



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.

- Nov 6 GCA Board Meeting 10AM (Horton Center)
- Nov 14 **GCA Stars, Stripes & Thankful Hearts Potluck (6:00PM Horton Center)**
- Nov 18 Grapeview [Port Commission](#) Meeting 7:00PM
- Nov 19 Central Mason [Fire Commission](#) Meeting 5:00PM; 122 Franklin St, Shelton
- Nov 19 [Grapeview School Board](#) Meeting 5:00PM

FROM OUR PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Aloha from Jerry and me to all of you... I understand we've missed a few good storms in Grapeview while we've been enjoying the sunshine in Kauai!! My message will be short and sweet as a Mai Tai awaits me when I'm done with the newsletter!! Ha!

We celebrated October a little differently this year – with a Halloween Party that turned out to be a **Spooktacular** event!! Christine Bal (assisted by Debbie Black) stepped up to try something new and made it really special... I love this and encourage any of you who'd like to try something new or host an event to please contact Debbie Black – we LOVE this!

November will be a little different too. We will honor our Veterans and elect a new Board, but instead of a Chili Cookoff – we'll have our own version of Thanksgiving with a Potluck Dinner while we treasure each other and count our many blessings.

As we head into a new season and the holidays, I reflect on this year and count my term as your President as one of the many blessings I've had this year.

Mahalo,

Bonnie Townsley (360-801-5040)





The Great Spooktacular Halloween Party

🎃 A Hauntingly Good Time at Our First Halloween Bash! 🎃 (Hosts: Chris Bal & Debbie Black)

Despite the pouring rain, about 70 members came out in full costume for our very first Halloween Party — and what a night it was! The creativity and spirit were incredible, with everything from spooky classics to clever homemade designs on display.

Costume contest winners included:

- Scariest: Phil Stewart as *The Phantom of the Opera*
- Most Original: Darlene Slotvig-1924 costume
- Best Homemade: Miss Annie Bell Island Belle
- Best Couples: “The Herd” – Carla & Bruce Rieker and “Beets” Sherry van Dijk
- Best Overall: Christine Bal and Debbie Black as Minions
- Honorable Mention: Kelly Granger Dinosaur Wrangler

The pumpkin carving contest brought out even more creativity, with Leslie Blaisdell taking first place for her “Green Margarita” pumpkin — truly one-of-a-kind! The decorations were over the top, the food table was overflowing with pizzas, sandwiches, and chips, and the laughter and music made it a night to remember. **A huge fangs-you-very-much to everyone who braved the storm and helped make this first Halloween celebration**





COMING UP NEXT... A LITTLE SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR NOVEMBER!
Stars, Stripes & Thankful Hearts: A Celebration of Veterans and Gratitude



The Grapeview Community Association (GCA) invites members and guests to come together for “**Stars, Stripes & Thankful Hearts,**” a special evening blending the spirit of **Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.** Join us on **Friday, November 14, at 6:00 p.m. at the Horton Center** for a festive **Harvest Potluck Dinner** — think Thanksgiving favorites like **turkey, pumpkin, stuffing & apple cider.** The evening will include fun, food, fellowship, and a heartfelt **tribute to our veterans** who have served our country with honor. In addition to the celebration, the evening will feature the **annual GCA Board Election** and the always-popular **50/50 raffle** (remember to bring \$\$!).

Potluck details (Last Name):

- **A–K:** Salads/Sides
- **L–O:** Desserts
- **P–Z:** Main Courses



GCA will provide plates and utensils. Please bring your beverage of choice and a dish to share. Volunteers are always appreciated — **setup begins at 10 a.m. Friday morning, and cleanup follows immediately after the event.**

Let’s gather for a warm evening of community, gratitude, and celebration.
 We look forward to seeing you there!



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS.... Community Outreach News

Helping the Community with donations for the North Mason Food Bank: Our neighbors need us more than ever! A special Thanks to Teresa and Barry for contributing so much of their garden bounty!

If you still have some of those very bright green bags, please drop them off at my house on the porch (first house on the right after the Stretch Island Bridge). The following items would be welcome:

- Diapers, Wipes, Tampons and pads
- Canned proteins (tuna, chicken, spam)
- Shelf stable milks dairy and non-dairy
- Hearty soups
- Jelly / Jam
- Checks are of course always welcome too!



Grapeview School:

Thank you to Louise for volunteering for the Reading Help program on Tuesday mornings from 9 to 10am! There are other opportunities and different times possible to be arranged separately if that time doesn’t work for you! Please call or text me if you are interested!

Michele Hecht
Outreach Coordinator

AMAZING OPPORTUNITY!

After a combined 20 years of curating and selling the Grapeview Water & Art Festival Poster, we are ready to pass the “paintbrush” off to a new team.

Poster sales have been an integral part of the proceeds from the festival which go to support many community needs.

Please contact Mary Baker @ 206 478-1368 or Phil Stewart @ 206 784-0351 for the particulars.

The next Grapeview Water & Art Festival is Saturday, July 25, 2026.



**Start the Holiday Season early with a local event
Directed by our own Pam Mueller!**

The play **Our Town by Thornton Wilder**, reminds us that more things unite us in our lives than divide us. We have “ties that bind”. Pam Mueller directs the Harstine Island theater club production of this classic.

- **November 20, 21 at 7 PM**
- **November 22, 23 at 2 PM.**

No cost to this production, but donations are appreciated.
Be sure to arrive early!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - IMPORTANT!!!!

It's time to pay your 2026 dues! Please check the current Directory and update your information if it has changed or is not correct. You can call Debbie Olig (406-223-7309) and she will update it for the 2026 Directory. To pay by check, just click on the [2025 Membership Form](#). Complete the form, print it and mail it along with your payment to:

Grapeview Community Association
P. O. Box 355
Grapeview, WA 98546

Or you can [pay your renewal online with your credit card](#). **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
(Membership4GCA@gmail.com)

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 Other Wineries: A Toast to Grapeview's Past



In our last column, we raised a glass to St. Charles Winery, a true pioneer as Washington Bonded Winery No. 1. While that fact is well known, did you know that Grapeview was also home to Washington Bonded Winery No. 2?

That honor belongs to the **Davis Winery**, founded in 1934 by Peter F. Davis and his two sons, Fred H. and James W. Davis. Also located on Stretch Island, they produced both loganberry and grape wines under the trade name "Chambelle." Back then, you could purchase a gallon of their wine for just \$1.85 to \$2.50.

Stretch Island was a bustling hub of winemaking, home to yet a third venture: **Stretch Island Winery**. Founded in 1935 by a group of five men, it included two former associates of St. Charles Winery: Erich Steenborg and Dr. Henry Benson. Their other partners were Herb Drew, Ed Wright, and Wilbur Reeves. Their trademarked wine was "Belle Isle." The winery bought the Davis Winery in the early 1940s, but their success was short-lived, and they ceased operations in 1947.

Grapeview's fourth winery was located not on Stretch Island, but on the mainland along Pickering Passage, just south of the current Harstine Island bridge. The **Werberger Winery** was established by Rudy Werberger in 1933.

Werberger, a German immigrant, worked as a miner in Roslyn until an explosion closed his mine. He decided to switch careers and, in 1918, bought a piece of land in Grapeview. Deciding to plant grapes, he acquired 1,000 cuttings—mostly Island Belles—from Adam Eckert. Rudy learned the wine and grape business from his father, who was a wine taster in his native Hungary. The Werberger Winery produced 25 varieties of wine, with their loganberry wine being a specialty.

Following Rudy's death, the winery was managed by his son Bill and later by his grandson Don Wilson. In 1971, the family decided to sell the business. It was purchased by Dick Schnelz, a Boeing engineer looking for a new opportunity amid a series of layoffs. Unfortunately, he was unable to make the business work, and Grapeview's last winery closed its doors for good.

Wine History Display

Having read about the early wine industry in Grapeview, the following may be of interest to you. The Mason County Historical Society wrote in their October newsletter: "Museum staff has been working for the last several weeks to develop our newest exhibit: Fruits of the Sound; The Roots of Washington's Wine Story. Artifacts, photos and archives from our collection will tell the story of the early wine industry that began in Grapeview." Why not stop by and check it out?

The museum is located at 427 West Railroad Ave. in Shelton.