

the Word on the Street

Langley Main Street Association Newsletter

*Welcome to
our virtual
annual
meeting!*



While we would love to be inviting you into our new office space on the first floor (same building), sharing stories and potluck nibbles, and raising a glass to all that we have accomplished over the last couple of years, it was just not meant to be this year.

So instead, we are offering you an opportunity to see what we have been up to on your terms, on your phone or computer, and at your leisure.

But boy do we miss you, and hope to see your smiling faces at next year's annual meeting, if not sooner around town!



And Now an update from Our Design Committee Chair, Bob Waterman

Although the Covid pandemic necessitated postponing several major projects, the appearance and improvement of the landscaping along the downtown streets was well maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers led by landscape professional Emily Martin. Plants were watered, weeded and mulched, flower baskets hung along First and Second Streets, and a new planting area designed in the bumpout at Second and Anthes. Holiday lighting was installed, and a portion of the landscaping around the Langley Library was modified and dedicated to the memory of Rene Neff.



The appearance and functionality of the plaza at the north end of the Post Office was greatly improved. The plaza was pressure washed, deteriorating benches were removed and replaced with movable tables and chairs to encourage public use of the space. A panel of historic photos illustrating the history of the Post Office was also installed.



Energy from the Design Committee presents Langley as a garden town, a well-designed and maintained economic boost, an encouraging backdrop for living here and doing business here. Horticultural professionals guide volunteers every Tuesday morning. It's fun and you are always welcome!

Did you know?

The primary responsibilities of the Design Committee are to maintain and improve the appearance of the city, and to build public awareness of local history and renovation of historic buildings.



LMSA contracts with Arbor Dreams to maintain the health of the trees in the downtown district.



LMSA created a tribute garden for founding member, Rene Neff.



LMSA revamped the bumpouts at the corner of Anthes and 2nd St across from Langley Park.

A Bit of Self Promotion

from Promotion Committee Chair, Donna Christensen

In years past the Promotion Committees (aka PROMO) volunteers produced popular community events such as the exciting Seafloat Scramble, Bunny Daze, the Community Feast, the Langley Street Dance, and of course Spooktacular. While the pandemic curtailed gatherings and events in 2020 and much of 2021, we looked for new ways to connect, to play and to support our community. That included quickly redirecting resources to purchase difficult-to-find masks and hand sanitizers to distribute to retailers and non-profits, and collaboration with the Chamber to promote the Safe Shopping program. Stuffed bunnies that had been collected to give to kids during Bunny Daze were donated to the Langley Police and Island County Sheriff's Department to help comfort young children during a challenging time.



One of my favorite 2020 projects was called "Love Letters to Langley," which is still visible throughout the retail district. Shortly after the pandemic began, we worked with a local printer, Feather and Fox Print Co., to create whimsical and encouraging messages for the windows of any businesses that wanted to participate. The cheery decals were installed at the darkest time, when most businesses were still closed, but the messages were enduring and hopeful. They still brighten our streets and welcome locals and visitors during this more active summer and fall season.

This year the PROMO committee continues to focus on ways to contribute to the charm and vibrancy of Langley (look for the awesome Spooktacular décor and holiday Deck the Doors contest coming soon) and we look forward to seeing our friends and neighbors at amazing PROMO events in the future.

Did you know?

The Promotion Committee's purpose is to create excitement and vibrancy in Langley's downtown district. Our goals include fostering community involvement, cultivating playful lively activities, and nurturing Langley's unique identity.



We tried to keep spirits up with themed decorations this year.



We made sure to install our famous hopscotch games throughout town.



Fall is the time of year for pumpkins and autumn leaves, and of course, our signature crows!

Our Economic Vitality Committee Expands Its Reach & Focus

Working with the Promotion Committee, the small, yet nimble Economic Vitality group quickly saw the need to purchase difficult-to-find masks and hand sanitizers and distribute to retailers and non-profits. We continue to deliver masks to local businesses as needed.

Another more novel approach to supporting our downtown district resulted in the purchase of a snow blower. This snow blower allows for safe pedestrian shopping when the weather is less than ideal.

And lastly, a set of stairs were installed to permit better and safer pedestrian exit from the Langley United Methodist Church (LUMC) parking lot to Anthes Avenue.



Did you know?

One of the Economic Vitality Committee's objectives is to seek ways to remove barriers to shopping downtown such as parking access and encourage length of time downtown. Our LUMC Stairs project is a great example.



After receiving all the necessary permits from the City of Langley, excavation began on stairs.



Concrete forms were created and poured for stairs project.



The completed project provides much easier, and safer access to much needed parking downtown.

A Special Opportunity to Put Your Tax Dollars to Work Right Here in Langley

Our Organization Committee is what holds LMSA together, normally without much fanfare. **But today, we have some exciting news!**

Thanks to the advocacy efforts of state Main Street executive directors, new legislation passed in 2021 increasing the Main Street Tax Incentive Program state credit cap. The Washington State legislature found such value in the Main Street associations across the state that they have increased the contribution cap from \$133,333.33 to \$213,333.33 per year, per community. This increase took effect this fall, leading to a one-time additional tax credit application opening at 8:00 am on October 1st, 2021.

If you own a business that pays B&O taxes to the State of Washington and you want to put those taxes to work locally through the Langley Main Street program, please consider contributing. These contributions support our vision for Langley's downtown to be overflowing with creative vitality and authentic charm, wrapped in a thriving community where everyone belongs, and has an opportunity to live, learn, work, shop, and play. We strive to accomplish this through overflowing gardens, street beautification efforts, special projects, seasonal events, holiday decorating and winter lights, and historic preservation.

Any applications made after this opening must still be fulfilled before the Department of Revenue's November 15th deadline and the credits will be released for use in January 2022. For more information, call us today at 360-499-6789.

Did you know?

The Organization Committee sustains the well-being of the Langley Main Street Association through funding, volunteers and members.



Funding supports improving and creating third spaces such as Langley Park.



Our volunteers are amazingly dedicated!



Our members are so fun and supportive!



Final Thoughts



Once a year, we normally gather with supporters and Friends of LMSA to share our successes, encourage new volunteers, and look to the future. Last year, we were unable to meet, and this year has turned out to be no different.

The circumstances may be similar; the people involved have changed however. Over the course of the last year and half, as an organization, we have come together; as a downtown business district, we have come together; and as a community, we have come together. We have pulled together to weather this storm, in some amazingly selfless ways.

We are stronger, more resilient, and more nimble than ever before. We support one another, we care about our neighbors, and we reach out. And while no place is perfect, I am proud to be part of such a thoughtful, inclusive community.

I think that collectively, we should all give ourselves a pat on the back, raise a glass to our perseverance, and have a bit of a pep in our step. We have taken the concept of "it takes a village" to heart and are truly #LangleyStrong.



Michaleen McGarry
Executive Director

Did you know?

As a Main Street America Affiliate™, we are part of a national network of more than 1,200 neighborhoods and communities who share both a commitment to creating high-quality places and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development.



Affiliate Community



Member of Washington Main
Street Program



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