



STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS



City Council picks new mayor

Elizabeth Callaghan lays out her initial priorities

Elizabeth Callaghan was sworn in as Stanwood's mayor on Friday

By PEGGY WENDEL
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Elizabeth Callaghan is Stanwood's new mayor — and at 33 years old, the youngest in city history. The Stanwood City Council selected her in a 4-3

vote Thursday night, and she was sworn in on Friday to lead the city of more than 7,100 residents.

During the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Dianne White welcomed Callaghan as Stanwood's second woman mayor. White was the first. Callaghan joined the council nine years ago at age 24 as possibly the

youngest council member in city history.

The vote was cast in three close rounds to narrow the field between council members Callaghan, Rob Johnson and Sid Roberts. Leonard Kelley resigned as mayor July 6, citing health reasons. Callaghan will complete Kelley's term, which ends Dec. 31, 2021.

■ SEE MAYOR, A5

Prep sports seasons shift as schools hone plans

Football, soccer, volleyball move to spring; district asks parents to enroll students in one of several plans for fall

By EVAN CALDWELL
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Plans for the upcoming school year are beginning to take shape.

The Stanwood-Camano School District hosted an online question-and-answer forum last week on the heels of unveiling their preliminary plans for school.

Officials answered 85 questions, but said they continue to work out specifics on several aspects of in-person learning.

Separately, the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association announced dramatic changes July 21 to high school sports for the upcoming school year — and cautioned that fans, coaches and players should brace for more changes in a year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To start, Stanwood-Camano school officials are asking parents to enroll their students in one of four options via an online form at stanwood.wednet.edu. The deadline is Friday. The information gathered from parents will help further shape the district's plans for schooling.

The School Board will consider the district's plan at its Aug. 4 meeting.

Meanwhile, the WIAA announced the upcoming school year will be divided into four seasons instead of the usual three, and fall sports designated "moderate" or "high" risk — including football, volleyball, girls' soccer and small-school boys' soccer — will be played in the spring.

■ SEE SCHOOL, A11

Miles of stories

Community remembers John Poole, who walked Stanwood streets visiting with residents each day for 30 years



COURTESY OF JEANNIE POOLE HOUGH

After retiring as owner of Stanwood-Camano Disposal 30 years ago, John Poole would spend his days walking the streets of Stanwood to banter with a wide variety of folks.

By KIM HILDENBRAND
For the SC News

John Poole was always smiling — and always up to something.

A real character, he loved visiting and joking around during his daily walks through Stanwood over the past 30 years.

He teased the police chief about his haircut, strolled into City Hall to jokingly hassle them about his bills, asked his granddaughter if she needed money to buy jeans without holes and annoyed telephone solicitors so much they'd hang up on him.

He loved a good deal, whether complimentary doughnuts at the bank, a free bruised apple from the grocery store or a discounted half-cup of coffee, and his keen observation skills yielded many treasures on his walks in addition to a large collection of newfound friends.

Poole died June 3 at age 83 from



COURTESY OF DARLA SCARBORO

"John was kind-hearted, very engaging, always loved talking about his family and loved the Stanwood community," said physical therapist Karl Hedeon, who often visited with Poole.

an aggressive form of Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). He was known as helpful and energetic, always ready to lend a hand. A

hard worker. A family man. A local legend.

■ SEE STORIES, A6



Gun & Ammunition Mobile Store Sales Event

Stillaguamish Grange

July 31, 10-6 • August 1, 9-5 • August 2, 9-4

Police.....A2 Views.....A4 360 Calendar.....A7 Classifieds.....A13
Weather.....A3 Obituaries.....A6 Puzzles.....A11 Online.....SCnews.com



RE/MAX Stanwood-Camano invites you downtown Fridays to shop the Farmer's Market, local stores & local restaurants

SEE MORE ON PAGE A16



COURTESY PHOTO

Helen Green turned 100 on July 24 with a few good friends at Lincoln Hill Apartments.

Stanwood's Helen Green turns 100

By PEGGY WENDEL
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Helen Green has packed a whole lot of fun and hard work into a century.

She played organ, traveled the world and danced on roller skates and even ice-skated in Madison Square Garden during a trip to New York City.

She's a big fan of the Mariners and Seahawks and misses going to the games with her friend and "adopted daughter" Gloria Flaitt of Stanwood.

For her 100th birthday, friends and "adopted family" surprised her with 100 cupcakes with one candle in each to share with others at the Lincoln Hill Apartments. Because she's a big sports fan, she also got a sports channel added to her cable account.

Green started on ice skates at age 4. "They were double runners, so they looked like sleds," she said.

Later she switched to roller skates. She found that roller skaters had a lot more fun. Ice skaters were aloof and very competitive, she said.

Throughout her life, she skated with dancing on skates being her specialty. She took lessons from professionals and took tests to be sure her moves were right. But her partners didn't want to compete, so she skated for the fun of it into her 80s.

"I thought I'd better quit before I broke something," she said. "She had a lot of friends at the skating rink," Flaitt said.

When she married, her husband skated, too, but nothing fancy. "He was lazy. He just wanted to skate," Green said.

Green was born Helen Anastasia Lanzendorfer on July 24, 1920, in Cleveland, Ohio, surviving serious bouts with diphtheria and whooping cough as a child.

When she was 4, her father died in car accident. Years later, her mother remarried and moved to Seattle, and Green hopped a bus and moved west to be close.

"It was the best move I'd ever made," she said. "I went back to Ohio several times, but always came back to Seattle."

In 1947, she started an accounting job for a wholesale men's clothing business, strip malls and real estate offices. A year later, she met her husband and was married 43 years. They retired in 1982 and traveled the world.

After her husband and her sister died, Gloria and Dale Fluaitt of Stanwood stepped in, convincing Green to move to Lincoln Hill apartments to be closer to the couple.

"Helen adopted me, my husband, kid and grandkids," Gloria Fluaitt said. "She'd had no children; all of a sudden she had a huge family. My kids love her."

Green's positive attitude has seen her through everything. For a century, she's seen the events of the day come and go. She's amazed at modern conveniences compared to her grandparents' time when they had kerosene lanterns and washed clothes on a scrub board.

Green tries to watch the news but can't hear well, nor make much sense of it all. She turns the channel to music, which has been so big in her life.

"I shut out the world. All I do is worry about my Sir Thomas — my cat," she said.

Stories

► FROM A1

"It was all about visiting people"

Poole, his wife Coleen and their three daughters moved to the Stanwood-Camano area in 1967 so he could fulfill a long-time dream to own a garbage business.

He purchased Stanwood-Camano Disposal and collected trash in Stanwood, Camano and Warm Beach for the next 24 years.

"He always visited people along the routes," daughter Jeannie Poole Hough recalled. "He'd park at school to visit the custodians, stop at the gas stations and visit people at the old Union Oil plant."

When Poole retired, he started walking.

For the next 30 years, he took daily walks from his home near the fairgrounds to downtown and back. After a while, his wife began driving him downtown to start his walks there. He walked 5 miles a day.

Poole made many stops during his walks.

"It was all about visiting people," Poole Hough said.

Making friends

One favorite spot was Stanwood Cafe.

According to co-owner Alan Downhour, Poole came in once or twice a week without fail, entering through the back door rather than the front.

He'd fill in Downhour and the customers on the local goings-on, chat about lottery tickets ("We'd often go 50-50 and buy one," Downhour said) and place his signature order.

"John only wanted half a cup of coffee," Downhour recalled with a smile, "and he only wanted to pay for half."

When it came time to leave a tip for his drink, Poole would set down a fishing lure. Downhour still has a little collection of Poole's special tips.

He was also known to order a half-cup of coffee at the Duck In Cafe, Poole's daughter Darla Scarboro said.

"When my daughter Samantha waitressed there, he would tell the girls his granddaughter would pay for his coffee, so they would take it out of her tip jar," she said.

During Poole's long walks, he stopped by his daughter Cindy Smith's daycare and joked with the kids — they called him "Silly Grandpa."

He visited Marcy Mathis at her workplace to chat and joke and ask about her mother's cousin Bob, a childhood friend of his.

"John always had a huge smile and a twinkle in his eye," Mathis said.

He'd pop in to see Poole Hough at the hair salon where she works and tease her clients, saying their hair looked bad and he hoped they weren't paying for the haircut.

He'd also stop by the funeral home, where he'd prepaid for cremation years ago, and ask for his money back since he was still alive.

"I respected his ability to tease everybody," Poole Hough said.

Physical therapist Karl Hedeem has fond memories of bantering back and forth with his "quick-witted" friend when Poole came by the office.

"I cannot recall how many times he and I have had conversations over the years, but I enjoyed every one of them," Hedeem said. "John was kind-hearted, very engaging, always loved talking about his family and loved the Stanwood community."

Haggen was always one of Poole's last stops on his walks. He was a regular fixture, making the rounds to visit employees in various departments.

"He always wanted us to pitch in for lotto tickets," Haggen employee Barbara Gross recalled. "He'd say, 'I found 75 cents on my walk!'"

"He'd never buy a lotto ticket unless someone would go in on it with him," Haggen produce manager James Loaris said.

In the Haggen produce de-

partment, Poole was known for seeking the occasional freebie: "He'd look for a bad apple," Loaris said. "If he found one with a bad spot, I'd give it to him."

Poole was much-loved at Haggen, particularly among the morning shift who saw him so regularly.

"He liked to give us a razzing," Loaris said. "He was a really cool guy."

"We really got to know him here," Gross said. "We're so happy he was part of our community."

"He saw everything"

During his walks, Poole didn't miss a thing.

Not a fan of litter, he always collected discarded cans. He also picked up loose change.

"He'd get excited if he found a quarter," Poole Hough said. He was delighted when he found enough coins during a walk to pay for his half-cup of coffee.

But it was more than cans and coins: "He saw everything," Poole Hough said.

Once, Poole noticed some scissors lying in a ditch — expensive haircutting scissors that must have fallen from a truck. Poole Hough used a pair for years, affectionately calling them "Dad's roadkill scissors."

Another time, Poole inexplicably found a life-sized Tin Man sculpture a mile from home and carried it all the way back.

Once while walking in Stanwood, Poole found a handgun. He picked it up and continued walking toward the high school before deciding to backtrack and tuck the gun in an acquaintance's flower bed for safekeeping. He continued his walk until the police pulled up because they'd heard reports he was carrying a gun. Poole happily led them to the flower bed where he'd stashed it. They knew him. They had to laugh.

Another time, after taking a different route on his walk, Poole spotted wreckage of a car at the bottom of a gully. A young man had died in a car accident the previous night. Poole alerted the nearby road construction workers, who called the police.

"He loved his family so much"

Poole adored his family: Coleen Poole, to whom he'd been married for 60 years when he died, his three daughters Cindy Smith, Darla Scarboro and Jeannie Poole Hough and their families.

"He loved his family so much," said friend Marcy Mathis.

"We were very close,"

Coleen Poole said. "Whatever we did, we did it together — except the walks. And he loved his kids, grandkids and five great-grandbabies."

His three daughters agreed their childhood was ideal.

"He was a very fun and silly dad," Scarboro recalled.

His daughters recalled fun times spent going to drive-in movies, camping, boating, fishing, digging for clams and crabbing.

"When we would get home, he would chase us girls around the house with a live crab," Scarboro said. "Always a teaser."

Family vacations were special. A favorite memory of Smith's was seeing her dad go down a hotel waterslide over and over during a trip to Disneyland. Scarboro said if the family saw a garbage truck during a vacation, her dad would want a picture — and if the truck was stopped, he would always go talk to the workers.

"He had a very funny side and a very serious side,"

Coleen Poole said. It was

Poole's serious side that led him to support his family in many ways.

There were the little things he did, like looking at Scarboro's tires every time she visited, going to the parking lot of the high school and checking the oil of his grandchildren's cars, or helping out with home repair projects.

"I'm a single mom, and he was my go-to hero dad," Smith said. "He'd fix things. And

if he couldn't fix it, he'd find someone who could."

But there were also big things.

Every Sunday, he walked from his home to Smith's house. Smith's son, Noah, has severe autism, and it is difficult for her to take him on errands.

He'd greet Noah with a hearty handshake and drive them to Haggen. Then, he'd stay in the parking lot with his grandson while Smith went inside to grab her weekly treat: a coffee at Starbucks.

Rain or shine, Poole would always show up each Sunday for his daughter and grandson. Now Poole Hough plans to do the same for her sister.

"I wanted to do this in honor of my dad," she said.

"He always put a smile on my face"

According to his wife, John Poole never wanted to sit down. He worked hard, whether on a crab boat, in the farming fields or in the schoolyard. He helped friends rid their lawns of pesky moles. During his walks, he might pause to help a car pull out of a driveway into busy traffic or toss newspapers toward subscribers' homes so they wouldn't have to cross the road to get them.

"He was a hard worker, and every bone in his body was honest," Mathis said. "Anyone could call for help and he'd be right there. He was such a good man."

He savored life's little pleasures: a Bloody Mary on a Sunday after his walk, an apple plucked from the tree, his wife's home-cooked meals. He loved all his neighbors. He adored animals and had a special place in his heart for a stray cat he named Kitty, who faithfully followed him around and climbed in his trees while he pruned them.

Poole also loved a good practical joke.

"I called him a social butterfly," Coleen Poole said. "I also called him a rabble rouser."

If he walked by a friend's house and they weren't home, he'd still go in their yard — and they might return to find the shoes they'd left on the porch were hidden or the trash cans they'd left in the driveway were suddenly perched on the car.

A couple of years ago, some of his favorite grocery store employees found fishing lures on their vehicles.

"John had cleaned out his tackle box and stuck plastic squids on our car antennas," Haggen employee Barbara Gross remembered with a smile.

In another memorable incident, Poole lost a bet against Harry Taylor Sr. and had to drive his tractor in his own "parade" through town.

"He always put a smile on my face," Karl Hedeem said.

Poole joked until the end. Though he was battling cancer, he was still teasing the doctors and repeatedly offering to sell his bulldozer to his confused oncologist, who didn't know what a bulldozer was.

That bulldozer now sits in his front yard surrounded by flowers. He'd tried to sell it for two years, and within 30 minutes of placing it outside, his family got an offer from a potential buyer. They said no, of course. The bulldozer stays, along with the rusted garbage truck and that Tin Man sculpture that's still in the garage.

His back field contains dirt from his favorite grocery store. "When they were building the store, he asked the superintendent for some dirt for his back field, and they brought over a backhoe," Gross recalled. "He has some Haggen dirt."

"We lost a legend when John passed away," Mathis said. "I'll never get that smile or those twinkling eyes out of my head. They broke the mold after him."

Now, John Poole's family would like to honor him in the best way they know how: by walking.

A Walk for John will take place at 8 a.m. Aug. 8, starting at the Stanwood Middle School parking lot.

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY NOTICES

Obituary notices may be sent by using an online form at scnews.com/obituaries, by email to obits@scnews.com along with a photo attached, or by mail to Stanwood Camano NEWS, P.O. Box 999, Stanwood, WA, 98292. The fee to print an obituary is \$10.90 per column inch, including the photo. A short death announcement the week prior to the full obituary will be printed at no charge. An obituary may be linked to an online guest book for an additional \$30 charge. For more information call 360-629-2155.



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