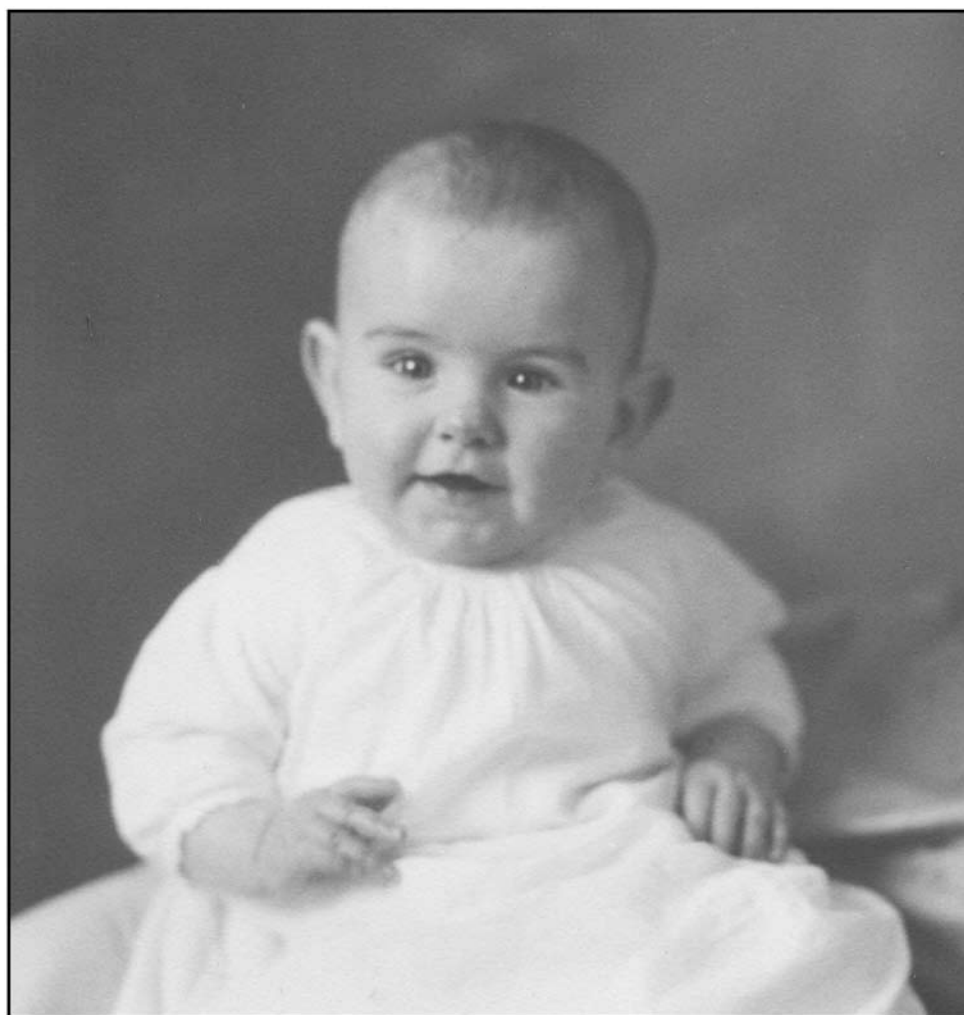


BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



Ilene June Manville, 1930

Photo: Miles Studio of Kirkland

Born May 3, 1930, Ilene was the first baby to be born at the new Kirkland Hospital.

Twenty-one years later, Ilene Manville Sjoquist's son was the first baby born in the newly renovated Kirkland Hospital.

(See Evergreen Hospital Project, page 4)

Volume XXXIII, Issue IV

July/Aug 2026

www.kirklandheritage.org

Kirkland Heritage Society

Museum hours:

Monday: 10 to Noon

Wednesday: 2 to 5

203 Market Street
Lower level of Heritage Hall



A Letter from Our President

I hope everyone is having a great summer, and happy 250th birthday, United States of America!

A big thank you to Linda and Wayne Jatón for representing KHS at our Kirkland Fourth of July parade booth. They handled the setup, teardown, sold sarsaparilla, and took care of everything else. It's a lot of work, and we truly appreciate their efforts.

Although I have served in various KHS board positions since becoming involved with the society in 1991—when Loita and the late Dale Hawkinson, Barb Loomis, the late Bob Burke, and others resurrected the old 1970s Kirkland Historic Commission—this is my first time serving as president. I am honored by the opportunity and excited to hit the ground running.

I also want to welcome Bonnie McLeod and Penny Sweet to the board. Although most of you know them, for those who do not, Bonnie is a lifelong, multigenerational Kirklander and local business owner. Penny and her husband, State Representative Larry Springer (45th Legislative District), founded the popular Grape Choice wine shop decades ago, and Penny served many years on the Kirkland City Council, including as mayor. Both bring tremendous energy and talent to the KHS Board, and I am privileged and thrilled to have them with us.

We also welcomed a new board member on July 28, when the board approved longtime KHS member and Historic Signage Committee Chair Kent Sullivan to complete the term of Janice Gerrish, who stepped down

following the passing of her husband, Bob, last December. Bob served as our membership chair, and the Gerrishes have been valued KHS members for many years. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Janice and her family and thank her for her many years of service to the society.

Kent is a semi-retired technology executive, longtime local and railroad historian, and a leading authority on Kirkland's Northern Pacific Lake Washington Belt Line, now the Cross Kirkland Corridor. He has served in numerous leadership roles with the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association and has been instrumental in advancing KHS's historic signage efforts. And if you get the chance, ask him about his beautifully restored Chevrolet Corvairs!

I also want to acknowledge the recent passing of former KHS President Glenn Landguth. Glenn was a 1959 Lake Washington High School graduate, a 1963 University of Washington graduate, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, and a Boeing engineer. He lost his wife of 57 years, Judy, in 2021. Our thoughts are with their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

I also want to thank board members Loita Hawkinson and Libbi Wright for the countless hours they devote to staffing our Resource Center during Monday and Wednesday public hours—in addition to everything else they do for KHS. If you have a few hours to spare each week and would enjoy helping visitors during our open hours, we'd love to have you join our volunteer team. Please leave Loita a message at (425) 827-3446 for more information.

Finally, I want to assure everyone that we will soon be returning to a regular schedule of membership programs. I look forward to seeing all of you back at Heritage Hall in the months ahead! Sincerely, Matt



Upcoming Events



O.O. Denny Park
12302 Holmes Point Dr NE

Kirkland City Hall 4 All

Saturday, September 19, 2026
12:00 noon to 4:00 PM
at Kirkland City Hall
123 5th Avenue

This is a free event for the entire family. Kids can explore Kirkland's fleet of emergency trucks and vehicles. There will be many pop-up markets, cultural performances, a fixer fair and story time with Mayor Curtis.

The **Lake Washington High School Marching Band** will lead a small parade around Kirkland City Hall at
2:00 PM



Saturday, October 10th 2026
1:00-4:00pm

Join us in celebrating the addition of the *class of 1976* and all those who came before!
Make it an afternoon to remember shared with friends.
Light snacks provided.

Lake Washington High School
12033 NE 80th Street, Kirkland

Hosting Class: 1973

Newsletter Production

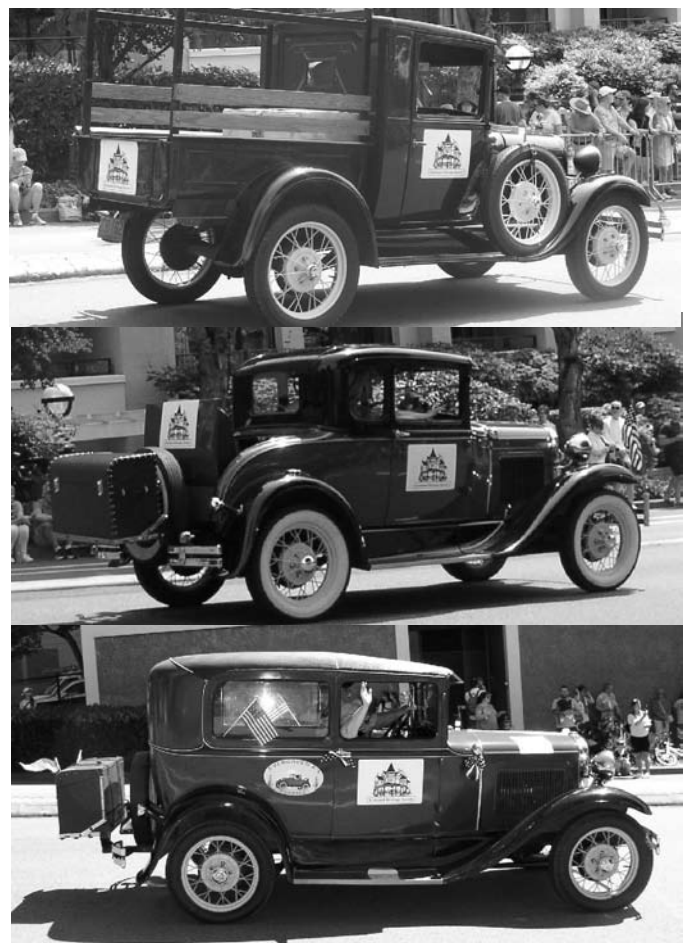


Shown above are Libbi and Claire expediting Issue III, 2026 of *Blackberry Preserves* – ready for the mail in record time.



Thank You Once Again

The *Evergreen Chapter of the Model A Ford Club* once again represented **Kirkland Heritage Society** at the 4th of July Parade.



The three Model A Fords pictured above are from the 2023, 2024 and 2025 4th of July Parades.



Thank You Larry

The late Larry Miller, Lake Washington Class of 1955, was a life long resident of Kirkland. When Larry passed away in 2024, he donated the property where he was born and raised to the City of Kirkland. Larry asked that his family home be developed as a pea patch for Kirkland to enjoy. The property had been in the family for over 100 years. Now complete, the pea patch opened in April of 2026. The pea patch is connected to **Rose Hill Meadows** at 8200 124th Avenue NE. The **Rose Hill Meadows** property had once been owned by Larry's maternal grandparents.



The pea patch's quirky name shown above, was at Larry's request. All those that knew and loved Larry, will understand.



The Evergreen Hospital Project

Researched and written by
Bonnie McLeod

Kirkland General Hospital opened April 17, 1930 at the corner of Third Street and Kirkland Avenue with 24 beds. At the time, Kirkland was a small community. The city's population was 1,354 in 1920 and only 1,714 by 1930. By 1940, the population had grown to 2,084, and by 1950 it had reached 4,713.

Following World War II, Kirkland and the surrounding Eastside experienced significant growth and change. In 1951, the U.S. Department of Health concluded that hospitals serving the Puget Sound region were inadequate for the area's rapidly expanding population. Most hospital facilities were concentrated in Seattle, leaving communities on the Eastside of King County with limited access to healthcare services.

As the population continued to grow—from 4,713 in 1950 to 6,025 in 1960—the need for additional medical facilities became increasingly apparent. In response, Overlake Hospital opened in 1960 with 56 beds. By the early 1960s, physicians were directing maternity patients to Overlake and Seattle-area hospitals in order to free beds for the growing demand in Kirkland. In 1965, Kirkland General Hospital discontinued maternity services and converted the space into a second operating room and recovery room. The emergency department was modernized, and lighting throughout the hospital was upgraded at a cost of \$2,400, including a \$1,000 contribution from the medical staff.

In July 1965, Medicare was signed into law. Leaders of Kirkland General Hospital were concerned that the aging facility would not meet federal requirements for Medicare certification. Hallways were too narrow, patient rooms were undersized, and structural deficiencies existed throughout

the building. Despite these concerns, the hospital was certified and became eligible to serve Medicare patients.

Recognizing the need for a long-term solution, the Northeast Lake Washington Hospital Study Committee was formed. After evaluating future healthcare needs, the committee concluded that constructing a new hospital in a more central location would be both more practical and more economical than continuing to expand the existing facility. The goal was to create a hospital capable of serving the “total community.”

The medical staff unanimously agreed to keep Kirkland General Hospital operating until a new facility could be built. Initial studies projected the need for a 54-bed hospital by 1970. However, continued population growth quickly increased estimates to 100 beds. Surveys found no conflict with Overlake Hospital’s service area, as Overlake was already turning patients away because of capacity limitations. Population forecasts projected 116,000 residents in the service area by 1970 and 295,000 by 1985.

Once a new hospital became the objective, the committee evaluated several possible approaches. Seattle-area hospitals expressed little interest in expanding to the Eastside. A privately funded subscription hospital was considered unlikely to succeed.

Church-affiliated hospital systems also declined to move forward, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Newark indefinitely postponed plans for another Bellevue-area hospital.

The committee ultimately recommended the creation of a public hospital district to finance and operate a new community hospital. Their findings were submitted to the Seattle Area Health Facilities Planning and Development Board, with a target opening date of 1972.

As planning progressed, it became clear that constructing and opening a new hospital required at least three years. As a result, the 1972 target date was considered optimistic, and population projections continued to rise.

The proposed hospital district boundaries included the entire Lake Washington School District and the portion of the Northshore School District located within King County.

By 1967, studies again confirmed the need for at least 100 beds. Overlake Hospital, which had opened with 54 beds and expanded to 106, was already experiencing severe capacity constraints. Hospital leaders reported daily overcrowding and waits of up to two weeks for elective surgeries. Overlake publicly supported the creation of a new hospital, noting that approximately 25 percent of its patients came from the proposed hospital district.

The proposal to establish Hospital District No. 2 was placed before voters on November 7, 1967. Community support was strong. The Community Hospital Auxiliary raised campaign funds through events such as a Halloween Spook House, pancake breakfasts, and bridge tournaments. Local physicians also contributed financially, donating \$260 to the effort.

Supporters emphasized the region’s rapidly growing population, the advantages of shared costs, and the opportunity for residents to influence hospital policies through local governance. They argued that a new hospital would attract additional physicians and specialists to the area, improve access to care, and increase physician efficiency through a centralized location. While designed as a community hospital, the facility would continue to work cooperatively with larger regional hospitals for highly specialized services.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

To help build public enthusiasm, a contest was held to name the new hospital. “Evergreen General Hospital” was selected as the winning entry.

Plans called for an initial 109-bed facility with the capacity to expand to 169 beds without significant modifications to supporting services. Construction would be financed through a \$4.5 million general obligation bond. Advocates emphasized that state law limited hospital district taxing authority primarily to construction-related expenses and did not permit special levies for hospital operations.

The voters approved the creation of Hospital District No. 2 by a remarkable 70 percent margin. The newly elected Board of Commissioners assured residents that the hospital would operate on its own revenues. If necessary, temporary borrowing could be accomplished through the hospital’s capital or general operating funds.

The original hospital design featured three stories and 109 beds, with future expansion planned to meet community needs through at least 1976. The first floor would house public areas, educational facilities, business and administrative offices, medical records, medical staff facilities, a coffee shop, and the emergency, radiology, and pathology departments. The design also incorporated a modern air-conditioning system utilizing 100 percent fresh air.

Above the first floor, two nursing towers and a surgery-obstetrics wing would share common support services. Long-range plans envisioned eventual expansion to seven stories as community demand increased.

Today, residents of Hospital District No. 2 benefit from the foresight and determination of the community and business leaders who came together during the 1960s to address a critical healthcare need. Their vision created a foundation

for high-quality healthcare that has served generations of Eastside residents .

Few could have predicted the dramatic changes in population, medical technology, and healthcare delivery that would occur over the following decades. Yet those early decision-makers established a framework and governance structure that allowed the organization to grow and adapt with the community it serves.

As a result, EvergreenHealth has evolved into a nationally recognized healthcare system, consistently earning awards for quality and patient care. The organization has been recognized among the top one percent of hospitals nationwide and has received multiple consecutive five-star quality ratings from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—an enduring testament to the vision of those who helped bring Evergreen Hospital from concept to reality.

(All research was sourced from **Kirkland Heritage Society’s** archived *East Side Journals*.)

(See Jan/Feb 2026 issue of BP for more about Kirkland’s original hospital)



Read **Blackberry Preserves**
on-line



All current and back issues of **Blackberry Preserves** are available on the KHS website:
www.kirklandheritage.org.

The QR code above will also take you there.

Blackberry Preserves

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Secretary:	Bonnie McLeod	425.827.3446
Treasurer:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950
At-Large	Linda Jatton	425.827.3446
At-Large	Dave Sherbrooke	425.827.3446
At-Large	Libbi Wright	425.827.3446
At-Large:	Kent Sullivan	425.827.3446
At-Large:	Penny Sweet	425.827.3446

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Bookkeeping	Jim Neir	425.827.3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950 425.827.3446
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Hello Girls**	Linda Jatton*	425.827.3446
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Programs:	Karen Schickling	425.827.3446
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Scholarship Committee	Jim Neir*	206.478.3173 425.827.3446

* Chair or Co-chairs

** During WWI, the Hello Girls were ladies who served as telephone operators. For KHS, this sweet lady will email to remind you of the next meeting or event.

Editor: Fred Hawkinson

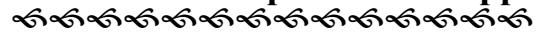
Webmaster: Christopher Neir

Kirkland Heritage Society

www.kirklandheritage.org

425-827-3446

**KHS is 100% volunteer with no paid staff.
Your memberships make it happen.**



2026 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026

KHS qualifies for tax exemption under 501(c) (3) and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. We qualify for matching gift contributions by those employers who offer this benefit.

Membership Category

_____ Senior / Student	\$20
_____ Individual	\$25
_____ Family	\$30
_____ Supporting	\$100
_____ Life Member	\$1,000
_____ Organization/Government	\$100
_____ Professional Business	\$125
_____ Corporate	\$250

I would like to make a contribution: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

**If your company matches contributions, please
provide the signed Matching Gift Form!**

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

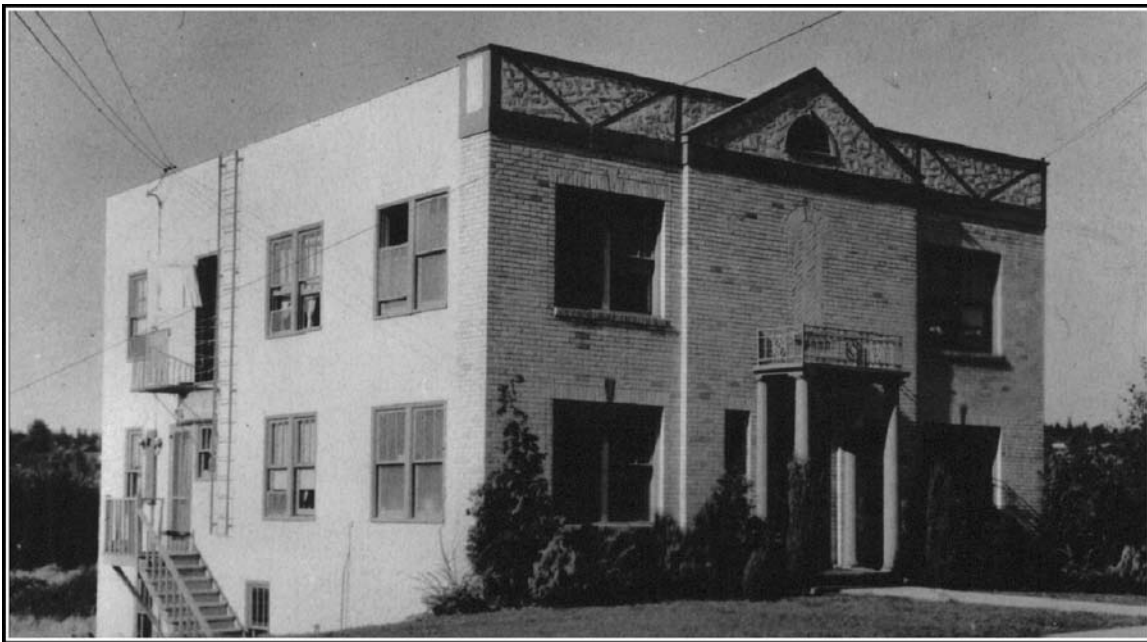
Checks should be made payable and mailed to:

Kirkland Heritage Society
Heritage Hall, Lower Level
203 Market Street
Kirkland, WA 98033.



TO RENT HERITAGE HALL

**Call the City of Kirkland's
Customer Service Division at:
425-587-3300**



Kirkland Hospital, c1932

Pictured above is the original Kirkland hospital at 220 Kirkland Avenue.

After 20 years of growth on the Eastside, the hospital received an upgrade.
Twenty more years of growth demanded that a new hospital was needed.

(See feature on page 4)

Blackberry Preserves is produced by the **Kirkland Heritage Society**, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. **Loita Hawkinson, Editor.**
For information on KHS - visit our website: www.kirklandheritage.org,
or call 425 827-3446 to leave a message.

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Stamp
Box**



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