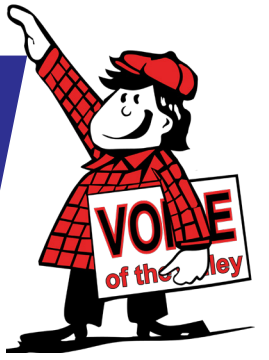


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# VOICE of the Valley

56<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NUMBER 07  
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025



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February 19, Community Conversation to be hosted in Rural Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Subarea. They are hosting a series of community conversations to develop the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Subarea Plan. The series kicks off with a conversation on equity, vision and principles on Equity/Vision & Principles, Wednesday, February 19, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. It will be held at the Hobart Community Church, 27524 SE 200<sup>th</sup> St., Maple Valley. The community members who live, work, and play in the subarea to join the conversations. For more information and to see the full schedule of community conversations visit our community engagement webpage here: [publicinput.com/GreaterMapleValley](http://publicinput.com/GreaterMapleValley)

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**Covington Library Book Group**

*The*  
**VIOLIN CONSPIRACY**  
A Novel  
**BRENDAN SLOCUMB**

Covington Library Book Group at Covington Library - Thursday, February 20, 2025, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb New members always welcome. Registration not required.

**Ghost Town of Franklin, WA**

**37 Miners Killed 1894  
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Ghost Towns and Mines of Washington has Franklin WA on it. Check it out at <https://youtube.com/@ghosttownsandminesofwashington>

**MAPLE VALLEY CREATIVE ARTS COUNCIL**

**COMING MARCH 13**

**JC'S IMPROV Night**

Join us at 7 p.m. at the Maple Valley Creative Arts Center  
23220 Maple Valley Hwy SE Suite 15 Maple Valley WA 98038

Ready for a night of laughter and unforgettable moments? The Maple Valley Creative Arts Center is excited to introduce our newest program – JC's Improv Night, the perfect blend of date night and game night, brought to you by our talented MVCAC Council youth board members, John Riedel and Cole Wolf! Whether you want to unwind or take center stage, this monthly FREE event (to be held on the second Thursday of every month) promises endless fun and unforgettable memories. Join your community for our grand opening on March 13 at 7 p.m. at the Maple Valley Creative Arts Center at 23220 Maple Valley Black Diamond Rd SE Ste 15, Maple Valley, WA 98038 (we are behind Stockton's Restaurant). Tag your partner or friends and make it a night to remember.

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# Obituaries



**Betty Jane (Frolander) Johnsen**  
(1928–2025)

Betty Jane Johnsen was born on February 2, 1928, in Kalispell, Montana, to Carl and Ruth Frolander. She grew up on her family's farm in Ronan with siblings Dean and Esther.

In 1957, Betty married Gordon Johnsen, and they settled in Ravensdale, Washington in 1960, raising their blended family. Their home was the heart of family gatherings, especially Christmas Eve dinners with Norwegian lefse and divinity candy.

Betty worked in various roles including cook, bank courier, and machinist for Boeing, proudly calling herself a "Rosie the Riveter." A talented artist, Betty painted landscapes and portraits, often selling her signature painted saw blades. She taught art classes at the Maple Valley Community Center and collaborated with Gordon on his woodwork. She liked country music, westerns, and yard sales. A devoted member of Ravensdale Bible Church, she served as treasurer and hosted sing-alongs.

After Gordon's passing in 2000, Betty found companionship in her dachshund, Cricket. She continued creating art even as dementia affected her memory.

Betty passed away on February 1, 2025, just before her 97th birthday. She is survived by her children Angela Joy (Gene), Robert (Bev), and Lenny (Sandy); grandchildren Megan, Amy, Gene Jr., Terry, Monica and Mike; great-grandchildren Alex, Winston, and Raelynn; and many nieces, nephews and dear friends.

A memorial service will be held at Tahoma National Cemetery on March 6 at 12:30 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America or Maple Valley Community Center. Please visit [flintofts.com/obituaries](http://flintofts.com/obituaries) to share your memories of Betty.

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Hope Fellowship, 21115 Kent Kangley Road just past Sawyer's Village. 425-432-5114. [www.HopeFellowship.net](http://www.HopeFellowship.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

**TAYLOR CREEK CHURCH**

A place for you to grow in your relationship with the Lord and fellowship with His people. We invite you to join us each Sunday for Sunday School Classes for all ages at 9 am, and for our Worship Service with verse-by-verse teaching of the Word of God at 10:15 am. (Children's Church and Nursery are provided through Kindergarten) A cry room is provided for nursing mothers with a video feed of the service.

We invite you to also join us throughout the week for personal encouragement and spiritual growth through Adult Small Group Bible Studies, Studies for Men, Studies for Women, as well as Youth Ministry (grades 7-12) and Adventure Club (ages 3 through grade 6).

We are located at 21110 244th Ave. SE (right off Hwy 18). For more information about our church or other activities, please call the church office at (425) 432-0634 or visit our website at [www.taylorcreekchurch.org](http://www.taylorcreekchurch.org). Senior Pastor: Jason Katen

An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church  
By Pastor Jason Katen

# Are Things Well with You?

Some months prior to the great Chicago fire of 1871, Horatio G. Spafford- a successful Christian businessman- invested heavily in real estate on the shore of Lake Michigan. All his waterfront holdings were destroyed in the fire. To make matters worse, just prior to his financial loss, he experienced the death of his son. Desiring a rest for his wife and four daughters, he planned a trip to Europe. Because of unexpected last-minute business, he had to remain in Chicago and sent his family ahead. On November 22, 1873, the ship carrying his wife and four daughters sank after it was struck by another vessel. Horatio received the news by a cable message sent by his wife that read, "Saved alone."

Shortly following this heart-wrenching ordeal, Horatio wrote these words: "When peace, like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll. Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, 'It is well, it is well with my soul.'" These words are the first stanza of the hymn Horatio wrote about his experience: "It is Well With My Soul."

I cannot begin to imagine the grief this man had to go through, nor would I desire to, but I know that the peace he found is the same peace that is offered to all who place their faith in Jesus Christ. King David had this peace and described it in the very familiar Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

No matter how great or difficult the problem you may be facing, there is One who can see you through and give you peace for your soul and a renewed hope to continue. The Lord revealed this promise to the prophet Isaiah: "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall, but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:28-31.

Is it well with your soul? Just because everything seems fine in your life does not mean that all is well or will be. Things can only be well when you understand, like Horatio, who understood, like David and Isaiah, that the everlasting God and Creator is in total control. Horatio established that understanding years prior to this tragedy when he trusted in Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Would you like to know more? We would love to speak with you. Call us at 425-432-0634, or contact us at [www.taylorcreekchurch.org](http://www.taylorcreekchurch.org). We invite you to join us for Sunday service: 9:00 AM for Sunday School and 10:15 AM for Worship. We are located at 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.

**Obituaries printed in VOICE**



Write up the memories you cherish about your loved one to pass on from generation to generation with an obituary in the VOICE of the Valley.

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# When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



While this 1965 photo of the former Enumclaw Library is neither grand nor imposing, the story of its development is a testament to the hardy pioneers who populated the town with both commerce and community spirit. Like much of its early history, the town's founders, Frank and Mary (Fell) Stevenson played a starring part. But so did the sizable number of Scandinavian immigrants from Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. In fact, it was Danish citizens who originated the first lending collection, described as "a Danish Community Library" containing 450 volumes, a fair number brought from Denmark.

When the town was incorporated in 1913, Enumclaw's Civic Club held a public meeting to discuss building a public library. At the time, J.J. Smith School held an extensive collection that town residents could utilize. The following year, Rev. Joseph Cleland of the Calvary Presbyterian Church contacted the Carnegie Library Association. Cleland sought matching funds from the Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who during a 45-year period built over 2,500 libraries throughout the world. Unfortunately, the local fundraising drive was unsuccessful so efforts turned inwards. The Presbyterian Church provided space in its building for the growing collection.

In 1921, the same year Enumclaw City Hall was built, the town's first Library Board was appointed by Mayor Anton Johansen that included notables such as Bryon Kibler, John W. Blake, Marie Melsness, and Elsa Ulman, wife of Dr. Ulman. The first city-owned library opened in March 1923 at a room in city hall. Dues were set at 50 cents a year.

After the town's father, Frank Stevenson died his widow Mary married Whitfield Yerxa. When Mary Stevenson Yerxa passed in 1928, she willed their home at 1706 Wells Street plus \$100 to the Enumclaw Library. The 4,000 books in the collection were moved across the street to their new home in the town's oldest structure. During the Great Depression years, library usage surged as borrowed books became a source of entertainment that everyone could afford.

By the early 1950s, the Stevenson-Yerxa house was in desperate need of repair. The Library Board hired Klontz & Associates to design a new building and submitted a bond proposal to the voters, which was approved by a 78% yes vote. Weyerhaeuser Timber donated an additional \$5,000 to the building fund. The Stevenson home was demolished in March 1953 and the new building, pictured above was completed in November 1953 by the Enumclaw firm of Petersen & Jensen at a cost of \$42,500. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Campfire Girls moved the collection into the 5,432-square-foot structure (including a basement) at that same corner of Myrtle and Wells. Mayor Robert Stobbs cut the ribbon at the grand opening on Sunday, Feb. 7, 1954, with an estimated 500 citizens in attendance.

In 1962, the library received a \$25,000 endowment from the estate of Herman Schlofeldt and his wife, the former Louise Bartman. Civic virtue grew. The Ladies Musical Club established a music library offering records and albums. The Camera Club donated a movie screen with a 16-mm projector. A story hour for children sponsored by the Friends of the Library became a regular series. When this King County Assessor photo was taken on July 9, 1965, a number of Enumclaw ladies worked as librarians, including Helen Absher, Ruth Baldwin, Martha Collins, Vera Garnier, Jean Haines, Mildred Hotton, and Charlotte Locke.

In the early 1980s, the city of Enumclaw acquired Burlington Northern Railroad's 300-foot right-of-way through town, upon which a new library was envisioned. A \$1.25 million bond was submitted. On the third try in May 1989, it was approved by 72% of the voters. Just over 20 years later the citizens of Enumclaw, following a heated debate approved the annexation of the town library into the King County Library System. KCLS.org has consistently received Five-Star ratings and is among the best-performing libraries in the United States, and number two for its digital collection.

This column is indebted to Linda Holden Givens, Mark Hotton, Charmayne Zydek, and Jan Locke Crawford for information about the heritage of the library and its librarians who remain dedicated to literature and learning through the written and spoken word.



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## VOICE Welcomes Letters

The VOICE of the Valley welcomes letters to the editor on any subject, although we reserve the right to edit for space, potential libel, and/or political relevance. Letters addressing local news will receive priority.

We prefer letters to be typed and E-mail is preferred. Letters must be signed and have a daytime phone number and address to verify authorship. Deadline for letters is 3 p.m. on Thursday each week.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

**Court of Washington County of King In re the Estate of Josephine Sturtz, Deceased. No. 25-4-00686-4 KNT Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**

The above Court has appointed Lisa J. Sturtz as Personal Representative of Decedent's estate.

Any person having a claim against Decedent must present the claim:

- Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and
- In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070:

- By filing with the Court the original of the signed Creditor's Claim, and
- By serving upon or mailing by first class mail to me at the address provided below a copy of the signed Creditor's Claim.

The Creditor's Claim must be presented by the later to occur of:

- Thirty (30) days after I served or mailed this Notice to you as provided in RCW 11.40.020(3), or
- Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice.

If the Creditor's Claim is not presented within the foregoing time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication of this Notice: Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Dated: February 12, 2025

/s/ Jennifer A. Gellner: Jennifer A. Gellner, Gellner Law, Attorney for Personal Representative, WSBA #30701  
Address for Mailing of Service: Jennifer A. Gellner, Gellner Law, 8407 S. 259th Street, Suite 203, Kent, WA 98030-7536  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesdays, February 18, 25 and March 4)

### ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Dick's Towing and Road Service, Inc. 8425 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. Wednesday, February 26, 2025. 2 hour preview @ 8-10 a.m. Auction: 10 a.m. For list of vehicles see www.roadoneseattle.com**  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, February 18, 2025)

**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 1201 North 125th St., Seattle, WA 98133. 206-364-2000. Saturday, February 22, 2025. 3 hour preview @ 7-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m. For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.com**  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, February 18, 2025)

**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Lincoln Towing Enterprises Inc., 8425 1st Ave S., Seattle, WA 98108. 206-364-2000 Ext. 137. Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Preview 8-10 a.m. Auction @ 10 a.m. For list of vehicles see: www.roadoneseattle.com**  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, February 18, 2025)

**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. Thursday, February 20, 2025 @ Noon / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.**  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, February 18, 2025)

**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Payless Towing & Recovery 33905 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way, WA 98003. 253-941-4565. Tuesday, February 25, 2025 @ Noon / Viewing @ 11:30 a.m.**  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, February 18, 2025)

**ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION Todd's Towing, 1410 East North Bend Way, North Bend, WA 98045. Auction: Saturday, February 22, 2025. Preview @ 9 a.m. Auction at 10 a.m. 425-888-3414.**  
(Published VOICE of the Valley, Tuesday, February 18, 2025)

On 01/29/2025, Officers were dispatched to an unknown alarm in the 32100 block of Sunny LN. Officers arrived on scene and could hear what sounded like a smoke detector. There were no signs of fire or smoke from the exterior of the building. Officers made contact with the homeowner by phone and learned he was aware of a smoke detector needing its batteries changed. Officers cleared the scene.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 1/29/2024, an officer conducted a traffic stop in the 30400 block of 3rd Ave. The officer found the driver had a suspended drivers license and no insurance. The driver was cited and released on scene.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 01/30/2025, Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 31900 block of Black Diamond Ravensdale RD SE. A records check showed the driver's license status as suspended/revoked in the 2nd degree. Officers issued a criminal citation and released the driver.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 02/01/2025, officers were dispatched to an admin detail at 25510 Lawson ST. Dispatch advised that the Renton Police Department requested confirmation on a subject's Black Diamond Warrant. Officers confirmed the warrant. The subject was transported and booked into SCORE jail.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 02/01/2025, Officer were dispatched to the 32400 block of 6th Ave reference to a welfare check. A subject inside of a running vehicle and was slumped over the steering wheel. Upon arrival an investigation was conducted and the driver was placed under arrest for physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence. A search warrant will be obtained to seize drugs and paraphernalia that could be seen in plain view inside the vehicle.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 02/01/2025, an Officer responded to the 31100 block of 3rd Ave reference to a 911 hang up. Dispatch heard male and female speaking in the background. Upon arrival, the Officer made contact with the persons at that location and it was determined that a child was playing with a cellular telephone.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 2/1/2025 Officers were dispatched to a citizen assistance. A caller requested officers conduct an area check for their girlfriend, who was stating that she was lost somewhere in Black Diamond and did not know what road she was on. Officers conducted an area check and a check of the cameras and called the RP back to advise the vehicle was not located. RP then advised the vehicle was located in Enumclaw. Officers then cleared the call.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 02/02/2025, officers observed a traffic violation at the 31500 block of 3rd Ave. Officers conducted a traffic stop and observed that the vehicle's registration had been suspended. Officers issued the driver a criminal citation for the offense.

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## Maple Valley Idol, Jr. Registration

Maple Valley Idol, Jr. Registration to kick-off **March 1 at 9 a.m. online** Attention performers aged 8-16 with a talent and passion for singing—Maple Valley Creative Arts Council is gearing up to host its 15th annual ever-popular Maple Valley Idol, Jr. singing competition. This year, includes a refreshed format that splits these rising stars into two spotlight-worthy groups. Whether you're a budding Young Star aged 8-12 or an aspiring Teen Star aged 13-16, we've got the perfect platform to let your talent shine. With 40 coveted participant spots and a few extra chances from the waitlist, the competition is bound to be thrilling. Go to [MapleValleyArts.com](http://MapleValleyArts.com) to check out the Frequently Asked Questions and learn about the exciting new changes and requirements that have been incorporated into the program this year.

Key Dates:• Register online March 1 @ 9 am - Registration will not be live until this date and time. • Auditions at the MVCAC March 29 @ 11 a.m. • Finale event at the Tahoma High School Performing Arts Center on May 30 @ 7 p.m.

Please note that to provide a fair sign-up experience, the registration link will not be available until 9 a.m. on March 1 and will be available on the MVCAC website at [MapleValleyArts.com](http://MapleValleyArts.com). If you have additional questions and the FAQ does not provide an answer, then reach out to us at [MVCAC@comcast.net](mailto:MVCAC@comcast.net).

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