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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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‘Housing in Our Valley’ panel series to kick off with a session on lending

WENATCHEE — A panel of local lenders will discuss financing available for first-time homebuyers and those looking to buy townhomes, condos and other types of diverse housing as part of a panel discussion from 8 to 9:30 a.m. March 12 at Wenatchee City Council chambers.

The ‘Housing in Our Valley’ panel discussion kicks off a year-long series of conversations presented by the Our Valley Our Future collaborative nonprofit organization and its Housing Solutions Group. Other topics to be covered this year include population growth and in-migration, the need for construction trades programs, creative housing types, community land trusts, housing in the region’s smaller towns, and nonprofits generating housing.

Panelists at the March 12 event will include Kyle Lewis (Cashmere Valley Bank mortgage department manager), Patrick Davidson- (Caliber Home Loans branch manager), Darel Ansley (People's Bank senior loan officer), Cori Bautista (Banner Bank loan officer), and Cathy Rixey (Guild Mortgage senior loan officer). OVOF project coordinator Steve Maher and Housing Solutions Group member Mike Leeds will moderate.

The public is invited, and there is no cost to attend.

“This series is an opportunity for people to learn more about local housing issues, along with potential solutions geared to making housing more available and more affordable for our residents,” Maher said. “Each panel discussion will include a session where attendees can ask questions of the panelists.”

In January 2019, the Housing Solutions Group released its “Where Will We Live?” report, which contained 18 recommendations to add more middle-market housing in the region. In 2020, the Housing Solutions Group is focusing on tracking and supporting work on the 18 recommendations, and on informing the community on housing issues.

OVOF, founded in 2015, is a collaborative nonprofit organization that brings together residents and organizations to improve the region’s quality of life. Its guiding document is the OVOF Action Plan, which includes more than 160 projects led by partnering organizations. OVOF serves as convener, facilitator, data-collector, planner and communicator. For more: www.ourvalleyourfuture.org.

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