Mari’s Message - “Open the Doors”

Over this past year we stressed two strategic goals. The first was to deliver on a more integrated special events center at Worthington Park that would host an increasing number of private and public events throughout the year. The second was to build on community and regional partnerships to strengthen our mission. I believe we have been successful in these endeavors and this newsletter details much of that progress.

Worthington Park is anchored in partnerships forged by the Museum’s members and volunteers. It simply would not exist, and certainly would have no future, without them. In fact, since 2012, hundreds of volunteers have logged in 30,000 hours to support the creation of Worthington Park. Every week this community commitment plays out in work days at the mansion, museum operations, and event productions. This extraordinary volunteer effort has approached nearly one and a half million dollars in value - and only increases year by year. Over the past year we have also expanded our partnerships in the community and throughout the region, setting the course for future operations. We have moved to broaden and strengthen our area economic and community partnerships to insure our operational success.

In 2020, with your help, we will “open the doors” to this magnificent facility. We achieved a major operational milestone early in 2019 with the County approving a Conditional Use Permit - allowing the property to move from residential to commercial status. This achievement opens the final door for Worthington Park to reach its full potential. This extraordinary accomplishment also comes with new requirements in parking, water, and septic. The price tag for these enhancements is not small and we are working diligently to attract support to bring us across the finish line in 2020. Museum membership will be crucial to support our efforts. Please help us sustain and increase memberships by sharing the story of Worthington Park with your family and friends - complete the enclosed 2020 membership form and return it to Quilcene Historical Museum, P. O. Box 574, Quilcene, WA, 98376.

Visit our website, worthingtonparkquilcene.org, for more updates on our unfolding Worthington Park adventure!

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your continued support for such a wonderful emerging community asset. You are making a difference!

– Mari Phillips
New Events & Partnerships

In 2019, Worthington Park hosted an increased number of public and private events drawing audiences and participants from throughout the region and distant locales. We produced three new very popular community events in 2019. The first was an April Easter Egg Hunt that partnered efforts with the Quilcene Lions Club and Fire Rescue Department. The second in May, the Quilcene School Junior-Senior Banquet, began an annual tradition for the student body. The third, an Outdoor Movie Night for the community, resulted from an informal partnership with the Port Townsend Film Festival that provided consultation (and a popcorn machine). The movie was a hit, drawing a very large audience of families and children.

In August, we also hosted what has become a very popular tradition - the 11th annual “Tasting Gala.” This event continues to expand our partnership with regional vendors, profiling breweries, vintners, and distilleries - raising funding for the Quilcene Historical Museum.

This year the Quilcene Fair and Parade were held on the same weekend (14-15 September) as the Oyster Races, providing an opportunity to draw visitors to a Quilcene Festival Weekend. We promoted these events all together as an entire weekend to be spent in South County. The 15 September events once again showcased the full potential of Worthington Park with an open house of the historical Worthington House with all restored rooms furnished for the first time with period pieces - drawing hundreds of visitors. The open house was combined with the Quilcene Brinnon Dollars for Scholars Oyster Races (half marathon/10K/5K), and an outdoor concert at Linger Longer outdoor theatre.

We once again coordinated our promotion efforts - partnering with all of the Olympic Peninsula runs (the four major runs on the Olympic Peninsula in Port Angeles, Sequim and Olympia from April to September) to be able to actively promote the events of 15 September in Quilcene at their respective registration and race days. Our outreach efforts targeted all the national run organizations that bring thousands of runners and their families to the Olympic Peninsula every year. We partnered with Hama Hama Oyster Farm to maximize mutual support during their Oyster Rama in April and our 15 September Worthington Park events.

The Oyster Races continue to draw a steadily increasing number of runners (over 200 this year) and this year’s event raised the greatest amount of dollars for local scholarships in its seven year history. Runners came from as far away as Illinois, Colorado, and the United Kingdom. The Oyster Races are also an engine of support for community organizations like the Lion’s Club, the Boy Scouts and local vendors who participate on race day. In this way, Worthington Park delivered on its mission as an engine of support and prosperity for our community. 2020, we plan for even more events and activities that we expect will draw ever increasing numbers of visitors!
New Events Planned for 2020

We plan to host all the events that we supported in 2019 - plus some. Of note, planning is well underway with one of the Olympic Peninsula race directors to host a mountain-bike race from Worthington Park in June 2020. The “Quilcene Gravel Unravel” will begin and end at Linger Longer Outdoor Theatre and traverse the National Forest and Wilderness Area for 40-60 miles. These competitive events are gaining in popularity both in the U.S. and worldwide. Keep checking our website for updates.

The outdoor movie showing was so popular that we are planning to host two showings in 2020 - the first at the beginning of the summer and the second before school begins. These will be free for the community to attend including free popcorn and the Boosters Club selling cold drinks.

Worthington Park will continue to showcase through 2020, the full array of capabilities and services it offers as we continue to build and strengthen partnerships with area businesses, nonprofit organizations, and our communities.

Visitor Count at Record High

Visitor Count is higher than in past years. These visitors came from 65 WA cities; 19 different cities than in the past 3 year count. Twenty states and 4 countries were also represented. We project the total 2019 visitor count to be 3092. These increased visitor numbers can be attributed to new special events with Quilcene School, Movie Night, Oyster Race, and Harvest Festival partnerships.

Historical Artifacts, Documents and Photos

Donations of artifacts, documents and photos continue to be submitted to the Museum for preservation, display and research. Many queries and visits to the Museum are to learn about Quilcene and family history. Donations for 2019 were 242 items from 15 people in 8 WA cities. Dishes, toys, furniture, handiwork, albums, scrapbooks, documents and more were welcomed.

Passages

We mourn the passing, but remember the service of: Merritt Major, Jim Shaw, Barbara Weber, Diane (Hearst) Sneed, David Haakenson, Dorothy (Ward) Marggraf, Robert Schramek (QHM Board Member), Alvin Ackerman.
Proposed Events & Activities For 2020

Feb. ......... Life Timer reception and appreciation held at the Worthington Mansion
Mar. ........ Museum FAM tour of local restaurants, farms, seafood producers; and samples
Apr. ......... Museum docent training and Hamilton-Worthington historical workshop
Apr. ........ Museum 2020 season opening weekend, and Worthington Open House for tours
Apr. .......... “Easter Egg Hunt” at Worthington Park in partnership with Quilcene Fire & Rescue
May – Sep. .... Tour of Worthington Park / Mansion first Sunday of each month
May ........ Teacher Appreciation Reception for Quilcene/Brinnon Teachers at Worthington mansion
Jun. .......... Reception at Worthington Mansion for early attendees at Quilcene Alumni Reunion
Jun. – Aug. ... “Outdoor Movie Nights” at Worthington Park; consultation with PT Film Festival
Jun. .......... “Quilcene Gravel Unravel” Bike Trek through the Olympic National Forest
Jun. .......... “QHS Junior – Senior Banquet” evening outdoor program and dining
Jul. .......... Appreciation Luncheon for 100 Hamilton-Worthington mansion restoration volunteers
Jul. .......... 4th of July week-end exhibits & refreshments at Museum; tours of Worthington mansion
Aug. .......... “Tasting Gala” at Worthington Park
Aug. .......... “All-Quil Yard Sale” – free vendor space at Worthington Park
Aug. .......... “Welcome Back to School”; Quilcene/Brinnon Teacher Reception at Worthington mansion
Sep. .......... Cider Press with local apples
Sep. .......... “Quilcene Festival Weekend”: Quil Fair, Oyster Races, Worthington open house, concert
Oct. .......... “Harvest Festival” at Worthington Park; partnership with Quilcene School District
Nov. .......... Docent / Board Thank You Dinner (no host)
Nov. – Dec. .... “Polar Express Festival”
Dec. .......... “Community Lighting Festival”
Jan. – Dec. ... Rental opportunities of Worthington mansion, stage and grounds for private events