

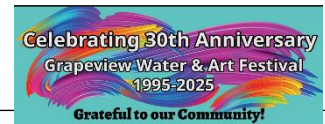


THE GCA GRAPEVINE

The Monthly Newsletter of the Grapeview Community Association

MONTH AT A GLANCE
The Port Commission is meeting in person with a remote option via Zoom – please visit their websites or contact them directly for the information. The Grapeview School Board Meeting is currently scheduled to be held at the School Library or with a Zoom option – please check their website.

- July ****** NO JULY MEMBERSHIP EVENT! WATER FESTIVAL JULY 26**
- July 15 Grapeview [Port Commission](#) Meeting 7:00PM
- July 16 Central Mason [Fire Commission](#) Meeting 5:00PM; 122 Franklin St, Shelton
- July 23 [Grapeview School Board](#) Meeting 5:00PM
- July 25 SETUP for the Water & Art Festival 8AM (Marina)
- July 26 30th Annual Grapeview Water & Art Festival (10am)



FROM OUR PRESIDENT'S DESK...

It's time to Celebrate our Great Nation on July 4th and let the summer fun begin!!! We have a lot going on this month and a big celebration in August, so your leadership team has made a tough decision to cancel the Hot Dog Roast at Rauschert Field this month. While we're sad about that, we realize that event takes a LOT of volunteers to haul chairs, tables, tents to the field – set it up and then tear down the next day. With over 190 volunteers working the Water and Art Festival on July 26th, we're sensitive to overworking our great volunteer team. **So, NO Membership Event in July.** However, the **Grapeview Water & Art Festival is coming fast – July 26th!** Please read to the end of this newsletter and dig deep in your heart if you can volunteer and haven't signed up for anything yet... it takes more than a village to put on this event, so please help if you can. Above all else though, please bring friends and family to enjoy the day!!

This is our 30th year to hold the Festival, and we're very proud of that. We recognize the Volunteers who so selfishly give of their time and treasures, our Sponsors who make it possible, and all of the Community Partners who add the extra touch to make this the most treasured festival in the area. So this year, in recognition of the volunteers, sponsors, and partners we will be holding a great party on **August 21st from 4-7pm at the Fair Harbor Pavillion**. There will be live music, food, and drink to say THANK YOU for all you've done to make our annual event so special. More to come on this, but please mark your calendar.

Enjoy this beautiful weather! See you soon!

Bonnie Townsley (360-801-5040)





WHO HAD FUN AT THE LAST EVENT? EVERYONE!!

ALOHA, GCA FRIENDS!

Our June 13th tropical-themed gathering was a night to remember—filled with friendship, laughter, Hawaiian tunes, and island-inspired bites! Over 80 guests joined the festivities, many donning bright Hawaiian shirts and colorful grass skirts that brought the spirit of the islands to life.

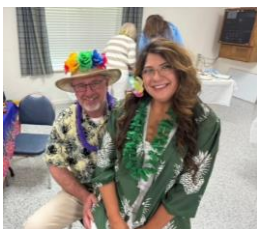
The air was alive with music that whisked us away to the tropics, and tables were full of tropical treats and home-cooked dishes. A quick reminder for future potlucks: please bring enough to feed at least 20 people, as we did run short on food for several members this time.

We also celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, and the joy of simply being together, all while decked out in vibrant leis and festive island attire.

As tradition has it, the night also marked the kickoff of our 2024 Water & Art T-shirt sales—a big thank-you to Mary Larson for making that happen!

And to top it all off, we wrapped up the evening with seven rounds of lively Bingo, hosted by none other than the ever-charming Jim Hanson. His humor and sparkle had everyone in stitches!

Mahalo to all who made the night so memorable—until next time, aloha!



Grapeview Water and Arts Festival

*Bring Your Family and Friends
&
Come Help Us Celebrate
30th Years!*

30th Anniversary



48 NW Artists & Live Music All Day
Free Children's Activities & Crafts
e-In-One Golf Event on Famous Floating Gre
Clams & Food Galore · Homemade Desserts
And More

- Get Your 30th Anniversary Commemorative Button!
- And Free Ticket for First Annual Raffle Drawing at 1:30 & 3:30pm in the Pavilion!
- Must Be Present to Win!
- Unique Prizes Donated by Grapeview Residents!

July 26, 2025 · 10am–4pm
Fair Harbor Marina
Grapeview Loop Road · Off Hwy 3

*Grapeview
Water and Arts
Festival*

WE NEED COBBLER MAKERS! With our increased publicity, we are expecting more guests than ever at the Water & Art Festival! Cobblers are a favorite and we usually run out before the event is over... If you love to bake and want to contribute a cobbler or two for the festival, please contact Nancy Montgomery at 360-275-7280 for details.



From Bob Doremus -- A look at Grapeview in the Early Years....



Island Belle

You can't talk about Grapeview without mentioning one thing — grapes. And that almost always means one variety: the *Island Belle*. Unique to our area, the Island Belle owes its existence to one man — Adam Eckert.

Originally from Chautauqua, New York, in the Finger Lakes grape-growing region, Adam had a background in horticulture and dreams of heading west to explore grape-growing opportunities in California. But fate had other plans. On his journey westward, he stopped in Mason County to visit a friend. During that visit, they paid a call to Lambert Evans, a local grower.

Adam was impressed by the quality and abundance of Lambert's grapes. Though Evans had no formal horticultural training, his vines thrived. Adam saw potential. He believed that by applying scientific techniques and using a two-wire trellis system, the area could be transformed into productive grape country. He purchased 40 acres on the north end of Stretch Island from

Evans and gave up his plans for California. He returned to New York for a year, and in 1890 came back with his wife, family, and cuttings from a wide assortment of grape varieties to begin experimenting with what would thrive in the local soil and climate.

So how exactly did the Island Belle grape come to be? The answer remains a mystery. Adam Eckert was undoubtedly its creator, but the method is unknown. Some say he crossed one of his known varieties with a wild grape. Others suggest it was a simple hybrid of two cultivated types. Another theory holds that he noticed a single vine ripened earlier than others of the same variety and propagated it to develop a new strain. However it happened, the result was a beautiful, dark-skinned grape — sweet, early-ripening, and well-suited for commercial success.

Adam intended to debut his unnamed grape at an upcoming horticultural meeting. The inspiration for a name occurred during a party and dance at his home. Someone commented that his lovely daughter, Lottie, was certainly the "belle of the ball". "I know", he exclaimed, "**I'll call it the Island Belle!**"

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - IMPORTANT!!!!

The dues have been coming but if you are not sure if you've paid for 2025 you can contact our Membership Co-Chairs: Dan Peel (daniel.peel3@gmail.com) or Debbie Olig (caseyperro@gmail.com). If you haven't and want to pay by check, just click on the [2025 Membership Form](#). Complete the form, print it out and mail along with your payment to:

Grapeview Community Association, PO Box 355, Grapeview, WA 98546

You can also [pay your renewal online with your credit card](#), and let us know of any changes to the directory information. **THERE IS NO FEE to pay online.** There IS an option to donate to Zeffy (the company who makes this function possible). **When the donation amount comes up, click on "OTHER" and put AN OPTIONAL DONATION AMOUNT in that space.** Simply [click here](#) right now to make that payment!

Thank you for your continued support and participation. Dan Peel, Membership Co-Chair

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE – FROM MICHELE HECHT

Not much to report this month, but please remember to dig out that bright green bag if you still have one and return it to Michele's porch or to the Food Bank if you can!

Remember! This is totally voluntary, and the list represents suggestions. **Checks are of course always welcome too!**

Our neighbors need us! Thank you!

Michele



Bookmark the GCA Website and GCA Facebook!!

Keep up to date with the latest news and events from the GCA and the greater Grapeview Community by visiting and bookmarking the [GCA Website](#) and the [GCA Facebook](#) page. Both the website and Facebook page are updated throughout the month as news and information are made available regarding both the GCA and our community.