

# Seabeck Star

Seabeck Community Center Newsletter Volume 1 Number 2 September 2021

## Some 400 Seabeckians Visit First Seabeck Community Market



The organizational team of Marla Wilson, Dawn Weston, Tara Guenterberg, Kurt Schnuit, David Espinoza, Terrie Espinoza and Suzanne Arkless thanks residents for the turnout at the first ever Sea-

beck Community Market on July 18, 2021. The group plans to kick off the season again on April 3, 2022, after the final 2021 Sunday markets.

Wilson also praised the performers in July and August: The Wind



Jammers, John Millman, Jason Putman and Katie Weller, along with the 33 dedicated independent vendors. She stated, "Vendors have loved seeing new and old friends at the market where they are making connections and selling product."



## President Details the History of SCC in Online Edition of Newsletter

A heartfelt thanks to our Seabeck Community Center (SCC) President Don Chalupka, who after faithfully serving his country for decades in the defense industry, has now devoted the past couple years to spearheading — along with other board members — the formation of Seabeck's newest gathering place. Don and his wife Pam Hurst Chalupka graciously donated picnic tables, file cabinets and whiteboards to the SCC.

*Investigate this informative article in our online and emailed edition.*



Pam and Don

Check us out at [www.SeabeckCC.org](http://www.SeabeckCC.org) or at <https://www.facebook.com/SeabeckCC/>.

### Upcoming Events

#### Seabeck Community Market 2021 Final Dates

September 5 / 12 - 4 p.m.

September 19 / 12 - 4 p.m.

#### Make Seabeck Glow

October 29 - 31

*See Article on Page 2*

### Postponed Events

The following events have been postponed/cancelled due to Covid concerns:

#### Members' Texas Barbeque

September 18

#### Fallin' for Vintage

September 10 - 11

#### Seabeck Art Show

November 12 - 14

### Medicare Enrollment

Turning 65 in the near future? Meet with experts regarding Medicare Open Enrollment as follows:

October 19 / 1 p.m.

October 29 / 10 a.m.

November 2, 16, 23 / 1 p.m.

December 2 / 10 a.m.

**Visit our online calendar for changes and additions.**

## Schedule or Rent the SCC Now This Is Your Community Center

Members can schedule the Seabeck Community Center for private events by contacting SCC's Program Director Kurt Schnuit for pricing and availability at [Seabeckkurt@gmail.com](mailto:Seabeckkurt@gmail.com) or (360) 710-9361 (C). Schnuit volunteers 15-plus hours a week unlocking the building for events and meetings, and overseeing a myriad of housekeeping, equipment, management and administrative duties — such as booking your event!

He reminds residents to check out the [www.SEABECKCC.org](http://www.SEABECKCC.org) website to become a member online using PayPal or by sending a check to the mailing address featured at the right. Schnuit said he is very pleased with the generous community response to events and activities thus far, such as the Seabeck Community Market.

### Examples of SCC Facility Use

- **Events to benefit the community at large:** Members' barbeque; Open gym; Medicare enrollment classes; health outreach events; and, other no-cost courses/seminars as vetted by Kurt.
- **Non-profit usage:** Groups such as *Girls on the Run* pay a minimal use fee.
- **Community entities:** Esquire Hills Elementary, for example, rented the facility in August for their staff retreat.
- **Private usage:** Rent the Center for gatherings such as anniversaries, weddings, memorials or reunions. Or book the parking lot only, using your own shuttle service for your off campus event. The sports fields are also available for hire.

### Make Seabeck Glow on October 31, 2021

Enter your jack o' lantern in the annual pumpkin contest designed to illuminate Seabeck on Halloween. The carving party is postponed until 2022, but your creative entries may be dropped off this year at the Water's Edge — the southernmost building on the Hood Canal side of beautiful, bold and bustling Downtown Seabeck.

Sponsor Suzanne Arkless has planned for prizes in several categories. This leading-edge event highlights the inventive, the spooky and the offtimes bizarre talents of local artists.

Register your competitive prize-pool pumpkins on these dates:

*October 29 / 8 - 11 a.m. and 3 - 7 pm.*

*October 30 / 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.*

Or, simply leave your undocumented gourd on the well-marked table before the shadowy sunset on Saturday, October 30, 2021.

***Candles will be provided.***



### Contact Us

[www.SEABECKCC.org](http://www.SEABECKCC.org)

[info@seabeckcc.org](mailto:info@seabeckcc.org)

### Officers and Board Members

**Don Chalupka, President**

**Frank Heidt, Vice President**

**Barbara Banks, Treasurer**

**Ginger Anderson, Secretary**

**Kurt Schnuit, Program Director**

**Suzanne Arkless, Josh Goffin,**

**Tara Guenterberg,**

**Pamela Hurst Chalupka,**

**Cheyenne Stallings.**

### Newsletter Submissions

[seabeckstar@gmail.com](mailto:seabeckstar@gmail.com)

**Suze Marie Marcinko, Editor**

*Starfish Logo by Piper Schnuit*

### Mailing Address

**Seabeck Community Center**

**15398 Seabeck Hwy NW**

**Seabeck, WA 98380**

The Seabeck Community Center is a 501(c) (3) non-profit. Donors can deduct contributions they make under IRC Section 170. Donations are accepted online or by check.

### SCC Physical Location

**CKSD Seabeck Center**

15565 Seabeck Hwy NW

Seabeck, WA 98380

The Central Kitsap School District graciously leases the facility and grounds to the Seabeck Community Center. All CKSD computer usage, behavior and weapons-free, drug-free policies apply on the SCC campus.

## SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE SECTION

# Around a Wooden Table

By Suze Marie Marcinko

The year was 2020. Good ideas were again brewing around a scarred table at Billy and Barbie Mills' General Store. Billy and Barbie and fellow business owner and local artist Suzanne Arkless, along with retired defense-industry electrical engineer Don Chalupka, decided to approach Central Kitsap School District officials about repurposing the remaining Seabeck Elementary School gymnasium structure into a community center.

Enter Doug Newell, CKSD's Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Support, and a retired Navy Captain. Once Newell became involved, the ball started rolling rapidly, Arkless said. Ruth Bernstein, a local non-profit expert, also assisted, helping Arkless and Chalupka navigate the complexity of non-profit organizational set-up.

Arkless took the lead on the myriad of business filings and banking set-up tasks, along with putting together the temporary board needed to meet legal 501(c)(3) non-profit status. Chalupka agreed to be named as President, cybersecurity company owner Frank Heidt as Vice President, Arkless as Secretary and Kurt Schnuit, retired medical professional, as Treasurer.

The original four officers began meeting and gathering donations from the community, with Chalupka crafting bylaws and working with Newell in securing an Operating Agreement with the school district. Presentations included a succinct slide-show to the school board by Pam Hurst Chalupka, a retired civilian defense industry engineer. Community volunteers began staffing start-up committees.

The future vision for events — from youth activities, community education courses and happy gatherings such as a community market — is becoming a reality.

Today's SCC's Board continues Jon and Loanna Day's original dream [See Story to Right] that Seabeck residents — young and old — will enjoy a gathering place, a sense of community and that cozy feeling of human connection. ... All thanks to a few drinking dripped brew around an old wooden table.



L - R: Suzanne Arkless, Barbie and Billy Mills, Don Chalupka

## Many Recall Past Work of Residents to Launch a Community Center

Over a decade ago retired teachers Jon and Loanna Day worked tirelessly in 2007 and 2008 towards starting a community center at the newly abandoned elementary site, organizing a dedicated group of Seabeck residents who approached the school district.

This group orchestrated a meeting at the old Seabeck Elementary School Gym which was attended enthusiastically by over 200 people, stated Loanna Day. Interested parties also included representatives from different community groups, the Seabeck Conference Center, the General Store, the Seabeck Community Club, Scenic Beach State Park, the Port of Bremerton, County Commissioner Josh Brown, CKSD Superintendent David McVicker and County Parks Planner Joseph Coppo, Day reported. "A great deal of talent existed in Seabeck," as evidenced by this core group, she added.

Both the *Kitsap Sun* and the *Central Kitsap Reporter* documented these efforts.

Barbara Banks, current Seabeck Community Center Treasurer remembers meetings also held at Klahowya Secondary School and the Conference Center. She lamented that the timing was just not right for the district, and the group eventually disbanded.



# SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE SECTION

## HISTORY OF SCC TEAMWORK

### The Recent Revitalization of the Old Elementary Campus to the Seabeck Community Center (SCC)

*By Don Chalupka, SCC President*

**February 5, 2020** The date the idea of converting the current Seabeck Elementary School Campus into a Community Center was reborn. Billy and Barbie Mills hosted the first meeting with Suzanne Arkless and Don Chalupka in the Seabeck General Store. Everyone agreed that maybe the timing was right for conversion of the Campus because the school had been removed and the only building remaining was the Gym.

**February 13, 2020** A meeting with Doug Newell, Central Kitsap School District (CKSD) was held. Suzanne and Don were encouraged that CKSD would support the conversion of the Gym to a community center. CKSD needed a proposal from the community.

**February 16, 2020** A draft proposal was prepared and circulated among friends at the Seabeck General Store and Turie's Seabeck Espresso. We received excellent comments and suggestions from people with a passion to form a community center. Many thanks to our great friends and neighbors in Seabeck.

**February 18, 2020** Suzanne and Don visited the Brinnon Community Center. Brinnon's Center is highly successful and provided us with a myriad of information on operations and programs. Suzanne and Don also met with Ruth Bernstein, an expert in the formulation of non-profits. She provided a roadmap on how to succeed and avoid pitfalls in establishing a non-profit. Websites were researched. Community centers and non-profits were contacted for ideas that would streamline the process.

**March 5, 2020** Suzanne and Don presented the Seabeck Community Center (SCC) Proposal to Doug Newell. A very favorable response provided confidence to proceed with establishing an SCC non-profit. Doug provided advice and forwarded several documents to aid in the effort. As a result of this meeting, the effort to establish SCC got underway with officers Don Chalupka, President, Frank Heidt, Vice President, Suzanne Arkless, Secretary, and Kurt Schnuit Treasurer.

**March 11, 2020** An updated proposal was sent to Doug Newell with a tentative plan to present the Seabeck Community Center to the School Board in April and have a board vote in May. A mailing address was needed for business correspondence in addition to the SCC site address. Suzanne came to the rescue finding a box at 15398 Seabeck Hwy NW. Banking accounts were established at Kitsap Credit Union. Liability insurance was obtained from Carlson & Camp Associates. Application was made for Washington State Articles of Incorporation. This step provided an official title, **Seabeck Community Center**, along with Washington State Nonprofit Corporation status.

**April 2020** Application was made to the IRS for tax-exempt status. The virus delayed IRS processing until late April when SCC was granted 501 (c)(3) status. SCC Bylaws were drafted up by Don and reviewed several times by the officers, along with a critical review by Ruth Bernstein.

**May 2020** SCC received a draft of an Operating Agreement from CKSD which defines, in detail, the SCC and CKSD relationship. A review indicated this would be a good agreement for both parties. Discussions took place, details were clarified and issues negotiated. *See Historical Timeline Continued on Page 5*

SEABECK  
COMMUNITY CENTER

# SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE SECTION

## HISTORY OF SCC TEAMWORK *Historical Timeline Continued from Page 4*

**June 24, 2020** Pam Hurst Chalupka made a Power Point presentation, that was prepared by her husband Don, to the CKSD Board via Zoom, hosted by Suzanne. The Board noted the Seabeck residents attending on Zoom which illustrated our great community support.

**July 2020** The School Board voted unanimously for the Community Center in Seabeck. SCC officers met on July 16th to discuss a range of topics. The most urgent topic was getting information out to the community and getting the community involved.

About a dozen people were making all the decisions with little community input. People were giving their time, talent and treasure to SCC with a great deal of trust that a dozen people were doing the right things. The officers tried several times to have an outdoor public meeting in accordance with COVID-19 rules. Each proposed meeting had to be canceled. Social media was not providing all the exposure needed. The officers decided to develop a website. Kathy Cole donated her time and talent to develop a professional site. Suzanne obtained SCC a USPS account and the officers approved funding postcards to the community. Billy Mills put information about SCC on the Seabeck General Store sign board. Monthly status reports by Don were distributed to about fifty people who were asked to tell family and friends about SCC.

The Central Kitsap School District Seabeck Center encompasses thirteen acres that includes the Multi-Purpose Building (Gym), sports fields and wooded areas. The project to convert the Campus to a Community Center required clean up, repairs and improvements. CKSD eagerly took on the project with their employees and contractors under difficult conditions, including a worldwide pandemic and mold in the building. The building was sanitized, a new roof was installed and shiny sports flooring was placed in the gym. The interior was beautifully painted while mechanical, electrical, plumbing and septic systems were updated. Outside, crews cleaned up brush and weeds and cut the grass. This represented a herculean team effort where everyone involved knew that the project was for the benefit of the Seabeck Community. The crews paid attention to detail; where something was marginal, it got improved; the little things got fixed. The community can be proud of their new center.

**May 1, 2021** The first public meeting in the Center was an overwhelming success. Great people who truly care about our community reside in Seabeck. The heart of a non-profit community center is its volunteers and with over eighty staying afterwards to sign up to volunteer; today, they are actively making it happen.

*Keep up to date by reading Don Chalupka's **President's Highlights** on the SCC web site, [www.seabeckcc.org](http://www.seabeckcc.org).*

## Memories in the Moonlight: Every Jack O' Lantern Is a Winner!



*Photos by Suzanne Arkless*