

# September 2023 Community Newsletter



**PHOTO BY LEE EDGEMON** 

### Weekly activities at the Clubhouse

MON-Ping Pong 8AM Canasta 11AM

WED-Ping Pong 8AM
FRI-Fit & Fall Proof Exercise 9AM

TUES-Fit & Fall Proof Exercise 9AM
Pinocle 11AM
Poker 12PM
THUR-BYO Arts & Crafts 1PM

New Book Club forming now! Looking for fun and interesting new activities to add to the calendar.

## P.E.R.T.

# Parkwood Emergency Response Team

Clallam County Fire District 3 and Sequim Operational Area CERT present "Chief Doom"

Date & Time: Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. 5:00 – 7:00pm

**Location: Parkwood Clubhouse** 

**Presenter: Chief Can Orr (Clallam County Fire District 3)** 

#### **Topics Covered:**

What is the Cascadia Subduction Event?

What will happen in our area?

Is our state prepared?

Is our community prepared?

Lost Mountain area concerns.

Are YOU prepared?

What should YOU do NOW to prepare to not only survive, but THRIVE after a major disaster? It is never too soon to start, and the process can be done a little at a time.

We will show you how.

All of this will be in the talk and questions will be answered by the speaker. We have been working for 7 years to prepare our community to NOT end up like Maui. We cannot prevent the Cascadia Earthquake and tsunami; be we can be better prepared to survive afterwards.

For more information contact Jim Emett @ (626) 716-1146

### Did you know...?

Square Dance is the official state dance of Washington. One of the funniest facts on Washington State is that the square dance was voted the official state dance back in 1979. That's because the earliest settlers in Washington, then called the Oregon Territory, brought the dance with them when they headed west.

The square dance originated from the "quadrille" — which means "square" in French, and evolved among the pioneers on the American frontier.





Brian and I are grateful to Manny Romo and his lawn care crew! They did an excellent job today removing an overgrown juniper and freeze damaged bird's nest evergreen...plus placed new bark to spruce things up. He was professional, on time (actual a bit early) and we highly recommend him! If interested, his number is 253-737-7317. Thank you Ricky Sites for the referral!





#### **Dear Residents**

The question has been asked to see if anyone would be interested in a friendly game of Bridge or coming together for a book club/group.

This notice is on the bulletin board at the clubhouse, along with a sign-up sheet for those who are interested.

You can give Jennifer Brodie a call @ 208-585-4389 with any questions or comments.

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Come on out and play!



#### **September--Time of Transition**

By Ida Domazlicky and Jane Nicholas Photo by Storm

My most recent birding walk through Parkwood seemed exceptionally quiet. While all summer I've been finding around 30 species here in about an hour, today I counted only 18. As summer moves towards fall, many nesting birds have quit singing, since they no longer need to stake out their territories through song. They may also undertake a sort of vacation—well-earned after frantically raising youngsters—



and explore nearby sites for possible better feeding/nesting areas. Other summer residents have already left the area entirely, including our Violet-Green Swallows. But late summer also brings back the calls of the noisy Stellar's Jays. They remained quiet during the breeding season to protect their nests from being found. Flickers, too, are now calling once more. And some, like the nuthatch, can't seem to stop talking, no matter the time of year!

And on that recent quiet bird walk, two birds new to Parkwood called overhead for about an hour. Gliding above us were a swallow species common in the Midwest and eastern U.S. but unusual in the West—Purple Martins. Specifically, these were the subspecies Progne subis arboricola, western Purple Martins. The eastern and western populations have been isolated from each other for an estimated 200-400,000 years. According to the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, only about 600 martins are present in the state, and they are primarily dependent on humans to provide nesting sites. Our local Audubon Society has done just that by erecting 18 nesting boxes at Three Crabs here in Sequim and on Protection Island. (You can find more

information about the nest box program here:

https://olympicpeninsulaaudubon.org/blog/3-crabs-2023-purple-martin-census-shows-encouraging-numbers

along with endoscopic views of nestlings.) The Three Crabs boxes produced over 60 nestlings this year! Parkwood's visitors were probably from one of these Audubon sites. At this time of year, the martins gather in large groups in preparation for migration, and Three Crabs is a favorite gathering spot. As the birds congregate *en masse*, some spread out around the area to find insects elsewhere, returning to the roost in the evenings. Martins are about eight inches long with a 15-inch wingspan. While they are graceful fliers, they seem to me to lack the elegance of our Violet-Green Swallows, and they fly much higher—typically about 150 overhead. They may be difficult to notice as they soar capturing insects, but their calls are loud and distinctive.

A good look at martins is possible from the parking area at Three Crabs until they leave for S. America. They will fly about 350 miles/day until they reach the Gulf Coast. There, they will form into flocks large enough to be recognizable on weather radar as they head across the Gulf. Usually they fly by day, but if conditions warrant, they switch and make a nocturnal trip across this large body of water. If you miss them this fall, mark your calendar for the first week of April, when they make that long trip back to Three Crabs for another nesting season.