

Views

SUBMISSIONS

SV Views
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or drop off at SVCA admin office

POLICY

- The Sudden Valley Views welcomes letters to the editor on topics of current news interest up to six times per calendar year
- Letters of up to 550 words are allowed.
- The editor will edit for style and libel.

DEADLINES

The deadline for all display and classified advertising and new items for the upcoming issue is the 23rd of each month.
— For display advertising, contact Mitze Kester, 360-354-4444.

Living with Mountain Lions



Learn how to minimize the chance of a mountain lion encounter

By Susan Diemont-Conwell
Special to the Views

In Sudden Valley, the abundance of deer and verdant greenbelts and parks make for some great mountain lion habitat. According to the SVCA Rules and Regulations, Sudden Valley is a “declared wildlife and bird sanctuary.” What that means, pure and simple, is that we must coexist with mountain lions.

That being said, you may never see a mountain lion here, and it is even more unlikely you will encounter one. Research has shown that mountain lions go out of their way to avoid humans. They typically leave an area if they perceive a threat. Encounters and attacks are extremely rare.

But now and again, there may be a mountain lion in Sudden Valley. By learning a little about mountain lions and following a few simple tips, you can minimize the risk of an encounter.

Just the Facts, Ma’am

- Mountain lions (also called cougars and pumas) prey on deer.
- They are most active at dawn and dusk.
- An adult mountain lion

eats about one deer per week.

- A mountain lion hunts by ambush, watching from a hidden location.

- Once a mountain lion secures its prey, it may stash (cache) its food, covering it with leaves and other debris and feeding on it for several days. A mountain lion will defend its cache and often stays close by.

- Mountain lions are primarily solitary and require large territories.

- When a young male leaves its family group, it must find its own territory. These inexperienced juveniles are the mountain lions most often spotted by people.

When at Home
To minimize the chance of an encounter:

- Keep an eye on children. During winter months, some buses arrive home close to or at dusk. Meet your child at the bus stop or have your child walk with a friend or a group of friends. If a mountain lion has been spotted in the neighborhood, keep young children close to the house.

- Minimize brush around your home. To reduce potential hiding places, clear thick brush from around the house. Consider installing motion-activated lighting. Don’t leave pets outside alone. While mountain lions prefer deer, a dog or cat could be vulnerable.

- Don’t feed the deer! Feeding deer can not only be harmful to the deer—and is against the

See **Cougars** on page 5

SVCA Acronyms

AB – Administration Building
AC – Adult Center
ACC – Architectural Control Committee
ACR – Adult Center Small Room

ACS – Adult Center Studio
AGM – Annual General Meeting
BOD – Board of Directors
CC – Community Center
CC & Rs – Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions

CRRRF – Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund
DB – Dance Barn
EIS - Emergency Information System
EPC – Emergency Preparedness Committee
FTE – Full Time Employees
GM – Sudden Valley’s

General Manager
HOA – Home Owner Association
LBR – Library
LRP – Long Range Planning Committee
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
MPR – Multi-Purpose Room
N&E – Nominations and

Elections
NOV – Notices of Violations
RFP – Request for Proposals
SGM – Special General Meeting
SVCA – Sudden Valley Community Association
UDR – Undesignated Reserves



Sudden Valley Views
Sudden Valley Community Association
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www.suddenvalley.com

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Cougars

Continued from A1

SVCA Rules and Regulations—but it can also be dangerous to you and your family. When you attract deer to your yard, you may also attract its predator. And remember, deer are attracted to bird feeders as well, so keep feeders elevated or away from the house.

When on the Trail

- Don't hike or run at dusk or dawn, particularly in large, forested areas like Stimpson Family Nature Reserve and Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve.
- Bring a friend along when you hike, and keep small children close by. Always stay alert to your surroundings.
- Keep dogs on leash. Mountain lions feed on four-legged animals. Though they prefer deer, a dog could be mistaken for prey. While hiking, a chase with your family pet may bring a mountain lion back to you on the trail.
- Be aware that biking or running can trigger a mountain lion's instinct to chase.
- Carry a walking stick when hiking and wear brightly colored clothing. Also, tie those shoelaces before your outing.
- If you encounter a dead animal, steer clear. It may be a mountain lion's cache.

If You Encounter a Mountain Lion

- DO NOT RUN! Stand your ground, make yourself look big and shout at the mountain lion to go away. Let the mountain lion see that you are not a deer and you are not going to be easy to deal with. Never turn your back, but slowly move away.
- If attacked (again, this is extremely unusual), FIGHT BACK. People have survived attacks by fighting back with bikes, rocks, packs, fists—whatever it takes.

Spread Knowledge, Not Fear

If you see or encounter a mountain lion (or hear of one in the area), let Sudden Valley Security know and share the information so others are aware that a mountain lion may be passing through the area. As we learned at our recent game warden talk, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife will not remove a mountain lion if the animal is "doing what mountain lions do." If the mountain lion is behaving naturally, there is no reason to be alarmed, just cautious.



Get Connected

Join SV Naturalists on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/SVNature) for a wealth of information on the flora and fauna of Sudden Valley. The page is managed by our neighbor, Karen Hardesty, a retired wildlife education/interpretation specialist with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. She has written extensively on living with wildlife and should be able to answer many of your questions.

Discover More

Learn more about mountain lions and the critical role they and other predators play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Visit www.mountainlion.org and www.wdfw.wa.gov.
Sources: Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife, the Mountain Lion Foundation and Karen Hardesty of SV Naturalists



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4 Lake Louise
Sunny corner lot within walking distance to pools, gym, beaches, library & more! Radiant home w/soaring ceilings & tons of sunshine. Entry w/French doors, hardwood floors, two main living spaces & big mud room on the main floor. Master suite with access to private balcony & two more bedrooms on the upper level. Backs up to green space. 400 sq ft in the basement, currently used as storage + wine room! **\$415,000**



6 Sparrow Court
Enjoy sunshine & tranquility in this very private-feeling Sudden Valley home! New hardwood flooring, incredible covered back deck w/perimeter fencing. No neighbors behind—just forest! Open floor plan filled with light. Downstairs has second living space w/office & en-suite bath, currently used as a guest room. Central vac, deck plumbed for propane grill, one garage bay wired for a wood shop. Tons of little touches & features in this beautiful, peaceful home. **\$378,000**



17A Little Strawberry Lane
Come see this completely updated 4-bedroom home in the lakeside & golf course community of Sudden Valley. Nearly everything is new: new flooring, new kitchen cabinets & GE appliances, new granite counters, new plumbing fixtures, new lighting fixtures, new roof and new paint! Great open floor plan with 9 ft. ceilings for that spacious feeling. Master suite is on its own level with en-suite bath and walk-in closet. Greenbelt all around! **\$349,500**



21 Grand View Lane
Looking for a home with 70% main level living? Located in the lakeside neighborhood of Gate 2 in Sudden Valley. The kitchen, dining, living room, master suite, additional bedroom (or office) and laundry are on the main level. The open kitchen has granite countertops, tile backsplash & stainless appliances. Also enjoy covered deck! Spacious downstairs with family room, bonus room, 2 bedrooms, full bath & 2nd utility room. Extra storage space under home. Great setting! **\$429,000**



10 Far Summit
Custom lakefront home designed to showcase panoramic Lake Whatcom views from every room! Live lavishly while immersed in nature! This pristine home features master suite on main + 3BR suites complete w/lake views. Designer kitchen w/granite counters, soft-close drawers & pull out shelving. Watch the sunset from your LR w/natural gas FP, soaring windows & raised ceiling. Family rm downstairs w/gas FP, wet bar & deck access. Steps from the water! **\$937,900**



33 Hillside Place
Beloved long-time vacation home on large, private double lot, just waiting for your updates & enjoyment! Tranquility & peace await in this thoughtfully designed 5BR/2.25BA home immersed in PNW greenery & nature. Relax on any of your 3 brand new decks, including one off the master suite, located on its own floor. Get cozy w/2 wood FPs, one in the LR & another in the spacious family rm. Sit beneath a canopy of leaves in the backyard feat. a flat grassy area, perfect for a hammock or picnic table! **\$319,900**

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