

# *the Word on the Street*

Langley Main Street Association Newsletter

*The  
Soup Box Derby is  
back...and better  
than ever!*



*See you on the hill!*

Langley Main Street Association (LMSA) and the crew from Langley Community Club are once again co-producing the Soup Box Derby on September 15th, 2024! This legendary event draws racers and fans from all over the island and is sure to produce some lively competition down First Street Hill.

Come check out the wacky designs and costumes that participants will wear in the wildest race on the island. And if you're up for it, enter the race along with your friends!

Racer check-in begins at 8:30 am, and the races start at 10:00 am. For more info and to download racer registration forms, go to [www.langleymainstreet.org](http://www.langleymainstreet.org).



# Design Committee Updates

## TUESDAY MORNING GARDEN GANG

One of our recently completed projects is the installation of plant identification tags in the bump-outs on Second Street. The tags, created by Emily Martin, our Garden Manager & Horticulturist, are a subtle and informative way to provide the names of some of our standout plants. Emily also leads our Tuesday Morning Garden Gang, a group of 13 volunteers who plant and maintain Langley's beautiful gardens.

Interested in joining this fun and talented group? Email [mainstreet@whidbey.com](mailto:mainstreet@whidbey.com)!



## FUTURISTIC WAYS OF LOOKING AT THE PAST

Enhancing community awareness of Langley's rich history is a goal shared by both LMSA and Langley's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). These two groups collaborated recently to connect Langley's present to its past. The project was spearheaded by LMSA Design Committee's Bob Waterman, who also chairs the city's HPC. A QR code was created for each building in the downtown area, linking to the HPC website. The code images were printed, coated with UV protection, and distributed to business owners to be placed in a window and/or displayed within the building. When a viewer scans the image with their phone, they are taken to a web page created by the HPC that provides photos and history for each building in Langley's commercial district. Look for more than fifty QR codes that have been placed throughout the city. (For the interactive map and history of downtown Langley, go to [www.langleyhistory.org](http://www.langleyhistory.org).)



QR Code example from Langley Whale Center

## Migration of the Faerie Wings



In case you missed it, Langley's beloved Faerie Wings have migrated from their temporary perch near the Chamber of Commerce to their new home in Clyde Alley, off Second Street. The wings have also received some much-needed TLC and sprucing up from the Tuesday Morning Garden Gang.



The Faerie Wings are now a colorful addition to the blossoming 'Art Corridor' in Clyde Alley between Callahan's Firehouse and the Braeburn. Take a stroll to find this iconic art installation and social-media favorite. Post your pics on [#langleyFaerieWings](https://www.instagram.com/langleyFaerieWings)



Trivia about Faerie vs Fairy: "Faerie" is associated with Gaelic folklore and is believed to be the original spelling of the word. "Fairy" is more commonly used in modern English.



# Standout Volunteer

Bernita Sanstad, our 2024 Medal of Awesome awardee, is part of the Tuesday Morning Garden Gang, but she also goes solo, tackling a particular garden bump-out or flower bed on her own. You may have seen her in one of the gardens on any day of the week, rain or shine, quietly weeding, planting, trimming and beautifying. Her commitment reflects a sincere passion to make a difference in our charming island community.

Bernita grew up realizing that community engagement was a commitment she could make to help the planet thrive. She raised her family in Langley, and she values the inclusive community that she calls home. She also held the position of Director for Planned Parenthood in Oak Harbor for many years.

Now her "job" is to volunteer with the Tuesday Morning Garden Gang (and not just on Tuesdays!), and her dedication to the outstanding gardens is apparent throughout the downtown area.

Bernita's commitment to our community is also visible in the way she interacts with people in town. She is happy to chat with locals and visitors alike, answering questions about the gardens, the community and more. She is a true ambassador for Langley as well as LMSA. Thank you Bernita!



## Have you heard about the Langley Log Cabin?

This historic log cabin was recently discovered near Langley on Whidbey Island. Property owner Marian Myszowski began demolition of a condemned building on her property, but when the outer shell of the building was removed, she found a hidden log cabin. While little is known about the log cabin's provenance or original function, it is estimated to date from between the 1850's and the 1880's, during the earliest years of Whidbey Island's white settler history.



Fortunately, Marian did not proceed with the demolition and instead contacted the South Whidbey Historical Society. One of the society's volunteers, retired historian and cultural resource specialist (as well as Washington Trust board member) Kyle Walker has taken on the project of investigating the cabin's origins. In the meantime, the log cabin has been named to the Washington Trust's Most Endangered Places.



# Get Involved!

Langley Main Street Association is dedicated to creating a spirited, inviting downtown. You can be a part of this great group of people by joining a committee, sharing a talent, volunteering in the garden, or becoming a Friend of LMSA.

With our variety of annual events and community projects, we're certain there's a place for you to help make a difference. From participating in a holiday parade to pulling weeds, and so much more in between, we have volunteer opportunities to suit almost anybody. To learn more, you can also attend one of our committee meetings:

ECONOMIC VITALITY meets the first Friday of each month at 4:30 p.m., led by chairperson Lisa Morgenroth. Call or email for location details.

DESIGN meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the LMSA office, led by chairperson Victoria Locke.

ORG/OUTREACH meets monthly, led by chairperson Janet Ploof. Call or email for time and location details.

PROMO meets the second Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the LMSA office, led by chairperson Donna Christensen.

Still not sure where your talents might best be used? Give us a call at 360-499-6789 or email [mainstreet@whidbey.com](mailto:mainstreet@whidbey.com).



## Pics from our Summer Party



The evening included an appreciation of Board Member Emeritus Bob Waterman..



Board Member Donna Christensen, thanking our Volunteers, Sponsors and Champions,



It may have been drizzling outside the tent, but the mood inside was warm and festive!



# Curious about how LMSA is funded?

LMSA is primarily funded via the Washington State Main Street Tax Credit Incentive Program (MSTCIP) which provides a Business & Occupation (B&O) tax credit or Public Utility Tax (PUT) credit to Washington businesses that donate to Main Street Programs. The MSTCIP allows businesses to direct a significant portion of their tax dollars back into Langley.

If you own a business, we invite YOU to take advantage of the Main Street State Tax Credit Incentive Program and become a key partner in our initiatives. Your pledge is not only a testament to your commitment to our community, but your business will also receive a 75% tax credit when you file your annual B&O taxes the following year. Supporting downtown Langley is a win-win through this program.

Without the generous support of our program participants, many of our projects aimed at revitalizing and improving downtown Langley simply would not happen. Your contribution will directly support a thriving local economy, create a more inviting downtown, and build a stronger sense of community for all of us.

It's not too late to pledge this year, as tax credits are still available! Contact our Executive Director, Allison Gubata, at 360.499.6789 or email her at [mainstreet@whidbey.com](mailto:mainstreet@whidbey.com) to discuss how you can get involved.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference in downtown Langley. Together, we will continue to make our community a place we are all proud to call home.



## Did you know?

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



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



Our volunteers are amazingly dedicated!



Our members are fun and supportive!

# Final Thoughts



What better place to be than in Langley, Washington, this summer! Our community is brimming with energy, enthusiasm, beauty, and inspiration. Many contributions go into creating this sense of place, including the dedicated efforts of Langley Main Street Association.

In May of this year, I joined LMSA as the new Executive Director. I have big shoes to fill! My predecessor, Michaleen McGarry, will continue to offer her institutional knowledge, as I move forward, advocating for LMSA. Thank you, Michaleen, for your unwavering commitment to this organization.

Without the countless hours of volunteer service (400 hours YTD), we wouldn't have the beautiful gardens that enhance our downtown district, banners to communicate featured events, as well as support for the Soup Box Derby, Deck the Doors, Spooktacular, and numerous other projects around town.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Summer newsletter. We hope you have found it informative. If you have any questions, please let me know. I look forward to connecting with you.



Allison Gubata  
Executive Director  
[mainstreet@whidbey.com](mailto:mainstreet@whidbey.com)

## 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 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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