

# Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 26, Issue 12

December 2023



December celebrations light up our town, our families, and our lives. In this month's issue we see how together we can protect and preserve our community, how growth will affect the education of our children, and how to prepare ourselves for when the lights go out during winter storms. Plus, mark your calendar for all the upcoming holiday events!

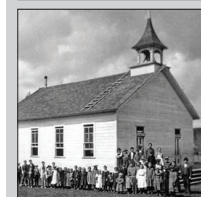
## IN THIS ISSUE

Sponsors .....	2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 14	Emergency Preparedness .....	11
Editor's Note .....	2	Holiday Handbell Concert .....	12
FCCA Meeting Minutes .....	3	Steelhead Return to the Snoqualmie .....	13
Fall City Sustainable Growth .....	5, 12	Sno-Valley Senior Center .....	14
Future Plans for FCES .....	7, 12	Fall City Community Food Pantry .....	15
Fall City Historical Society .....	8-9	Community Calendar .....	16

## December Highlights



Save Fall City  
—page 5



New elementary  
school—page 7

## Neighbors Donors (December 2022–November 2023)

Noma and Craig Edwards  
Fall City Community Association  
Fall City Community Food Pantry  
Fall City Historical Society  
Friends of the Fall City Library  
Carolyn Guettler  
Judy Gunderson  
Robert and Gloria Harris

Laurie and Kevin Hauglie  
Dwight and Rebecca Miller  
Claire Nold-Glaser and Jeff Glaser  
Tom and Irene Pike  
The Rinckenberger Family  
Tom and Anne Smarsh  
Sno-Valley Senior Center  
Jeremie Wilkins

*\*Donations received after November 15, 2023, will be acknowledged in the January 2024 issue.*

*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

The excitement of the holidays is upon us, and the season is full of events to share with our family members and friends. It is also a time of giving. Not only giving presents to friends and family but giving to those not-for-profit organizations that are making a difference in our lives and making life better for our community and its residents. There are many not-for-profit organizations in our community that deserve your financial support and volunteer time. We encourage you to seek them out and "act locally."

As part of your consideration, we hope that you will include *Fall City Neighbors* and the Fall City Community Association (FCCA) in your giving this year. Your generosity will help keep residents informed and connected through local journalism, celebrate our community through Fall City Days and the Festival of Lights, assure that Fall City is represented in our local and regional government, and preserve our rural lifestyle. You can become a member of the FCCA at: [fallcity.org/membership-form.phtml](http://fallcity.org/membership-form.phtml). To support *Fall City Neighbors*, head to [fallcity.org/newsletters.html](http://fallcity.org/newsletters.html) or mail to the address noted at the top of this page.

### HELP WANTED

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER.** Due to the imminent "retirement" from *Fall City Neighbors* of its lead graphic designer, David Gershman, we are currently looking for a replacement who would like to pay it forward to our community each month by laying out articles, overseeing issue design, and preparing it for printing. The new designer will need to be familiar with Adobe InDesign software. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact [editor@fallcity.org](mailto: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](http://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, and the Roadhouse Inn.

**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](mailto:editor@fallcity.org) or mail to *Fall City Neighbors*, P.O. Box 1064, Fall City, WA 98024.

**SEND DONATIONS TO:** Fall City Newsletter, P.O. Box 1064, Fall City, WA 98024

**TO SPONSOR:** Contact Janet Kautz, [kautzjl@gmail.com](mailto:kautzjl@gmail.com). Ad sizes: 3.5" x 2"—\$75/qtr or \$300/yr; 3.5" x 4"—\$150/qtr or \$600/yr; 7" x 4"—\$300/qtr or \$1200/yr.

**Deadline for submissions is the TENTH of each month.**

©2023 Fall City Community Association. All rights reserved.

Read *Neighbors* online at [fallcity.org/newsletters.html](http://fallcity.org/newsletters.html). Also follow us on social media.



### Newsletter Volunteers

**Layout:** David Gershman; Maria Billorou  
**Distribution:** Kristin Minner and the Minner Family; Sarah Kieffer  
**Treasurer:** Janet Kautz

**Articles & Interviews:** Sharon Brown; Kate Grossman  
**Historical Society:** Kim Weiss and Donna Driver-Kummen

**Gardening Corner:** Susan Miller  
**Fall City Community Food Pantry:** Karen Hatch  
**Sno-Valley Senior Center:** Carrie Harris  
**Printing:** RRD Packaging Solutions/Cindy Parks



# Community News and Notes

## FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### Highlights of the November 2023 Meeting



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT.** *President Rachel Shepard.* Shepard reported that a grant has been awarded to begin work on a Fall City Community Center. Fall City residents who would like to participate in the planning effort should e-mail [fccca@fallcity.org](mailto:fccca@fallcity.org). She also noted that John Taylor, director of King County Local Services, is available to meet with Fall City residents on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the library.

**COMMITTEE AND PARTNER UPDATES.** *Fall City Holiday Festival.* Plans for the holiday community celebration continue. See the *Fall City Neighbors* calendar on p. 16 of this issue for a list of all the activities to be held on December 2.

**FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BYLAW UPDATES.** Copies of the updated bylaws were provided; members will be asked to vote in December.

- Members will receive side-by-side views of the current and proposed bylaws.
- An example of the proposed net unrestricted investment spending, with current numbers, will be provided at the December meeting.

**BUSINESS DISTRICT LOSS PROJECT.** *Jeff Wilson, project manager.* The team is hoping to have bid solicitation documents available by mid-November. All permits have been approved and they have successfully negotiated an easement with the Parks District. The team is still hoping to award a contract early in 2024 and break ground during the first quarter.

**ROADS & EVENTS.** *Carrie Lee.* The roads committee is clarifying maintenance responsibilities for Fall City alleyways. It was noted that the County recently graded some alleys. The roads committee is doing research on alternative surface materials. In June, a meeting was held with the King County roads team and the school district to discuss impacts of the West Side Trail. The events committee is looking for new members. Marketing strategies and fundraising will be the primary topics for upcoming meetings.

**FALL CITY LIBRARY.** *Michelle Drovda, regional manager,*

*and Kellyn Haley, adult librarian.* In October, 2,626 people came through the library's doors and 9,333 items were checked out or renewed. Programs including family story times on Fridays, collage and other art workshops, luminaria crafting, and much more are offered. On December 16, Dickens Carolers will perform at the library.

**FALL CITY SUSTAINABLE GROWTH.** *Mike Suelzle, president.* The King County Council turned down the group's appeal of the hearing examiner's decisions on October 3. Unfortunately, Council members did not provide any information about their decision. FCSG decided to appeal to King County Superior Court, where a judge, rather than politicians, will hear the appeal. Case studies further support this action.

**NEW FALL CITY BUSINESS.** *Amy Ayers.* Amy, a group fitness instructor and certified personal trainer, is teaching fitness classes at Reign Church every Thursday from 12:45 to 1:15 p.m. Kids are welcome, and childcare is offered. Bring a yoga mat and water—drop-in classes are \$20.

**FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE.** *Andrea Mojzak, King County Water & Land Resources Division.* The project, initiated almost a decade ago, had the following objectives:

- Restore natural habitat-forming processes
- Reduce flood risk to property and infrastructure
- Remove levies and abutments built against river and rebuild the same level of flood protection to modern standards.

Left-bank (as you look downriver) accomplishments, completed in 2022, include removal of a portion of the Barfuse levy, reconnecting the side channel, and installation of an earthen berm for flood control. The site, the former Rainier Wood Recycling property, is owned by King County, and when the project is complete will be managed by the County's River and Floodplain Management team for the Flood Control District.

(Continued on p. 16)





## Fall City Community Association

Meeting  
Every 1st Tuesday of the month  
7:00-8:30pm  
[www.facebook.com/FallCityWA/](http://www.facebook.com/FallCityWA/)

## CARMICHAEL'S TRUE VALUE

Located in Historic Downtown Snoqualmie



## BROWN & STERLING

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Lawrence F. Brown, Jr.**

Attorney at Law  
Certified Public Accountant

4318 Preston-Fall City Road SE  
Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 940, Fall City, WA 98024

425.222.6374 | FAX 425.222.6373  
[www.brownsterling.com](http://www.brownsterling.com)

## GORDON CONSTRUCTION GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Tel (425) 222-6570  
Email: [info@gegordon.com](mailto:info@gegordon.com)

Fax (425) 222-5563  
License # GORDOC\*039D6

PO Box 429 Fall City, Washington 98024-0429



Kung Fu Club Fall City/Issaquah  
32841 SE 47th Pl Fall City  
425-392-4712

Serving the Eastside since 1993  
Real Skills, For Life

©Wing Chun Kung Fu— Self Defense & Conditioning  
Adult and Youth Classes M-Th, Sat

©Qi Gong and Meditation—Mon & Wed 7pm

2018 Fall City Parade Grand Marshall's Award 1st Place

## Chestnut Hill Farm HAY FOR SALE 425-785-6605



Would you like to buy a new home or property or sell your present home? Contact any of our brokers anytime for helpful, honest, professional assistance. All RiverView Realty Brokers are long time valley residents.

Office-(425) 222-5112 [www.riverviewrealtyllc.com](http://www.riverviewrealtyllc.com)  
Gene Stevens-(425) 351-8749 [Gene@riverviewrealtyllc.com](mailto:Gene@riverviewrealtyllc.com)  
Carol Stevens-(425) 638-2615 [Carol@riverviewrealtyllc.com](mailto:Carol@riverviewrealtyllc.com)  
Kelli Bybee-(425) 444-8175 [Kelli.realestate@gmail.com](mailto:Kelli.realestate@gmail.com)  
Marc Sanders-(425) 736-7271 [MarcS.RVR@gmail.com](mailto:MarcS.RVR@gmail.com)  
Don Oster-(425) 417-2876 [donoster44@gmail.com](mailto:donoster44@gmail.com)





# The Fight for Reasonable Growth in Fall City Continues

“**B**uild Right/SaveFallCity.org.” You have seen the signs around town. You or your neighbor may have one in the yard. The group behind these signs, Fall City Sustainable Growth (FCSG), is a nonprofit organization formed early in 2023, soon after the large signs indicating proposed subdivisions began showing up around town.

Mike Suelzle, president of FCSG, says, “The group does not want to stop development, but hopes to influence King County and developers to abide by policies already included in the Growth Management Act and King County’s Comprehensive Plan.” These policies are intended to protect rural character and have any new development blend in with the surrounding neighborhoods. Unfortunately, although policy exists, no formal zoning code existed at the time of the proposed developments, creating an avenue for the developers to proceed into the permitting process.

The current developments in question are known as Fall City II, Mt Si, Cedar 23, and Cha Cha and include 72 homes.

Testimony from Fall City residents during the King County hearings for these subdivisions resulted in some amendments to the designs. The hearing examiner was clear that the Mt Si, Cedar 23, and Cha Cha subdivisions are not consistent with policies defining rural character within the King County Comprehensive Plan. The hearing examiner did not, however, believe she had the authority to deny approval of these three subdivisions.

Unfortunately, rural character was not an item brought forward by the community for Fall City II, and that development can proceed as permitted.

The next step in the process was to appeal the decisions by the hearing examiner for the three other developments. This appeal was heard by King County Council on October 3 and denied without commentary, but with the stipulation that no clearing or grading can take place until the applicant has approval by Washington Department of Health (DOH) for a large onsite sewer system (LOSS).

After much consideration and counsel from David Bricklin, the attorney for FCSG, an appeal of the decision by King County Council was filed in King County Superior Court on October 23 and moved to King County Court of



Appeals on November 10. FCSG legal counsel contends that state law and the King County code state that the hearing examiner does have authority to deny approval of the developments.

This appeal asks the court to reverse the County’s approval of subdivisions based on their inconsistency with rural character as designated in the Comprehensive Plan and stated by the hearing examiner. This appeal is expected to be heard in spring of 2024.

In addition to working through the King County system of appeals, Fall City Sustainable Growth is also in communication with a variety of other public agencies and elected representatives to influence future development in Fall City. These include:

- *State Department of Health:* The LOSS systems incorporated into the proposed developments are not permitted through the County, but due to their size and complexity are under state jurisdiction. Members of FCSG are in frequent communication with this agency regarding the system installed at Arrington Court, which, after two years of operation, continues to not perform to standards. This feeds the concern about how these LOSS systems may impact the underlying water table and potentially the drinking water for Fall City.
- *State representatives:* Members of FCSG have met with our representative at the state level, so they are aware of the concerns of Fall City residents.
- *King County Comprehensive Plan Update:* Members of FCSG have been active participants in providing information to County staff and consultants responsible for updating the Sub Area Plan, which includes Fall City and the King County Comprehensive Plan.
- *Fall City Moratorium:* FCSG lobbied King County Department of Local Services and our County representative for a temporary moratorium on large subdivisions (more than five homes). This was approved.
- *Temporary zoning package:* This temporary zoning package would create a minimum lot size of 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup> and increase interior setbacks to 10 ft and street setbacks to 20 ft. The proposal was voted on and approved by

(Continued on page 12)



**Kevin J. Hauglie, CLF**  
Insurance and Financial Services Agent  
33410 SE Red-Fall City Rd., PO Box 5  
Fall City, WA 98024  
Tel 425.222.5881  
Fax 425.222.5036  
khauglie@farmersagent.com



Registered Representative, Farmers Financial Solutions, LLC  
30801 Agoura Road, Bldg. 1, Agoura Hills, CA 91301-2054  
Tel 818.584.0200 Member FINRA & SIPC

*Rooted in Integrity. Blooming in Quality.*



Cory Lewis  
PN-9353A

(425) 998-3671  
lewispruning@gmail.com  
lewispruning.com

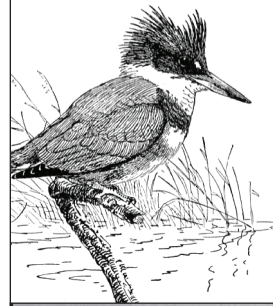


## Fall City Methodist Church

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

Are you feeling isolated or lonely?  
Do you want to meet new people?  
Come visit us & check out our activities!

4326 337th Place SE, Fall City 425-222-5458 www.fallcityumc.org



## TREEHOUSE POINT

Private Events Center & Overnight Retreat

To learn more about Treehouse Point,  
plan an event, or book an overnight retreat,  
visit our website or give us a call.

www.treehousepoint.com  
425-441-8087

Pete & Judy Nelson - Proprietors

## Affordable Window Cleaners

Gutter Cleaning Also!



### Dan Skipworth

P.O. Box 6517  
Bellevue, WA 98008

425-747-3768 253-227-2588  
awcleaning@comcast.net  
affordablewindowcleaners.com

## Friends of the Fall City Library



If you share our passion for literacy and community involvement,  
we would love to have you join us as we raise funds  
through ongoing book sales and an annual plant sale.

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

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

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

*Serving the Snoqualmie Valley since 1991*

**We are here, eager to answer  
your real estate related questions.**

**We look forward to  
earning your business.**

*Allen and Kristin Minner*



425.830.8773 A  
425.830.8783 K  
allenm@johnlscott.com  
kristinm@johnlscott.com



**Allen Minner**  
2005-2010-2015-2016-2017  
2018-2019-2020-2021-2022  
TeamMinner.com





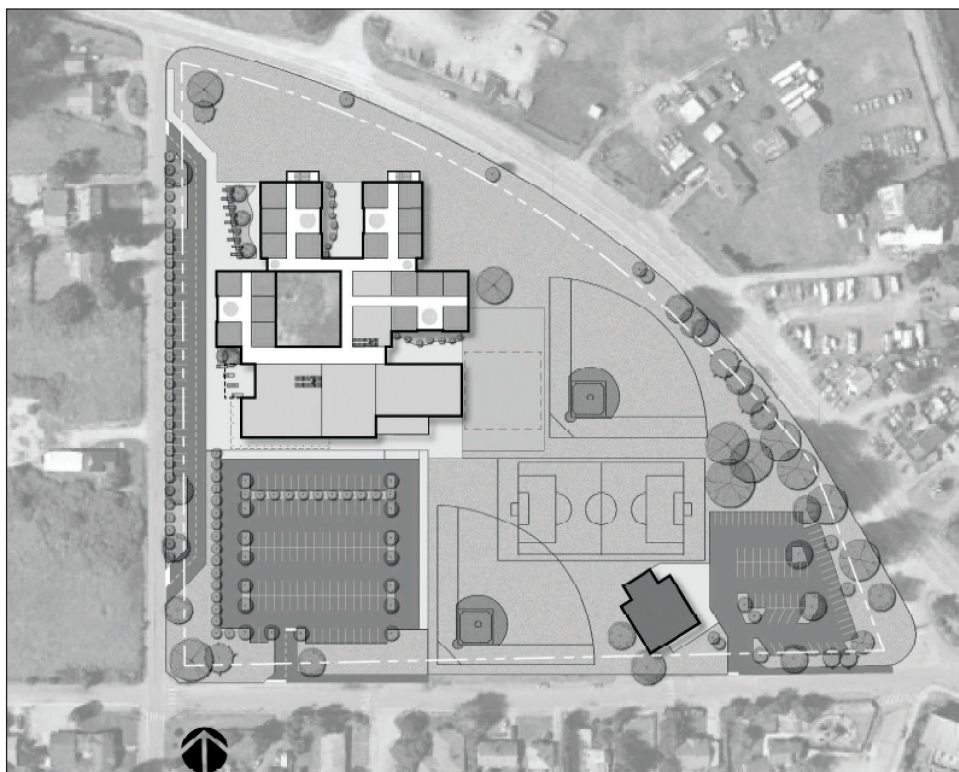
# Plans Under Way for New Fall City Elementary School

by Kate Grossman

**H**ow old is Fall City Elementary? That's the kind of math problem that second graders have tackled in the classroom for more than eight decades. Originally constructed in 1939 and renovated in 1999, Fall City is one of the two oldest elementary schools in the district. As the school has aged, safety, equity with other schools in the district, and a growing student body have moved FCES to the top of the list for needing capital improvements. At a community meeting at the end of October, parents, district administrators, and school staff met in the school's library to discuss the long-range plan for the district and what it means for local schools.

It's no secret that the population of the Snoqualmie Valley has increased substantially over the past two decades, and indications suggest that growth will continue. Laws affecting schools have also become more exacting, from learning standards to classroom sizes, special-education requirements to safety. "Having appropriate spaces to provide these new forms of instruction can improve the student experience and overall learning," says Jamie Warner, principal of FCES. "While we have done our best to be creative and repurpose as many spaces as possible to meet these demands, we are out of space."

A Capital Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) has been working over the past few years with the district to anticipate the needs for schools and school properties over the next 20 to 30 years. The CFAC, made up of school board members, parents from each district school, district administrators, and an architect, looked at a variety of criteria as they developed a plan to suggest where investment is most needed. Student safety, age of the facilities, relative capacity in portable classrooms, planning for future enrollment, and equity of learning spaces across the district were top priorities. They identified the replacement or renovation of Fall City Elementary, North Bend Elementary, and Snoqualmie Middle School as being key for the first



**Proposed renovation of Fall City Elementary School.**

phase. While plans for FCES are obviously of greatest direct impact to the Fall City community, changes to Snoqualmie Middle School could potentially have effects on Chief Kanim Middle School enrollment as well.

The CFAC suggested two primary options. One option would include renovating the school with a second story, adding new classroom spaces, and building a new gym space. The second option would be to build a new school in the current playfield area and then remove the old school. In both options, the CFAC recommended retaining the current gym for its historical importance to the community and as an ongoing location for community use, and both options included a two-story building. However, as Ryan Stokes, assistant superintendent of finance and operations, clarifies, "It is purely conceptual at this point; a proof of concept." By their preliminary estimates, the new construction option would cost marginally more, but it would cause less disruption to ongoing education and also more easily allow for potential changes to traffic flow.

Local parents at the community meeting were most interested in discussing safety and security, particularly

**(Continued on p. 12)**



# FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

[historylives@fallcityhistorical.org](mailto:historylives@fallcityhistorical.org)

[www.fallcityhistorical.org](http://www.fallcityhistorical.org)

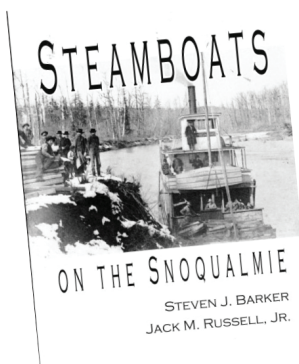
## *We Can't Do It Without You*

At this time of year, we like to thank the small army of volunteers that keep the Historical Society going. Here's a partial list of tasks: cleaning headstones at the cemetery, helping in the office, designing and setting up for Fall City Day, providing treats for events, recording interviews, refreshing displays, photographing events and artifacts, setting bug traps, keeping track of volunteer hours, writing articles, cleaning our outdoor signs, writing thank you notes to donors, keeping the membership list up-to-date, booking speakers, stocking our vendors with products, managing our website, solving computer issues, managing the finances, writing grants, posting to our Facebook and Instagram pages—and the list goes on.

One unusual task came when we wanted to make a life-size image of Leroy Bronemann. Nowhere could we find a full length picture of him, but we had a good 3/4 shot. So, one of our able volunteers took the photo to a photoshop friend who “put legs on Leroy.” Next time you see it, look closely!

We're always looking for people who have a little time to work on projects with us. If this sounds fun, send us an email; there is probably something for you!

***To all our unsung heroes, we send a sincere thank you!***



### *The Steamboats Came!*

Over 50 people gathered in October to hear authors Steven J Barker and Jack M Russell, Jr regale us with stories of the times when steamboats came up to Fall City on the Snoqualmie River. The slideshow that accompanied the talk showed some interesting predicaments that befell boats when the river turned on them. Their extensively researched book “Steamboats on the Snoqualmie” will be available at the Holiday Market.

Thanks Y'all!

To all of you who sent in memberships and donations during our Fall Fund Raising event, we send a heartfelt thank you. We have some exciting ideas that can now be pursued with this funding. Fall City is a great community where people step up to support causes they believe in. We appreciate it.





# FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

[historylives@fallcityhistorical.org](mailto:historylives@fallcityhistorical.org)

[www.fallcityhistorical.org](http://www.fallcityhistorical.org)



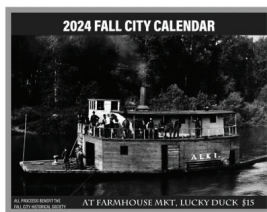
## Get Your Shopping Done Early



**Stop and see us at the Holiday Market!** We have the 2024 calendar, the new “Steamboat” pint glass, wine glasses, mugs, magnets, and our books. You’re sure to find something for someone on your list!

Come and say hello and share a story of “Olde Fall City.” We’re always interested in hearing something from your family’s past.

If you miss this event our Fall City items are available at the Farmhouse Market, The Lucky Duck Thrift Store, or through our website.





## HOLIDAY MARKET

**10:00 AM — 3:00 PM**  
**Chief Kanim Middle School Commons**  
**32627 SE Redmond-Fall City Road, Fall City**

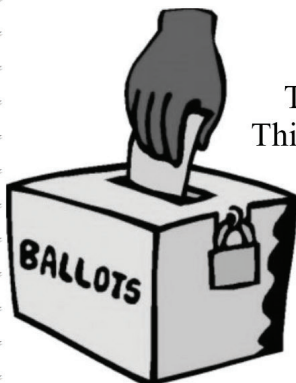
# Saturday Dec. 2nd

## And the election results are in!

The Historical Society holds elections every October for board positions. This year **Rick Divers, Cindy Parks, and Ruth Pickering** were re-elected to another three-year term.

## Congratulations to them!

We appreciate their commitment to the organization.



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



Fall City Metropolitan Park District  
PO Box 1180 Fall City, WA 98024  
email: [info@fallcityparks.org](mailto:info@fallcityparks.org)  
website: [www.fallcityparks.org](http://www.fallcityparks.org)

Attend one of our regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month  
7:00pm at the Fall City King County Library (33415 42nd Place SE)



**DAVID G. SPEIKERS**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

LAW OFFICE OF DAVID SPEIKERS  
FALL CITY  
32116 S.E. RED-FALL CITY RD.  
425-222-0555

20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

WHEN YOU NEED QUICK ADVICE WITH:  
\* AUTO ACCIDENT INJURIES  
\* CRIMINAL CHARGES/DUI/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
\* ESTATE PLANNING

## START YOUR NEXT CHAPTER.

Get your complimentary property estimate to find out what your home is worth.

"The largest number of homes sold in Fall City and the Snoqualmie Valley" \*NWMLS data, resale homes.



Acreage home in Spring Glen! Located in  
Fall City's private airstrip community.

**4721 354th Ave SE**  
Fall City, WA 98024

5 BED | 3.25 BATH  
3,320 SQ FT | 3.16 ACRE LOT

LIST PRICE  
\$1,595,000



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

**5307 322nd Ave SE**  
Fall City, WA 98024

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

SOLD PRICE  
\$1,500,000



Standout Fall City rambler on 6 acres,  
sold in 5 days for \$160,000 over list price.

**205 290th Ave SE**  
Fall City, WA 98024

3 BED | 2.5 BATH  
2,520 SQ FT | 6.06 ACRE LOT

SOLD PRICE  
\$1,610,000



Buyers are currently  
looking for homes like  
yours in the area.

As local experts and trusted advisors, we  
can help you navigate the selling process  
so you can focus on what comes next.



**BETH TRAVERSO**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP

CONTACT US TO HELP YOU DEFINE A CLEAR PATH FORWARD.

206.931.4493 | [Beth@BethTraversoGroup.com](mailto:Beth@BethTraversoGroup.com)

**KW EASTSIDE**  
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

# Fall City

★ Trading Post ★



Tiny Homes &  
Park Models



**EZ-ACCESS**  
Ramps & Stairs



**OLD HICKORY**  
SHEDS

Barns - Garages - Cabins - Shelters



RV Rentals



Heating & Cooling Systems







## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS – PLAN, PREPARE, PRACTICE

Each year, the changing seasons are a reminder to prepare for earthquakes, flooding, snow, ice, and windstorms. Fire District 27 encourages you to make a plan today to be better prepared to take care of yourself and your family when those emergencies occur.



### #1 - Plan Ahead

Get together with your family and discuss these important elements to include in your plan:

- Identify what types of disasters are most likely to happen; earthquakes, flooding, high wind, snow storms, power outages.
- Establish a meeting place outside your neighborhood in the event that you cannot reach your home.
- Ask what the emergency plan is at your children's schools.
- Identify an out-of-state contact; local phone lines may not work.
- Register with ALERT King County to receive emergency notifications.



[www.kingcounty.gov/alert](http://www.kingcounty.gov/alert)

- Know how to locate and turn off utilities; water, gas, electrical.
- Know what you should do to help family, friends, neighbors, and elderly persons.
- Have a plan for your pets.

### #2 - Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit

In an emergency, you will need some basic supplies to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours. If your power goes out it may take a week or more for it to be restored. If a storm is in the forecast, plan ahead and stock up on your supplies. Rotate your food and water supplies periodically. It's a good idea to separate some of the supplies in a couple of easy to move containers such as a backpack, duffle bag, or suitcase making it easier to grab-and-go if necessary. Have an emergency kit in your vehicle.

#### Disaster Kit Essentials

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water-1 gal per person per day      | <input type="checkbox"/> Eye glasses                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper plates, foil, plastic bags                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food-dry or canned, non-perishable  | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys, books, deck of cards  | <input type="checkbox"/> Can opener, utensils                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battery powered radio               | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash, Identification        | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash bags, toilet paper                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights, extra batteries        | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of important documents | <input type="checkbox"/> Infant supplies, towelettes                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car cell phone charger              | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp stove, fuel            | <input type="checkbox"/> Axe, shovel, rope, pliers                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tent, sleeping bag, blankets        | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid detergent, bleach    | <input type="checkbox"/> Knife, multi-purpose tool                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof matches                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal hygiene items      | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic sheeting, duct tape, towels for shelter-in-place |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra clothes, sturdy shoes, gloves |  |   |

#### First Aid Kit Supplies

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Book      | <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton swabs        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen peroxide   | <input type="checkbox"/> Eye drops           | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety pins, needle, thread |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antibiotic ointment | <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea medication | <input type="checkbox"/> Instant cold packs          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer         | <input type="checkbox"/> Antacids            | <input type="checkbox"/> Splinting material          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin, Ibuprofen  | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors, tweezers  | <input type="checkbox"/> Antihistamine               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical shears      | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect sting ointment       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandages, gauze     | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap, sanitizer     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adhesive tape       |  |  |

### #3 - Practice Emergency Drills with your Family

Practice your emergency plans to help you and your family be ready when the actual emergency arises. Stay informed on the local weather forecasts and sign up for emergency notifications at [www.kingcounty.gov/alert](http://www.kingcounty.gov/alert). Learn CPR/First Aid - During emergencies First Responders may become overwhelmed with numerous events and not be able to assist individuals right away.

## SAVE FALL CITY (cont'd from page 5)

the King County Council on November 14. The zoning package is similar to recommendations within the updated Comprehensive Plan, set to be finalized in 2024.

Members of the Fall City community have supported FCSG from the beginning. Their presence at hearings, writing letters to council members, and financial donations account for the progress that has been made to date. The journey continues. Legal processes are expensive and

financial support continues to be a major need. There is also a need for volunteer help in the areas of fundraising, web page management, outreach, and research. If you have ideas or can help, visit [savefallcity.org](http://savefallcity.org) for contact information. You will also find detailed information on court filings, hearing results, permitting documents, and site maps.

You can also follow Fall City Sustainable Growth on Facebook and Instagram.

## FALL CITY ELEMENTARY (cont'd from page 7)

for the portable classrooms nearest the street, as well as equal access for programs and updated classroom spaces. Approximately 500 students currently attend FCES, and more than half of the school's current capacity is in portable classrooms detached from the main building. After the presentation, attendees at the meeting were universally in favor of updating the FCES facilities, though there were a range of perspectives regarding rebuilding versus renovation.

A thornier math problem than calculating the age of FCES is, of course, how to pay for an addition to or new construction of an elementary school. Any changes of this magnitude would still be at least five to six years away, at the earliest, according to Stokes. A bond measure would need to pass, with greater than 60% of the vote with 40% voter turnout, and passage would be followed by a design phase, more meetings with staff, parents, and community

members, and additional review before construction would begin. The 2015 bond measure to rebuild Mt. Si High School and Timber Ridge Elementary passed with 62% of the vote, but previous bond measures came in slightly under the supermajority requirement. The school board would ultimately decide when to propose a bond measure, but all in attendance at the meeting agreed that FCES, with a growing student body and aging facilities, should be a top priority.

"Our district, through community investment, has made substantial improvements to safety with enhanced technology . . . but retrofitting a building over 75 years old has its limitations," says Warner. "The building wasn't built for the enrollment and concerns of today."

### *Bell Ringers Reprise Annual Tradition*

On Sunday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m., the Fall City United Methodist Church will ring out with the joyful sounds of Christmas in its annual bell choir concert. The concert will feature three handbell choirs, including the Cabbage Patch Ringers, under the direction of Carly Evans, and the River City Ringers and the Rhythmics, under the direction of Marion Querro. The Chancel choir, under the direction of Lyndee White, will perform several Christmas favorites and maybe a tune or two that is not so familiar. The whole community is invited. It will take place at the Fall City United Methodist Church on 337th Place SE.

## Councilmember Sarah Perry King County, District 3



Stay in touch and visit  
our website today!



[www.kingcounty.gov/perry](http://www.kingcounty.gov/perry)  
206-477-1003  
[sarah.perry@kingcounty.gov](mailto:sarah.perry@kingcounty.gov)  
Councilmember.Perry  
@CMSarahPerry



# SNOQUALMIE STEELHEAD: THE MIGHTY MIGRATORS RETURN

by Blake Reeve

As December rolls in, signaling the start of the holiday season, another remarkable event takes place: the return of steelhead to the Snoqualmie Valley. These extraordinary fish embark on a journey spanning about 35 miles to reach the Snohomish River, and from there they push another 20 miles to reach the sound near Everett. Spending anywhere from 1 to 4 years in the ocean, they make their way back to the rivers between November and May, ready to spawn within 3 to 12 weeks of their return. To boost the native steelhead population in our local river, the Tokul Creek Hatchery in Fall City has been annually adding nearly 75,000 steelhead smolt to the Snoqualmie River, and fishing for salmon below Snoqualmie Falls, including Fall City, is closed this year.

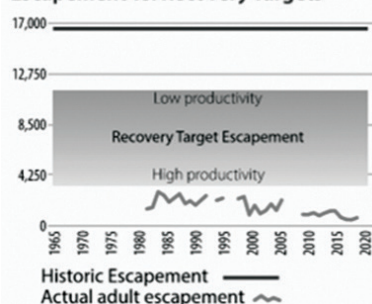
The returning fish face a declining trend in their numbers, a challenge shared in many other areas in Washington. The Snoqualmie River has seen remarkable restoration efforts, including the Fall City Floodplain Restoration Project, previously known as the Haffner-Barfuse Project. This initiative, situated just downstream from Fall City, aims to not only bolster the habitat for Snoqualmie River salmon but also bolster flood protection

and restore natural river processes like channel migration and gravel-bar formation. While its primary focus is on Chinook salmon in the Snoqualmie Basin, all species, including steelhead, stand to benefit. A substantial sum of more than \$19 million from various state funding sources has been allocated for this project, expected to conclude by early 2024.



PHOTO: WASHINGTON DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## Snoqualmie Winter Steelhead Escapement vs. Recovery Targets



Recovery targets for winter steelhead are between 3,400 and 11,400 adult fish (shaded area). Actual adult counts (bottom lines) show that winter steelhead numbers continue to decline. Gaps in the line are years when no surveys took place.

The Snohomish coho are a testament to the value and effectiveness of these efforts. In 2018, the Snohomish River coho were declared overfished. This year, NOAA Fisheries stated that they have been rebuilt to a sustainable level under the Magnuson–Stevens Act. A remarkable feat that it was completed in only five years! The overall restoration funding for the entire Snohomish Basin, as outlined in the 2019 Snohomish Basin recovery report, is nearly \$128 million. These additional projects will benefit all salmon species.

Beyond their breathtaking beauty, steelhead are a vital component of the Snoqualmie Valley ecosystem. Recovery, like healing any injury, takes time. We cannot expect this return to come back immediately. However, with proper fishery management and habitat restoration, the Snoqualmie River can return to its former glory and be a productive home for our mighty migrating neighbors, the steelhead salmon. So take time this month to visit the Snoqualmie and marvel at this wonder of nature.

## December Sno-Valley Senior Center Events

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAY LUNCH

*Friday, Dec. 1, Noon.* Join us for a delicious lunch and help celebrate all the birthdays this month. Call 425-333-4152 at least a day in advance to make a reservation.

### HOLIDAY BAZAAR

*Saturday, Dec. 2.* Support Sno-Valley Senior Center and local artisans. Join us for a fun day of festive holiday shopping, crafts, and baked goods.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

*Thursday, Dec. 7, 1:00 p.m.* Come to our Disaster Preparedness workshop to learn preparedness strategies and try useful devices for keeping informed and maintaining communications during emergencies. We will discuss what supplies and materials we need for emergency use. Free admission.

### VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS RAINBOW BINGO

*Friday, Dec. 8, 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.).* Enjoy a fun holiday bingo, hosted by Sylvia O'Stayformore! Includes ten games, prizes, snacks, and drinks. Register at [fundraise.givesmart.com/form/oFUNQQ?vid=11sfpl](https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/oFUNQQ?vid=11sfpl).

### AFTERNOON TEA

*Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2:00 p.m.* Want to know more about the programs and services available at the Senior Center? Join us for a complimentary tea to have your questions answered.

### COCOA MADNESS PAINT & SIP

*Thursday, Dec. 14, 4:00 p.m.* Join us for a festive paint and sip afternoon and paint a cozy, cocoa-sipping sheep. The step-by-step lesson includes all materials. Cost is \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members.

### DECEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCH

*Friday, Dec. 22, Noon.* Join us for a festive holiday lunch. Bring your friends and family for a fun celebration! Please call 425-333-4152 to make your reservation.

### HOLIDAY CLOSURE

*Saturday, Dec. 23, and Wednesday, Jan. 3.* SVSC will be closed for our staff to enjoy the holidays with their families.

**For more information or to register for classes and events, go to [www.snovalleysejior.org](http://www.snovalleysejior.org) or call 425-333-4152.**



HELPING YOU ACHIEVE A LIFE WITH MORE FREEDOM AND FLEXIBILITY WHILE  
CREATING GENERATIONAL WEALTH THROUGH REAL ESTATE.

**FALL CITY**  
OVER THE LAST 3 MONTHS

**\$1.2M**

MEDIAN HOME VALUE

**\$1.5M**

AVERAGE SOLD PRICE

**\$499**

AVERAGE PRICE /SQFT.



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

**Nic Chambers | 206.802.8120 | [nic@chambersnw.com](mailto:nic@chambersnw.com)**

**Track Your  
Home's Value**



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



**CHAMBERS**  
NORTHWEST  
A Windermere 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**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month

### **Time**

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

### **Location**

Fall City United Methodist Church  
4326 337<sup>th</sup> Place SE  
fallcityfoodpantry.org

Like us on Facebook!

### **NEXT FOOD PANTRY DATES**

December 6 and December 20

## **FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY**

### **GENEROSITY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN FALL CITY**

The Fall City Community Food Pantry is grateful to new Farmhouse Market owner, Mr. Saeed Anwar, for donating nine cases of various cuts of beef to the Pantry last month. The Food Pantry clients were delighted with this surprise addition to the usual Food Pantry fare.

We also wanted to give Saeed a shoutout for continuing the long-standing tradition of hosting the Food Pantry donation barrel at the Farmhouse Market. Saeed shared that he wants to participate actively in the community, get involved in local events and celebrations, and host some events at the Farmhouse, including a possible block party event and BBQ next summer.



Saeed took ownership of the Farmhouse Market at the end of June 2023. He shared that he is excited to provide quality items that his customers want at reasonable prices. He's planning to add a suggestion box so customers can let him know what particular items they would like him to stock.

He also looks forward to providing the fresh produce that Fall City residents have become accustomed to under the Farmhouse Market tent next summer. He'll drive his truck to Yakima for seasonal offerings as he reestablishes connections with area farmers. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Saeed and the Farmhouse Market in the coming months and years.

### **A Last Gasp of Summer from the Learning Garden**

We received our last major produce delivery from the Fall City Learning Garden on November 1! Picked fresh and delivered just in time for our distribution day were kale, cilantro, celery, peppers, tomatillos, tomatoes and many winter squashes, including Butter Cup squash.

We were surprised that the Learning Garden's tomato plants were still producing and learned that their gardens are covered with a low tunnel of fabric, keeping the soil and plants dry and warmer than the outside temperature. An incredible bounty this late in the season — we were grateful for the addition of fresh produce for our families.



# DECEMBER 2023 FALL CITY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

### Fall City Holiday Festival

**10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.** *Holiday Market*, Chief Kanim Middle School Commons.

**2:00 p.m.** A Christmas Carol, *performed in a theater-in-the-round*. Fall City Library.

**4:00–4:45 p.m.** *Fall Childrens Choir Concert*. Fall City Elementary School Gym.

**5:00–9:00 p.m.** *Fall City Festival of Lights*. Totem Garden (42nd Place) and Aroma Coffee.

**6:00 p.m.** *Tree Lighting Ceremony*. Downtown Fall City.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

**5:30 p.m.** *Beginner Ukulele—Holiday Tunes*. Back by popular demand, Kristin Tetuan returns to teach some more uke tunes. This time, we're going to learn a holiday classic (or two).

**Registration required** at [fallcityarts.org/ukulele](http://fallcityarts.org/ukulele). Sponsored by Fall City Arts and the Fall City Library.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

**12:00–1:00 p.m.** *Dickens Carolers*. The holiday tradition continues with beautiful four-part harmony by costumed singers at the Fall City Library. Sponsored by the Friends of Fall City Library.

**10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** *Riverside Restoration Planting*. Join the Snoqualmie Tribe in planting trees and shrubs alongside the Snoqualmie River at 2549 Neal Road. Help with the ongoing restoration of this riparian habitat and take a hike in the Fall City Natural Area.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

**6:30 p.m.** *Christmas Bells Concert*. Fall City Methodist Church hosts its annual musical tradition with three bell choirs and the Chancel Choir. 4326 337th Place SE, Fall City.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

**5:30 p.m.** *Music Jam-Along*. Jam with other musicians in your community, from newbie to advanced. BYO instrument or voice, drinks, favorite tunes, and snacks. We'll casually play along together, have fun, and share some laughs. **FREE**. All ages are welcome (kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult). Sponsored by Fall City Arts More info at [fallcityarts.org/jam](http://fallcityarts.org/jam).

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

**5:00–7:00 p.m.** *Live Nativity*. Join the choir of angels as the Fall City United Methodist Church leads the community in singing Christmas carols. Invite your friends to come by and check out the real live animals, hot chocolate, and lovely nativity scene. 4326 337th Place SE, Fall City.

## FCCA HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd from page 3)

The right-bank project, completed this year, included removal of a portion of the Haffner abutment, realignment of Neal Road with flood protection via a rock revetment and three log deflector jams, and excavating a half-mile side channel through the floodplain that is important for juvenile salmon. Fall City Farms provided both construction and property easements for the project. Andrea shared that the upstream part of the project is privately owned by Fall City Farms and requested that residents respect Fall City Farms' private property.

The project is already beginning to naturalize; both water and sediment movement is as predicted. Fish made their way to the side channel quickly after it opened and are already spawning. King County will monitor the project's performance for five years via field visits, drones, and gauges. Bare areas have been planted with grasses, and native trees and shrubs will be planted both this and next winter. The Snoqualmie Tribe has a volunteer event to plant trees and shrubs on December 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 2549 Neal Road.

1.5 acres of the old Rainier Recyclers property, outside of the floodplain, are available for a community asset such as a gathering place or farmer's market, etc. The County has removed the old pavement, spread mulch and soil, and built a berm. Also, the west-bank site, which is great for passive recreation and is a beautiful natural area, will be accessible to the public when the project is complete. The \$20 million price tag was funded through grants from the State and County. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is being planned for Earth Day 2024.

A question was asked about the Fish Hatchery Road channel migration study. The King County Water and Land Resources Division launched a feasibility study to investigate a similar (but much smaller) habitat restoration project in the area where the Fish Hatchery Road bridge was removed. The report will likely be ready to be shared publicly via an FCCA meeting next year.

**NEXT FCCA MEETING:** Tuesday, January 2, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom, Facebook Live, and phone.