



# 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.*

- Sept 4 Board Meeting 10AM (Horton Center)
- Sept 12 **Fall Kickoff – Tailgate Party at Rauschert Field (5:30PM)**
- Sept 16 Grapeview [Port Commission](#) Meeting 7:00PM
- Sept 17 Central Mason [Fire Commission](#) Meeting 5:00PM; 122 Franklin St, Shelton
- Sept 24 [Grapeview School Board](#) Meeting 5:00PM
- Sept 25 Boys Breakfast at Burger Claim (8:30am – NOTE NEW DAY – THURSDAY)
- Oct 31 **A “SPOOKTACULAR” Event for October... Note the date change!**



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT’S DESK...

Boy where has the summer gone? We’ve had a LOT of fun, but it has flown by that’s for sure. So much to highlight and so little space to do it in. The **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Water & Art Festival** was a total and resounding success!! We cannot thank our Volunteers, Community Partners, and Co-Sponsors enough for helping us pull off this wonderful day. There are so many pictures to share – I won’t be able to put them all in this newsletter, but we’ll have them displaying on the TV at the Horton Center for everyone to enjoy. Following the Festival, we celebrated *BIG TIME* at the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Event**. We had a live band, from our own Michael Benson, dancing, food and drink galore – all put together by a small, but mighty team of wonderful women. The highlight of the event (in my opinion) was the tribute to Vern and Susan Nelson, our founding couple, and the many people in our community who have made the festival what it’s now become through their love of Grapeview and our special community. As I reflect on the past 20+ years Jerry and I have enjoyed the Festival, I wish I would have grabbed the microphone and had another toast to two women who have, unquestionably, made these events successful year, after year. We ALL owe a huge amount of gratitude to **Louise Okonek** and **Marlee Campbell**. These two have led the efforts to make this event a community treasure and their leadership is SO appreciated. I know without them – we would have been in a heap of trouble!!!

So, I will end this with my heart full of gratitude to so many of you who make Grapeview such a wonderful place to live.

**See you all at Rauschert Field for the Fall Kick Off on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>!**

**Bonnie Townsley**





## WHAT'S NEXT?? OUR ANNUAL FALL TAILGATE PARTY



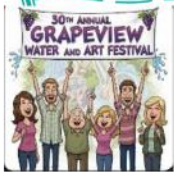
Mark your calendars—it's time to kick off fall GCA-style with our **Tailgate Party on**

**Friday, September 12th at 5:30pm!** This is a "Bring Your Own Everything" event: food, drinks, chairs, and yes—plan to haul away your own trash (we love our "Pack It In, Pack It Out" policy 🌍). Bring a favorite football snack to share with the group as we "circle the firepit" (without a fire), and walk around, tasting each other's favorite foods while enjoying an evening with friends!

A special shout-out to **Marge & Bob Doremus** and **Mike & Linda Fish** for once again opening their properties so we can gather. From Grapeview Loop Road, just turn onto Rauschert Road, follow the signs, park on the grass, and set up your tailgate spot.

If you have an out-door game you'd like to bring, please do so (rumor has it someone's bringing a **Husky Corn Hole Game... do I hear "GO COUGS"?**).

**NO SETUP NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT!!!**



## The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Water & Art Festival Was Magical!

WE DID THE GCA PROUD! The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grapeview Water & Art Festival held on July 26<sup>th</sup>, was over the top with possibly the largest crowd ever estimated at 1,500.

This success came due to several months of careful planning, sterling publicity, and the generous support of our co-sponsors and community partners, topped off by the super-efficient management of the set-up team. This was followed by the incredible hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm of almost 200 volunteers made up of GCA members, their families, and their friends. Topping it all off was a variety of delicious food, homemade cobblers, gorgeous flower arrangements, lively and creative children's activities, a fishing derby, a hole-in-one golf tournament, the highest quality of artists and crafts people, along with two amazing musical trios that kept us all moving and grooving. Behind the scenes were dedicated parking, security, restroom, and trash teams!! We did ourselves and Grapeview proud!

Additional special features of the 30<sup>th</sup> Water & Art Festival included the distribution of free commemorative buttons to all attendees and the first ever free raffle ticket drawing with prizes awarded in the afternoon. That said, it's truly hard to fully capture the magic of this year's festival. But a GCA member shared the following story that perhaps gives a whiff of what was in the air.

***Late in the day, a GCA volunteer overheard one Grapeview couple talking to another couple from out of town, who was searching for a new home. The Grapeview couple told them how much they love living here and how many volunteers came together to put on the festival. The visiting couple responded by saying: "This day has given us hope and we really needed it. Hold on to Grapeview!"***

So once again, many thanks to all the folks that made the magic happen. It's been my honor to serve as chair of this event. Let's keep that spirit of good will alive and thriving.

**Marlee Campbell**

Out-Going Chair, Grapeview Water & Art Festival

\*\*\* **Editor's Note: Pictures to follow in the next newsletter!**

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE WATER & ART FESTIVAL AND THANKING THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE!

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 4pm, a true celebration began... No one throws a party like the GCA! We had three goals in mind when we started planning this event: **HONOR, CLASSY, and FUN!** We wanted all our volunteers (more than 200 each year), our Community Sponsors, and our Festival Co-Sponsors to know just how much we appreciate each and every one of them. With one of our objectives being to minimize the number of volunteers needed to throw this party - a small (but mighty) group put together a party we won't soon forget! There was live music (The fabulous Michael Benson Band – Michael being a member of GCA), there was dancing till we dropped (or until Jim Hanson sweated through a shirt or two), and there was gorging on delicious food and drink! The food was phenomenal – and all done by Trish Wells, Marlee Campbell, Julie Creighton, Nancy Montgomery, and Patty Hansen. Dessert was a tribute to the many volunteers who make wonderful cobblers each year. This time Nan & Amanda Montgomery got to enjoy it without serving it! Part of our time was spent honoring those who've made this possible and sharing the history of the Water & (later) Art Festival. Marlee Campbell then asked Susan Nelson to give us the "rest of the story" since she and Vern were part of the original Founders of the Festival, along with a few others who kicked off this beautiful tradition. There was not a dry eye in the pavilion when Susan finished her "love letter" to the community. We then presented the Nelson's with a plaque that will be part of a park bench honoring them (and their dog Scout) which will be placed by the flagpole at the Marina for all to share over many, many years. There are not enough words to express our gratitude to the Nelson's, but Kelly Granger did a great job summarizing how much we love and appreciate them. We are grateful to the Nelson's and the Granger's for allowing us to continue this tradition and we hope to continue the gift they started 30+ years ago for many years to come! *Enjoy the pictures below with our thanks to Leslie Blaisdell for a fabulous job taking them!*

**CLASSY!**





**A PERSONAL NOTE FROM NANCY AND AMANDA MONTGOMERY:**

MANY, MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU AWESOME COBBLER BAKERS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO TAKE TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES TO HELP MAKE THE WATER AND ART FESTIVAL A SUCCESS YEAR AFTER YEAR AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOUR DELICIOUS DONATIONS NEXT YEAR.

GRATEFULLY, AMANDA AND NANCY MONTGOMERY



(Editor's note: Nancy and Amanda, we are grateful to YOU TWO for all your hard work!)

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS.... From Michele Hecht**

**Foodbank – Green Bags!** Please return outstanding bags, full or empty to my Michele Hecht's home or bring them to Rauschert Field on Sept. 12th. If you want to fill them, consider toiletries and hygiene items. The Foodbank shelves are pretty bare. We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations so far. Surplus garden produce has been very well received! Keep it up.. our neighbors need us!



**Christmas is around the corner!** I might be looking for a new Santa! Do you know anyone who would be a good fit?

**School volunteers:** If you would like to help out with reading this year, the program will start in October; Tuesdays thru Fridays, from 9 to 10am. Please remember to check whether your security clearance is still valid. There will be more opportunities to help as the school year gets under

**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.

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



### The Drink Divine

Adam Eckert's new grape, the Island Belle, soon became an important part of the local economy. Most of the crop was marketed as either table grapes or grape juice. Two companies were responsible for most of the production of grape juice: The Island Belle Grape Juice Co. was started by Henry Peterson in 1925, then sold to Harry Hillman and later to Paul McBride. The Eckert Fruit Co., founded by Adam Eckert was the other major producer. Both companies produced bottled grape juice for retail sale and Island Belle also sold juice in 5 gallon cans for the wholesale market. Another small grape juice plant was run by Al and Tom Jose. They sold their juice at a small stand by their plant.

Island Belle Grape Juice Co., in an attempt to expand their market, had a broker take small 4 oz. bottles of their juice to the Orient, and sold it as The Drink Divine.

No doubt a tasty beverage, there were also some claims made attesting to the health benefits of Island Belle grape juice.

The label on one bottle says that it is recommended by leading physicians. It goes on to quote a Mr. Max Heindel. "Grape juice is a particularly wonderful solvent. It thins and stimulates the blood, opening the way into capillaries already dried and choked up – if the process has not gone too far. By a course of unfermented grape juice treatment, people with sunken eyes, wrinkled skins and poor complexions become plump, ruddy and lively. The increased permeability enables the spirit to manifest more freely and with renewed energy."

The most bizarre health claim was published in the Sequim Press on April 19, 1940. In a Q&A health column they printed the following:

QUESTION: Mrs. H.G. Tacoma

I have been diagnosed with cancer of the stomach and ordered to operate at once or die in three months. Is there anything on earth except operation that might change this death sentence?

ANSWER: The grape cure has cured numerous cancers, why not yours? Eat five ounces of Island Belle grapes every two hours while awake. Use Island Belle grape juice until the grapes are ripe. Eat nothing else.