzzles? Come to our puzzle exchange to get some new-to-you puzzles! Bring and take as many puzzles as you like. You’ll find a wide variety of puzzles on the tables -- all sizes, piece counts, shapes, styles, and degrees of difficulty. *No puzzles with missing pieces please!*

Happy Valley Book Group

Thursday, Oct. 1, 6-7:30 p.m.
Community Room B

Read *Real Americans* by Rachel Khong and discuss it with other readers. Did you like it or not? Did something surprise you or make you think twice? *Come share your thoughts!*



Youth Programs

Storytimes

To see our full listing of storytimes and playtimes for ages birth to five, visit our website or go.lincc.org/hvbirthto5.

Giờ làm Thủ công đón Tết Trung thu / Mid-Autumn Craft Time

Sunday, Sept. 20, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Community Room A

Giờ gia đình làm thủ công tại thư viện ! Hãy đến và học cách làm lồng đèn giấy xinh đẹp để chào mừng Tết Trung thu tại Thư viện Happy Valley. Mọi lứa tuổi đều được chào đón và không cần kinh nghiệm.

It’s family craft time at the library! Come and learn how to make beautiful paper lanterns to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. All ages are welcome, and no experience is necessary.

Stretch, Dance, Play

Thursday, Oct. 1, 10:15-11 a.m.
Community Room A

For 2-5 year olds and their grownups. Join Iris Nason for dance, yoga, singing, sign language and play!



Celebrate the Mid-Autumn moon with a special family craft time in Vietnamese and English.



Parenting Playgroups

Toddler Time Sensory Play

Tuesdays, Sept. 15, 22, 29, 10:15-11:30 a.m.
Community Room A

1-2 year olds and their caregivers are invited to come play with Clackamas Parenting Together! Join us for socialization, sensory fun, and early learning resources.

Preschool Sensory Play

Wednesdays, Sept. 16, 23, 30, 10:15-11:30 a.m.
Community Room A

3-4 year olds and their caregivers are invited to come play and get messy with Clackamas Parenting Together! Join us for socialization, sensory fun, and early learning resources.

How to Homeschool

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Community Room A

Oregon Home Education Network presents the basics of homeschooling: how to start, what are the laws and statutes, how to start on the road to success for you and your child.

Homeschool Club: Meet Up!

Thursday, Sept. 17, 10:15-11:30 a.m.
Community Room A

For K-5th graders and their families. Drop in for a morning of fun with crafts and games.

Behind the scenes of Happy Valley businesses

Meet Chef Kristin O'Dell from The Aerie at Eagle Landing

By GREGG LEBLANC
HVBA Membership Chair

Driving by The Aerie at Eagle Landing, you can see the defining character of the château-style event center that sits on the lush green landscape of the golf course.

That beauty captured Kristin O'Dell's heart as she parked for her initial interview for the Executive Chef role.

NOMINATE A "ROCK STAR"

Do you know a local employee who goes the extra mile? Help us recognize the people who make our business community tick. Send your nominations to Gregg@NWNestRE.com.

O'Dell's pride shines through when discussing their "from-scratch" philosophy. Currently, 90% of their menu — including breads, dressings, and desserts — is made in-house. That percentage is set to grow even higher with the recent addition of new on-site garden beds for fresh-grown ingredients.

Chef O'Dell brought a wide range of experience with her to The Aerie. She was Executive Sous Chef at Waverley Country Club in Sellwood for about a decade, working almost every facet of the kitchen and leading banquets and weddings. Prior, she also spent time at Stamtisch and Gracie's at Hotel Deluxe downtown.

"Food has always been a way for people to connect, whether that's for a special occasion or just a quick bite with friends," said O'Dell. "I like to

Now, with more than a year helping the kitchen at The Aerie, she is proud of the work that the culinary team of only four does day in and day out for banquets, weddings, special dinners, and large holiday events.



Chef Kristin O'Dell putting the finishing touches on a charcuterie platter.

"I like to think that the food we make helps bring the community together."

Kristin O'Dell

think that the food we make helps bring the community together."

With the range of events hosted at The Aerie, she loves Happy Valley's diversity — meeting people from all walks of life and making each event a one-of-a-kind experience through personal tastings. Her favorite part of the job is "making every event a special one, no matter the client, and changing the opinion of what food can be at an event".

In addition to weddings and banquets, Chef's team prepares meals for a Monthly Supper Series, hands-on Cooking Classes, special holiday meals and the pop-shop.



Chef Kristin O'Dell from The Aerie at Eagle Landing.

Though originally from Ohio, O'Dell moved to the area in 2012 to be near her now-husband. When she isn't in the kitchen, you'll likely spot

her strolling through the Happy Valley Farmer's Market, exploring local food trucks, or hiking the Mt. Hood trails.

You Can Help Prevent Water Pollution!

Keeping your lawn free of weeds involves many choices—some are hazardous to our families, pets, and waterways.

Safest

Annually aerate, de-thatch and over-seed bare spots in spring. This will keep the lawn dense and healthy, which keeps out weeds. Use a long-handled weed removal tool for easy weed removal. Fertilize only in fall with a slow release fertilizer, if at all.

Next Best

If you choose a weed or insect control product, look for the OMRI label which helps identify less hazardous chemicals. Always read and follow the label, as even natural/organic products can be harmful. Only apply products when multiple dry days are forecast. Spot spray only the individual weeds you really can't live with!

Important Measures You Can Take

Do not apply pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers under windy conditions, or when rain, snow or hail is predicted within the next 48 hours.

Consider hiring an ECOBIZ certified landscaper! See www.ecobiz.org

Clackamas Water Environment Services produces clean water, protects water quality and recovers renewable resources. We do this by providing wastewater services, stormwater management, and environmental education. It's our job to protect public health and support the vitality of our communities, natural environment, and economy.

Learn more at clackamas.us/wes/education



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