



Utsalady Ladies Aid

JULY 2026 Newsletter

Summer Time

Topics

- Beach Rights
- Upcoming Meetings
- Patriotic Walk
- Summer Tour
- Grennan
- Bald Eagles

Happy Birthday!



Pat Bass
 Cheri Bloomquist
 Dorothy Goff
 Andrea Haugen
 Hanna Hazen
 Nora Ierien
 Kathy McCall
 Linsey Olsen
 Sheridan Robbins
 Marsha Timmerman

Beach Rights



The first plat map of Utsalady was created by Albert Ekle in 1891. Albert allotted one lot on the waterfront at the end of each road for community beach access for neighborhood homeowners. The roads were D’Jorup, Essex, Park (now Ekle) and State St. According to Island County Assessor & Treasurer no taxes are collected on three of these lots. At some point the first lot (A) changed location. Buena Vista Community Club pays taxes on an adjacent gated lot. But what about lots B, C and D? According to Kristy Kaufman she has beach rights to lot B at the end of Essex. Ladies Aid has beach rights to lot C which some neighborhood families are currently trying to repair due to damage from king tide erosion. I think getting to the water isn’t as straight forward as it might seem — on many people might

Upcoming Meetings

Our next **Membership meeting** will be **Wednesday, July 8th**, at 11:30am for socializing and business meeting at 1:00pm. *We are having a picnic lunch.* The **Board meeting** will be on **Monday, July 6th**, from 11:00am to 1:00pm. **ULA Fun Day** will be on **Wednesday, July 29th**. Doors open at 10:00am. Come have a cup of coffee and stay connected with friends.

Patriotic Walk and Bake Sale

Please join the Utsalady community in celebration of America’s 250th birthday. The fun begins at 10:00 am with a bake sale followed by a patriotic walk and ending with pledge, songs, flag ceremony and popsicles. Don’t forget to go by the Hampson House at 131 Utsalady to get a hot dog.



MORE NEWS

Summer Tour of Historic Sites

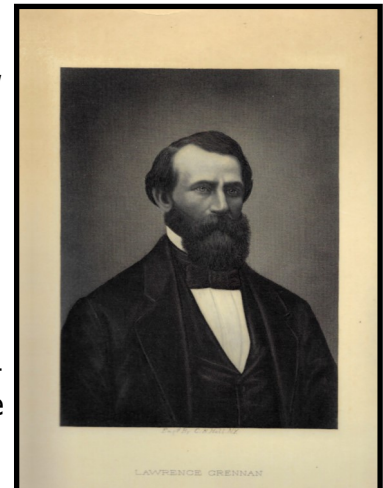
The first events are on the **4th of July** with a patriotic walk on Utsalady and the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center in Stanwood, both at 11:00 am. At 2:00, Stanwood Salute to America at Heritage Park with fireworks at 9:00pm. Next up on Saturday, **July 11th**, the Camano City Schoolhouse and Archive will be open. Marcia Kester will be celebrating America's 250 birthday in song on **July 18th** also at the Schoolhouse. The South Camano Grange will serve breakfast, talk about their history and a farmer's market all happening on **July 25th** starting at 9:00am. Last event for **July 31st, August 1st & 2nd** are tours of the 1880 log cabin in the Pioneer Village during the Stanwood Camano Community Fair. Support these historical site events with your attendance.

History Day at Ladies Aid

Chris Galloway is interested in any information from members about their family history during the Revolutionary War even if it's just a name. Or you could be like Mary Margaret and have an ancestor who signed the Declaration of Independence!

The Grennan Story by Richard Hanks

Lawrence Grennan came to Whidbey Island in early 1853. He was an entrepreneur who first saw the economic opportunities of Utsalady Bay on Camano Island. His timber spar camp grew into a mill site which supplied lumber to the world in the 1860s. He was assisted in this by his family, especially his sister Grace Grennan Jackling, who moved with her family from Illinois to this area and his partner Thomas Cranney. Grennan's sudden death in 1869 tragically ended his association with Utsalady but not his legacy. On July 11, 2026 at 1 p.m. his portrait will be unveiled to the public at the Camano Schoolhouse for the first time since his death. It has been preserved by the descendants of his sister and now donated to the Island County Museum who has loaned it to the island where he made his mark. Its restoration will be described by internationally known artist Michele Rushworth and attendees will learn about the man who put Camano Island on the map.



Utsalady Bay Bald Eagle Pair



A pair of bald eagles can often be seen roosting in the fir trees above the Utsalady Bay. I am sure they have a nest nearby and are the same pair I have observed over the last few years. So my sister and I have named them Ole and Jeni. Ole and Jeni Mellum were Jeni Bottin's grandparents that lived and operated hotels in that area as pioneers back in the day. We thought it was appropriate. On the morning of June 27th, "Ole" was seen catching such a big fish, he had to swim to shore and then fly up to his tree above Utsalady Bay. You know Ole Mellum was an excellent fisherman too!

Happy 250th America!