

Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 27, Issue 7
July 2024



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The celebration of our country's birth and the joys of summertime fun uplift our spirits and make the long winter a distant memory. With summer comes new friends, the gathering as community, and an appreciation for what nature's bounty provides. In this month's Neighbors we give thanks for the spirit and hard work of those who made Fall City Day so memorable, we look at the future vision of our rural town, we learn what our youth are doing to preserve its natural environment, 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

Over the past year the readership and social media following of Fall City Neighbors has grown. This is a welcome development as local newspapers and in-depth coverage of local news is diminishing. Recently, Carpenter Media Group, owner of the Everett Herald and the Snoqualmie Valley Record, laid off almost half the news staff at the Herald. Bucking the trend, Fall City Neighbors continues to thrive with the commitment of local volunteers and generous donors and sponsors. (We hope you are one.)

If you appreciate the news, events and in-depth coverage of issues affecting our "City that's not a city," I encourage you to take an active role in supporting Fall City Neighbors through a generous donation or advertising business sponsorship. You can also contribute your storytelling talents by submitting article ideas and joining as one of our "staff" writers or editors. Our editorial focus is to provide news that informs our readers about the key issues and events affecting residents of Fall City, celebrates the people of our community, and shares our unique character and interests.

If you have a story idea you would like to share or volunteer to join the staff as a writer, editor, photographer, or social media specialist, contact me at editor@fallcity.org. If you'd like to contribute financially to our efforts or keep your business top-of-mind with Fall City residents, contact Janet Kautz at kautzjl@gmail.com.

Let's keep local journalism thriving!



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.

TO SPONSOR: Contact Janet Kautz, kautzjl@gmail.com.
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Deadline for submissions is the TENTH of each month.

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Read Neighbors online at fallcity.org/community-1.
Also follow us on social media.



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Community News and Notes

FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Highlights of the June 2024 Meeting

President Rachel Shepard welcomed new members (we are now at 103), and attendees. The Fall City Community Association (FCCA) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dependent on membership dues. She encouraged community members to learn more about FCCA, join or renew their membership at www.fallcity.org. Voting memberships are a “steal” at \$30.00.



SUBAREA PLAN UPDATE. *Anji Donaldson*. The Subarea Steward Committee, formed in 2020 to advocate for County services, zoning, and policies, is led by Anji. She shared how the Growth Management Act, enacted in

1990, works its way down through the Puget Sound Regional Planning Council and through county-wide planning policies resulting in the Comprehensive Plan that is updated every 10 years. Anji briefly reviewed the history of Comprehensive and community plans. The gap between the policies and the zoning codes to enforce the policies has resulted in unintended and unexpected development.

Our subarea plan governs our “rural town” and includes zoning for community business, industrial and R-4 (residential) areas. In November 2022, the stewards made the following recommendations to King County:

- Maintain low density housing
- Short plats/developments must maintain public neighborhood connectivity
- Require developers to financially contribute to infrastructure improvements (202 corridor improvements, community center, inclusive playground, trails)
- Designate and upgrade safe walking routes and make road improvements

The proposed update identifies 11 new policies, including:

- Recognize and protect Fall City’s uniqueness, size, scale, and role by implementing special district overlays and development conditions that preserve its rural and community character.
- Maintain the look, feel, and scale of the Fall City Business District by retaining its existing boundaries
- Encourage residential development that increases the supply and diversity of housing while maintaining compatibility with existing development
- Support the Fall City Metropolitan Parks District, community-based entities in efforts to provide, manage and maintain parks, community facilities, gathering spaces, trails and other open spaces.

- Coordinate and work with Washington Department of Transportation on implementing our Corridor Study (202 in town), that favors safe and pleasant pedestrian and other active transportation links
- Support the diversification of our local economy as an Agri-tourism hub for products created and/or grown in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural District.

Proposed Residential Development Special District Overlay includes:

- Maximum density: 4 dwellings per acre (unless a manufactured home park)
- Minimum lot area: 12,500 sf
- Minimum lot width: 60 feet
- Minimum street setback: 15 feet
- Minimum interior setback: 10 feet (unless for vehicle access/parking)
- Maximum impervious surface: 40% (the rest of King County is 55%)
- Base Height: 25 feet (35 feet for buildings with pitched roofs; see business overlay below)

Proposed Business District Overlay includes:

- Mixed-use development providing residential units are limited only to the upper floors of the building
- Senior assisted housing up to 11 units, and limited only to the upper floors of a building
- 4 dwellings per acre unless at least 10% of units are affordable to households below 80% of the median income for ownership or 60% of the area medium income for rental, then 6 dwellings per acre
- Buildings are limited to two floors, plus an optional basement
- Building height shall not exceed 40 feet, or 35 feet for duplexes or houseplexes (3-9 units) within 250 feet of the Business District

There was discussion about low- and middle-income housing in Fall City and the fact that small lots do not necessarily result in affordable housing (see the latest development on 324th with very small lots and very high prices). As noted above, the business district is zoned for town homes and residential units above businesses.

Action Item for the Community: Maintain our strong voice! Key Dates for Community Input:

- June 5th: Local Services & Land Use Committee
- November 19: 1:30 Opportunity for public testimony at full council meeting
- December 3: Opportunity for final public testimony
- December 3 or 10th: Council votes on Plan.

Email comments: Councilcompplan@kingcounty.gov

Thanks to Sarah Perry who found funding for the independent study on rural character conformity.

(Continued on p. 5)

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Local Program Makes Home Medical Equipment Affordable

For nearly 10 years, the Home Equipment Loan Program (HELP) in the Snoqualmie Valley has been solving very specific problems for area residents. Need a wheelchair while you recuperate from knee surgery, or bathroom safety equipment for a houseguest with limited mobility? You'll find it at no cost through HELP or low cost through a donation to the program.

HELP began as a service of Snoqualmie Valley Hospital, supplying community members with loans of home equipment donated to the hospital. This year, the program was relocated to Mt. Si Senior Center, which hosts HELP in partnership with Bridge Ministries in Bellevue.

Equipment that HELP can provide includes manual and transport wheelchairs, front-wheel and four-wheel walkers, canes, bedside commodes, tub transfer benches, and other less common equipment. It's a valuable and cost-effective service for many residents according to Susan Lord, HELP Coordinator. "Most insurance, especially Medicare, does not cover any type of bathroom equipment. A new bedside commode can cost \$40-\$200, but through the donation process, people can get it for much less," said Lord.

"Monetary donations are encouraged, and clients can keep the equipment as long as they need it, even if that's forever," said Lord.

The equipment is not only available for seniors, it can also be borrowed for any family member who might have limited mobility during recovery from an injury or illness.

The personal nature of some of the equipment does prompt people to ask about cleanliness, which reduces people's interest in borrowing used equipment. However, Bridge Ministries has a specific process where each piece of equipment is thoroughly sanitized.

Appointments are required for borrowing equipment. Participants can call the program's new phone number, 425-499-2968 to schedule an appointment.

FCCA HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd from page 3)

Rural character is contextual; this and other findings were critical to the proposed changes.

COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE. *Sarah Kieffer.* Early this year the FCCA formed a Community Center Committee to lead a feasibility study funded by King County. The community survey, with questions about your interests and support, was launched on June 1 and 20 responses have been received to date; over 4,000 postcards with a survey QR code have been sent to Fall City and near-by residents, and it is available at fallcity.org. The committee will have a booth at Fall City Day where paper surveys will be available. Please complete a survey – your voice is important!

FALL CITY DAY – SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

Anji Donaldson shared a variety of updates about Fall City Day, including:

- Trese Rand is the Grand Marshall; see the article about her in the June Fall City Neighbors
- Thank you to all the local and regional Sponsors, including: Nelson Tree House (concert), Beth Traverso Real Estate Group (parade), Swim Guru (kids zone), Farmers Insurance (duck hunt) and Brown & Sterling (stage rental), as well as Friends of the Festival: Aroma Coffee, Baxter Barn, Dark Horse, Fall City Floating, Fire Fighter's Union, Model Garage, Noble Plumbing, Perkins Excavating, Rivervue Dental, David G. Speikers, and Studio 202.
- Activities include a Pancake Breakfast (fundraiser for King County Explorers), Fall City Day Run (in its 33rd year, with a variety of sponsors and funds going to schools), Kiddie Parade, Main Parade, Helicopter Fly-

Over, Youth Tie Dye, Dunk Tanks, Kid Zone, Big Wheels, Pony Rides, Watermelon-Eating Contest, Community Concert, Duck Hunting, Merchandise Sales, and a Trout Derby (300 steelhead).

- Thanks to Roy Rand, who provided the design for the Event.

KING COUNTY PARKS PARTNERSHIPS, CONCESSIONS & CONTRACTS MANAGER.

Scott Thomas. Mr. Thomas shared the results of the community engagement survey and the five-year Fall City Floating contract renewal. The online survey provided information about what was being done well, how operations could be improved, and identified "pain points." 862 people responded to the survey (60% from Fall City, and over 70% are park users) and provided over 1,004 comments. The top five issues identified were: enforce parking regulations, enhance river safety, improve trash management, respect non floaters access to Fall City Community Park, and limit alcohol consumption. None of these issues were a surprise.

Fall City Floating's primary contractor is King County Parks; in addition, other agencies have control and/or require contracts over various aspects of floating including: Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, King County Local Services Parking Permits, Fire District 27, Washington State Patrol, King County Sheriff's Office (both Marine Unit & KC Deputies).

Certain work activities previously voluntarily completed by Fall City Floating are now part of the contract including trash pick-up, hiring off-duty firefighters and officers, staffing certain hazard points, providing safety briefings, and placing hazard signs along the floating route. Scott thanked Fall City Floating for their partnership and noted that their services cover all floaters, not just Fall City Floating floaters.

(Continued on p. 16)



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Community Input Reflected in New Fall City Floating Contract

by Kate Grossman

Warm summer days bring hundreds of floaters to the Snoqualmie River — tens of thousands descend on the Valley over the course of the summer. Knowing the disruption and concerns this influx of people brings for residents of Fall City, the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks opened a community engagement survey earlier this year to solicit feedback on what has gone well, what can be improved, and how the contract with Fall City Floating (FCF) can help lessen any of the problems.

Previous contracts did not include codification of all the commitments FCF undertook, so a goal of this year's contract renewal process was to include those safety and cleanup practices into the contract. "[We took] things that have been learned over the last nine years, things that are standard practice for Fall City Floating, and incorporated them into the agreement," says Scott Thomas, Partnerships and Concessions Manager with King County Parks.

Input about what to incorporate into the contract came from the

for incorporation into the FCF contract. Pay for off-duty firefighter support (37%) and placing FCF staff at hazards in the river (30%) were the next highest choices. However, in the comments, the top concerns were enforcing parking regulations (97 respondents) and enhancing river safety (90).

Aspects of all of these priorities were previously undertaken by FCF and are in the new contract. In an attempt to keep the river clean, FCF currently provides mesh trash bags for floaters to take on the river, as well as employing staff who pick up trash on the bank. River safety and hazard signage is also a priority, though management can be difficult given the changing nature of the river and private property along the primary float route. King County Parks and FCF are working with the Sheriff's Office Marine Unit "to have the best signage that we can on the river," says Thomas. "We'll do our due diligence with the signs, but people have to pay attention to them."

Parking is perhaps the most difficult priority to resolve since there are a limited number of spaces in Fall City Community Park. King County Parks cannot choose one group for preferred parking over another, such as reserving a certain number of spots for non-floaters. However, the parking lot across from the Fall City Arena is reserved for horse trailers. Parking enforcement outside the Community Park is the responsibility of the King County Sheriff's Department and Washington State Patrol.

The concessions contract for FCF cost \$105,000, all of which is paid to King County Parks, a county department otherwise largely funded through tax levies. Because the Snoqualmie River is within the jurisdiction of multiple agencies and departments, the contract with King County Parks is for use within Fall City Park, but FCF has additional contracts to operate in the area.



PHOTO: FALL CITY FLOATING LLC

Fall City Floating provides services to approximately 20,000 floaters each summer, but nearly twice that many floaters are estimated on the river.

Fall City Floating is the only concessionaire on the Fall City stretch of the Snoqualmie River and has been in operation since 2015. It has annual contracts with multiple agencies, and its contract with King County Parks was renewed this year.

community survey: more than 860 people responded and 58% of them self-identified as Fall City residents. The vast majority of respondents (72%) cited "providing additional trash pick-up" along the river as the top request

(Continued on p. 8)

Fall City Friday Market

by Emily Ridout

In a world of expanding grocery pick-up and delivery, the connection between farm and table is diminishing even as people genuinely yearn for accessible ways to link their food to its source. Farmer's markets have been, and continue to be, the most organic way for the average person to access food and goods from within their own community. These markets infuse high quality products into local hands and give opportunities for relationships to form through the ancient practice of face-to-face, small-scale buying and selling.

The Snoqualmie Valley is one of the richest farming communities in

our region, with thousands of acres of land devoted to the cultivation of produce, livestock, and flowers that not only serve our local towns but also the surrounding cities. While these items make their way into the supply chain through larger avenues, it is the desire of both the growers and local community to keep much of it local.

In 2021 and 2022, Aroma Coffee Co. partnered with other local vendors to host small, monthly artisan summer markets. Unfortunately, in 2023, the market did not materialize and the community spoke up and expressed the desire for the return of this local event. The market supported local growers and artists, gave access to local food and goods to neighbors, and created an opportunity for connection. In response, Aroma Coffee Co. is making the leap to undertake a weekly market in 2024.

From June 21 – August 30 the Fall City Market is taking place every

Friday from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., with a beer and wine garden hosted by the Fall City Community Association, up to 16 local vendors, food trucks and workshops designed to teach unique skills, and crafts and experiences by local small businesses.

Aroma's mission is to help Cultivate Fullness of Life by offering a place to gather, a craft to savor, and an invitation to linger and we see a Market as a natural extension of this mission. "We are not the only ones in the area with crafts to savor and love helping others get their own crafts into the community so that they can be enjoyed by our neighbors and friends. In fact, a Market is an expansion of our current retail model, which offers a selling platform for many local growers and artists." Says owner, Emily Ridout.

All inquiries about market participation can be directed to Market Coordinator Jordyn Smith at communications@aromacoffeeco.com.

FLOATING (cont'd from page 7)

The Department of Fish and Wildlife manages the Plum Boat Launch and river access points, and the County Department of Local Services contracts access to the agricultural land FCF uses for parking during the summer. FCF also contracts with local safety and law enforcement officers for overtime coverage with the Fire Department and Sheriff's office. Each of these contracts also has specific stipulations for safety, stewardship, and funding for additional support on the river.

While some residents have called for removal of Fall City Floating, including in the community survey, Thomas addressed this directly at the FCCA meeting: "We believe it's better to have Fall City Floating on the water and all the resources they bring from the revenue of the floaters than to not [have them operating]. That's

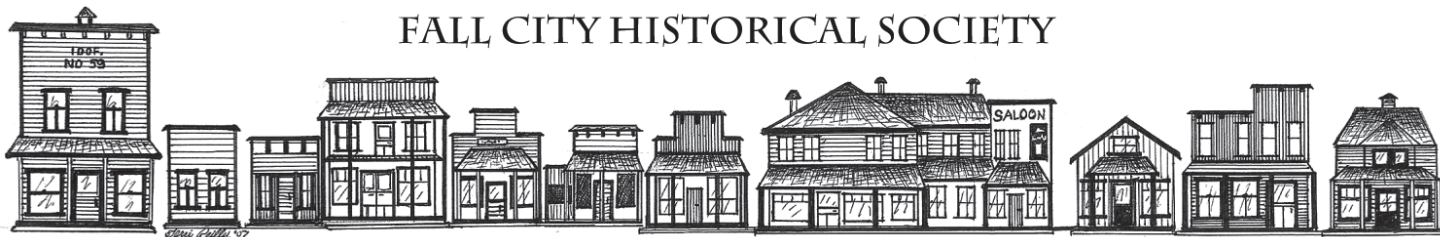
a fundamental principle that we're working with."

The official Fall City Floating season opened on June 20th, but based on late spring rains, it recommends floaters wait until July 4th, when waters should be lower and that much safer. However, as residents of Fall City know, even experienced floaters can be caught in trouble at virtually any time of year. The Fall City Fire Department, which has a swift water rescue team, and the Sheriff's Office Marine Unit receive multiple river-related 911 calls each week during the summer. Based on King County Public Health records, there have been nine deaths related to Snoqualmie River recreation since 2018, three of which occurred last year.

FCF provides services to approximately 20,000 floaters, but nearly twice that many floaters are estimated on the Snoqualmie each summer. FCF is constrained by the

number of seats in their shuttles, but there are no limits on the number of other floaters that can access the public areas of the river. As Thomas reiterated, "Floating is not going away. If FCF goes away, those floaters are not going away."

While having tens of thousands of people descend on Fall City in the summer understandably gives rise to seasonal complaints about floaters, there are avenues to participate and find solutions. If particular sites on the river require attention and clean up, a formal request can be made via Fall City Floating's website, and reports of illegal or obstructive parking can be registered via the King County Sheriff's non-emergency number at (206) 296-3311. Additionally, for those that feel strongly about river stewardship, the River Safety and Clean Up Committee of the Fall City Community Association is looking for additional members.



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

historylives@fallcityhistorical.org

www.fallcityhistorical.org

FALL CITY DAY: A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Our theme for 2024 Fall City Day centered on the importance of travel on the Snoqualmie River, beginning with the dug out canoes carved and utilized across the Puget Sound area by the Snoqualmie people and other Salish tribes. These types of canoes were also used by the first traders and American and European settlers to the area for their capacity to transport people and cargo. When the first settler school opened in Fall City in 1873, James Taylor used a canoe to ferry children back and forth to school as there was no bridge.



In 1884, John and Philo Rutherford built this ferry (left) that could transport several passengers, as well as a wagon and team of horses. It ran on cables that stretched across the river. Over the years, many ships were used to transport passengers and goods on the Snoqualmie River and beyond, like the Alki (right).

The first bridge was built in 1889 (below), fell in 1900, and rebuilt again a year later. Since then, there have been two more bridges, each needed for the increased traffic. The Luton Arch bridge, built in 1917, was guarded by Civil Defense during WWII as the Sunset Highway was the main throughfare connecting Eastern and Western Washington. The current bridge was built in 1980, allowing for debris to flow during floods.

To learn more of the history of boats and ships on the river, local authors Steven J. Barker and Jack M. Russell, Jr. have shared their extensive research in their book, *Steamboats On The Snoqualmie*.



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Thank You From Fall City Day Festival

by Judy Dix

Sunshine and smiles best describes our 2024 Fall City Day Festival. There are so many to thank for pulling off this great event.

First, thanks to the vendor support crew, Cheri Enevold, Melody Tjossem, Mary Butler, Bill Aggenbach and Lacey Linney we were able to “paint the town” with 90 booth spaces and have a smooth vendor check-in process. Thank you, Paul Zavaglia, for loaning me your golf cart to zip around the town. Fall City Run had over 500 entrants, Perry and Sharon Wilkins, Kirk and Sophie Harris, and Sarah Kieffer, did an excellent job handling the many details to make it a resounding success. Carrie Lee Gagnon pulled off an awesome parade with behind the scenes help of Jane Krein, and Kayli Krein did a great job with her announcing duties. Renee Christensen ran our Kiddie Parade once again, and the Fall City Library staff let us use their parking lot for it and did a great job on the library float this year. Trese Rand was the Grand Marshall and had as much fun as the onlookers. Roy Rand was instrumental in bringing the design of the t-shirt and posters to fruition. Anji Donaldson ordered our shirts through Dark Horse Printing and Melody Tjossem and her family manned the merchandise booth all day. We even let the kids tie dye their own shirts this year! Thank you to Doug and Yvonne Vogt, Jess and James Cameron for making the tie dye activity a huge success for the kiddos. The watermelon contest had so many registrants that Jennifer Mitchell said we ran out of watermelon. Thank you Jennifer and Saeed at The Farmhouse Market for donating them. Thanks to Laurie Hauglie for recycling our Duck Derby ducks, with the help of volunteer painters, into beautifully painted ones that were planted all around Fall City. Mike Halim and his family, and their printing company RM Graphics, provided our new event website as well as the beautiful banners and posters throughout town. Bill Ziehl, owner and operator of The Fall City Trading post provided the camper we use for facilitating and maintaining our crew during the day. Sam Matheson with Ameri-Cann services provided the sanitary facilities. Todd Brown oversaw the road crew and the Boy Scouts, giving them the direction they need to enable the street fair to

function and clean up all of the trash. They also helped break down all the road detour signs Gordon Construction donates a dumpster year after year, we are very grateful. Enrique at El Caporal provides the facilities for our food vendors to comply with all KC health codes, and also helped Morgan Henley, our music promoter, set up the stage with awesome bands for this year’s concert. Pete Nelson of Nelson Treehouse Supply donated the necessary funds for the four bands that performed. Our fire chief, A. Brian Culp developed our Emergency Action Plan and with Carrie Lee Gagnon’s help provided all the volunteer support services to keep us all safe throughout the day. Kevin Hauglie, Bill Aggenbach, Jacob Rice and Tom helped set up the electrical in town and the sound system for the parade stage (loaned to us by Kirk and Robbie Stevens). FCCA members also provided the new speakers throughout town. With Carrie Lee’s vision and Katie at Kataluna Horse Rescue, the Kid Zone was a resounding success this year! Thank you to Anji’s and my personal support crew; Jeff, Jaden, Kai and Terry.

Our Sponsors

Entertainment Sponsor- Nelson Treehouse Supply
Parade Sponsor - Traverso Real Estate
Duck Hunt Sponsor - Kevin Hauglie Agency
Stage Sponsor - Brown & Sterling
Kid Zone Sponsor - Swim Guru

Friends of the Festival

Aroma Coffee
Baxter Barn
Fall City Firefighter Union
Fall City Floating
Law Office of David Speikers
Model Garage
Noble Plumbing
Perkins Excavating Inc
Riverview Dental

Friends of the Fall City Day Run

Studio 202 Salon
Ameri-Cann
Baxter Barn
Dark Horse, Ink.
Fall City Floating
Fall City Market & Deli
Fall City Sustainable Growth
Farmhouse Market
Hauglie Insurance/Farmers
River Edge Market - Chevron
Small Fries
Snoqualmie Running

So many people and sponsors make this event work. I apologize if I overlooked anyone. Please be sure to support your neighborhood sponsors.

Mount Si's Green Team Shapes a Sustainable Future

by Natalie McDonnell, Student - Mount Si High School

Did you know that the Snoqualmie Valley School District (SVSD) is one of the largest school districts in the state, pulling students from Sammamish all the way to Snoqualmie Pass? Yet out of Mount Si High School's (MSHS) 2,000 students, only 26 belong to its Green Team. Though this number may seem small, these members are dedicated to action. With a mission to "help our planet through sustainable action, community outreach, and tending to the Kimball Creek Slough," Green Team has recently increased sustainability practices by implementing new programs which benefit both the school and surrounding communities.

In past years, nearly all of MSHS's food waste was thrown away. Ending up in landfills, it rotted and produced methane, a greenhouse gas with nearly 30 times more global warming potential than carbon dioxide. However, this spring Green Team achieved what co-presidents Jasmine Lao and Alex McLean called its "greatest accomplishment this year." After seven years of work, a Department of Energy grant worth \$4,360, and collaboration with Director of Operations Brandon Klepper, Green Team finally secured compost bins for the school's lunchrooms. By composting even some of the hundreds of lunches consumed each day, MSHS is decreasing the amount of methane produced, making for a cleaner and greener environmental footprint.



Restoration of the Kimball Slough wetland has been a longtime project of the Mt. Si High School Green Team. Recent projects include food waste bins in the school cafeteria and a pending sustainability plan presented to the school district.

Green Team has not only restructured how the high school handles food waste but has also found a sustainable way to deal with untouched food. In 2023, the club set up collection stations for uneaten fruits and vegetables, which are now donated to the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank. "We're happy to both reduce the school's waste and give back to the community through food donations," says club member and next year's co-president Alliya Kretz.

One of Green Team's longest running and most successful projects is their restoration of Kimball Slough, a wetland area located just 200 feet away from MSHS and directly behind Snoqualmie Elementary. "This area is crucial for both the high school and elementary school environmental education programs," treasurer Dewy Roark explained. Previously, invasive Himalayan Blackberry plants overran the slough, strangling the native species. However, over the past seven years, Green Team has partnered with the Snoqualmie Tribe to rip out hundreds of deep-rooted, thorny blackberry plants by hand and replace them with over 1300 native plants, 300 of which were planted at this year's Earth Day restoration event. Recent additions notably include 25 Douglas Fir and 120 Gerry Oak trees, which were chosen for their resistance to climate change and drought to ensure their survival in the slough. As they grow, the variety of plants will benefit the slough twofold: aiding in the fight against global warming by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and encouraging biodiversity by providing habitats and food sources for native animals.

In addition to projects at the high school, Green Team is also working to improve environmental policy at a District level. This fall, club members presented their student-led proposal for a comprehensive, meaningful sustainability plan to the SVSD's board. Lao shared that their outline highlighted ten major sustainability targets for inclusion in the district's future policies, including increasing energy efficiency, establishing a stewardship committee, and greener transportation. The proposal is being considered by the SVSD School Board, ensuring that all schools in the district will be implementing greater sustainability practices.

While Green Team is having great success at the school level, community involvement is crucial in creating a wider, longer-lasting impact on the environment. When asked how people can get involved, co-president Alex McLean says to "find like-minded people and a cause you will fight for. Protest, sign petitions, write letters, and contact your elected officials. Our planet and future generations are worth fighting for."

If you would like to learn more about MSHS Green Team or would like to help with restoration efforts at Kimball Slough, contact the Green Team Student Exec Board: mountsigreenteam@gmail.com or follow them on Instagram @MSHSGreenTeam.

How Weather Can Tell Us the Climate's Changing

Our Pacific Northwest has been abnormally green and wet this Spring; it is true! One relentless day in late May the rainfall equaled a month's-worth of normal May precipitation. Consider the variable temperatures on the West Coast. Northeast Washington's Colville area had a cold advisory of 34° for farmers in late May. Phoenix, Arizona has already had 26 days of extreme heat over 100°; it's been 110° in Los Angeles, and 105° days are forecast for Sacramento.

Climate Change weather is erratic and paradoxical. In the human psyche, cool rain seems to contradict verified earthly warming because we can escape cool rain with clothing, roofs, and heat. But native plants, trees and animals – adapting gradually – have been acclimating to rising heat for many years.

What really helps is taking small actions to help native bees and insects living in our leaf litter. They are dying off due to bee-blood eating mites, pesticide and herbicide usage, and earlier emergence of their partnered native plants that require pollination for survival.

Current research supports the idea that native pollinators need native plants to survive. In fact, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign invasive species (Wildlife Fact Sheet) says native pollinators go only to native plants. Yet, non-local plant species are common in both domesticated and wild areas. Do bees ever vary in their choice of pollinator plants? I have read strong opinions in print not scientifically validated. I am cautious. So go to dedicated pollinator nurseries and ask the staff good questions before making affordable pollinator garden choices.

At buying time you may try some big leaf lupine/*Lupinus polyphyllus*, 2-3', self-seeds, grows deep roots. Irrigate 1-2 years to ensure those roots are deep. Consider also buying Pacific Silverweed/*Potentilla anserina*, ssp. "Pacifica." Plant in part shade and irrigate for 1-2 years. Because pollinators are needed throughout the Fall, we can plant native plants well into November. Note that butterflies and moths start out as caterpillars that will consume chemicals sprayed on the ground.

Shifting attention now to urban fire prevention for property owners in East King County: Research has evolved on urban fires since this topic was last discussed in this column 2-3 years ago. King Conservation District has since cycled through two successive Fire Prevention Specialists, who now work for the County and State Department of Natural Resources on fire issues.

As Fall City's Fire Chief Culp has said, "it's not if we'll have an urban fire, it's when we'll have an urban fire in Fall City." The most challenging fire sites in East King County would be Fall City, Snoqualmie, and North Bend on dry, steep, and treed hills.

GARDEN & CLIMATE CORNER

by Susan Miller

Master Gardener & Pruner



PHOTO COURTESY OF FALL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

According to Fall City Fire Chief Brian Culp, "it's not if we'll have an urban fire in Fall City, it's when." The most challenging fire sites are on dry, steep, and treed hills.

"Wildfires are normal and ecologically necessary to the PNW," reminds one KCD Fire Specialist. The pattern has been one of infrequent, but highly severe wildfires (every 200 to 500 years west of the Cascades) where most trees were killed. A flush of biodiversity would grow back to replace our conifer-dominant trees. Historically, deciduous trees have grown faster, but taller bigger conifer trees eventually surpassed them. Today, however, conifers are dying out from drying soil; and the year-round, larger water requirements of evergreens seem unsustainable as temps rise.

Summarizing the latest PNW fire structure protection assumptions from our King Conservation District: The most dangerous conditions for an area wildfire are prolonged hot, dry weather starting in August; an ignition source, usually people; and most rarely, wind from the East over the Cascades. Such fires are usually put out quickly -- nice to hear. Humans usually present the greatest risks; so let's focus on reducing our risks.

Over time, both gardeners and farmers may notice that small, less-flammable plants located within 5' of a home structure have become large, flammable plants -- now situated too close to structures. Remedy this before a major fire -- soon. It's hard to sacrifice our beautiful, personal landscapes. But don't take the risk.

I invite you to join KCD staff for "live" guidance on preparing for fire on a hilly, treed farm on the outskirts of Fall City in mid-August. What you learn may keep your home and outbuildings safe. More details coming!

.....
susanamiller@hotmail.com
.....

May Sno-Valley Senior Center Events

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Wednesday, July 3 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. \$12 each, \$5 children. Enjoy your choice of vegetable or meat sauce, salad, and garlic bread.

4TH OF JULY STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

Thursday, July 4 from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Pre-order delicious strawberry shortcake for just \$6 each to enjoy at the center or to-go. The Sno Valley Singers will be performing at 11 a.m.. Please arrive closer to opening as we've been known to sell out by 12:30 p.m.

PSYCHOLOGY OF HEALTHY AGING

Wednesday, July 17 at 1 p.m. As we age, our cognitive and mental health begins to decline. Learn how to keep your brain sharp as you age, manage stress, and anxiety. This seminar offers practical tips and techniques that you implement in your daily activities. FREE.

METHODS OF RELAXATION

Tuesday, July 9 at 10 a.m. Learn how to relax your body and your mind with simple actions. Provided by Evergreen Health. FREE.

UNLOCKING PARKINSON'S DISEASE RESEARCH

Friday, July 19 at 1 p.m. Join Mary Lynn, seasoned physical therapist, to explore the latest in Parkinson's disease pharmaceutical developments and learn how you can contribute. We will discuss common symptoms of this diagnosis and uncover the promise of new research developments. Take a closer look at a Bellevue research clinic's Phase 2 study investigating a medication to improve the dopamine response. Learn how the clinic's study participants shape the future of care. FREE.

JULY BIRTHDAY LUNCH

July 19 at 12 p.m. Celebrate your birthday with us. Call 425-333-4152 to make your reservation at least 24 hours in advance.

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



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5

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OUR LISTINGS ARE ON THE
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AN OFFER

5.3%

AVERAGE PERCENT OVER
LIST PRICE ALL OF OUR
LISTING SOLD FOR

5.6%

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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

July 3 and July 17

FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT — IN MEMORIAM

Gayle McKay: August 13, 1950 - May 16, 2024

With deep sadness, we share the passing of Gayle McKay, a long-time volunteer and beloved member of our community. Gayle passed away on May 16, 2024, leaving a legacy of unwavering dedication and service.

Gayle began her journey with the Food Pantry around 2010 and quickly became an integral part of our team. She served as the Pantry's treasurer into early 2024, bringing her meticulous attention to detail and financial expertise. Her commitment extended beyond her tenure on the board, making her a cornerstone of our operations.

Gayle and her husband, Steve, made Fall City their home in June 1976, later moving to North Bend. With a professional career spanning 42 years as an X-ray, CT and MRI technologist, Gayle's dedication to helping others was evident in all aspects of her life. Her contributions to the Fall City United Methodist Church were numerous, serving as both treasurer and a member of the United Methodist Women for over 30 years.

In addition to her work with the church, Gayle volunteered at the Trail Youth Coffee House in North Bend, supporting at-risk youth. Her passion for reading led her to work with the Friends of the Library, and she opened her heart and home to many stray cats over the years, shared by Pantry Volunteer Janet Gordan.

Several other volunteers from the Pantry shared their memories of Gayle:

"Her quiet dedication to service was an anchor for this organization."
– Sarah Greer

"Gayle was incredibly dedicated to the Food Pantry. When COVID hit and we discussed age limits for high-risk volunteers, Gayle was adamant about continuing her work, regardless of the risk. She was determined to contribute, and together, we loaded many bags and delivered them to cars. She was a special person and a blessing to us all." – Cheryl Duncan

"Gayle was one of those people whose answers you could always trust, no matter the subject. She was invaluable as treasurer for the Fall City UMC and the Food Pantry. Her calm courage in facing her cancer diagnosis was both stunning and humbling." – Sue Terbrueggen

Gayle McKay's leadership, friendship and unwavering commitment will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her legacy of service and compassion will continue to inspire us. ♥



JULY 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, JULY 2

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. *Fall City Community Association Meeting.* Fall City Fire Station Community Room. Join live or via Zoom or Facebook Live (Fall City, WA).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Fall City Learning Garden.* In July we continue to harvest spring planted and garlic. The garden is located behind the Masonic Hall at 4304 337th Pl. SE. Garden access is from the alley behind the Masonic Hall.

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. *Fall City Market.* Artisan market, fresh farm products, food trucks, FCCA Wine & Beer Garden. Aroma Coffee Co.

TUESDAY, JULY 16

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Books & Brews: Fall City Silent Book Group.* Enjoy the company of fellow readers with no assigned reading or questions discussed. Registration not required. For adults. Hosted by Fall City Library at Aroma Coffee Co.

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. *Summer Ukulele.* Learn to play, make new friends and enjoy the joy of music in a lively, supportive setting. Ukuleles provided. Registration not required. For teens and adults. Hosted by Fall City Library in partnership with Fall City Arts.

Beginners: 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Intermediate and above: 6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. *Fantastic Creatures! With MoPop.* Become a group of explorers, discovering never-before-found species of fantasy creatures! Taking what we already know about animal biology and habitats, use our imagination to create and become unique creatures. Please register. For ages 8-14. Hosted by Fall City Library.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. *Beyond the Blocks: The Basics of Line Coding.* Learn the core concepts of line coding in Python and gather all the skills you need to build a text-based adventure or mad libs style game. Laptops will be on hand, but we encourage you to bring your own. This event is intended for audiences with some experience with coding. This class is teen led and developed with support from the Teen Services Librarian. Sponsored by Friends of the Fall City Library. Please register. For ages 8-13.

TUESDAY, JULY 23

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Kombucha Brewing Workshop.* Join Adam Grossman, of Fall City Kombucha, as he shares his passion, insights and expert tips on brewing. Learn the essentials, ignite your creativity and discover how to brew your own delicious and probiotic-rich Kombucha at home.

Registration not required. For adults. Hosted by Fall City Library.

FRIDAY, JULY 26

4:30 p.m. *Make Your Own Pet Rock at the Fall City Art Park.* Free event. All ages welcome. No registration required. More info at fallcityarts.org.

7:00 p.m. *Shakespeare in the Park: Twelfth Night.* Enjoy this classic play performed by Greenstage at the Fall City Community Park. BYO chairs/blankets, snacks, and drinks. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Arrive early for the best seats. More info at fallcityarts.org.

SATURDAY JULY, 27

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *Geocaching Workshop: The Hunt for Fall City II.* Get an introduction to the realm of geocaching. GPS devices or your Smartphone will guide the hunt for hidden geocaches, fostering teamwork, problem-solving and the joy of discovery. Please register. For tweens, teens, and adults. Hosted by Fall City Library.

5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. *Taste of the Valley—Farm Dinner & Auction.* Celebrate 14 years of preserving the Snoqualmie River Valley and support the great work of the Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance (SVPA). Indulge in dishes crafted by local chefs using ingredients from Snoqualmie Valley farms and sip beverages from local makers. Bid on auction baskets at the event and online. More info and tickets: svpa.us/taste-of-the-valley-2024

WEDNESDAY JULY, 31

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. *Tied & Tucked Herb Drying Hoop Workshop.* Create an herb-drying hoop with local author Jess Buttermore. The hoop also doubles as a gorgeous piece of botanical art. Leave with a new hoop filled with beautiful herbs and edible flowers. Please register. For teens and adults. Fall City Library.

FCCA HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd from page 5)

Scott shared that there is room for advocacy to get more funding from the county to support the costs of floaters who do not use Fall City Floating. The two primary changes to the contract are adjustments for the work previously voluntarily completed and a requirement for Fall City Floating, the Parks Department and the Snoqualmie Tribe to undertake conversations and training about the river as the Tribe's ancestral lands.

ART PARK RENOVATION. *Jess Buttermore.* About 25 people have been working to renovate the art park including removing

debris and overgrowth from the last 20 years, and now construction is happening. Perennials, evergreens, herbs and annual flowers will be planted this week and tables and benches are coming. Fall City Arts has received \$5,000 in funds and \$5,000 in in-kind donations (lumber, etc.) to enable the renovation. Thank you to everyone who has helped!

FCCA meetings are open to the public on the first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., via Zoom, Facebook Live, and in-person at the Fall City fire station.