**News Briefs from OPAL Community Land Trust**

### OPAL One of Five Finalists for National Leadership Prize

OPAL is one of five finalists in this year's Prudential Leadership Awards for Exceptional Nonprofit Boards. The annual award is a program of BoardSource, a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing the public good by building exceptional nonprofit boards and inspiring board service.

The five finalists, who were chosen from applications submitted from throughout the country, will participate in a live question-and-answer competition in Chicago on September 15. OPAL's executive director, Lisa Byers, and board president, Allen Smith, will represent OPAL. See OPAL's application video online at [www.opalclt.org/news](http://www.opalclt.org/news).

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### OPAL's Pie Booth Returns!

**See you at the Library Fair, August 11**

Once again, OPAL will be serving fresh, delicious pie (whole or by the slice) at the Library Fair. Come by our booth on Saturday, August 11, to enjoy the good tastes and good fun. If you'd like to donate a fruit pie to this sweet cause, bring it to our booth before 10 a.m. *To donate a pie or to volunteer to work a shift, call Luann Pamatian at 376-6311.*

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### OPAL Touches Us All

#### OPAL Activities Touch Everyone on Orcas Island

Don't believe it? Consider this:

- Community assets under OPAL stewardship include 50 acres of land, 95 permanently affordable homes, 29 apartments and 6 neighborhoods, providing stable and affordable housing for 121 island households. Approximately 5 percent of the island’s population lives in an OPAL home. These are people you know, and homes and neighborhoods you pass every day.

- The economic impacts of OPAL's activities start with home building and ripple outward. It begins with construction. Then families living in OPAL homes add their productivity to our economy, and provide many of the services and amenities that make Orcas Island a wonderful place to live and to visit.

- Think you don’t live near any OPAL homes? OPAL homes are in several neighborhoods in Eastsound, and they are also in Deer Harbor and Olga. OPAL is constantly considering other homes and home sites throughout the island that might fit our mission.

#### Updated OPAL Photo Display at Orcas Center September 7 to 25

If you attended last year's OPAL Gala Dinner, you saw the beautiful photo exhibit of OPAL residents and their homes. We have updated the display, and Orcas Center has selected the exhibit as part of its visual arts display in September. The 77 photos will hang in the Madrona Room. The opening reception will be on Friday, September 7, at 5:30, and the exhibit will remain through September 25.

**Save the Date:**

**OPAL's Annual Benefit Dinner & Gala, September 22**

Mary Russell of the Orcas Village Store will be our celebrity chef for this year’s Annual Benefit Dinner and Gala, so you know the meal will be great! The Gala will be held on Saturday, September 22, beginning at 5:30 in the Madrona Room at Orcas Center. We will recognize and honor new lifetime members **Michael Brennan**, **Bob Gamble**, and **Bob and Phyllis Henigson**. We'll have our fabulous dessert auction, a paddle raise and a presentation from OPAL Executive Director Lisa Byers. Join fellow OPAL supporters in a lovely evening of celebration. *Tickets: $125 per person. Limited space. Reservations: 376-3191.*