

Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 27, Issue 8
August 2024



PHOTO COURTESY OF FALL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

August through November is prime wildfire season here in Fall City. Our beautiful, forested hillsides and treed yards are ideal landscapes for disaster, if we are not prepared. In this month's *Neighbors* the fire department tells us how to keep our families and homes protected from the inevitable, how a local social studies teacher turned a hobby into a learning opportunity with flags, how climate change solutions begin at home, and so much more.

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August Highlights



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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

Are we safe? Speeders through town, drownings on the river, mailbox thefts, armed robbery at the gas station, smash and grab at the gun shop, stolen vehicles and property, the threat of wildfire. Are we really protected by our public safety officials? Some would say "no."

In a conversation Neighbor's had with the King County Sheriff's office last year, their biggest challenge is the lack of personnel. There are only two deputies to cover the Valley from I-90 to Duvall and from unincorporated areas of Redmond and Sammamish to Snoqualmie. For our firefighters and rescue personnel they are doing what they can to warn people of the hazards of recreating on the Snoqualmie River, and the potential for a catastrophic wildfire, but people ignore their appeals.

There are just so many warning signs that can be posted on the river, speed signs and no parking signs that we can put on the roadsides, burn bans we can have, and lectures we can give about protecting against wildfire and floating on the river. The safety of each of us and our families also requires personal responsibility, action, and cooperation with our under resourced public servants.

We need to do our part to make ourselves safe and maintain the peaceful, rural lifestyle we wish to enjoy. Be sure to report illegal activities to the Sheriff's non-emergency line (206-296-3311), be sure to secure your vehicle and property, install cameras around your house, share suspicious activity on social media, "firewise" your property against wildfire, watch your speedometer as you travel through town (yes, it's not just the "outsiders"), and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Here's to a safe summer.



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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Fall City's "Flag Guy"

by Kate Grossman

Perhaps you saw the Baltimore Orioles flag waving at his house in July when they were in town to play the Mariners. Or you might have seen the brilliant green of the Washington State flag flying on our state's 134th birthday last year. Or perhaps you've walked by the house at the corner of 332nd Ave and SE 64th St. and thought, "What is that cool flag that I've *never* seen before?!"

Those flags belong to Matt Baroch, Fall City's "Flag Guy," who enjoys collecting and displaying flags from around the country and the world. He manages to entertain and educate the neighborhood and passersby with his hobby, but Matt is also leading the effort to repair and relocate the flag pole downtown.

Matt's love of flags started young, as a child in Baltimore, Maryland. His dad travelled often for work, and he would bring home souvenir flags, "just desk-sized at the time," says Matt, as a tangible illustration of where he'd been. When his family moved to Cincinnati, young Matt was understandably not happy about the move away from family and friends, so Matt's dad installed a flagpole in the front yard to give him something fun and different at the new house. When people came to visit, Matt and his dad would fly the flag of that visitor's home state. Then neighbors started asking if he would fly flags that meant something to them. Then people started sending him flags...and more flags...and a life-long hobby was born.

Though originally both from the East Coast, Matt and his wife moved to Fall City three years ago and fell in love with it. "We love the community. We love our neighbors. Fall City Day is one of our favorite days of the year. We feel really lucky to have found this community." As a history and social studies teacher-turned stay-at-home dad, Matt was looking for ways to get involved in the community. When a driver on highway 202 hit the memorial and flagpole in Olive Taylor Quigley Park last June, it was fitting to have Matt step up to lead the charge on repairs and potentially find a new home for both objects. "If you want to get things done, you have to have someone step up and say 'I'll take the lead with this,'" he related, appreciating that about the Fall City community. "It was kind of by accident that I was asked if I'd like to take care of the flag downtown," but seeing the need and wanting to help, Matt stepped up to lead a group of residents wanting to help.

The Mount Si Fish and Game Club provided a donation to help with repairs. Matt suggested relocating the



A lifetime love of flags and a collection of hundreds, made Matt Baroch the "Fall City Flag Guy." A passion he is passing on to his family and shares with the community every day.

memorial and flagpole since they are currently somewhat hidden in the trees. Among relocation options, he is exploring is putting the flagpole in the former Totem Garden since Fall City owns the land. There is also electrical hookup, so a flag can be properly illuminated at night. Once he has a firmer budget and a few designs are complete, he intends to take the plans to the Fall City Community Association for community input. As with so many things in town, the community has stepped up, including the Fire Department volunteering to help move the flagpole and a local welder and mason both agreeing to build a new base and help with installation.

"I'd love to have this done by the end of the year," says Matt. "I have to take a look at the budget and how much money we have, and if we need to raise money for a more detailed design, but it's a reasonable goal to get it done by the end of the year."

While the American flag will be the sole occupant of a town flagpole, Matt will continue flying some less locally recognizable flags outside his own house. Keep an eye out for the unique flags of Maryland and Ohio, for obvious reasons given Matt's background, but also more obscure flags, such as that of Venice, Italy. "My brother went to Italy and brought back the city flag, and that's a really unique, cool, weird looking flag. When that one goes up I get a lot of feedback."

(Continued on p. 5)



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7:00-8:30pm

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Fall City Is At Wildfire Risk

Prepare now for the fire season.



The Fall City Fire Department has expanded its wildland firefighting capabilities recently by working with other agencies to deploy a brush truck or water tender within the State of Washington and out of state. Over the past three years, our local firefighters have gained experience by going to large wildfires regionally and nationally.

As we begin another summer, we all need to prepare to defend against wildfire spread. Fall City Fire Chief Brian Culp states, "Fall City is within a Wildland Urban Interface area and we need the community to have a defensible space in place before a wildland fire occurs."

Residents can do this by removing dead leaf accumulation from yards, roof, and gutters; cutting tall, dry grasses, prune trees, bushes, and shrubs regularly to decrease flammability; and clear combustible materials and debris from under decks and porches. The goal is to create a 30-foot defensible space around your home.

If a wildland fire were to occur within our area the community needs to understand the Wildfire Evacuation Levels:

Level 1 READY—Possible evacuation in your area

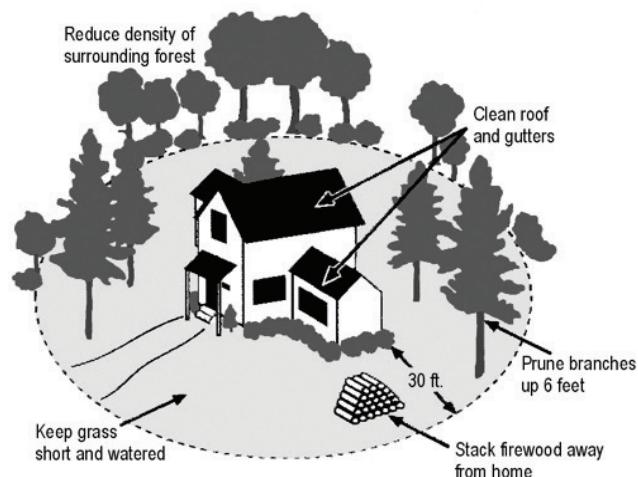
Level 2 SET—Short Notice evacuation likely in your area

Level 3 GO!—Evacuate immediately from your area

Reminder: A Stage-1 Fire Safety Burn Ban is in effect.

During a Stage-1 burn ban outdoor yard debris burning is not allowed, however recreational fires are allowed under the following conditions:

- Maximum size is 3 feet in diameter by 2 feet in height, the fire must be built in a metal or concrete fire pit.
- Only seasoned, dry firewood, presto type logs, or charcoal may be burned.
- The fire must be attended by an adult and adequate water to put the fire out must be available.



Wildfire protection begins by creating a 30-foot defensible space around your home.

- The fire must be at least 10 feet away from all vegetation and 25 feet away from structures.
 - No burning if the wind is blowing more than seven miles per hour.
 - After use, fires must be completely put out by pouring water over it and stirring the ashes until cool to the touch.
- When a Stage-2 Fire Safety Burn Ban is called all outdoor fires are banned.

If you wish to burn residential yard waste, a permit is required within the Fall City rural town center and the Lake Alice communities. Burning permits are available from the fire department from October 1 through June 14. A permit is valid for one month in the Spring from April 1 - April 30, and one month in the Fall from October 1 - October 31, 2024. For more information on outdoor burning and to obtain a permit, visit: king27fire.com/outdoor-burning

To learn how to protect your home and family from wildfire, scan the accompanying QR Code for a helpful brochure from King County.



KING COUNTY
WILDFIRE
BROCHURE

FLAG GUY (cont'd from page 3)

Matt doesn't know how many flags he has personally, but it's well over one hundred. More than enough to celebrate statehoods, independence days, and holidays from all around the world every day of the year. "I was surprised by the amount of feedback I've gotten for it, all positive, which is great. And I'm not really interested in making it political or divisive. It's just for fun."

That fun really contributes to the community, though, and it's fitting that someone originally from Baltimore, home of Fort McHenry and the "Star-Spangled Banner," is now leading the efforts to find a new home for the flagpole and memorial here in Fall City.

If you would like to get involved in helping with the downtown flagpole project please feel free to reach out to Matt through his email, mbaroch@gmail.com.



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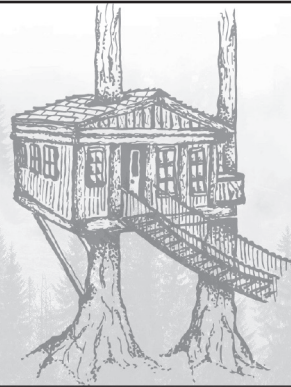


Fall City Methodist Church

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

Are you feeling isolated or lonely?
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Funds raised sponsor library programs for children, teens, and adults.

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www.fallcityhistorical.org

❧ The House on the Hill ❧



It seems every small town has an iconic house, and Preston is no exception. On a beautifully



landscaped two acre plot on the hill near the community center stands the house Preston Mill owner, August Lovegren built in 1904 for his wife, Hilma, and seven children.

A classic Colonial Revival, the house boasts 15 rooms in two stories and an attic. Several of the rooms have bay windows with beautiful, beveled glass over-windows. In this time before air conditioning, interior doors had opening transoms to facilitate air transfer and light. The original fir floors shine throughout the house. Intricate clear fir woodwork points to Lovegren's importance in the lumber industry.



Two staircases lead to the large second level sitting area. Lovegren, a pious Baptist, read Bible stories to his children here every night. The bedrooms fan off the hall as does the one original bathroom. Two other bathrooms have been added since. Can you imagine raising seven children with one bathroom? A narrow staircase leads to the attic which must have been a wonderful play area for all of those children.

The current owners prefer to refer to themselves as stewards of the property. The house is fortunate to have them.



Cemetery Tour and Wine Walk

Be sure to join us **Thursday, August 15th**

6pm-8pm

Enjoy an historic tour of the cemetery and a glass of wine from William Grassie Wine Estates.

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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4 BED | 4.5 BATH
4,660 SQ FT | 3 ACRE LOT

SOLD PRICE
\$2,650,000



Vintage 1921 craftsman gem, sold over list price after 5 days on the market!

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SOLD PRICE
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Climate Change Solutions Begin at Home

According to Jonathan Foley of Project Drawdown, an organization working to accelerate the adoption of climate solutions around the world, the best way to reduce your climate footprint is at home. He suggests that one-third of the solutions to stop climate change are best implemented in the household. The most important climate change is you.

Here's how you can make a difference:

- 1. How you eat.** Write down what you eat and the portions in a food journal for one week; honor "sell by" dates; shift to a healthier plant-rich diet; substitute white meat for red meat, and recycle food not eaten.
- 2. How you power up.** Look at your power usage and track it. Update your light bulbs, install solar panels; update appliances; electrify power tools like mowers, weed eaters, fans, and blowers.
- 3. How you travel.** Can you drive less, drive cleaner, drive better, switch to an electric car when it's affordable, and fly less?
- 4. How you heat and cool.** The householder knows best how to achieve these levels.

Important individual actions are those you take for the sake of creating a healthier, more sustainable planet. Words matter so we need to stop referring to extreme weather events as "natural disasters." Instead, emphasize that it is fossil fuel pollution that drives catastrophic weather by calling it an "UN-natural" disaster or event. Takes practice! Help others say it.

According to the Climate Change Project, four out of five people in the world experienced abnormally high temperatures this past year and there were 28 separate weather disasters costing a billion dollars or more in the United States. These climate events are not just affecting other people, they are having an impact right here in the Snoqualmie Valley.

A wonderful in-person discussion with Lauren Silver, the Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance CEO, revealed these farmer facts: Did you know there are 214 commercial farms in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District? They are all facing a variety of pressures and challenges right now. In 2023 there was a June flood with drainage issues during the wet season. During the growing season farmers have drought and limited water rights; in fact, 74% of our farmers have no official water rights. "With climate change we're posed with an uncertain future, so we need residents' support on all levels," said Silver. "Buy local produce through farmers markets, farm stands, CSA's, restaurants, and retailers and encourage those retailers to stock more local produce. Encourage your neighbors to know that farmers are producers and land stewards."

GARDEN & CLIMATE CORNER

by Susan Miller

Master Gardener & Pruner



PHOTO COURTESY OF KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

It is not the wildfire flames that are so dangerous, it's the wind blown embers. Learn how to protect your home from wildfire at a "Wildfire Home Risk Assessment Tour" on August 28th.

The increase in wildfires across our region has heightened the awareness that all of us in King County need to be better prepared for wildfires. Our gardening and landscaping practices can make a huge difference as to whether our home can survive a wildfire. Untrimmed trees, dry vegetation around our foundation, uncovered crawl spaces beneath a porch or deck, are all contributors to possible disaster. It's not so much the flames, it's the burning embers that spark the flames!

King Conservation District (KCD) will conduct a "Wildfire Home Risk Assessment Tour" on August 28th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., here in the Fall City area, where specialists will answer your questions about protecting your home and property. The tour will include a walk-around assessment of a house/carport on five wooded and sloped acres.

KCD's walk-about leaders will explain about your home's vulnerabilities to ignition during a wildfire and will recommend "best practices" such as preventing ignition from airborne embers, not just directly from tree canopies. Topics include:

- Wildfire preparedness "best practices"
- Wildfire Home Risk Assessment using Home Ignition Zones
- Mitigating wildfire ignition risk to a home/garage
- Cost Sharing (up to 75%) by KCD and technical assistance resources

The tour has 23 free-of-charge spots available. You can sign up at: <https://kingcd.org/get-involved/events>.

While there, ask KCD's leaders about "Watch Duty" a free computer and phone app with maps, monitored by Washington State fire departments and fire volunteers, to warn residents about the existence and status of forest fires in their regions. It is recommended by Consumer Reports.

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. Likewise, though we relish the convenience of goods at our fingertips, similarly we are eager to purchase items of meaning that have a story and connection to the people who made them.

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 rich human relationships to form through the ancient practice of face-to-face, small-scale buying and selling.

The Snoqualmie Valley, with its rich farming tradition and thousands of acres of land devoted to the cultivation of produce, livestock, and flowers is no different.

In 2021 and 2022, Aroma Coffee Co. partnered with local growers, artisans and home businesses to conduct small, monthly markets. After a one-year hiatus, the community spoke up, expressing the desire for the return of this local event, which supported local growers and artists, gave access to local food and goods to neighbors, and created an opportunity for connection and relationships.

This year the market has returned. Every Friday, until August 30, Aroma Coffee Co. is hosting the Fall City Friday Market from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., with a beer and wine garden,



The Fall City Friday Market brings together local farmers, crafts people, and residents in conversation and commerce.

benefiting the Fall City Community Association, staying open until 8:00 p.m.. The Market takes place at Aroma Coffee Co. in downtown Fall City. The Market features 16 local vendors, food trucks and workshops by local small businesses designed to teach unique skills, crafts and experiences.

According to Aroma Coffee Owner Emily Ridout the market fits with its mission to cultivate fullness of life by offering a place to gather, a craft to savor, and an invitation to linger.

“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.”

SINCE 2023 THE REAL ESTATE MARKET HAS BEEN UNPREDICTABLE.

OUR RESULTS REMAIN CONSISTENT

5

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS
OUR LISTINGS ARE ON THE
MARKET BEFORE ACCEPTING
AN OFFER

5.3%

AVERAGE PERCENT OVER
LIST PRICE ALL OF OUR
LISTING SOLD FOR

5.6%

AVERAGE PERCENT EVERY
BUYER WE WORKED WITH
PAID UNDER LIST PRICE



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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

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NEXT FOOD PANTRY DATES

August 7 and August 21

FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

IN MEMORIAM

Long-Time Volunteer Janet Ewing

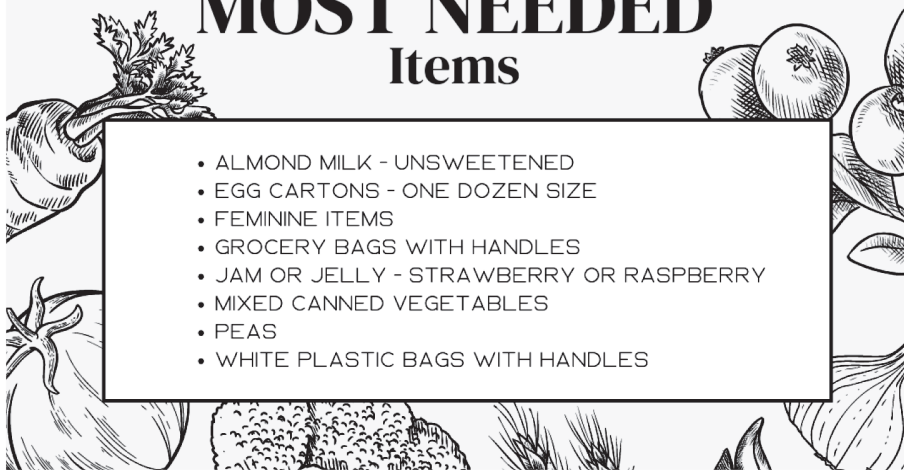
Janet Ewing, a beloved founding member of the Fall City Food Pantry, passed away recently at the remarkable age of 100. Janet was a dedicated community member and an active volunteer at the Food Pantry until the age of 96 when the COVID pandemic began. She was instrumental in helping with food distribution, managing the computer systems and overseeing registration.

Known by Pantry volunteers as a sweet and wonderful person, Janet's commitment and compassion touched the lives of many in Fall City. Her legacy of service and kindness will be remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. She will be deeply missed. ♥



Current Food Pantry MOST NEEDED Items

- ALMOND MILK - UNSWEETENED
- EGG CARTONS - ONE DOZEN SIZE
- FEMININE ITEMS
- GROCERY BAGS WITH HANDLES
- JAM OR JELLY - STRAWBERRY OR RASPBERRY
- MIXED CANNED VEGETABLES
- PEAS
- WHITE PLASTIC BAGS WITH HANDLES



DSHS Mobile Office Truck in Fall City on August 7

The DSHS Mobile Community Services Truck will be at the Food Pantry on August 7 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. This service is open to the community and can assist with basic food assistance, cash assistance, the Medicare savings program, disability medical assistance, and much more.

Additionally, Mobile CSO staff can assist with replacing EBT Quest cards and provide information on Washington Connection and healthcare coverage through Health Plan Finder. There will also be a chance to ask questions and get information regarding other resources in the area.

AUGUST 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.)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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, AUGUST 6

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *National Night Out.* Meet our first responders and sheriff's deputies as the kids enjoy free hot dogs, a bouncy castle, climbing on fire engines, and shaved ice from Two Bumz. Fall City Fire Station, 4301 334th Pl SE.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 14, 20, 21, 28

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. *Fall City Learning Garden.* Come help care and harvest fresh vegetables for local food banks. 4304 337th Pl. SE (access behind the Masonic Hall).

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. *DSHS Mobile Community Services Truck.* DSHS personnel will help with basic food assistance, cash assistance, the Medicare savings program, disability medical assistance, and more. Mobile CSO staff can also help replace EBT Quest cards and find healthcare coverage. Drop-in service. Fall City United Methodist Church, 4336 337th Pl SE.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *Feast In The Field.* Winemakers dinner with Alveare Winery at Carnation Farms. A five-course dinner will feature seasonal crops from the farm and Alveare's new Malbec. Meal, Cocktail Hour, and Farm Tour \$175. More information and reservations at: carnationfarms.org/events

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Fall City Library Book Group.* Book of the month: Honor by Thrifty Umrigar. New members always welcome. Meet at Fall City Library.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *Fall City Cemetery Tour and Wine Walk.* Enjoy an historic tour of the Fall City Cemetery and a glass of wine from William Grassie Wine Estates. Hosted by the Fall City Historical Society. SE 47th St and Lake Alice Rd. SE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *SnoValley Super Smash Tournament.* Become the Super Smash Brothers Ultimate Valley Champion. Participate in local matches and qualify for the Finals. Play or just come and watch. Fall City Library. No registration required.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *Geocaching Workshop: Talking Trackables.* Dive into the fascinating world of geocaching and unlock the mystery of trackables. Fall City Library. Please register: klhaley@kcls.org

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. *Meet The Orchestra.* Let your kids touch, hold and try a variety of musical instruments. Musically Minded will come with everything needed to play, dance and sing. Open to school-aged children with an adult. Fall City Library. Sponsored in cooperation with Fall City Arts.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Wildfire Home Risk Assessment Tour.* King Conservation District specialists teach what you need to know to keep your home and property safe from wildfire. Tour includes a walk-around assessment of a house and carport on wooded and sloped acreage. Registration required: kingcd.org/get-involved/events.

Community Center Update

by Todd Brown

The Fall City Community Center survey is in full swing. So far, 254 online responses have been received and 57 handwritten surveys. The input period will wrap up early this month.

What does the data say so far? Preliminary results show overwhelming support for a community center.

This is in contrast to the Subarea Planning survey performed in 2021, which did not express the same level of support. The subarea planning survey, however, asked if we should make building a community center a priority.

In relation to other needs, it is perfectly understandable that the public would not place a community center higher in priority than safety, road improvements, growth management, water and septic.

The comments received from the community are as useful as the metrics themselves. The scale of the development could range from using or expanding existing facilities in Fall City to building a new facility with recreational equipment, playground, and skatepark. Many residents have a grand vision for this community center, but concerns about the costs of building are being considered.

A community workshop will be conducted in August or September to summarize the results of the survey data, address questions and concerns, and collect additional feedback. Keep an eye out for the dates of that workshop and fill out a survey if you have not done so. You can access the survey at fallcity.org/community-center.