

South Whidbey @ Home Report October 2015

We're off and running!

Our first public meeting, on September 8, drew such a big crowd (135 people!) that we had to move the meeting outdoors.



It was a gorgeous day, there were lawn chairs and blankets for almost everyone, much enthusiasm for what comes next, and all the right questions and offers of help came up.

Dozens of people signed up to work on the eight planning committees that will move this forward, and everyone asked to get updates.

Learning from other Villages

October 5-7 the national **Village to Village Network** had its annual gathering in Seattle, and three members of our steering committee were able to go there, gather resources, and connect with people running other Villages. One of the speakers at the event, the executive director of the San Francisco Village, was invited out to the island for a few days afterward, and met with our steering committee. She was so impressed by our energy, progress, and public buy-in that now she wants to move to South Whidbey!



At our second public meeting— *4:00 Wednesday November 4th at The Clyde Theatre*— you'll hear how an organization like the one we're creating actually works. Janice Dilworth, founding Director of the Phinney Ridge Village in Seattle, will give us a look at how a Village operates in the real world and what the benefits are to members, volunteers, local businesses, and the community. We'll also start asking potential service volunteers about the kinds of help they'd like to offer to SW@H members, so we have a better idea about what we can offer.

What we're doing now

We can see there's a lot of enthusiasm for South Whidbey at Home—there are already more than 250 people on our mailing list. Over the next months SW@H committees will be working on learning our new software, creating policies and procedures, working on the financials, designing training programs, creating materials for membership and volunteer recruitment, putting together a website, and thinking of brilliant ideas for fundraising and for member social and educational events.

Please email us at southwhidbeyathome@whidbey.com if you'd like to join us in any of these activities.

We've got a great group of planning volunteers, so meetings are fun as well as productive.

Meet some new people! Use some of your unique skills and experience!

Thank you!

We give a heart-felt thank-you to Trinity Lutheran Church, The Clyde Theatre, Half Moon Yoga, Music for the Eyes, and the steering committee and other individuals who made (unsolicited) donations to cover our start-up costs. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate your early financial and moral support.

Questions?

- Ask any member of the steering committee: Allan Ament, Steve Burr, Sharon Emerson, Sue Van Etten, Paul Goldfinger, Eileen Jackson, Miriam

Raabe, Tia Reese, Helen Taylor, Gary Vallat, Marcia Wiley, Logan Weiler, Jessie White, and Lynn Willeford. That's a lot of talent and experience-- and love of South Whidbey.

- You can also **invite a speaker from SW@H** to talk with your neighbors, club, business, or congregation. Just email us. We're already booked by Rotary Club this month and St. Augustine's Church in July.
 - See more at our Facebook Page www.Facebook.com/SouthWhidbeyatHome or email us at southwhidbeyathome@whidbey.com.
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