

WAGON WHEEL

February 2015

Duvall Historical Society · PO Box 385, Duvall, WA 98019 · www.duvallhistoricalsociety.org

Events

March 2nd

“The Search for the Warrens”

Join guest presenter Mike Chapman and the Duvall Historical Society as Mr. Chapman explores an underwater mystery involving Washington State’s own Crescent Lake. 7:30pm at the Duvall Visitor Center. See page 2 for more information.



April 6th

“Railroad Disasters”

Local historian Allen Miller will narrate the history of railroad disasters. Stay tuned for details.



We are grateful to 4culture, the King County Cultural Services Agency, for their support in the preservation of our heritage.

Duvall’s Unlikely and Unofficial Mascot: The Giraffe



The giraffe photo that began it all. Posted on Facebook on July 27, 2013, by Jeremiah Judd.

If, 100 years ago, someone had asked early Duvall residents to list the animals they’d associate with Duvall, the giraffe probably would not have come to mind.

Today, however, the long-necked mammal has leapt to the top of the list.

An unexpected phenomenon began on July 27, 2013, as Duvall resident Jeremiah Judd drove with his family up Novelty Hill Road toward the elevated wildlife crossing that was under construction on Redmond Ridge. Informally known as the “animal bridge”, the elevated crossing had become a source of controversy for locals as they talked about the appropriateness of using federal funds for such a project, and whether or not the animals would use the bridge in the way the county intended.

Jeremiah had read many of the comments on Facebook, and as he neared the animal bridge, he had an idea.

“I had just read all of the posts and the family and I took a trip to Redmond. As we approached the bridge a light came on in my head to take a photo and Photoshop an exotic animal on the bridge.” He later stumbled across a giraffe picture, added the giraffe to the bridge, then posted it on Facebook.

And so it began.

(Continued on page 2)

(Giraffe, continued from page 1)

Many likes and comments appeared on the Facebook post that day, as the giraffe picture with the caption “If you build it, they will come”, garnered many appreciations. People chimed in, speculating about the likelihood of seeing woolly mammoths, Bigfoot, unicorns; talking about the potholes and congestion that could have been avoided if similar funds were use for road improvements instead. Others simply expressed their delight at seeing a giraffe crossing the bridge.



The giraffe received such a positive response that it soon began to appear around town, and in photos of other Duvall locales. Soon Sergeant Lori Batiot - the Duvall Community Police Resource Supervisor and Public Information Officer – began to spearhead the phenomenon, posting Photoshopped images of giraffes on the Duvall Police Department and Community Discussion Board Facebook pages. Jeremiah continued to send in the occasional photo and other Duvall citizens began to send in and post photos of giraffe

sightings as well. Gradually the giraffe emerged as Duvall’s newest unofficial mascot. “It evolved from the original controversy and simply became a fun mascot, spawning sweatshirts, a petition, several possible bumper stickers, a mural, and more,” Sergeant Batiot said.

The giraffe’s popularity persists in Duvall, and it continues to appear throughout town and in Facebook’s digital world. The animal’s photos still acquire many Facebook likes, comments, and shares, and perhaps most importantly - add a thread of light-heartedness to the often serious issues dealt with by Duvall’s Police Department and the Duvall community at large.

Now, if we only knew its name...

(The giraffe photos on this page are creations of Sergeant Lori Batiot)



The Duvall Historical Society Presents

“The Search for the Warrens”
Guest Presenter Mike Chapman, Oceanographer

Monday, March 2 at 7:30pm
The Duvall Visitor Center

In 1929 a couple from Forks, Washington, went missing on their way home from a trip to Port Angeles. Their fate was unknown – until 2002. Hear the history of the incident and learn about the people involved. Witness the search for clues that led to the ultimate success in solving this 73 year-old mystery!

Be Part of Historic Preservation, Volunteer!

The Duvall Historical Society is continuously looking for volunteers to help in its mission of recording and preserving culture. If you'd like to help with one of the opportunities below, or have an idea of your own, please contact us at webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org.

- Dougherty House docent
- Website design
- Education and outreach
- Book publication
- Maintenance of buildings and gardens
- Cataloging of artifacts, books, and ephemera
- Promotion of Historical Society membership
- Planning of speakers and programs
- Research

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The **Duvall Historical Society** is located at the Dougherty House at 26526 NE Cherry Valley Road, Duvall, WA 98019
Contact us at webmaster@duvallhistoricalsociety.org

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Editor: Beth Lepkowski

If you would like to receive a copy, be interviewed for a future edition, have something to share, or would like to be added to or removed from our emailing list, please email

wagonwheeldhs@gmail.com

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