

# Fairhaven

A S S O C I A T I O N

*"Connecting Community,  
History, & Experience"*

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

with our Partners



# INTRODUCTION

The Fairhaven Association is a 501c6 nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting Fairhaven's history and thriving small business community. We are a group with members representing business owners, non-profit organizations, residents, neighbors, and friends who support the preservation and business success of Fairhaven Village.

## **Vision Statement:**

To promote Fairhaven as a community while preserving the historical character.

## **Mission Statement:**

To preserve and inspire a vibrant village by creating and fostering unique experiences and connections.

Our over-arching purpose is:

- **ADVOCACY:** Provide a consistent voice and advocacy for Fairhaven as a district.
- **CONNECTION:** Support community and create connections through communication, education, and action.
- **EXPERIENCE:** Promote and support the beauty, history, welfare, and vibrancy of the district through events and activities that attract visitors.

Through community events, social gatherings, and beautification work groups we celebrate the people and the history that make Fairhaven Village the very special place it is.

# OUR TEAM

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Heather Carter (2022)

**BOARD MEMBERS 2023:** Elected to a 2-year term with term limits of 3 consecutive terms.

## **Executive Officers:**

President: Robin Robertson (2019)  
Owner/GM Bellingham Training & Tennis Club

Vice-President: Chris Caldwell (2021)  
Director of Sales & Marketing, Chrysalis Inn & Spa

Treasurer: Tim Cornwell (2022)  
Managing Broker, Redwood Group Realty

Secretary: Nadine van Niekerk (2020)  
Owner, Stones Throw Brewery

## **Directors:**

Tim Anderson (2021)  
Financial Advisor, North Harbor Wealth Management

Teresa Dalton (2022-1yr appt)  
Owner, Firehouse Arts & Events Center

Bridget Knutson (2022)  
Owner, Adored Boutique

Burr Neely (2020)  
Historian, Statistical Research, Inc

Sarah Woelkers-Prescott (2023)  
Owner, Fairhaven Gold

Donna Moorman-Wright (2023)  
Owner, Poodle Creek

Marissa Unick (2023)  
Manager, Peoples Bank Fairhaven Branch



# ADVOCACY

The Fairhaven Association is your dedicated advocate, championing the interests and welfare of our historic district.

- Participation on the Board of the Bellingham Whatcom Tourism –Heather has been a director on the board since 2023
- Meetings with local officials to represent concerns of Fairhaven with quarterly check-ins with our Bellingham City Council representative
- City of Bellingham funding partner
- Regular meetings with city departments re: upgrades to streets, parks, village planning

# CONNECTION

Be a part of a community that values connection, education, and collective action.

- Ken Imus Community Day (April) where Volunteers picked up trash throughout the village
- 2023 Fairhaven Village Map Created (10,000 maps printed)
- Shop Local Holiday frequent shopper card program during Winterfest, distributed 500 / 199 returned (drew prizes)
- Operate the Visitor Kiosk in partnership with Visit Bellingham
- Terminal Building Fire – During this very sad time, FA raised \$7,000 and distributed gift cards to the 46 employees that were affected and Nate Breaux's daughter
- Worked toward redesigning and relaunching our website with an integration with our Member management software, Growthzone
- Member benefits that include village discounts and free parking
- Monthly membership meetings with Association and Member announcements
- Members Matter Events with quarterly networking gatherings
- Annual Member Meeting
- Fairhaven Association Member Holiday Party
- Event sponsorships opportunities for our Members



# EXPERIENCE

## Chocolate Walk (February since 2021)

**Highlights:** Sold out! With 250 budding chocolatiers happily collecting sweet treats in cute pink bags from 18 supporting businesses in Fairhaven.



### Sponsored By:

Chocolate Hosts - \$150

- 12<sup>th</sup> St Shoes
- Adored Boutique
- Bella Rose Boutique
- Bellingham Training & Tennis Club
- Bayside Realty
- Current & Furbish
- Fairhaven Coffee
- Gallery of Echo Chernik
- Good Earth Pottery
- Lululemon
- Peter James Gallery
- Redwood Group
- The Garden Room
- Three French Hens
- Village Books
- Whatcom Art Market
- Whimsey

## Dirty Dan Murder Mystery Weekend (April - since 2020)

**Highlights:** A new murder mystery is created each year and “gumshoes” are invited to solve it. Clues are collected from supporting member businesses while the sleuths have a chance to interview the suspects who wander the district. Sunday hosts the “Whodunnit Day” including live music and local vendors.

350 tickets sold, estimated 600 attended (through group tickets).

**Sponsored by :** Presenting Sponsor: Village Books \$1500

Murder Mystery Newspaper Ads - \$100

- Fairhaven Pediatrics
- Fairhaven Runners
- Fairhaven Post & Parcel
- North Harbor Wealth Management
- Southside Living Magazine
- Skylarks Café
- Scott Ward Art
- Shirlee Bird Café
- Port Fairhaven Fish n Chips

Clue Hosts - \$150

- Firehouse Arts & Events Center
- Peter James Gallery
- The Gallery of Echo Chernik
- 12<sup>th</sup> St Shoes
- Current & Furbish
- Bellingham Coding & Robotics
- Poodle Creek Grooming
- Three French Hens
- Whatcom Art Market
- Bayside Realty
- The Barbershop at Fairhaven
- The Silvery Moon
- Sweet Bellingham
- Whimsey
- Bella Rose Boutique
- Fairhaven Village Inn
- Adored Boutique
- Fairhaven Toy Garden
- Barrett Lizza Design
- Minted Method
- Bellingham Electric Bike
- Bellingham Training & Tennis Club
- Community Boating Center
- Fairhaven Coffee



## Fairhaven Festival (May – since the 1980’s)

**Highlights:** The biggest street fair in Bellingham historically brings in an estimated 10,000-25,000 attendees with over 100 volunteers helping to run the event.

The Fairhaven Festival includes the Entertainment stage with live music, local craft beer garden, food and local artisan craft vendors. This beloved event is a wonderful way to celebrate the local Ski to Sea Race and Memorial Day Weekend.

### Sponsored By:

- Tim Imus Trust - \$5,000
- Fairhaven Pediatrics - \$2,000
- WECU - \$1,000



## Chicken Festival (Summer – since 2021)



**Highlights:** Our quirkiest event is an homage to the backyard chicken with a bit of old fashioned carnival game flair and plenty of “the chicken dance” with all ages.

Estimated 500 attendees. Live Entertainment, carnival games, community partners.

### Sponsored by:

- Galloway’s Cocktail Bar - \$1,500
- Scratch & Peck - \$500
- Fairhaven Village Inn - \$400
- South Bay Suites - \$300
- First Fed - \$200

## Fairhaven Outdoor Cinema

(Summer in Fairhaven for 20 years, operated by Fairhaven Association since 2021)

**Highlights:** The Saturday night summer outdoor movies have delighted patrons for decades. Grab a blanket, listen to fun entertainment, and watch a movie into the night as the skies darken around you.

Estimated 1,760 attendees. 10-week movie series with live entertainment and community partners, weekly promotions.

### Sponsored by:

Presenting Sponsor – Village Books \$5000

Season Sponsors: \$2500

- Evolve Chocolate Café
- First Fed
- Firehouse Arts & Event Center
- Fairhaven Post & Parcel
- Ben Kinney Real Estate

On-Screen Sponsors: \$1000

- North Harbor Wealth Management
- Keenan’s at the Pier
- Robinson Hardwood
- Bellingham Training & Tennis Club





## Annual Sidewalk Sale (September – since 2000's)

**Highlights:** This member-led event is a wonderful walk-about in Fairhaven with businesses offering special deals on the sidewalks in front of their businesses. The association lets members borrow canopies and tables.

## “FEAR” Haven Village Trick or Treat (on Halloween since 1990's)

**Highlights:** It fills the heart to see our streets filled with trick or treaters all decked out in costumes for all ages. At our Photo Booth, we welcomed 1,000 amazingly costumed celebrators of all ages and businesses gave out 1,000s of treats.

**Photo Booth Sponsored by:** Peoples Bank \$1000

## Winterfest Celebrations (November-December – since the 1990's)

**Highlights:** Our Winterfest events make Fairhaven a magical winter scene with Lighting the Village, Visits with Father Christmas, Horse Drawn Carriage Rides, Tree Lighting Celebration, Luminary Walk, Lighted Bike Parade, and Santa's Mail Box.

Estimated 5,000-10,000 winter visitors who delighted in the season.



### Sponsored by:

Presenting Sponsor – First Fed \$10,000  
North Harbor Wealth Management - \$2,000  
Fairhaven Village Inn - \$1500

\$1000

- Fairhaven Pediatrics
- Jacaranda
- SPIE
- The Chrysalis Inn & Spa
- Galloway's Cocktail Bar
- Village Books & Paper Dreams

\$600

- Redwood Group
- OVN Wood Fired Pizza
- Three French Hens

\$500

- Peoples Bank

\$250

- Fairhaven Runners

## Year Long Support

### Fairhaven Village Map - \$500

- Greenleaf Accounting
- Whimsey
- North Harbor Wealth Management
- Galloway's Cocktail Bar

### Website - \$1000

- Bellingham Training & Tennis Club
- Fairhaven Village Inn

# BY THE NUMBERS

Fairhaven Association Members = 162

Business Members = 131

Non-Profit Members = 12

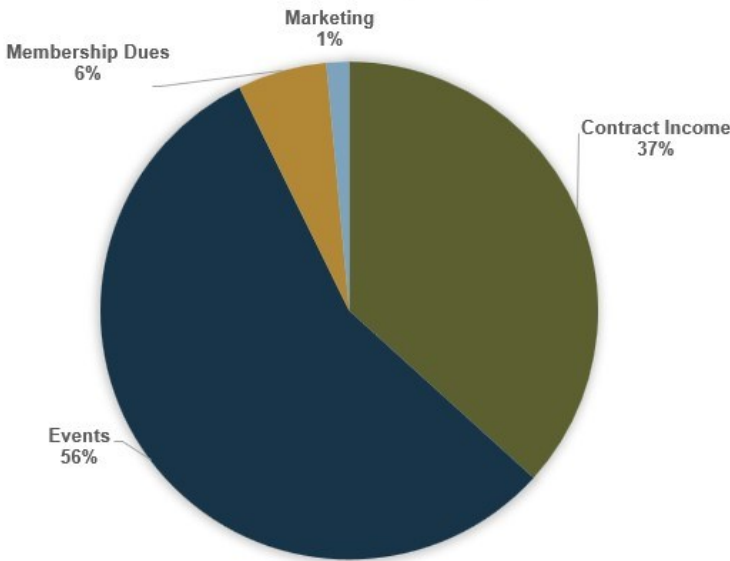
Individual Members = 13

Website Visits = 25,000 visits

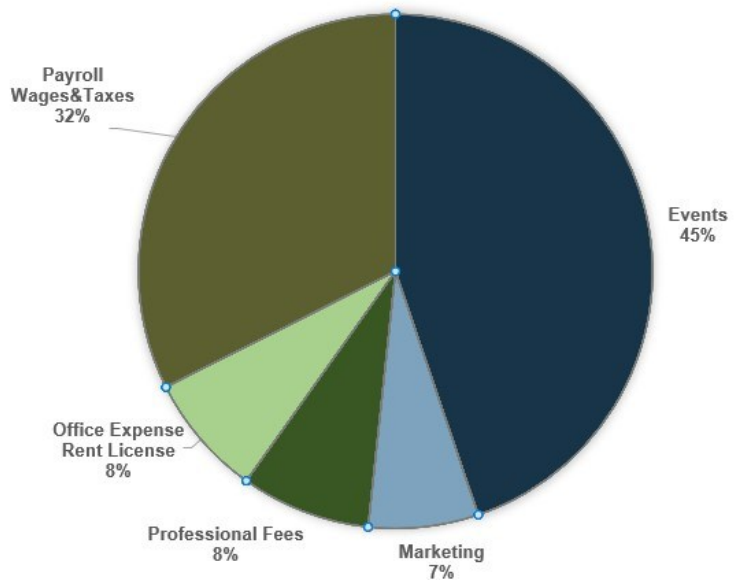
Social Media = Facebook 240,000 post reach & Instagram 28,000 post reach

Total number of people drawn to our events = 30,000+ event visitors to the village!

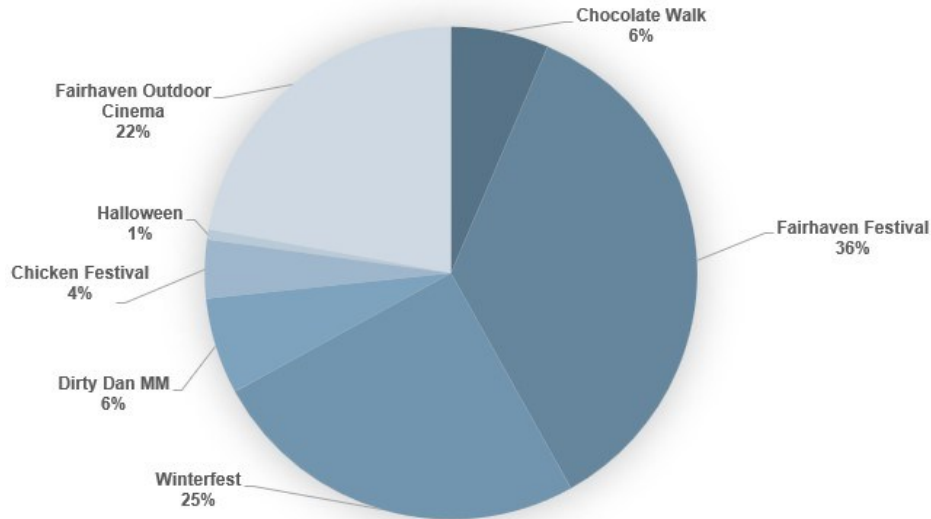
2023 INCOME \$275,200



2023 EXPENSES \$267,583



2023 EVENTS INCOME \$152,881



# FAIRHAVEN ASSOCIATION HISTORY

The “Old Fairhaven Association” was originally founded in 1971 by a group of volunteer citizens and business owners to promote the Fairhaven District while preserving its historical flavor. The OFA advanced its status into a 501c6 organization in 1984 still operating with all volunteers.

In 2019 the first part-time Executive Director was hired and the name changed from OFA to a dba as Fairhaven Association (too much confusion with the fairhaven historical society).

In 2022 we opened our office at the current location in Finnegan’s Alley and hired a full-time Executive Director. Our volunteers are the heart of our organization along with leadership from our Executive Director and Board of Directors.

We are grateful for the support of our Members and supporters and look forward to continuing the good work of the Fairhaven Association.



## FAIRHAVEN ASSOCIATION

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