

Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 27, Issue 4
April 2024



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE/TRAILFORKS.

Fall City is becoming a mecca for mountain bikers. The Tokul East and Tokul West Trails and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail have seen a dramatic increase in use over the past several years. Of course, with growth comes the challenges of competing interests, but local groups and landowners are working to share and manage the resource for everyone. In this month's issue we look at what being a mountain bike destination means for Fall City, take a look at the burgeoning effort to create a Fall City Community Center, honor a centenarian who gave selflessly to her community, and so much more.

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You are invited to donate to Fall City Neighbors to help us cover expenses of the coming year. Please make your check to "FCCA/Fall City Newsletter," and mail to: Fall City Neighbors Newsletter, P.O. Box 1064, Fall City, WA 98024.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Well, it's been one year since I started working on Fall City Neighbors. You'd think by now I would not be considered the "new editor", but since my predecessors did it for more than a decade, I guess I'll be the new guy for a while.

It has been an interesting year getting to know the ins and outs, influencers, and issues of our community. Although I am coming up on my 20-year anniversary as a member of the Fall City community, I guess I am still one of "those outsiders" to residents who have called the Valley their home for a lifetime. I continue to draw on my curiosity as an outsider to better understand the people, the history, and the future of our community. This is what is influencing the choices of articles that we cover each month. All is new to me and to the many newer residents who have chosen Fall City to raise their family, retire here, start a business, or enjoy the rural lifestyle. I feel it's our job at Neighbors to not only share events, but to inform and celebrate the diversity of our community and its people.

I hope you like what we are doing and will continue to be curious too. If there is something you'd like us to discover, please share your curiosity. We will do our best to investigate. Just send us an email or stop me on the street.

EDITOR,
editor@fallcity.org

Fall City Neighbors, since 1998: Helping to build a caring and connected community of neighbors.

Fall City Neighbors is a monthly publication of the Fall City Community Association (www.fallcity.org) and is supported by local sponsors and donors. It is distributed free of charge to the community, available at the Fall City Library, Fall City Post Office (green box in front), Farmhouse Market, The Hauglie Building, the Raging River Cafe, and Aroma Coffee.

SUBMISSIONS: We encourage submissions, story suggestions and comments from our community. We are always looking for writers, reporters,

artists, photographers and idea people interested in volunteering for this publication.

STORY IDEAS, ARTICLES, SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR TO SUBMIT/REQUEST A BUSINESS PROFILE: James Hutchins, Editor, e-mail: editor@fallcity.org or mail to Fall City Neighbors, P.O. Box 1064, Fall City, WA 98024.

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Deadline for submissions is the TENTH of each month.

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Community News and Notes

FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Highlights of the March 2024 Meeting



PRESIDENT'S REPORT. *Rachel Shepard.* President Shepard welcomed new and renewing members. FCCA currently has 84 members against a goal of 100. She encouraged community members to learn more, join or renew their membership (voting memberships are a “steal” at \$30.00) at fallcity.org. Monthly meeting agenda ideas are welcomed at ilovefallcity.org. Members receive zoom invitations to meetings and all meetings are streamed on Facebook Live.

A \$300 donation to the Fall City Cemetery for new signage was approved after questions and discussion about other needs, including repairing the banner poles, totem pole base, electrical needs in the totem garden and near the cherry trees, as well as a sound system.

MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

Nearly 40 FCCA member surveys were completed recently. The results were summarized at the meeting. (Results can be seen in the March 5th FCCA Meeting post on Facebook at Fall City, WA or in the complete meeting minutes posted in the Member Section of fallcity.org.)

The following points of discussion were raised as a result of the survey:

- We have our sub-area committee and Fall City Sustainable Growth (FCSG). Do we want to do more here?
- We have no active committees driving downtown improvement or town maintenance. Should we?

Ms. Shepard asked if there is more we should be doing beyond the subarea plan and FCSG. Members were invited to email suggestions to: lovefallcity@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

FALL CITY EVENTS. *Emily Rideout.* This summer Aroma Coffee plans to host a market every Friday from June to September, focusing on local farmers and artists and offering workshops featuring local nonprofits and businesses. They plan to offer a wine and beer garden in partnership with another nonprofit. Aroma Coffee Co. would like to have the FCCA be that partner with responsibility for banquet permits, liability insurance, hiring a beer and wine coordinator (8 hours/week, \$25/hour), cover upfront costs and provide one volunteer/week to help maintain regulations and support point of sale; proceeds of about \$3,500 for the season are forecasted.

A member noted that the Carnation farmers market is closing and thanked Aroma for stepping in. Liability insurance will be approximately \$600. The FCCA could also have a presence at the Friday markets. Aroma Coffee Co's proposal will be forwarded to members.

FALL CITY DAY. *Anji Donaldson.* Look for their new website design at fallcity.org. This year they are pre-selling t-shirts (on display during the meeting). All space between the

elementary school and Preston-Fall City Road will be used.

SUBAREA PLAN. *Anji Donaldson.* The only public meeting regarding the Northeast King County Subarea Plan update will be held at the River View School District Thursday, March 8, at 6:30pm. Their primary concerns are setbacks, lot sizes and net density (building to land ratio). It was noted that the new development looks like R-12 rather than R-4. Anji thanked the stewards who did a phenomenal job of outreach and engagement over the last four years.

TOTEM GARDEN. *Anji Donaldson.* After November's public survey and working with a volunteer landscape designer and volunteer electrician, the group is recommending painting the base that extends 12 – 16 feet into the ground, mounting a sculpture on the base, and surrounding it with a circular bench. Lighting will be repositioned and include up-lights in the garden and, hopefully, along the cherry trees (which would save \$8K-\$10K per year for tree lighting, including wrapping the trees with lights, etc.). The cherry trees are in good health and do not need to be removed (as previously thought), although they need to be pruned.

COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE. *Todd Brown.* The group, meeting bi-weekly, has begun work on the feasibility study funded by the County. The current focus is on obtaining demographic information that will help us understand the make-up of our community. Anji Donaldson shared Fall City's history of planning for a community center that extends back to 2012. We visited the Youth Activity Center in North Bend and received financial information about their construction and operating costs.

The next focus is to hear what the community wants in a community center. A large outreach effort is being planned, including a booth at Fall City Day with surveys, on-line surveys and meetings with the community.

PARTNER UPDATES

FALL CITY SEPTIC ASSOCIATION. *Jeff Wilson, King County Project Manager.* The construction contract was executed last week with plans to start construction at the end of April with a ground-breaking ceremony. Initial construction efforts will include building the drain field while concurrently routing the conveyance piping in the alleyway, side streets and the north side of 202 with the expectation to complete that phase in August. Then, new tanks will be installed near businesses existing tanks. Sewage treatment equipment is being built and after it is installed, the new tanks will be connected to businesses

(Continued on p. 16)



FALL CITY

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www.facebook.com/FallCityWA/

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Fall City Becoming a Mecca for Mountain Bikers

by Kate Grossman

With its proximity to the Snoqualmie River and the Cascades, Fall City is a gateway from the East Side into the great outdoors. One nearby natural playground has grown substantially over the last decade as hikers, equestrians, trail runners, and particularly mountain bikers all increasingly utilize the “Tokul West” and “Tokul East” trails northeast of town.

Recreationists access the trails from two primary points in Fall City: via Fall City Community Park and SE 39th Place and the parking lot on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail (SVT) on 356th Dr. SE. Campbell Global, a timber and forest management company based in Portland, owns the majority of the forest housing the Tokul trails to the north of the SVT, and King County owns land on 356th that currently houses a parking lot on each side of the road. The county purchased those 85 acres of land in 2021 to “be managed for conservation value, trail-based recreation, and public use.” Specifically, the parcel is “potentially [to] be developed as a trailhead and parking area for access to mountain biking trails and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail.”

The area has a long history of transferred ownership and mixed use. Many of the trails were originally built as horse trails climbing into the timber land above the Snoqualmie River, and over the past few decades, many of these hillside trails have been optimized and maintained for mountain biking. According to the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance and *trailforks.com*, more than 85 bike trails wind more than 34 miles between the Tokul East and Tokul West areas. They are the fourth and fifth most popular riding destinations in King County behind Duthie Hill, Tiger Mountain, and the Raging River State Forest. Popularity of the Tokul trails has grown in recent years as more trails have been built and access to the trails has improved. While anyone with a permit is allowed to use the trails, mountain bikers are the most frequent users. Peak ridership at Tokul typically occurs in the winter, sometimes up to a couple thousand riders a month, when bikers can’t access trails at higher elevations.

“Tokul fills a special and unique niche with its old school trails and good winter [bike] riding while other trails may be under snow. [It’s] a space that the mountain bike community takes pride in maintaining with the land managers,” says Vivika Stamolis with Evergreen Mountain



Sharing the trails can be a point of contention between bikers, horseback riders, and hikers. Understanding and simple courtesies make exploring the trails a pleasure for everyone.

Bike Alliance. Headquartered in North Bend, they are the largest statewide mountain bike association in the United States. While there are restrictions on building new trails in the Snoqualmie Forest, maintenance of existing trails is legal and new construction is allowed with Campbell Global’s approval. “We support all legal and responsible mountain biking in Washington, including Tokul,” says Stamolis. The Tokul trails are maintained entirely by volunteers and independent riders.

As with any growth in recreation in and around Fall City, there are positive and negative consequences to the increased use of the area. While recreationists bring more tourism to the businesses in Fall City and certainly more attention to the natural resources in the area, the growth in use has caused some consternation for neighbors whose properties abut the SVT and the entry points to the Tokul Trails system. In addition to the increased traffic and human impact, not all visitors are aware of the regulations,

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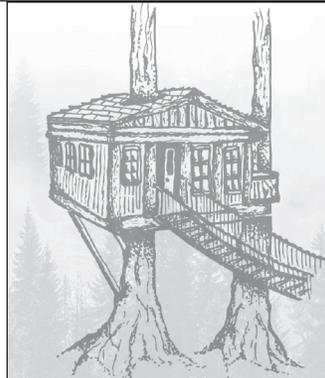


Fall City Methodist Church

Sunday Worship with Pastor Carrie 9 am
 Livestream on our Facebook page 9 am

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Funds raised sponsor library programs for children, teens, and adults.

For more information about how to volunteer, contact us at fallcitylibraryfriends@gmail.com or stop by the Fall City Library!



Fall City Library Location: 33415 SE 42nd Pl, Fall City, WA 98024

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BIKE (cont'd from page 7)

trail etiquette, and safety concerns inherent to activity on shared, multi-use trails.

The SVT is open year round for daytime use, though the Tokul Trails are closed when fire danger is high, and all trails are open only to non-motorized recreation with speeds limited to 15 miles per hour. While equestrians



PHOTO: RILEY SEEBECK/FLOWPHOTO

always receive right of way, bikes are supposed to cede the right of way to any pedestrians. Shared trail users should communicate and slow down when passing others, particularly with those on horseback to avoid frightening horses and endangering all involved.

For all outdoor pursuits, of course, safety is a paramount issue, both from the activities themselves as well as from wildlife. One experienced mountain biker died in 2021 after a crash in the Tokul East area, and the trails were national news in February, when a 75-pound male cougar, less than a year old, attacked an adult female cyclist riding with a group. The other four cyclists in the group fought off and pinned down the animal with their bikes, and the victim is now recovering from her injuries. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) put down the attacking cougar and increased police patrols in the area following the attack.

Incidents like these are accidents by definition and thankfully rare. In the past hundred years, the WDFW

reports only twenty cougar attacks and two cougar-related deaths in the state. However, despite the relatively low frequency, safety measures should be taken to minimize risks on the trails. If biking, wear a helmet. In any activity, keep children close and pets leashed. The WDFW also recommends recreating in a group whenever possible, making noise as you travel, and avoiding activities at dawn or twilight. They also recommend carrying bear spray or an air horn for deterrence.

Like Fall City's other parks and the rivers, the trails above town are seeing substantial use, and it's increasingly from visitors coming from outside of the Snoqualmie Valley. But for those enjoying the outdoors, as locals or as visitors, understanding the safety and etiquette of multi-use areas is critical to enabling continued accessibility to those shared trails.

For those interested in exploring the trails, the SVT is public land managed by King County, but the Tokul Trails above the SVT are on private property. Signs are posted on the trails, but permits are required for any recreational access. Annual permits are available for \$75 as of April 1st and extend through March 30 of the following year and can be used by an individual or family. Day permits are available for \$12, and information on both can be found at cgrecreationpermit.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE/TRAILFORK

It's "Friends" That Make the Library So Popular

by Rebecca Mueller,
Friends of the Fall City Library

The King County Library System may be our local source for knowledge materials and library services, but many of the community activities at the Fall City Library are the result of the efforts of Friends of the Fall City Library (FFCL). FFCL is a non-profit group of committed local volunteers with the aim of fostering and enhancing library activities for children, teenagers, adults, and seniors within our community.

These programs include storytime, crafts, and other activities aimed at instilling a love for reading and learning among children. The FFCL also backs literacy programs and provides a safe afterschool environment for teenagers to socialize and acquire new skills. Students can also get help with their homework in the Study Zone, a regular mentoring program. Volunteer tutors provide homework help in the library for grades K-12.

For adults, the FFCL supports literacy programs, book clubs, and other activities aimed at promoting lifelong learning. Additionally, the FFCL supports senior programs that offer social opportunities and activities to enhance physical and mental well-being.

With the help of "Friends", the library becomes a vibrant community asset that is way more than books.

One of the ways the FFCL raises money to support their programs is by selling used books right inside the library. These sales provide book enthusiasts with a great opportunity to acquire fantastic reads while supporting a noble cause. In addition, the FFCL organizes a popular plant sale every spring that appeals to gardening enthusiasts in the community. This year the annual Friends of the Fall City Library Plant Sale will be on Saturday, May 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.

The plant sale not only offers unique plants to enhance our surroundings but also provides the expertise of master gardeners onsite to address visitors' inquiries. In addition, the sale features garden art and prints. It is an event rarely missed by local gardening and outdoor enthusiasts.

Proceeds from FFCL's fundraising efforts and donations from generous local residents are used to bolster the



**UKULELE
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Tuesday, March 19, 2024
@ Fall City Library

Beginner Session 5:30-6:15
Intermediate/Advanced Session 6:30-7:30

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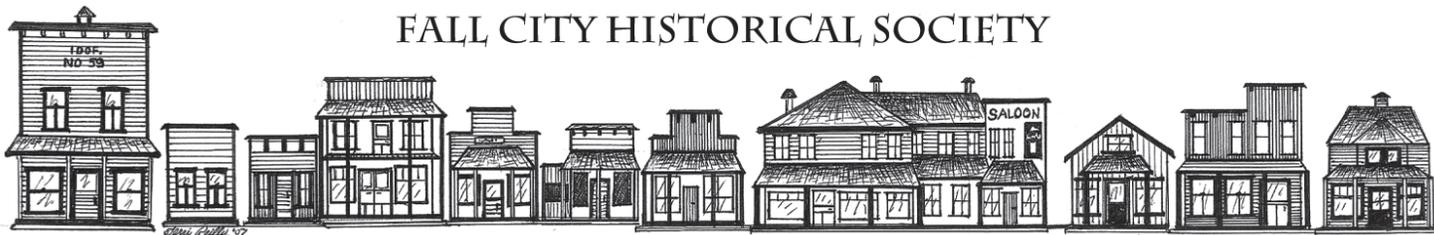
Reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities is available by request. Email access@kcl.org at least seven days before the event. Automated closed captioning is always available for online events.

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Ukulele lessons for kids and adults are a popular event.

community programs at the Fall City Library. In addition, volunteering is an excellent opportunity to forge new connections, make a positive impact on the community, and support a valuable resource like the Fall City Library.

The FFCL welcomes all community members who share a passion for promoting literacy and supporting community programs. If you're interested in volunteering with the FFCL, please reach out via email at fallcitylibraryfriends@gmail.com or visit the library to speak with one of the librarians. The Friends of the Fall City Library meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m., at the library.



FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024

historylives@fallcityhistorical.org

www.fallcityhistorical.org



We Popped-up!

We were so pleased to welcome almost 300 people during the **Historical Society's Pop-up Museum's** two week run at the library. The room was packed at the gala opening. It was so fun listening to the recollections and stories related to the displays. Special thanks go out to the community members who lent us artifacts to display. Folks listed the gas pump, logging equipment, and fishing rods as favorite artifacts. One person listed Rick Divers! If you noticed you have photos to add to our displays, please forward them to us. We can scan them and get them right back to you. We're always looking to add to our archives of Fall City history.



Cemetery Headstone Cleaning



Join us on **Sunday, May 5th** and **Sunday, May 19th** from **noon-3pm** for our next headstone cleaning at the Fall City Cemetery. We have completed the cleaning of Civil War and World War I Veterans' headstones, so now we're moving on to World War II. Bring buckets and rags. We have the special cleaner that safely cleans the old stones. See you there!

Support for our work from King County Heritage 4Culture is gratefully acknowledged.





Learn more about your park district!

Visit our website at www.fallcityparks.org

Public meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
Please check agenda on our website for time and format of meeting



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\$1,020,000



Gated 4.6-acre estate on Fall City's sought-after Mitchell Hill.

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Fall City, WA 98024

3 BED | 2.25 BATH
3,320 SQ FT | 4.6 ACRE LOT

SOLD PRICE
\$1,500,000



Charming one-level home in Downtown Fall City, sold after 5 days on the market!

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3 BED | 2 BATH
1,620 SQ FT | 15,330 SQ FT LOT

SOLD PRICE
\$570,000



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NEW CHICKEN COOPS!



FCCA Launches Community Center Initiative

by Jim Hutchins

With the help of local King County Councilwoman Sarah Perry, several Fall City residents, and Fall City Community Association (FCCA) leaders, the King County Council has provided a \$500,000 grant for the FCCA to launch a feasibility study to assess the need and development of a Fall City Community Center.

For several years community leaders have been discussing a gathering place for community events and activities. At a January 16 meeting with the County, it was agreed that the Fall City Community Association would undertake the task of conducting the survey, which is the first step in constructing or purchasing a building.

Sites that have been mentioned as possibilities include Reign Church, the Masonic Lodge, and the clubhouse at Twin Rivers Golf Course. However, no formal discussions are taking place at this time and the decision will need to be made whether to renovate an existing property or build something new.

The feasibility study will assess the market area and demographic make-up of the neighborhoods likely to

attend events at a community center. The most critical part of the feasibility study is hearing about the programs and activities residents would likely attend, how far they would be willing to walk or drive, how often they would participate in community center activities, where a community center should be located and, of course, what concerns they have. After understanding the needs and desires of our community, alternative conceptual building designs will be considered along with funding options.

A Community Center Committee has been formed and they are currently collecting demographic information and considering the community center's likely market area. Soon it will begin work on a community survey which will be widely available during June and July. The committee is also identifying "stakeholder" groups who could use the community center for activities, programs, or meetings and will meet with them to understand their dreams, needs and concerns.

Watch for the Community Center booth at Fall City Day where you can offer your thoughts and complete a survey.

Co-chairs for the feasibility study are Todd Brown and Mary Butler who will be reporting monthly at FCCA meetings. Other volunteers are needed on the committee to assist with the project. If you would like to be part of this legacy project, email ilovefallcity@gmail.com to express interest.



The Snoqualmie Community Center has become a hub for community activities and recreation. What might a Fall City Community Center look like?

Community Treasure Leaves Us With Many Lessons

by Jim Hutchins



Gloria Morgan at her 100th birthday party in 2021.

In our self-focused world it is not often we see one who gives so much of themselves to others that they are endeared by almost everyone who knew them. Gloria Morgan, who recently passed away at 102, was one of those people. She graced our community for more than 80 years with her kindness and caring.

Gloria was born on February 9, 1921 in Berkley, California. Her Mother died when she was only five years old and she and her siblings were raised in orphanages and foster homes. She vowed when she grew up she'd plant her roots somewhere and raise a family that would never endure the constant change and turmoil she did.

When her oldest sister got married, she brought Gloria to live with her and helped put her through nursing school. Gloria came to Washington in 1942 and went to work at Weyerhaeuser in Snoqualmie because they were hiring women and paying them more than nurses. At the time, nurses made \$1.50 per hour, so Gloria took the more lucrative position as a "trimmer."

A young gentleman named Carrol Morgan had also recently moved to Fall City to be near his family and gave Gloria a ride to work every day. A romantic relationship developed, they married and soon they were raising their

family in one place, just as Gloria had envisioned. Her dream of a secure life and family life had been realized.

After pronouncing her trimmer job "boring," her friend Bea Nelems, got word that there was a nursing job at Weyerhaeuser Hospital. She convinced Gloria to take the pay cut and come to work where they desperately needed her. She worked at the hospital until it closed and then worked for Nelems Memorial Hospital for the next 32 years as an on-call obstetrics nurse where she earned \$4.00 per delivery. While a labor and delivery nurse at Nelems Hospital she estimated that she helped deliver more than 4,000 babies. Even after retirement, Gloria continued to work for Dr. Doerfler at Mount Si Medical Center.

Not only did Gloria serve her community as a nurse, she felt the calling to serve her community in so many other ways. During the holidays, she would prepare food boxes and deliver them to needy families in the community. If she saw they needed clothes she would gather clothing and deliver them as well. She also offered independence to a host of women that she taught to drive. She was an avid gardener and grew beautiful rhododendrons and azaleas she sold to local families. They would always leave with starts from all sorts of other plants in her yard. Needless to say she didn't get rich with Morgan's Nursery.

In 1971 she was named "Woman of the Year" by the Mt. Si Business and Professional Women of Snoqualmie Valley. In the tributes to her, friends said she epitomized the poem:

*Let me live on the house
By the side of the road
And be a friend to man*

In 2002 her house burned and she moved into an apartment her son made downstairs from his home that was on the same property. For the next 14 years she tutored elementary school students. Besides schoolwork the kids learned a lot of life's lessons. They learned how to cook, how to garden, and then enjoyed the Morgan Olympics when each school year came to an end.

She had a big heart and donated to many local charities. She was an avid supporter of the youth bell choirs from Fall City United Methodist Church and each time they went on tour she sponsored one child that would not have been able to go otherwise.

So many people in Fall City and throughout the Valley have been touched by the kindness and caring of Gloria Morgan over the years. She will be fondly remembered and missed. May her life of selflessness be a lesson for all of us.

A celebration of a wonderful life will be held on May 11th at the Snoqualmie Eagles Club located at 8200 Railroad Ave. SE in Snoqualmie from 1 to 4. Gloria's favorite foods will be served and the Methodist Church Rhythmics Bell Choir will perform a couple of her favorite pieces.

April Presents Choices

Finding plants to grow in April is not easy. Bulbs grow from their stored food once they emerge in winter/spring. My dwarf narcissi started to poke their short yellow clusters up in February. Hardy perennials, like hellebores, pop their soft-colored bundles up and you may cut away flattened leaves. Now's the time to decide whether you will buy potted plants or veggie starts, or raise produce by seed.

Slugs proliferate in April and thrive by eating new seeds. Suggestion: keep glass jars full of Sluggo next to your tender emerging plants and sprinkle regularly. Slugs crave my young ligularia plant, and nosh on them. BTW, I started planting 100 dwarf narcissus late. (Christmas good; now, not good).

Here's a list of 11 spring flowers you may want to consider. They can be found at common nurseries intermixed with pollinator-friendly plants that are less prevalent, but gaining in popularity.

1. Salix purpurea 'Nana', Blue Arctic Willow, 3-5' tall/wide. Prune to 3', relaxed, wet-moist soil, full sun, helps pop intermingled color. Touches ground at 3', roots.
2. Rudbeckia fulgida or Black-Eyed Susan, one of the top 10 perennials of all time, blooms July-Oct, full sun, 2-3' tall/wide.
3. Little Lime Panicle Hydrangea, 4-5' tall/wide, feet in shade with moist soil, head in sun.
4. Caryopteris (Blue Beard) beloved by pollinators, 2-3', blooms July-frost, Prune back to robust bud, seeds will spread. Try chartreuse leaf cultivars.
5. Calametha hepeta 'Montrose White' 1-1.5' tall/wide, easily re-roots for cuttings. Companion plant with heucharella Primo Black Pearl.
6. Echinacea or Coneflower, 2-3', pollinators love seedheads, or cut for vase.
7. Makana Silver Artemesia is a fun plant, 3' tall/wide, thread leaf truly silver foliage on a mound, provides



Agastach is loved by hummingbirds.

GARDEN & CLIMATE CORNER

by Susan Miller

Master Gardener & Pruner

- texture and brightens up the garden, considered a tender perennial as it holds to 28 degrees, has cream berries.
8. Gaura (Whirling Butterflies) attracts all pollinators, comes in multiple colors, 1.5'- 4' tall/wide, sun, plant w/gravel only.
 9. Agastache, aromatic, trumpet flowers loved by hummers, well-drained soil, sun or shade, 2-3' x 1.5-2.5', drought tolerant once established.
 10. Coreopsis perennials: well-drained soil, keep moist, yellow, June-frost, sun best, shear to 25-50% to re-bloom in 2 weeks, divide clumps every 2-3 years. They wear out, literally. Loved by pollinators.
 11. Dahlias, plant tubers when soil is warmer and drier, potted dahlias through summer, blooms in sun, 1'-7'. They may need strong supports.

I'm planting lithodora and white erica along the edges of wide pots; plus, some in soil. Lovely now. A large red pine with yellow needles placed between a big red pot and blue Adirondack chair yielded an unanticipated, vibrant garden palette.

On The Climate Front:

This winter's temps and rains have been more unstable in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) than I've experienced previously. Has our weather lagged behind some of the extremes we've watched in other U.S. regions? How about the effects of floods, the dryness and resulting failed crops, and fires? I've reassured myself, with our El Niño currents, that it has. The word "climate" is mentioned more frequently in growing events and agricultural sources in the PNW. Even better will be when garden and climate leaders mention climate on a regular basis. Some garden leaders are way ahead in their planning and planting. Bravo! Some leaders don't mention the real reason behind wide swings in temps and rain. Thoughtfully we'll get there.

California state officials have sanctioned Central Valley growers for aquifer depletion, among the worst in the U.S. So much groundwater was extracted that the ground sank 20 feet in places. California legislators passed water laws that now impose penalties for failure to reduce groundwater used to grow cotton, tomatoes, and tree nuts in the Tule and Central Valleys. Drinking water is threatened in the Central Valley; one of the most productive U.S. agricultural regions.

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 susanamiller@hotmail.com

April Sno-Valley Senior Center Events

BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m. It's Spring and time to think about all those in need of blood. A blood donation will take less than an hour out of your day.

FIRST AID CLASS

Friday, April 5 at 11:00 a.m. Join us to learn the basics of first aid for cuts and scrapes, bites and bruises and appropriate first response for emergencies.

SPRING DINNER & DANCE AUCTION

Saturday, April 6, Seatings at 4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a wonderful dinner of Lemon Herb Chicken, Grilled Prawns with Pesto Tortellini OR Pesto Tortellini (no prawns) and come bid on delicious desserts baked by our own Sno-Valley Senior Center members! \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Thank you to our sponsor, Friends of the Sno-Valley Senior Center.

DISNEY RAINBOW BINGO

Friday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30) Is it your lucky day? Join us for a fun night of Rainbow Bingo with

Sylvia O'Stayformore. \$20 per person \$35 per twosome for 10 bingo games and the chance for awesome prizes.

EYE HEALTH & AGING

Wednesday, April 24 at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Harrison, from Duvall Family Eye Care will be here to discuss symptoms and possible treatments for age related eye conditions such as Glaucoma, Cataracts, Macular Degeneration and Diabetic Retinopathy.

APRIL BIRTHDAY LUNCH

April 19 at 12:00 p.m. Come & celebrate birthday and St. Patrick's Day with us. We will be entertained by the Snoqualmie Valley Singers and two local musicians. Please call 425-333-4152 to make your reservation.

COMING IN EARLY MAY

Annual Plant Sale. First Picks Party—May 2. Plant Sale—May 3 and 4.

For more information or to register for classes and events go to snovalleyseior.org or call 425-333-4152. ((Or Use QR Code))



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Anyone in need may receive ~ spread the word!

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS FOR NON-PERISHABLES

Farmhouse Market
 FC United Methodist Church
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DONATE

Please make checks payable to:
 FCCFP c/o Fall City UMC
 P.O. Box 640, Fall City, WA 98024

Gift Matching

Gift matching is available through Boeing and Microsoft

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Please call 425-269-8098 if you are interested in volunteering – more hands are always welcome!

Dates

1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month

Time

12 - 1:30 P.M. & 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Location

Fall City United Methodist Church
 4326 337th Place SE
 fallcityfoodpantry.org

Like us on Facebook!

NEXT FOOD PANTRY DATES

April 3 and April 17

FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

**DOING THE SHUFFLE!
 ACCOMPLISHING MUCH, WITH A LITTLE LESS SPACE**

In collaboration with the church leadership team and their ongoing and expanding ministry programs, Food Pantry volunteers worked last month to reduce our footprint somewhat inside the Methodist Church, except when we are restocking, setting up or distributing food and hygiene items. We are grateful to the church leadership and the congregation for continuing to host and support the Fall City Community Food Pantry mission and our efforts to reduce food insecurity in our community.

Food Pantry volunteers began reconfiguring spaces in February beginning with sorting and reorganizing in the shed, which triggered a domino effect in our other storage spaces. This process successfully cleared a considerable area opposite the Historical Society, which will now only be used temporarily for sorting large food drive deliveries.



The rearrangement also involved adopting more efficient storage solutions across several locations, including an upstairs classroom, closets in the social hall, the church office and a portion of the outdoor shed.

Storage optimization has been a longstanding challenge for the Food Pantry, and post-pandemic, we have discovered our pantry offerings have grown to include a wider variety of items, including more fresh fruit and produce, which is great for clients but takes up additional space before our distribution days.

A primary focus is to maximize shelf space to accommodate generous contributions from food drives, such as those organized by Fall City Elementary, Chief Kanim Middle School and the Snoqualmie Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These donations are crucial, especially from May through September, typically marked by fewer organized food drives. Our storage areas' strategic consolidation has enabled us to store even more donations.

We are grateful for the volunteers who helped make this reshuffle exercise successful!

Volunteer Opportunity at the Food Pantry
 We're always on the lookout for dedicated volunteers to join our Food Pantry team! Among our current needs is a volunteer with proficiency or interest in learning QuickBooks, who can contribute approximately five hours of their time each month.
Interested?
 Contact Food Pantry Board Chair Sarah Greer at curtisgreer405@gmail.com.

APRIL 2024 FALL CITY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Not-for-profit organizations and elected/appointed government groups may submit calendar items to editor@fallcity.org. Deadline is the 10th of the month before the event.)

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 16, 23, 30

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. *Tutors at Fall City Library (Study Zone).* Volunteer tutors provide homework help in the library for grades K-12. Students may drop in any time during Tutor hours.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

3:00 p.m.-4 p.m. *Art Afternoon at the Library.* Hang out every other Wednesday in April and learn some low-stress ways to make art. Snacks provided. Presented by Arts in the Alders. Grades 4-8.

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. *Fall City Learning Garden.* Join us every Wednesday in April to plant early cool weather crops. Weather permitting. Located behind the Masonic Hall at 4304 337th Pl. SE

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 15, 29

4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. *Chess for Young Learners at the Fall City Library.* You and your kiddo will learn the foundations of the game using a "Win or Learn" approach to beginner chess and life. Pilot program sponsored by the KCLS Foundation. In partnership with Chess4Life. Ages 5-9 with an adult.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

2:00p.m.-3:00 p.m. *Fall City Library Book Group.* Join us the

second Tuesday of the month for fun discussions, community, and books. New members are always welcome. For adults.

7:00-8:30 p.m. *Fall City Community Association Meeting.* Fall City Firehouse Community Room or on Facebook: @Fall City, WA

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 & 20

9:00 a.m.-3:00p.m. *Bell Choir Rummage and Plant Sale.* Get great deals and beautiful plants while supporting the Methodist Church handbell choir. Proceeds help purchase new music, uniforms, and make instrument repairs.

2:30 p.m. (April 19) *Kids Watercolor, Rips, and Rotations: Making A Nature Scene.* Join in a special read-aloud story (written and illustrated by the kids of Fall City Family Co-op) followed by a round-robin watercolor craft. FREE. Best suited for ages 5-10. No registration required. Presented by Fall City Arts and the Fall City Library.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

3:00 p.m.-4:30pm. *After School Hangout at the Fall City Library.* Eat some snacks and hang out with friends! You can play games on Nintendo Switch, relax with board games and get creative with art supplies. Sponsored by the Friends of the Fall City Library. Grades 6-12.

FCCA HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd from page 3)

existing plumbing. The project is expected to be complete in April 2026. The FCSA has purchased easements for the drain field and the treatment area behind the drain field from Fall City Metropolitan Park District.

FALL CITY ARTS. *Krimsey Lilleth.* To learn more about Fall City Arts events, which are numerous, go to fallcityarts.org.

Look for a "finder's keeper's" scavenger hunt at Rooster House (a Fall City nonprofit) starting at 10:00 on March 30th and on the same day from 3-5pm a Rubber Duckie painting party in preparation for Fall City Day's Great Duck Hunt. Also, mark your calendar for July 26, when Fall City Arts will host Shakespeare in the Park at 7:00pm.

The group plans to make the Art Park more inviting and visible by adding signage and lighting. If you are interested in helping or donating, email: artpark@fallcityarts.org

FALL CITY SUSTAINABLE GROWTH. *Mike Suelzle.* The Stevens' property, near Fall City II, is the largest of the seven developments. We have until March 25th to appeal the SEPA decision for that property. If you have knowledge of the property, please review the SEPA checklist and send any comments to fallcitysg@outlook.com by March 11th so they can be included in the appeal.

Also, the initial brief (60 pages) for the Superior Court appeal of the other developments was filed on March 5th.

The group continues to rely on and needs donations from the community to fund legal expenses (99% of all expenses have been for legal expenses). A silent auction is planned for September. The group has recorded more than 6,000 volunteer hours in its first year.

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Youth Reporter

Fall City
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NEXT FCCA MEETING: Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom, Facebook Live and phone.