

Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 26, Issue 9
September 2023



The natural beauty and cooling waters of the Snoqualmie River make it a treasure in our community, but it also draws thousands to recreate. Recent drownings have reminded us that the Snoqualmie River can be dangerous! This month we explore the issues and challenges that authorities and residents are facing to keep people safe. (STAFF PHOTO)

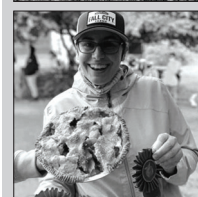
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**Donations received after August 15, 2023, will be acknowledged in the October 2023 issue.*

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

Recent deaths of paddle boarders on the Snoqualmie River in Fall City have prompted new calls to shut down the river to floaters. As with most things in life, there are no easy answers. Community leaders, businesses, state and county authorities, and residents along the river are seeking solutions to keep people safe and preserve viable salmon habitat. In the first of a two-part series, *Neighbors* reporter Kate Grossman takes a deep dive into the issues and shares the challenges that complicate a simple solution.

—JIM HUTCHINS, EDITOR

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, 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 or mail to *Fall City Neighbors*, P.O. Box 1064, Fall City, WA 98024.

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Deadline for submissions is the TENTH of each month.

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Read *Neighbors* online at fallcity.org/neighbors.



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Gardening Corner: Susan Miller
Fall City Community Food Pantry: Karen Hatch
Sno-Valley Senior Center: Carrie Harris
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Community News and Notes

FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Highlights of the August 2023 Meeting



PRESIDENT'S REPORT. *Rachel Shepard thanked John Reeves for repairing the flagpole after it was hit by a vehicle.*

Also noted that FCCA Treasurer Laurie Hauglie and Corresponding Secretary Sarah Kieffer will present the 2023 Budget Update and the FCCA Bylaws Update, respectively, at the September meeting.

COMMITTEE UPDATES. *Fall City Day, Anji Donaldson.* The Fall City Day Festival was a great event! It was the first year the committee focused on recruiting sponsorships. Although the fundraising goal was not met, it appears that the event did not lose money.

PARTNER UPDATES. *King County Local Services Director John Taylor.* Comments regarding the Snoqualmie Valley Subarea Plan were closed on July 15. An executive version of the subarea plan will be delivered to the King County Council by the end of the year, and the council will adopt a final version at the end of 2024. The project for the large on-site septic system (LOSS) serving businesses in the commercial district is progressing well. They are awaiting two more permits and are working closely with the Snoqualmie Tribe on their concerns. The project team plans to have bid documents ready to send this fall. John shared that there have been two fatalities on the Snoqualmie River recently. Earlier this week he met with property owners near the snags/log jams that resulted in the fatalities and stated that the impact on the property owners, especially those who witnessed the deaths, is "profound". King County will again be looking at ways to keep the public safe, including public education, signage, potential closure of sections of the river, etc., and John will attend next month's meeting to share progress. Some of those living on the river attended this portion of the meeting and offered their perspectives and asked questions. Their key questions/statements are below, with responses offered during the meeting:

*Who can close the river or call for a moratorium?
Recreation should not be allowed on the river from Tokul Creek to Fall City.*

- Historically, Fall City-area residents, recognizing the dangers of the Snoqualmie, have recreated in/on the Raging River.

- The Snoqualmie River was deemed a "navigable" river when Washington became a state and, as a result, was also deemed recreational. The state attorney general and the prosecuting attorney of King County have said we cannot close the river. Closing the river or changing its status will take an act of Congress.
- We do have a River Safety Committee that could write a letter of advocacy and support to our county, state and national representatives.
- If the Sheriff deems a portion of the river is unsafe, floaters can be required to get out of the water, walk on a path around the hazard, and then get back in the water. Questions remain about enforcement.

The snag/log jam has been there for years—in 2011 there was a sign saying, "Stay to the right." Fall City Floating currently has someone on-site, communicating to stay away from the snag/log jam. Who can remove the snag/log jam?

- The marine unit of the Sheriff's Department has done work on the log jam since the fatalities, and more work is needed. No government agency is responsible for removing the jam. Removing any woody debris is opposed by salmon-recovery efforts, tribes, water-resource inventory areas, and others.

Communicate the danger, including the fact that two people died in the river in July.

- The County's messaging is "Participate at your own risk."
- See report from Fall City Floating below.

Other comments from those living along the river include:

- The river is not safe for children or those who are drinking.
- The river is the last stop for salmon.
- King County Parks, Department of Natural Resource, Fish & Wildlife are not present on the river. Residents feel as though they are the "first responders." After the fatalities, two children were caught in the snag/log jam and rescued by one of the neighbors.
- Signage and other communication should be provided in a variety of languages.

(Continued on p. 16)



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RECENT RIVER DROWNINGS PROMPT RENEWED CALLS FOR CLOSURE

by Kate Grossman

The Snoqualmie River has been a source of transportation, commerce, natural resources, and recreation from the time Fall City was built—and long before. Today, there are two closely intertwined issues: the safety of thousands of recreationists on the river and the protection of natural resources that the river provides. The quickly growing population in King County fuels both. More than 340,000 additional residents moved into King County between 2010 and 2020, and the communities around Fall City grew more than 30% during that period. More people in the area means more people on the river.

Safety issues get the most attention, particularly during the summer months when thousands, many from outside the Valley, descend on the Snoqualmie for floating, paddleboarding, swimming, and other recreation. Devastatingly, two deaths in July underscored the dangers. On July 13, a female paddleboarder drowned after her leash was caught in a strainer. Though the woman was not a Fall City Floating (FCF) customer, an FCF river patroller communicated in advance the presence of the hazard and after the accident provided CPR until emergency help arrived, but the woman died at the scene. A second paddleboarder, a teenage boy also not with FCF, was caught on the evening of July 26 near the same location after regular patrols had left the river. Local residents attempted a rescue and performed CPR until more help arrived, but he died at the scene.

“Residents of property near the water watched in horror as these [recent tragedies] unfolded,” says one long-time resident of Fall City. “This river is dangerous and will continue to take the lives of unsuspecting floaters.” Multiple other rescues, including at least two children in serious danger, have been successfully performed on the same stretch of river this summer, and numerous injuries have been attended to by emergency personnel and local residents. Sergeant Richard Barton with the King County Marine Unit reports that “we’re called out there at least weekly. It could be daily. It could be five calls a day. . . . It’s a wild stretch of the river.”

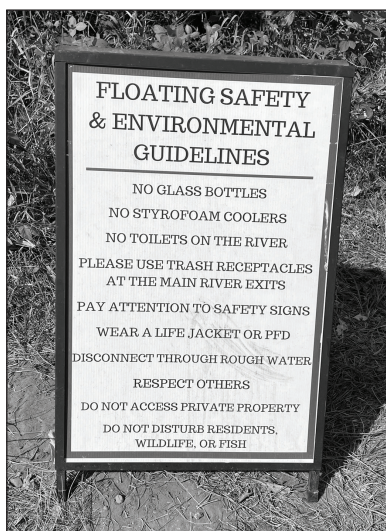
While it seems like there could be some simple solutions, in reality river management is much more complicated. Removing the hazards, such as snags and strainers, seems like an obvious first step, but it’s not so straightforward. The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks and the Department of Water and Land Resources, among other County divisions, monitor the river and report “life safety issues” to the Sheriff’s office. However, “once a tree falls in a river, it is deemed ‘habitat,’” explains Sgt. Barton. “All these trees and snags and snarls [can’t be removed] until they become a life safety issue. And sometimes we can’t do anything—the object is just too big.”

Given the complication of hazard removal, some have suggested creating a portage around the most dangerous hazards or stretches of river, but owners along the riverfront are understandably resistant to the idea of having thousands of floaters walking through their private property, some residents having sustained property damage in prior seasons.

Fully closing a portion of the river is another suggestion, but there are legal and practical challenges. Parts of the Snoqualmie River fall under the federal Navigable Waters Protection Rule. That designation is determined by commercial and environmental protection for the river and would require an act of Congress to

change, says John Taylor, director of King County Local Services. It also involves the state and Snoqualmie Tribe, per the most recent revision of the rule. “There’s a whole body of law around this, that people have the right to use and enjoy natural resources. We don’t have the legal authority to challenge this, and even if we did close it, it would be unenforceable.”

However, everyone agrees that providing as much education as possible to river users is necessary. The Fire Department, Sheriff’s office, and FCF have spread the word on local media about river safety. Signs directing floaters are on the river, though some residents suggest warnings should be posted in multiple languages to ensure



(Continued on page 13)



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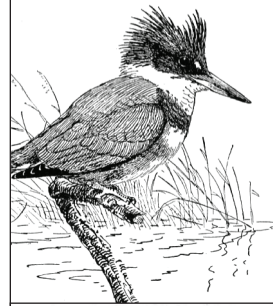


Fall City Methodist Church

Sunday Worship with Pastor Carrie 11am
Livestream on our Facebook page 11am

Are you feeling isolated or lonely?
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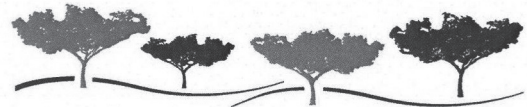
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www.facebook.com/FallCityWA/

Friends of the Fall City Library



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

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Fall City Fire District 27 - Proposition 1

Information on Proposition 1

Proposition 1 is a request for voter approval to authorize a levy lid lift up to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV) and to establish a limit factor based on the greater of 3% or the annual CPI-U for Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue.

The last time the District requested a levy lid lift was in 2004. The Voters approved an increase from \$1.00 up to \$1.40 per \$1,000 of AV.

The regular fire levy rate is currently at \$0.78 per \$1,000 of AV.

The Maintenance & Operations Levy

In 2020, the Voters approved a 4-year M&O levy that increased each year to help match rising expenses:

2021-\$650,000 2022-\$676,000
2023-\$703,000 2024-\$731,000

The M&O levy rate is currently \$0.31 per \$1,000 of AV.

Will the District Collect the M&O Levy in 2024?

If Proposition 1 is approved the District will not collect the final year of the M&O levy.

How much will the levy lid lift cost?

For every \$100,000 of assessed valuation the estimated annual increase in the first year is \$41.00 or \$3.42 per month.

A property valued at \$700,000 would see an estimated annual increase in the first year of \$287.00 or \$23.92 per month.

For information on the impact of tax measures on your property a transparency tool is available at the King County Assessor's Office Website - <https://localscape.spatialest.com/#kingcountyassessor/Tax>

More information on Proposition 1 - www.king27fire.com
Chief Brian Culp - 425-222-5841 or bculp@king27fire.com



Please Vote November 7th



How is the Fire District Funded?

Revenue Source	2023 Proj. YE	2024 Projected *
Regular Tax Levy	\$ 1,754,110	\$ 2,971,452
M&O Tax Levy	703,000	Would Not Be Collected
KC EMS Funds	157,678	164,624
Grants	115,822	
Other; Service Fees, State Mobes, Investments	113,190	85,554
Total Revenues	\$ 2,843,800	\$ 3,221,630

**If Proposition 1 is approved the 2024 tax levy rate would be \$1.50. A decrease of 12.5% in the District's total AV was included in the calculations as provided by the King County Assessor's Office. These projections are estimates based on the current information available.*

What will the Levy Funds Provide

- Continue to provide three-person minimum fire-fighting staffing with our current twelve full-time Firefighter/EMT's. Three-person minimum staffing is considered the industry standard used in our region and provides for the safety of our firefighters.
- The Fire District will maintain its Special Operations Programs which includes swift water rescue, technical rescue, and wildland firefighting. Due to river rescues and flooding in our area and the ongoing risk of wild-fires it is important to sustain these programs at the local level for a quicker response.
- Increase staffing to include a day shift Officer position to assist with training, fire prevention and inspections, public education and provide operational support.
- Apparatus replacement; the District's 2004 Pierce Engine is scheduled to be replaced in 2025-2026. The estimated cost is 1 million dollars.
- The District will continue funding for its long-term Vehicle Replacement program and for Facilities and Equipment Repair and Maintenance.

The original Fire Station was built in 1976 and a major expansion was done in 2004.



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

historylives@fallcityhistorical.org

www.fallcityhistorical.org

Save These Dates For Our Free Events!



September 22nd 7:00 - 8:30pm

Fall City Masonic Hall

***The Whateverly Brothers
sing Maritime songs***

Dan Roberts, left, and Chris Glanister have performed together for over 10 years. They are skilled instrumentalists and out to make music FUN.

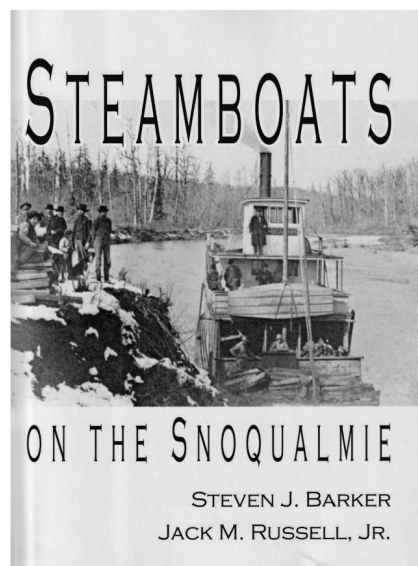
This should be a great family event!

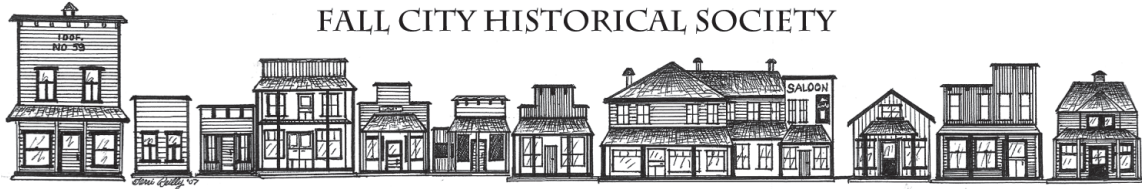
Deep appreciation to Brown & Sterling, Attorneys at Law and Johann Sasynuik for sponsoring this event.

October 20th 7:00 - 8:30pm

Fall City Masonic Hall

***Steamboat authors
share stories and photos***





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historylives@fallcityhistorical.org

www.fallcityhistorical.org

2nd Annual Cemetery Wine Walk

Thank you to all who joined us for our 2nd Annual Cemetery Wine Walk at the Fall City Cemetery.



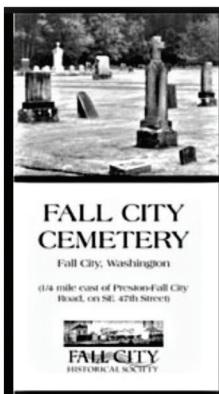
Board Member Donna Driver-Kummen shared stories of some of the prominent Fall City residents from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Richard Heisler with Civil War Seattle spoke about some of the Civil War veterans and their lives before arriving in this area.

Thank you to Wm Grassie Wines for sharing a glass of wine with our attendees! Your support is much appreciated.



If you are interested in learning more about Civil War veterans in the greater Seattle area, Civil War Seattle offers a variety of walking tours. Visit their website at: www.civilwarseattle.com/tours

Not Able to Attend the Event?



In 2022, we updated our Fall City Cemetery brochure. Along with featuring additional prominent Fall City residents and their contributions to the community, and some stories of interest, the brochure also provides the history of the cemetery location, its earliest pioneer internment, its various sections, and the origins of the Fall City Cemetery Association.

Our brochure can be downloaded from our website.





Fall City Metropolitan Park District
PO Box 1180 Fall City, WA 98024
email: info@fallcityparks.org
website: 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)



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WATERING LESS IN SEPTEMBER

As the cost of water increases, gardeners are wanting to reduce water usage in their gardens. Some readers report spending hundreds of dollars per month. Ouch! Here are some water-saving tips to keep your plants growing while conserving this precious resource and your precious budget.

LAWNS. Let them go brown. They'll green up with fall rains. Or replace lawn with hardscape to reduce your lawn size. If you choose to keep it green, add 1 inch of water weekly when temps are 80°F or less. Add 0.5 inches of water weekly if temps are over 85°F. Your choice of grass-seed mix can affect watering costs. You can save water by buying ryegrass, fescue, and Eco-Lawn seed mixes. An Eco-Lawn source in Portland (call 1-800-345-3295) sells seed requiring much less water (1.5 inches water/month) to stay green all summer. Choose from six "pro" seed types and expect to pay about \$30–\$35 per 5 lbs of seed or \$350 per 1,000 sq ft. Bonus: If you call in your order, you pay no sales tax. Deep watering encourages deeper root systems as mycorrhizal fungi root extenders reach farther for water.

LOW-WATER PLANTS. Be mindful that plants from arid climates need less water year-round, and Mediterranean climates have dry, ever-extending summers. Plant tags that say "Drought-tolerant once established" need up to two years of regular watering to make them truly tolerant during future droughts. Prepare their soil with lots of poured-in water and 4–5 inches of mulch for successful low-watering after 2 years. In late summer, plant abelia, chrysanthemum, coreopsis, coneflower, dahlia, hibiscus/Rose of Sharon, hosta, hydrangea, lettuce and kale, phormium, salvia, and sunflower. Several local nurseries offer a 10% discount on certain weekdays for customers over 65.

IMPROVING SOIL. Plants need deep root systems to use water more efficiently. If they can draw their water from a larger volume of soil, then they can go longer without being watered. Ideally, soil contains 35% sand, 35% silt, 20% clay, and 10% minerals, with good aeration and drainage per 1 foot of depth. Snoqualmie Valley glacial till benefits from mixing in the mulch of manure and decaying flora.

GARDEN CORNER

by Susan Miller

River sand and pumice can be added atop glacial till, allowing rain and fungi to mix soil with microbiota and worms without human disturbance. While "experts" say "dig or till-in amendments," complex new research on soil prep says, "Let the soil be; it will mix itself!"

MULCH. Covering soil with mulch conserves water in four ways:

1. Mulched soil inhibits runoff from rain. My well-mulched plants on both sides of my steep, gouged driveway, from the house to the barn, do not erode with rain.
2. Mulch cools soil by 10°F and holds moisture.
3. Mulch reduces weeds by smothering both seed growth and weed emergence.
4. Mulch also conserves water in veggie gardens. By the way: plant veggies close together and stack tall plants over low ones to shade soil and further reduce weeds in veggie gardens. What veg garden tips do you have to share? Please e-mail them to me.

If the rising cost of water is not enough of a summer challenge for gardeners, the Pacific Northwest heat drought designations have gone up in western Washington and western Oregon since early June. After a warmer than typical June, July, and August, expect warmer and drier weather in the Pacific Northwest until November. This year is on track to be the highest-temperature year recorded in the U.S. There is an 85% chance it will become the hottest year ever in our nation. The last three months have been extraordinarily hot, setting records by very large margins compared to past quarters. We all need to do what we can to conserve the water we have and plant smart for a thriving garden.

Stay cool!

—SUSAN MILLER

Master Gardener/Master Pruner
susanamiller@hotmail.com

An Apple Festival in Fall City?

Ten years ago, the new tenant at the former Wells Nursery property faced a challenge: “What do we do with all these apples?” The 35-tree fruit orchard was filled with bushels of fruit, with not enough humans and horses to eat them all. The solution: put them by the side of the road and sell them as a fundraiser for the nonprofit NWNHC Family Fund. Little did they know that the small streetside stand would turn into a family-oriented festival attracting more than 1,500 people from throughout the Snoqualmie Valley and Eastside.

They soon discovered that there were hundreds of apple trees in the backyards and overgrown lots in Fall City, Preston, Carnation, and Snoqualmie. Apparently, many landowners were asking the same question about their trees and lawns laden with apples. The Snoqualmie Valley may not have a large commercial crop of apples, but many residents are benefiting from the labors of our ancestors who planted the trees to feed their families.

This year is an especially bountiful year for apples, and local residents have been donating their extras to be turned into delicious cider, apple treats, pies, jellies, and more for the Fall City Apple Festival. This year’s festival will feature cider

pressing, an apple-pie contest, pony rides, kids activities, a hard-cider garden, live music, food trucks, and more than 25 artisans and businesses in the Vendor Orchard.

Betinna Maher, NWNHC Family Fund board member, said, “The popularity of the Festival has been more than we imagined. It is wonderful to see so many families enjoying a day out together and seeing children learning where their food comes from and how it’s made.”

The Fall City Apple Festival takes place September 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Northwest Natural Horsemanship Center (32925 SE 46th St.) in Fall City. Young and experienced bakers can enter the popular Homemade Apple Pie Contest by registering by September 11. To learn more, visit: nwnhcfamilyfund.org/service/fall-city-apple-festival.



Geocaching Adventures Unfold at the Fall City Library

by Kellyn Haley

Hidden amidst the pages of books and the quiet hush of knowledge, a new treasure hunt awaits at the Fall City Library. Geocaching, an outdoor recreational activity that combines navigation and exploration, has found its way into the heart of the community, thanks to the Friends of Fall City Library.

At the heart of this geocaching endeavor is a discreet geocache placed within the library. Geocaching enthusiasts from all walks of life are invited to embark on an exciting journey of discovery as they navigate their way through the stacks to uncover the hidden treasure. The geocache, an ingeniously concealed container, holds physical trinkets and the sense of achievement and thrill that accompanies each successful find.

In a short span, the geocache titled “Friendly Friends of the Fall City Library” found its place in the global geocaching tapestry. Adventurers from different corners of the world have been drawn to its call, while the whimsical

“geopets” embarked on their journeys, uniting libraries across continents. Geopets are trackable trinkets that are traded in geocaches and often are sent on missions. The Fall City Library geopets have already traveled over 15,000 miles, visiting libraries in places such as Iceland, Germany, Spain, and Duvall!

The upcoming “Art of Camouflage” workshop, set for September 5, 5:30–7:30 p.m., adds another layer to this evolving narrative. More than just hiding caches, it’s about embedding them harmoniously within the environment, fostering a sense of connection to nature and the places they’re hidden. Experienced geocachers will share tips on designing ingenious and environmentally conscious caches. Participants will be encouraged to think beyond mere camouflage and consider the sustainable impact of their geocaches on the surrounding habitat. For more information or to register for this event, go to <https://1.kcls.org/artofcamouflage>.

RIVER TRAGEDIES (cont'd from page 5)

that as many as possible understand the hazards. Another Fall City resident suggested posting a sign with the number of deaths or rescues that have already taken place to alert recreationists to the danger of that stretch of river.

In addition to contracting with and providing funding for many of the agencies involved, FCF has the most direct contact with recreationists. More than 20,000 floaters traveled on their shuttles in 2022, where they received multiple safety briefings focusing on always wearing a life jacket, being vigilant for hazards in the river, and paying attention to signage and safety buoys. “We do everything we possibly can to put in measures without bothering the neighbors or environmental concerns, while still trying to keep everyone as safe as possible,” says Ruby Higginson, public outreach for FCF. These include large signs directing floaters away from river hazards.

However, particularly on hot weekend days, the Snoqualmie River looks like an attractive respite for thousands more floaters—up to twice as many as use the floating service. These floaters can still benefit from the signage on the river and the emergency services support during operating hours, but many use the river without understanding the dangers.

Chief Brian Culp of the Fall City Fire Department reminds all: “Do not tether yourself to anything [like a paddleboard or another tube]. Wear a life vest. The river may seem calm, and in a lot of places it is, but there are hazards. We have a lot of people that float down the river that aren’t the best swimmers to begin with, and then they get in a river with current and everything else, and they have a hard time with that.”

While FCF will cease operation after Labor Day, recreation on the river will continue into the fall. In October or November, the many involved parties meet for a debrief “to talk through what worked, what didn’t work, and what we can improve,” says Taylor. “For King County’s part, we’re going to be looking hard at the things we can be doing differently. We want to do everything we can to keep the public safe.”

Says another Fall City resident, “Only a substantial curtailment of floating will save the fish and wildlife, and will prevent future loss of life.” But with more than 860,000 more people expected to come into King County over the next 25 years, these issues—and our river—are only going to become more prominent. Taylor, emphasizing the need to educate visitors and find solutions, said, “This needs to be managed. People are going to find a way on to this river.”

THANK YOU FROM THE FALL CITY DAY FESTIVAL

by Judy Dix

There are so many people to thank for celebrating “The Heroes Among Us” on June 10 in Fall City! Many hats were over hearts and many teared up as we watched the main parade honor our local veterans, service members, and volunteers in our community. Carrie Lee Gagnon and Jane Krein organized the “troops” for the main parade, Dale Ness was our esteemed judge, and Renee herded the youngsters for the kiddie parade. Cheri, Melody, Mary, Bill, and Anji helped manage our record number of vendors along the parade route, and Melody and her crew took care of the Fall City Day merchandise sales all day.

The Fall City Run was a success thanks to cool weather for the athletes and the efforts of Sophie and Kirk Harris, Sharon and Perry Wilkins, and Bill Swan in organizing it. You will be missed.

Todd and the road crew did an outstanding job of marking and clearing the detour for the day. Our vendors were able to leave early and most of our volunteers got to enjoy the evening’s entertainment down at the Party in the Park. Special thanks to Anji Donaldson’s amazing vision for the party and Nelson Treehouse for sponsoring the music.

Fall City Fire Chief Brian Culp was instrumental in keeping us all safe and secure by creating the comprehensive Emergency Action Plan that was a key communications and information tool for organizers.

And, of course, thanks to the Hauglie family, who again generously volunteered their time, energy, and resources to be our “home office” throughout the spring, as well as all the fantastic businesses that supported us with their generous sponsorships.

Thank you all so much!

September Sno-Valley Senior Center Events

NEW MEMBER TEA

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2:00 p.m. Join us for a complimentary tea, and talk with current volunteers, members, and staff to have your questions answered about the activities and services we offer. Find new friends, fun events, and more.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Friday Sept. 15, 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.

FALL-PREVENTION DAY

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 8:45 a.m.–2:45 p.m. It's a day of fitness classes, presentations on downsizing/decluttering, medication management, fall prevention, and fall risk assessments. Lunch is *free*.

FESTIVAL OF FUN!

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 4:00–6:00 p.m. For National Senior Center Month we will be showcasing how to discover your friendships, health, purpose and creativity, and how SVCS can help. Come and learn about our programs. We will have class demos, giveaways, prizes, appetizers, music, beer, wine, and more. *Free* to all—bring your friends!

FIVE WISHES WORKSHOP

Wednesdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2:00 p.m. It can be difficult to write your end-of-life wishes, contemplating what you would like as you approach death. We will support each other and have time to write our end of life wishes.

KING COUNTY VETERANS, SENIORS, AND HUMAN SERVICES LEVY SURVEY

Sept. 11–Oct. 2. Tell us what you think. Sno-Valley Senior Center will conduct a satisfaction survey on our programming. It is only five questions, and it helps us answer important questions about how well we are providing services and benefitting our community. The survey is anonymous and you can do it on paper, via text, or online.

For more information or to register for classes and events, go to www.snovalleysejior.org or call 425-333-4152.



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DROP-OFF LOCATIONS FOR NON-PERISHABLES

Farmhouse Market
FC United Methodist Church
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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 6 and September 20

FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

THE CONTINUED NEED FOR FOOD BANKS: CHANGES AND THE FACE OF HUNGER

Food banks have long been a vital resource for vulnerable communities, providing a lifeline for those facing food insecurity. Despite many societal advancements, the need for food banks like the Fall City Community Food Pantry unfortunately persists. During the summer months, children are out of school, families are on vacation and it's easy to forget that food insecurity is ongoing and sometimes more acute as children who normally get a meal at school cannot.

Most recently, economic uncertainties, natural disasters and unforeseen pandemics have amplified the challenges individuals and families face. The face of hunger has evolved, encompassing a broader cross-section of society. Many clients now include the working poor, single-parent households and even elderly individuals on fixed incomes, highlighting the vulnerability of these groups in the face of rising living costs. In July, the Fall City Food Pantry served 71 households which comprised about 285 individuals.



The typical Food Pantry client today might be a working parent who struggles to make ends meet, a senior citizen living on a limited pension, or a young individual facing unemployment due to economic downturns. This diversification of clients underscores the far-reaching effects of financial instability and the continued need for comprehensive support systems.

Regarding the most needed items, nutritious and non-perishable foods remain at the forefront. Items such as canned vegetables, fruits and proteins, rice, pasta and peanut butter are highly sought after for their long shelf life and nutritional value. Hygiene products like soap, toothpaste, and diapers have also become necessities, underscoring the importance of considering holistic needs beyond just food. Our website is a great place to visit for the most up-to-date list of items specific to our community.

The Food Pantry has also taken steps to address dietary restrictions and cultural preferences, as many food banks around the country do, offering an inclusive array of products to accommodate our diverse community. Fresh produce and perishable items have become increasingly available through partnerships with local farmers and markets, providing healthier options for our clients.

A Food Pantry client could be your neighbor, a colleague or a relative. As you continue to support your local food banks, remember that your contributions can make a significant difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity. Together, through ongoing efforts and thoughtful donations, we can strive toward a more equitable future where hunger is a thing of the past.

SEPTEMBER 2023 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 5

7:00–8:30 p.m. *Fall City Community Association meeting.* Fall City Firehouse Community Room or on Facebook (facebook.com/FallCityWA).

5:30–7:30 p.m. *Fall City Library: “Art of Camouflage” workshop.* Experienced geocachers will share tips on designing ingenious and environmentally conscious caches.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 13, 20, AND 27

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. *Gardening Wednesday.* Help Fall City Learning Garden tend the organic produce that they donate to area foodbanks. The garden is located behind the Masonic Hall in the center of Fall City, at 4304 337th Place SE.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

3:00–5:00 p.m. *Fall City Arts “Craft Buddy Day.”* Join for a read-aloud story time followed by a hands-on craft related to the reading material. Ages 5+. No registration required. Visit fallcityarts.org for more info. Sponsored by Fall City Arts, Fall City Library, and 4Culture.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. *Fall City Apple Festival.* Celebrate the bounty of the Snoqualmie Valley apple harvest with a family-oriented festival. Apple pressing, apple treats, food trucks, vendor booths, hard-cider garden, live music, kids’ activity area, apple pie contest, and more. 32925 SE 46th St., Fall City. *Free admission.* Details at nwnhcfamilyfund.org/service/fall-city-apple-festival.

FCCA HIGHLIGHTS (cont’d from page 3)

FALL CITY WATER DISTRICT. *Lyn Watts, commissioner.* There have been questions in the community regarding who can vote for water commissioner. In 1980, the Fall City Water District (FCWD) was created by voters (taking over from a private water district). As regulations became more numerous, small communities with their own water systems, including Plum Creek, Rutherford’s Estates, Spring Hill, Upland, and Heather Crest reached out to Fall City Water District for maintenance and other assistance. The neighborhoods were accepted by FCWD if they agreed not to fight annexation; however, residents of those neighborhoods cannot vote unless the neighborhood has been annexed. The easiest and fastest way to become annexed is through a neighborhood petition. The commissioners meet at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at the District office (33015 SE 43rd St.).

FALL CITY SUSTAINABLE GROWTH (FCSG). *Mike Suelzle.* On Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1:30 p.m., the King County Council will hear the four appeals filed by FCSG to the four plats previously approved by the hearing examiner. The community will not have an opportunity to provide comment during the meeting. The King County attorney will make a recommendation to the council, and attorneys for both sides will have an opportunity to make statements (documents have previously been submitted). Please attend—a Zoom link will be available closer to the meeting date. Mike requested that the FCCA grant FCSG \$10,000

and explained that the request matches well with the FCCA’s mission to build community, proactively communicate local issues, and take action on selected issues that affect Fall City. In addition, Mike reminded attendees that if/when FCSG is dissolved, any remaining assets will go to the FCCA. To date, FCSG has raised \$58,000 from individual community members and has paid \$54,607 in legal fees. They have logged over 4000 volunteer hours, produced over 500 documents, attended hearings and meetings, and met with local and state officials. The group’s 12 volunteers have completed most of the research work and data-gathering for the attorneys, keeping costs as low as possible. Two remaining plats have not gone to the hearing examiner. The chair of the Subarea Steward group, Anji Donaldson, spoke of the community’s strong desire to protect our rural character and its efforts to do so over the years. She argued that FCSG offers a new “tool” to accomplish maintaining our rural character. A motion was made to table a decision on the request until the FCCA board could discuss the proposal and review the financial impact on the association. President Shepard stated that next month, members will review the budget and then vote on the group’s request.

Minutes have been edited for space. Read the full minutes or watch the meeting by visiting the FCCA website.

NEXT FCCA MEETING: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 7:00–8:30 p.m. at the Fall City Fire Station or via Zoom. Past meetings and minutes can be viewed at fallcity.org/minutes.