

Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 27, Issue 9
September 2024



The face of our community is changing and our rural lifestyle and water supply are threatened. Predatory developers have utilized gaps in the King County Building Code to create high-density housing that does not fit Fall City’s “rural character” designation. Citizens are fighting back, but there are more battles to be waged and lawsuits to be won before Fall City regains control of its growth. In this month’s *Neighbors* we get an update on the efforts of Fall City Sustainable Growth to lead the fight, learn what the County is doing to support our community, begin to understand how the County minimum wage will affect farms and small businesses, and much more.

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September Highlights



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EDITOR'S NOTE

As a Senior, I enjoy a good hard copy read and the feel of a magazine in hand as I relax in an easy chair or enjoy my breakfast. I may be a bit of a dinosaur in a digital age, but I do realize that we are getting most of our news these days off our phone or laptop. That is why Neighbors now has social media accounts on Instagram, Facebook and Nextdoor, and shares a PDF version with Fall City Community Association members each month. We have taken baby steps into the digital world, but now is the time to put ourselves where our younger readers are getting their news.

We are currently seeking a Digital Media Editor to keep up with the daily happenings around town and the timely issues that cannot wait for the first of the month. If you enjoy cruising social media and sharing the news of our community, let's talk. The digital editor will also keep our webpage up to date and occasionally write digital-only articles. If this sounds like the launching pad you have been looking for to start your digital journalism career, contact us at editor@fallcity.org



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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Community News and Notes

FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Highlights of the July 25th Town Hall Meeting

On July 25th, District 3 King County Councilperson Sarah Perry hosted a Town Hall Meeting to introduce some of the key County officials involved in projects that affect Fall City and give the community an opportunity to ask questions. These notes are taken from the actual event as well as the Town Hall livestream recording and slides provided by District 3 staff.

RACHEL SHEPARD, PRESIDENT, FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION. President Shepard thanked Sarah Perry's office and King County for being such great partners, even though we are not a city, but part of Unincorporated King County.

BRIAN CULP, CHIEF, FALL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT. Chief Culp shared that one of the fire department's brush trucks is in Oregon as part of the strike team for one of the wildfires. He noted the vulnerability of Fall City to wildfire and noted that the department is working on guidelines for creating defensible spaces to protect local homes and businesses. (See August *Neighbors*)

KING COUNTY LOCAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT CHANGES. John Taylor, former leader of the Local Services Division, is now leading the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. Sarah Perry introduced the new Local Services Division leader, Leon Richardson. Local Services provides local government services for unincorporated King County and has three primary departments: Permitting Division, Roads Services Division, and Community Programs (community service area, community needs list, economic development, and subarea planning).

MAJOR MARK KONOSKE, NORTH PRECINCT, KING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. Major Konoske currently leads the North (#2) Precinct which includes the unincorporated areas from I-405 to Kittitas and Chelan Counties, and from I-90 to Snohomish County (including the towns of Skykomish, Carnation, Woodinville, Sammamish).

TRICIA DAVIS, ROADS SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL SERVICES.



King County District 3
Councilwoman Sarah Perry

Unincorporated King County includes 1500 miles of roads and 188 bridges. Of the 2 million people living in King County, approximately 250,000 live in unincorporated King County. There are not many people/taxpayers for all the roads in unincorporated King County. Challenges for Road Services include aging infrastructure, frequently flooded roads, slide hazards, snow and ice removal, constituent concerns about speeding and traffic safety issues, and funding challenges.

DOUG HODSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Projects with local impacts include:

- In September 2023, a \$1 million Open Space-River Corridor Grant was awarded that will allow for acquisition of 130 acres at the confluence of the Raging and Snoqualmie Rivers for future restoration of the floodplain functions.
- 1.3 acres of Raging River Open Space was acquired in February 2024.
- \$500,000 grant for the Westside Trail was awarded in September 2023.
- River safety communication effort.
- Ongoing fish passage projects.
- Refurbishment of the Fall City Arena.

The Flood Management Plan has been updated and submitted to the King County Council for approval.

LEO FLOR, DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES, KING COUNTY. One third of mental health beds in King County have been lost over the last five years. The Crisis Care Center Levy calls for opening five centers across the County. They are currently seeking members of various communities to help define the needs where they live.

ASHTON ALLISON, DIRECTOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & CREATIVE ECONOMY, KING COUNTY. They are a small team that focuses on economic opportunities as well as film and music production. They are focusing on micro businesses (0-20 employees), and they provide program, accounting, and marketing resources and referrals.

SARAH PERRY, COUNCILPERSON FOR DISTRICT 3, KING COUNTY COUNCIL. District 3 extends from East Lake Sammamish to Snoqualmie and Stevens Passes, from I-90 to the Snohomish County border and includes 10 cities and 2 towns.

Some information about District 3:

- Of the 252,000 people who live in District 3, 77,000 live in unincorporated areas.
- Highest median income (\$162,000) in the County.
- Second highest County home value (\$850,000), highest rent, lowest number of rentals.
- Lowest number of Seniors, highest number of people 17 and under.

Comprehensive Plan Update (1200 pages). Line-item changes to the King County Plan are underway and will be voted on by the full Council later this year. Fall City residents have engaged in the comprehensive plan in a big way. (See July *Neighbors* Community News & Notes)

\$178 Million Supplemental Budget Passed. The supplemental budget was passed last week and includes investments in public safety, parks, housing, permitting, and the environment. The investment in permitting will reduce wait times

(Continued on p. 16)



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Fall City Fights for Rural Character and Safe Drinking Water

by Mike Suelzle

A series of new housing developments are underway for Fall City and our historic rural community and drinking water are at risk.

Fall City has been targeted by a real estate developer who has aggressively purchased land inside the rural town boundary. In total, the subdivisions will convert more than 35 acres of open space into 143 new homes. These homes will forever alter the identity of one of King County's last rural communities. By using a large shared onsite septic system (LOSS), managed by homeowners, developers can cluster 4- and 5-bedroom homes onto small lots with little setbacks. The developments are a sharp departure from the rural character of Fall City.

In January of 2023, Fall City Sustainable Growth (FCSG), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, was created to address the drastic changes these developments would make in Fall City. After great community outcry, a team was organized to address the development issues and fight for reasonable growth.

The objective of FCSG has been to ensure these developments align with our town's rural ambiance and are constructed appropriately to prevent adverse effects on our community's drinking water and other natural resources. FCSG, which relies entirely on donations, has logged over 10,000 volunteer hours. Donated funds from concerned citizens have gone directly to experts such as independent environmental scientists, hydrologists, engineers, and legal representation and support.

To date, FCSG's has accomplished much:

- Secured expert legal representation with deep experience in complex land use issues.
- Filed formal legal appeals and testified with King County on permit applications for four developments.
- Partnered on authoring a temporary moratorium for permitting large subdivisions that was passed by King County Council.
- Represented the interests of Fall City for new zoning ordinances that protect rural character.
- Worked closely with the Fall City subarea stewards on the new King County Comprehensive Plan.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FALL CITY SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Local leaders celebrate the King County Council's passage of an ordinance to adopt a new lot size minimum in Fall City.

However, the most significant challenges lie ahead, including:

- Pursuing a precedent-setting appeal in the Washington State Court of Appeals for three developments. It is scheduled to be heard November 1, 2024.
 - An additional environmental impact appeal, through SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act), in preparation for appealing the permits of additional subdivisions. The appeal will be heard later this month.
- Fall City has a long history of slow, rural town appropriate growth. These new developments are a sharp departure from the current character of the town as they:
- Use a clustering technique that creates a dramatic departure from the surrounding neighborhood, blocking views and creating walls of homes.
 - Use copy/paste architectural plans that create repetitive, homogenous landscapes that are not rural in character.
 - Use minimal setbacks, minimum lot sizes and maximal building plans - the result is houses twice as big on lots half the size of neighboring homes.
 - Don't provide adequate parking for rural lifestyles.

(Continued on p. 7)



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PRESERVING RURAL CHARACTER

(cont'd from page 5)

- Use large fences, rather than hedges or low rural fencing, that block views and are uncharacteristic.
- Don't provide neighborhood connectivity options.

The developments are also seen as a potential threat to the Fall City drinking water supply. Fall City has unique soils and an unconfined aquifer, with unlined wells in close proximity to the drain fields of these developments. No studies have been conducted to understand the combined impacts or risks of the subdivision's wastewater treatment methods on groundwater quality. This is a serious public health and safety concern that has yet to be addressed.

- 3000 residents depend on the Fall City Water District's system of wells located throughout town for clean drinking water.
- Fall City is located in a Critical Aquifer Recharge Area - a highly specialized designation given in an area that has soils that are highly permeable and are located near drinking water sources. Our aquifers are unconfined, and our wells are unlined, which means contamination in one area can travel into the drinking water supply.
- Fall City soils are highly active hydraulically - meaning large amounts of water flow underground through the watershed, passing through town towards the Snoqualmie River. This movement can bring plumes of septic contamination into the community water supply.
- The seven proposed developments use an unreliable, unproven design for a Large Onsite Septic System (LOSS) that collects community wastewater onto a communal drain field. This approach is not recommended for areas like Fall City, but it is advantageous to the developer because it allows them to maximize density.
- Analysis by the water district hydrologist recommends against the use of LOSS in these areas as they concentrate wastewater and concentrate the risk to groundwater in the event of a tank, drain field or system failure.
- This developer and their septic designer have a documented history of problems in Fall City. Their first completed development at Arrington Court has had such extensive problems that the State of Washington has yet to hand ownership to the HOA and is still sorting out how to bring the system into compliance.
- Only six residential LOSS systems are in use in all of King County. These developments bring seven houses into a 1/2 square mile area; a concentration that is unprecedented.
- The commercial grade systems are to be managed by homeowners, which industry professionals firmly advise against.

Fall City Sustainable Growth, the Fall City Community Association, and the Subarea Planning Committee have

identified what successful development should look like in Fall City:

- Lot and home sizes that are consistent with the surrounding community: The average size of a home in Fall City on a 5,000 sq. foot lot is 1500 sq. feet. Homes that are 3,000+ sq. feet are always on lots 1/2 acre or larger.
- Sub-divisions that use a variety of setbacks, building styles and home sizes.
- Provide pedestrian "cut-throughs" and connectivity paths to maintain walkability and reduce traffic.
- Provide ample parking for accessory vehicles like trailers, as no public transportation or on-street parking is available.
- Do not build sidewalks or urban levels of infrastructure.
- Do not use large privacy fences that block views.
- Fall City residents need the county and state to intervene and conduct studies to understand the impacts and risks to groundwater quality before permits are issued. To do so, an updated well-head protection plan from the Fall City Water District, with guidance from the Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water and King County's Source Water Protection Program needs to be developed.
- A hydrology study to document and understand the soils, watershed, water availability, and recharge dynamics in the Fall City area needs to be developed.

Fall City leaders are not opposed to growth, but development needs to be completed in a manner that reflects the unique character of our community and ensures safe drinking water for all residents.

Challenges of this nature can be lengthy and costly and ongoing donations and support are crucial to sustaining the effort to "Building Right" in Fall City. This September, Fall City Sustainable Growth is appealing to all Fall City residents to help with the effort to continue the fight.

Residents can join in the fight by bidding in an online auction fundraiser September 9 - 20, 2024. Auction information is available at savefallcity.org. All proceeds will go to fund FCSG's continuing work. A community celebration and auction item pickup will be held at Snoqualmie Valley Alliance Church on September 21 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Donations can also be made by cash, check, stock, and matching gifts. Ninety-nine percent of donations go to associated legal and professional expenses.

BUILD RIGHT



SAVEFALLCITY.ORG

Fall City Small Businesses Concerned About Minimum Wage Bump

by Kate Grossman

Washington State has the highest state minimum wage in the U.S. at \$16.28 per hour, and the urban cities of western King County have the highest minimum wages in Washington. In May, the King County Council passed a law raising the minimum wage in unincorporated King County to \$20.29 per hour, matching the highest minimum wage in the state. Depending on the size of the business, some employers can phase in the increases over the next two to five years, but many employers in Fall City are deeply concerned about the consequences of the increase on their prices and their ability to keep people employed in the coming years.

Rent or mortgage, the cost of supplies, maintenance, and a host of other costs go into the prices that businesses

and farms charge for their products, but their payroll, the cost of labor, is frequently the largest expense for a business. The minimum wage a business can pay is set federally, but states, counties, and municipalities that want to implement a higher minimum wage can do so by vote or legislation. Fall City and other communities in unincorporated King County previously fell under the state minimum wage. Under the new law, starting January 1, 2025, Fall City employers will pay a minimum wage of at least \$17.29 and up to \$20.29, depending on the size of the business. By 2030, all employers will be at \$20.29 per hour, a 25% increase over five years.

"This is a really challenging thing," explains Sara Cox, co-owner of Aroma Coffee. "The cost of living is astronomical, as is the affordability of housing. It's hard for middle and low income people in particular. But to put the burden on businesses to provide a livable wage is to upend how many small businesses are structured here." Local small businesses like Aroma and Farmhouse Market primarily employ part-time workers. Many of those workers are working their first job, re-entering the work force part-time, or supplementing family income rather than working full-time for a living wage.

Farmers, too, anticipate struggling with the new law: "We often have a lot of younger kids calling and wanting work with no experience," says Ryan Lichttenegger of Steel Wheel Farm. "A lot of my farmer friends already pay that amount to employees, but a lot of the labor we get here in the Valley is unskilled when it comes to farming, so efficiencies go way down. I can't pay them \$20 an hour to weed carrots or move irrigation lines or harvest potatoes." And while unincorporated King County's minimum wage increases, other places with lower cost labor can provide less expensive products, squeezing individual farms in the Snoqualmie Valley out of the market. "If we could sell our produce for more, we could pay people more," says Lichttenegger. "But people still expect cheap food, or don't have the means to spend more on food. I want to pay workers a living wage, but we're competing with states like Oregon with non-urban minimum wages at \$13.20 an hour, and this makes a huge difference when producing food."

One consideration of the new law is a graduated increase for businesses with fewer than 15 employees and annual revenue lower than \$2 million. However, there isn't a distinction between full-time and part-time employees, so local businesses that have more than 15 employees, including part-time, have to either cut back their number of employees or increase wages by at least 12% on January 1. Since the total labor hours for a business haven't changed, part-time opportunities could decrease as



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEEL WHEEL FARM

Part-time and unskilled laborers will earn up to \$20.29 per hour starting January 1, 2025. Local farmers and small businesses are struggling to adapt to a 25% increase in the next five years.

(Continued on p. 12)

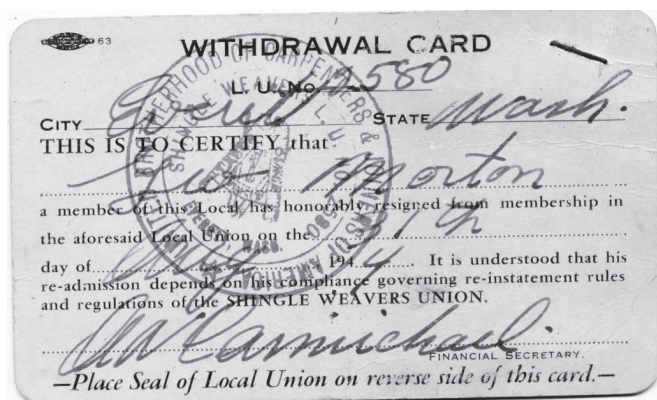
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The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City, organized by the Central Labor Union. In 1885 and 1886, a movement developed across many states to secure state legislation recognizing Labor Day as a holiday. New York was the first state to introduce a bill, but Oregon was the first to pass a law recognizing Labor Day, on February 21, 1887. By 1894, more than 27 states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday.

When Washington joined the Union in 1889, logging, agriculture, fishing, mining, and smelting were among the state's primary industries. Each industry had its own set of perils for workers. A Bureau of Labor was created as a measure to protect workers, and in 1899 some of the first workplace safety regulations were implemented, including the requirement of saw guards in shingle mills.

In the Snoqualmie Valley, some of the early industries included logging, as well as lumber and shingle mills. In 1934, Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union Local #1845 was chartered under the seal of the American Federation of Labor, as the Loggers and Sawmill Workers, Local #19361. In 1936, the Union Local #274 Ladies Auxiliary formed with forty-two women registered as charter members. Another union was the Shingle Weavers Union, and for two decades, between 1901 and 1921, the International Shingle Weavers Union was one of the largest and most powerful unions in the Pacific Northwest. In 2003, the last logs were processed at Snoqualmie Falls Weyerhaeuser plant, and in 2005 the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union Local #1845 disbanded.

In our collections, FCHS has the below union pieces: George Morton's withdrawal card from the Shingle Weavers Union from 1944, and Jesse E. Kelley's union pin from Building Service Employees Local #6.



Union pin which belonged to Jack E. Kelley's father, Jesse E. Kelley, Fall City, WA. He belonged to the union during the years 1946 thru his retirement in 1957, when he worked for the Snoqualmie Valley School Dist 410.

JSK 15-4





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Fall City Apple Festival to Celebrate Family Fun

September 15th marks the next big community event happening in Fall City. Starting as a streetside apple stand in 2015, the Fall City Apple Festival has grown into a regional event attracting almost 3,000 people to Fall City each September. Produced by the non-profit NWNHC Family Fund, this family-oriented festival features cider making, delicious apple treats, vendor booths, kids activities, a hard cider garden, live music, food trucks, and the popular homemade apple pie contest.

The highlight of the festival is the pressing of apples into fresh raw cider. In 2024 more than 100 gallons of cider were pressed and enjoyed by festivalgoers. Apples come from the former Wells Nursery orchard on the grounds of the festival and from local residents with apple trees in their yards. As the festival has grown, the need for even more apples has resulted in accessing large bins from Eastern Washington orchards. Thanks to the Farmhouse Market's produce connections, almost 4,000 apples are donated for the pressing.

In the Vendor Orchard, shoppers have the choice of more than 30 different crafts people, artists, bakers, florists, and family service providers. The food area will include three different food trucks featuring Mediterranean, Cuban/Mexican, and Thai cuisine and vendors selling cotton candy, ice cream, fruit cups, cookies, jam, and more. The Family Fund will also be selling Whidbey Pie apple pies and slices.

As a family-oriented festival, the kids are included in the fun. The Kids Orchard, sponsored by Nelson Treehouse & Supply and Jumpin' Joey's

Party Rentals, is bigger and better than ever this year. Kids can enjoy two inflatable play structures, try out youth rugby, rope some cow heads, play kid games, try their hand at a craft project, and interact with birds of prey from the Northwest Game Hawkers falconry club. Horse rides for the young and young at heart take place in the round pen.

For adults, the Cider Garden will again serve refreshing hard ciders from Finnriver Farm & Cidery. Tasting flights can be sampled before choosing a favorite cider to enjoy with friends. Everyone will enjoy live music from the Cider Garden stage. Returning artists Sheyenne Leonard and Timothy Michaels will perform along with *Malware* a jazz/funk ensemble and the ever-popular *Laurel Canyon Legacy*.

All this activity is organized by the NWNHC Family Fund and

community volunteers. According to Betinna Maher, volunteer coordinator for the Family Fund, it takes more than 70 volunteers to pull it off. Teens from local schools and service groups, as well as adult community members pitch in to help. "We always need more volunteers!," implored Maher. Volunteers can sign up by following the Signup Genius link on the Apple Festival webpage. (nwnhcfamilyfund.org)

Admission to the festival is free. There is a \$3 donation for parking and tickets can be purchased for apple treats, cider, horse rides, the inflatables, and adult beverages. Proceeds from the event allow local kids, whose family is struggling, to attend summer camp and military families facing the challenges of military life find healing through the Warrior Family Retreats.



WAGES (cont'd from page 8)

businesses shift to give fewer employees more hours to stay under the 15 employee cap. “We already pay wages higher than industry standard,” says Cox, “and if the minimum goes up, you have to pay longer tenured, more experienced employees more, too. If we had to pay a full-time living wage to employees, even just for themselves as a single household, we couldn’t exist. We can’t charge enough for a cup of coffee to make that work.”

Wages are typically the highest cost for a small business, around one-third of total costs, so in addition to decreasing the number of jobs overall, an increased minimum wage will likely drive up prices. Saeed Anwar, owner of Farmhouse Market, is concerned: “This is a big jump [in wages]. It increases the cost of business and will impact the prices of our products. We follow a pricing program from a vendor (like Safeway or Albertsons), but produce prices from local vendors to us will be impacted.”

The price for that cup of coffee - or can of soup or head of cabbage - will go up, and while some workers will see increased wages and the inherent benefit of making more money in the very short-term, over time this is likely to neutralize with increased prices.

While an amendment to the new law was proposed to give rural unincorporated areas such as Fall City an exemption, it was voted down. Two additional amendments were made to the law to retroactively examine the effects, and one of those, proposed by Fall City’s Councilmember Sarah Perry, puts an emphasis on the impact of the law to farms and agricultural businesses. Councilmember Perry, who voted for the measure, spoke at a recent Town Hall in Fall City: “My vote didn’t matter in this. All I could do was talk to the businesses and talk to the farmers to find out what amendments I could make because it was going to pass.”

More than 4,000 businesses in unincorporated King County are potentially affected by the new law, and as of now, the Council is planning on a focus group and hiring someone to understand how the effects of the new law might be mitigated.

EDITOR’S NOTE: *This article is the first of a two-part series exploring the impacts the King County minimum wage will have on our small businesses, workers, and cost of living. Next month we will talk with workers and get an update on possible plans to mitigate the impact on rural communities.*

The Fall City Community Association
invites you to a

Community Center Town Hall

Tuesday, September 17 • 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Fall City Fire Station

Hear a brief update about the Community Center Feasibility Study and share your dreams, ideas, and concerns for a Fall City Community Center.

Refreshments included.



If you would like to attend on-line, check the FCCA website for the link before the meeting.



Take the survey!



Complete your community
center survey today.

fallcity.org/community-center

Local Farmers Facing Climate Challenges

Master Gardeners assigned to a farmers market talk to 20 or 30 members of the public each Saturday. By listening carefully to everyone, we can tell what is top of their mind when they stop by our booth. What perplexed folks the most was why their tomatoes were not ripening. So, I plug “Why tomatoes are not ripening?” into my iPhone. *Voila!* Tomatoes will not ripen if it’s too hot outside (above 78 degrees). Solve this by trapping the ethene gas that will ripen them by putting the green tomatoes in a bag, or box, or drawer for them to ripen. Toss in a green apple or banana and their ethene gas will help things along. That was news to us all!

Having arrived early for my service shift and wearing my WSU ID badge, I had time to ask three market farmers how climate change had affected their farming this year. Duvall’s Farmer A said last winter’s snow, the summer heat now, and the likelihood of fire have been tough on him. “It’s hard on the employees.” I asked if his fields were bordered by trees or a forest. He nodded.

Then he offered, “It’s hard to rely on rain, but it works best.” “You mean your sprinklers don’t water as well?” I asked. He nodded. I offered, “maybe the rain fell more steadily and gently.” He nodded in agreement. “And the snow, did it lie on your winter plants and not melt?” He nodded, “that’s right”. I said, “Gosh, your word-pictures are helpful to me. Thanks.” Farmer A said, “Nice you stopped by.”

Farmer B from Yakima was a farm family member who said they were, “Still talking to insurance over their Pink Lady apples not developing.” I asked if the apples bloom early for lack of pollination. “That’s right,” she nodded and added a lot more about the weather. “I have so many friends with no insurance, and they have just had so many losses. Once last winter we were up until 2:00 a.m. warming the trees in our orchard with heaters. And we’ve had fires that we worry about.”

Farmer C from Duvall sat while his wife wrapped and cut flower bouquets. He was thoughtful, observant, and masked. He said his growing acreage was too close to the Snoqualmie River. He had to deal with floods. I flashed back six years to a UW Researcher speaking to 50 locals at the Carnation Senior Center who predicted that increased warmth would melt more snowfall in the Cascade mountains to make for heavier, longer rains and flooding.

GARDEN & CLIMATE CORNER

by Susan Miller

Master Gardener & Pruner



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEEL WHEEL FARM

In our area gardens, surviving the heat (and/or fire and smoke) may be our biggest September focus. If it rains, we’re lucky. If you need to irrigate, consider dripping water in the evening at ground level. This practice reduces evaporation loss, and a steady drip is best for both your plant and water source. Realistically, outdoor public water use is bound to be limited or stopped eventually.

The State of Washington has gotten itself into a Climate Change pickle regarding computer data storage centers. “Power Hungry” is the lead-in to, “Washington State gives tech giants a huge tax break to create jobs in rural areas. But lawmakers keep the results hidden from the public, and there’s been no audit for years,” according to the *Seattle Times*.

In a nutshell, back in 2010 state legislators all but caved in to tech industry lobbyists who threatened to move out of state unless they received major tax breaks. Once Pandora’s Box was opened, new out-of-state data centers moved in. The industry’s data storage needs grew steadily, putting Washington 10th in the nation for data storage centers, vastly increasing dedicated hydroelectric usage. Now, burgeoning storage needs of the global AI industry may dramatically increase dedicated energy requirements. Let’s hope the Washington legislature can rein in this rampant energy use in 2025.

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susanamiller@hotmail.com
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September Sno-Valley Senior Center Events

BACK TO THE 90'S RAINBOW BINGO

Friday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30)
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.

SENIOR APARTMENTS RIBBON CUTTING & SENIOR CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Monday, September 23 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Ribbon cutting will be at 4:40 p.m. Event to include prospective renters and their families, community members, and elected officials from our city, county, and state governments. Guests can explore the apartments and then visit the Senior Center to enjoy appetizers, beverages, and live music.

FALL PREVENTION DAY

Monday, September 30 from 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Falling is not an inevitable part of aging. Come and learn about fall risks and how to prevent them.

8:45 a.m.—FREE Enhanced Fitness Exercise Class

10:00 a.m.—Medicare Changes 2025

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.—Hearing Assessments

11:00 a.m.—Falls Prevention Presentation

Noon—LUNCH. Free for all.

1:00 p.m.— Presentation by PhysioCare

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.—Balance Assessments

2:00 p.m.—Balance + Exercise Class—FREE

PAINT & SIP

Friday, September 6 at 1:00 p.m. Learn how to paint a lovely bouquet of flowers while sipping wine, in this easy, step-by-step lesson. Participants will learn various brush techniques for creating foliage, wood grain, glass, blending, and much more. Beginners are welcome. \$35 pre-paid.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Friday, September 20 at 12:00 p.m. Come and celebrate your birthday. Call 425-333-4152 to make your reservation at least 24 hours in advance.

LUX LANGUAGES SPANISH CLASS

Tuesday, September 17 at 11:00 a.m. Come learn conversational Spanish in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. Enjoy some coffee and learn the basics: how to order at a restaurant, numbers, and vocabulary. We will play bingo and have fun learning. Suggested donation of \$5 given to the front desk.

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



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



Hey Neighbor, Interested in learning more? Let's chat over a coffee, tea, or something stronger.

Nic Chambers | 206.802.8120 | nic@chambersnw.com

A REAL ESTATE BROKER WHO DOESN'T SUCK.

Track Your
Home's Value



Just hover your
camera over
this QR code to
get started!



CHAMBERS
NORTH WEST
A COMPASS TEAM



*Anyone in need may receive ~
spread the word!*

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS FOR NON-PERISHABLES

Farmhouse Market
FC United Methodist Church
Hauglie Insurance Agency

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

September 4 and September 18

FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Nourishing Our Community: How the Fall City Food Pantry Supports Neighbors in Need

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, fall reminds us that this season is about more than pumpkin spice lattes and cozy sweaters. It's also a time to reflect on the importance of community and how we can support our neighbors in need. One impactful way our community comes together is through the Fall City Community Food Pantry, a vital lifeline for many of our neighbors facing food insecurity.

A Brief History

The Fall City Community Food Pantry was established 13 years ago from the collective effort of local volunteers who recognized a growing need in our area. What began as a small operation has since grown into a crucial resource, providing groceries and essential items to dozens of families. Located at the heart of Fall City in the United Methodist Church, the Pantry is a testament to our community's commitment to caring for one another.

Meeting the Needs of Our Community

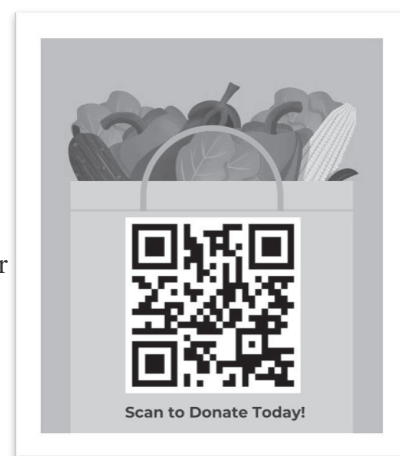
Open twice each month, the Pantry offers a variety of food items, including fresh produce, dairy, proteins and pantry staples. The selection is carefully curated to provide balanced, nutritious options for families and individuals. The Pantry partners with local farms, grocery stores, food banks and community organized food drives to ensure the shelves are always well-stocked.

Over the past year, the demand for the Pantry's services has increased, reflecting the economic challenges many are facing. In response, our dedicated volunteers have risen to the occasion, ensuring that everyone who enters our doors is well-served and provided for.

How You Can Help

The Fall City Community Food Pantry thrives on the generosity of our community. There are several ways you can contribute:

- **Donate Food or Funds:** Non-perishable food items and financial donations are always needed and your contributions go directly toward helping our neighbors. A collection barrel is conveniently located at the Farmhouse Market near the checkout or you can donate non-perishables at Hauglie Insurance Agency and the Fall City United Methodist Church.
- **Volunteer Your Time:** The Pantry welcomes volunteers to help stock shelves, distribute food and perform other essential tasks.
- **Donate Your Extra Produce:** At this time of year, many of our community members have extra produce from their overflowing gardens. Consider donating to the Pantry close to our distribution days.
- **Spread the Word:** Let others know about the Pantry and its services. Whether someone needs support or wants to help, spreading awareness is crucial to our mission.



SEPTEMBER 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, SEPTEMBER 3

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, SEPTEMBER 4, 11, 18, 25

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

3:00 p.m. *Fall City Water District Commissioners Meeting.* Public comment opportunity and discussion and approval of water system plan amendment. Water District office: 33015 SE 43rd St.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Library Play Time.* There are no Story Times while we get ready to go back to school, but come enjoy free play time. Stop by the meeting room for unstructured play and social time. Newborn to age 5 with adult.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Fall City Library Book Group.* Join us for fun discussions, community, and books. New members are always welcome.

7:00 p.m. *Fire District Commissioners Meeting.* Join the meeting live at the Fire Station or remotely. king27fire.com/remote-meeting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. *Fall City Apple Festival.* Celebrate the Snoqualmie Valley apple harvest with cider pressing, apple treats, vendor booths, horse rides, bouncy castles, food trucks, live music, hard cider, and kids activities. Also, enter the homemade apple pie contest. Free admission. 32925 SE 46th St.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. *Welcoming Week Stories & Crafts.* Celebrate Welcoming Week at the Fall City Library with local illustrator, Oliva Sua. Olivia is the illustrator of Water Day and Uno Más. Listen to her read Uno Más, then make your own casita (little house) with paper, glitter, stickers and more. No registration required. Supplies are limited. Ages 10 and younger with adult.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. *Japanese Tea Ceremony.* Witness a traditional Japanese ceremony demonstration, complete with live narration and explanation. Attendees will get the chance to sample the prepared Matcha tea and Japanese sweets. Location: Fall City Library. No registration, but space is limited. Ages: 6+.

TOWN HALL HIGHLIGHTS

(cont'd from page 3)

and costs. Also, a deep-dive study will be initiated to understand what our farmers really need.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: DOES FALL CITY NEED TO GROW?

A: The County has a housing crisis at all levels – we are currently 220,000 units shy and more growth is expected. Every jurisdiction is looking at how they can accommodate growth. Being a NIMBY community will not fly. We want to preserve the rural character of Fall City which was founded in 1878, ten years before Washington State was recognized. We want to keep lots and houses looking and feeling a certain way and have the infrastructure to support growth.

Q: FALL CITY ARENA PARKING LOT SECURITY?

A: The County is aware of the pain

point. Parking signage has been vandalized and parking enforcement is difficult given current staffing levels. Parks is developing a Park Ranger program with responsibility for informing park patrons about park rules.

Q: DID KING COUNTY BUY THE ROCK QUARRY?

A: Yes, it was purchased with Conservation Future Funds. It will never be developed, and they are currently working on reclamation plans.

Q: THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE PASSED QUICKLY; HOW CAN BUSINESSES BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE FUTURE?

A: If this is impacting your business, talk with Sarah Perry as she is developing a focus group to understand impacts and determine how to mitigate them.

Q: WHERE WILL THE NEW CRISIS CENTERS BE LOCATED?

A: There will be four adult and one youth crisis center, including one in this general area. It's easier to have a

crisis center where there are sewers. The County is currently accepting applications from behavioral health providers – funds will go to the provider and property owners will work with the provider. The opposite of crisis is connection: remember there is \$500,000 in a King County fund should Fall City want a community center.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE WOOD RECYCLING PROPERTY?

A: When fully restored to its natural condition it will become available for passive recreation. Learn more from the Natural Resources & Parks Department.

Q: WHAT ABOUT FALL CITY INTERIM ZONING?

A: A 7-month moratorium was initiated in May with new regulations for lot sizes, setbacks, etc. Hoping for a Council vote in November.

The meeting concluded with further discussions outside the library between department heads and community members.