

Community NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Haircuts are growing popular

Providing haircuts on a routine basis helps residents build self-care into their regular routines rather than viewing it as an occasional luxury. For individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness or prolonged instability, consistent access to personal grooming can help restore confidence, dignity, and a sense of normalcy. Regular haircuts create opportunities for residents to prioritize themselves, practice healthy self-care habits, and feel valued and cared for within their community. Over time, these small but meaningful routines can support improved self-esteem and overall well-being and with more than 20 residents joining this event, you can truly see the impact in action.



Keeping cool with Animals as Natural Therapy!

Since March 2026, monthly visits from Animals as Natural Therapy have been offered at each of our permanent supportive housing locations.

The regularity of these visits has created a meaningful routine that residents can rely on each month, offering moments of connection and emotional relief during times of stress, hardship, or uncertainty. For residents who have experienced significant instability, knowing that something positive and comforting is returning each month can provide a sense of anticipation, consistency, and hope. The impact extends beyond the visit itself, helping residents feel connected to their community and reminded that they have opportunities for joy, support, and belonging even during difficult times.



Around the lake with Wild Whatcom

A summer walk around Lake Padden with Laurel Forest residents, in partnership with Wild Whatcom, provided seniors with an opportunity to get outside, enjoy nature, and connect with one another in a beautiful and accessible setting. The walk encouraged gentle movement, fresh air, and social interaction while giving residents a chance to slow down, explore their surroundings, and share the experience together. For seniors who may experience limited mobility or isolation, opportunities like this help create meaningful connections and support physical and emotional well-being. Wild Whatcom plays an important role in the broader community by connecting people of all ages and abilities with nature through accessible, educational outdoor experiences.



Wild Whatcom
EXPLORING / SERVING / CONNECTING

Looking Ahead

Partnering with Ragfinery



Partnering with Ragfinery to repair and mend torn clothing provides a practical service that also restores dignity for residents who have experienced chronic homelessness. Many residents have limited financial resources and may wear damaged clothing because replacing it is not an option. By offering free clothing repairs, this partnership helps extend the life of essential garments while removing financial barriers to maintaining a clean, well-kept wardrobe. Beyond the tangible benefit, having clothing repaired can boost confidence, support employment and community participation, and reinforce the message that residents deserve care, respect, and access to resources that help them thrive.

ESA Vaccination Clinic

We will be hosting an ESA vaccination clinic to help residents meet lease requirements and maintain housing stability, made possible through a strong partnership with Lutheran Community Services and Village Vets. Lutheran Community Services will generously provide the community space needed to host the clinic, while Village Vets will donate the necessary medical supplies and veterinary support. For residents with limited financial resources or transportation barriers, having these services brought directly into the community removed significant obstacles to keeping their emotional support animals in compliance with housing requirements. This partnership not only supported animal health and resident well-being, but also helped protect the human-animal bonds that are an important source of companionship and emotional support for many residents.



LUTHERAN
**Community
Services**
NORTHWEST

village 
veterinary hospital