

Rain won't dampen their Resolve

By [Steven Friederich](#)
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weather may have doused the effort, but volunteers will keep painting

The rain may have washed out efforts to "Paint the Corridor" in one fell swoop on Saturday, but eager volunteers scraped away old paint on a half dozen homes despite the weather and at least one team decided to finish painting a house anyway.

The rest of the homes will be painted as time — and weather — allows. Some volunteer painters will gather to try again at 7 a.m. today at the old Budweiser warehouse on Port Industrial Road, a bluish gray building clearly marked by signs and balloons.

Volunteers gathered early Saturday to figure out what to do. The goal was to make one huge splash to paint homes along the corridor between Aberdeen and Hoquiam on Simpson and Sumner avenues. Organizers decided that it was raining too hard to do what they wanted.

"I'm as pro-Grays Harbor as it gets, but, oh my God, if it doesn't stop raining, I'm going to go crazy," said David Quigg, co-founder of Grays Harbor 2020. "God's teasing us here."

Quigg said the group had been planning to do the painting party on Saturday for months, figuring a mid-June date would be a safe bet to avoid the weather.

"Boy were we wrong," said Dave Murnen, the executive director of NeighborWorks of Grays Harbor.

The entire project started with a \$20,000 donation from Hoquiam trial attorney Paul Stritmatter and his family. Then, Kelly-Moore supplied eco-friendly recycled paint at cost and donated many other painting tools. NeighborWorks took on the job of organizing the event with Grays Harbor 2020, an organization intent on revitalizing the community.

The goal is to paint up to 26 homes along the corridor.

But Murnen said he felt the rain turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Organizers had only been able



[MACLEOD PAPPIDAS](#) | THE DAILY WORLD Volunteers Celia Barry, right, her daughter Traci Barry and Noah Gardiner scrape old paint off a house on the 2900 block of Simpson Avenue in Hoquiam as a part of the Paint the Corridor project Saturday morning. Due to rain, work was diverted from painting houses to prepping them for painting at a future date.

to do "prep work" on 18 of the 26 homes. To comply with state law, painters had to scrape off the old paint and a lack of volunteers and weather delays meant six homes couldn't be finished by Saturday.

But with more than 160 people in attendance at the meeting Saturday morning, a few dozen of them decided to brave the weather and tackle those six homes.

"Now, we're going to have 26 houses that are going to get painted," Murnen said. "We start painting Sunday and other teams will do it Wednesday and some will do it next Saturday. We tried for the big splash, but with Father's Day, a lot of people have a lot of things going on. There will be some kind of splash going on all week long, I think."

If anyone still wants to help, look for a team between Simpson and Sumner avenues this morning starting after 8 a.m. and just join in. Or, meet with the larger group at 7 a.m. at the old Budweiser warehouse.

One team was able to finish the paint job at a home at 514 Wooding, but Murnen said the team had done the body of the house earlier and just finished the trim on Saturday.

"It's an example of what we all hope to do," Quigg said.

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