

Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 27, Issue 11
November 2024



PHOTO COURTESY CINDY PARKS

Tragedy in our community has us all grieving and asking questions of life, mental health and family. As we mourn, we seek answers that we may never find, but we continue on. That is the strength of our community. In this month's Neighbors we venture on by celebrating this season of thanksgiving and giving to others, learn how to prepare for the stormy months ahead, discover how the library is supporting our children's education, and so much more.

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November Highlights



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You are invited to donate to Fall City Neighbors to help us cover expenses of the coming year. Please make your check to "FCCA/Fall City Newsletter," and mail to: Fall City Neighbors Newsletter, P.O. Box 1064, Fall City, WA 98024.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our community is still grieving from the tragic homicide of the Humiston family on October 21. There are so many questions as to why a young teenager who was seemingly "a good kid," from a "happy family," in our "quiet little town" could turn to such violence. There are so many unanswered questions, speculation, and mistruths about what happened and why. It is not the worldwide attention that our little town wishes for or deserves. Salacious gossip and exaggeration by media like the NY Post has done nothing to foster compassion or understanding for the family or any family with a child experiencing emotional challenges.

Certainly, there will be lessons learned and questions that remain, but the pain, grieving, and compassion will linger. Hopefully we can all come together to support each other and hope that the good Lord has taken Sarah, Mark, and their three children into his embrace and that their surviving daughter can somehow find peace and that their son will find remorse and contrition. In the meantime, hug your children, hug your spouse and pray in whatever way you feel best. God bless the Humiston family and our little town.



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, post office (green box in front) and at businesses throughout town.

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 from the October 2024 Meeting

KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL SERVICES. *Leon Richardson, Director.* There are numerous, complex questions about the \$20.29 minimum hourly wage that will be effective in unincorporated King County January 1, 2025. A recently hired staff person will focus on understanding and responding to questions. Examples of the questions are:

- Half of Snoqualmie Summit lies in King County and half in Kittitas County – how does the new wage apply?
- How does the new wage apply for a hybrid worker who lives in Tacoma and works in King County for a Texas company?

The King County Comprehensive Plan has been handed off from the Department of Local Services to the King County Council. The council is working on both the budget and comp plan. There was a request that the FCCA be notified if there are any “strike amendments” to the plan. Leon will flag the request with both Councilmember Perry and his staff.

FCCA UPDATES. *President Rachel Shepard.* Watch the new King County Park’s four-minute Video, Welcome to Fall City, Heart of the Valley (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bz0HHkWzAMY>). The video is playing on KCTS, public television.

The FCCA’s practice is to talk about the following year’s open board positions in October:

President Shepard is happy to continue a third year as President; Sarah Kieffer has offered to assume the Vice President’s role; Laurie Hauglie will continue as Treasurer; Mary Butler will step down as Recording Secretary. Inquiries for the open positions of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary are being accepted.

President Shepard reminded the group that \$9,923.80 of unrestricted funds remain to be spent in 2024. Members previously voted on the following priorities for 2024: land use issues, downtown revitalization, town maintenance, and member outreach. If you would like to make a request, let the President know in advance of the meeting. New procedures for aligning committee and project budgets with the FCCA’s accounting software have been adopted.

FALL CITY LIBRARY. *Karen Haley.* Traffic is up over last year at this time. Thirteen people per hour came through the doors in 2023. This year it is 17 people per hour. Circulation has increased as a result of more digital options. Karen reminded the group of the Kathak Workshop: Unveiling the Art of Storytelling through Dance on November 16th (11:30-12:45 pm) and Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls by award-winning photographer and author Paul Bannick on

November 19th (5:30-6:30 pm). See all the library’s events at kcls/fallcitylibraryevents.

FRIDAY MARKET SPONSORSHIP. *Sarah Kieffer.* Sarah shared the final report from the Beer and Wine Garden sponsorship. Income of \$10,649 and expenses of \$8,223 resulted in net income of \$2,426, which exceeded the original projection. Besides the positive income, there was opportunity for community outreach, membership, and sharing information about various committees and groups.

COMMUNITY CENTER FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE. *Todd Brown, Chair.* Todd shared that the survey and community town hall have been completed, Pillar/Partner interviews are underway, and a location search has been initiated. 86% of those completing a survey support a community center for Fall City; the Town Hall drew thoughtful and helpful feedback from a small turnout. The feasibility report will be wrapped up by year-end and the design phase will begin in early 2025.

FLAGPOLE UPDATE. *Matt Baroch.* Matt took on responsibility for the repair and relocation of the flagpole after it was damaged in an auto accident. He has met with concrete, welding, masonry and electrical contractors and believes the flagpole and plaque will be relocated to the “Totem Garden” by the end of the year. He plans to have sketches and a budget at next month’s meeting. Mount Si Fish and Game Club has generously provided a \$3,000 donation for the project.

4TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: SPONSORED BY LIVE GRAY’S WAY. *Summer Stumpf & Anji Donaldson.* Mark your calendar for this year’s event: December 7th from 5:00 – 9:00 pm with tree lighting at 6:00 pm. There will be food trucks, an auction and merchandise for sale as well as facepainting, a balloon artist, photos with Santa, beer and wine garden and more. In 2023, Live Gray’s Way helped 77 families with “make a wish” donations, offered donations for funeral expense and other family support, and provided funding for pediatric brain cancer research. Members voted to support the costs of the Festival of Lights banner and banner hanging in partnership with Live Gray’s Way with a \$1,500 donation.

SNOQUALMIE KIWANIS GIVING TREE. *Vaughn Sherman, Kiwanis President.* The Snoqualmie Kiwanis Giving Tree program kicks off in December with students creating tags that are hung on trees located throughout Fall City, North Bend and Snoqualmie. Select one or more tags and purchase gifts (or, for teens, make a donation that will be used for a gift card) and return the unwrapped gifts to a tree location.

(Continued on p. 16)



HOLIDAY MARKET

December 14 | 9 am - 4 pm

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Making A Living Wage in Fall City

by Kate Grossman

January 1, 2025, will bring a big change for the local businesses and farms in Fall City. As *Neighbors* reported in September, on that date the minimum wage in unincorporated King County will rise to \$20.29, the second highest minimum wage in the state. In mid-October, a communications staff person was hired by King County Department of Local Services to make sure businesses are aware of the wage increase and to help collect feedback about implementation of the law.

The new law was passed in May of this year, and Sarah Perry, King County Councilmember for District 3, which includes Fall City, voted in favor of the increase. “This district has the highest median income and the lowest poverty, but we still have four thousand people in our district that have a median income lower than \$15,000 per year. We want to meet their needs where they are.” According to the 2022 census estimates, which are based on income compared to the measure of financial need to live in an area, approximately 6% of 18-64 year olds in Fall City fall under the poverty line.

Additionally, Perry cited affordability of housing as an issue driving the Council’s vote for the wage increase: “It’s very difficult for our workers to find a place to live in an affordable apartment or home. [District 3 has] the highest average rent but the lowest number of rentals.” In a press release after the vote, the Council explained, “the goal of the new law is to increase the minimum hourly wage. The measure is aimed at lifting wages in unincorporated areas where wages lag behind nearby cities with much higher minimum wage standards,” cities like unincorporated Skyway, between Renton and Tukwila, and unincorporated White Center, between West Seattle and Burien. The increase will bring the full-time wages of someone working forty hours per week to just over \$40,000, minus taxes.

As previously reported, farms and small businesses in Fall City are very concerned about the implications of the increase and the negative effects it will have on the local economy (see the September *Neighbors* for more details). One of the primary reasons for this is the differing labor market in rural areas, which tends to have more seasonal and part-time workers. There was an amendment proposed



PHOTO COURTESY OF CEDAR HOUSE LIVING

The cost of everything from coffee to kale is expected to go up as local businesses and farmers meet the challenge of King County’s new minimum wage law set to take effect January 1.

to the King County Council to exclude rural areas like Fall City from the wage increase, but it was voted down.

Explains Councilmember Perry, “Those who live in the rural area are struggling just as much as those living in the urban unincorporated areas of the county, and oftentimes cost of living issues are amplified with less housing supply and fewer transit connections. Knowing that so many in our community are feeling the housing burden and high cost of living, I felt comfortable supporting other amendments that worked towards addressing similar concerns using different tools.”

Those other amendments included an amendment to phase in the minimum wage increase depending on the number of employees and size of the business, as well as an amendment to undertake an assessment of the impact of the law on farms and small business after the new law takes effect.

(Continued on p. 7)



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Fall City Holiday Festivities

Saturday, December 7th

Fall City is abuzz with preparations for the annual Holiday Festivities to be held the first Saturday in December. Be sure to add this event to your calendar and come share this magical time with your kids and neighbors. Here's what's happening:

HOLIDAY MARKET, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

CHIEF KANIM MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMONS

The 24th year of the Holiday Market will offer many handmade items for sale from local crafters and artists. Pick up ornaments, fresh wreaths, and live poinsettias for your holiday decorating. The Fall City Historical Society will be back with the 2025 Fall City Calendar. Indulge at the Bake Sale and Café with many delicious goodies prepared by the Fall City United Methodist Church Women's group. Bring your friends, enjoy the seasonal music, have a cup of coffee, and enter to win one of many unique raffle prizes. Friend us on Facebook: FC HolidayMarket

CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT. 4:00 P.M. – 4:45 P.M.

FALL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM

The Fall City Elementary Fourth and Fifth Grade Choir and the Chief Kanim Middle School Jazz Choir will fill the festivities with the uplifting voices of children celebrating the holiday season.

FALL CITY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS. 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

TOTEM GARDEN (42ND PL.) & AROMA COFFEE

Fun for the whole family including free Fall City Library kid crafts, photos with Santa and food trucks.

ANNUAL CHERRY TREE LIGHTING. 6:00 P.M.

Join in lighting up the town!

MINIMUM WAGE

(cont'd from page 5)

Employers with 15 or fewer employees with an annual gross revenue of less than \$2.0 million would have an hourly minimum wage rate of \$3.00 less (\$17.29). The reduction would decrease annually by \$0.50 until no reduction is remaining in 2030. Meanwhile, employers with 15 or fewer employees with an annual gross revenue of \$2.0 million or greater and employers with more than 15 employees but fewer than 500 employees would have an hourly minimum wage rate of \$2.00 less (\$18.29). The reduction would decrease annually by \$1.00 until no reduction is remaining in 2026.

Continues Perry, "When you're used to going on a certain frame for payroll, what we need to do is shift it, to help maintain the intense work [business owners are doing] to sustain their business. I'm committed to doing what we can to pay attention to and mitigate issues that are difficult for them."

Because the new law only affects unincorporated King County, the Department of Local Services (DLS) is charged with communication and implementation.

The newly hired communications staffer, Chrissy Russillo, is prioritizing developing the specific rules for the law, including what to do in special cases, such as seasonal full-time workers or businesses that straddle county lines. In addition, she and the DLS are developing a plan to communicate those rules – and existence of the new wage rate – to employers and employees throughout the unincorporated areas.

The office's current plan is to begin that widespread communication and rule-making process in early November. While the County maintains the law will not be changed, the Department of Local Services is also seeking feedback from affected employers, employees, and community members. The rule-making process is undertaken to make sure those affected by the new ordinance can voice their perspectives.

To give feedback on the new minimum wage law, as well as implementation or communication of it, please e-mail AskLocalServices@KingCounty.gov.

Fall City Family Becomes Italian Olive Farmers

Don and Patricia Fels bought their beautiful property on the Issaquah-Fall City Rd in 1973. It had the original homesteader's cabin, no water or electricity. They have been tending to the grounds ever since.

Young, with little money, and totally inexperienced, they decided to build their house around the cabin. Patricia, an architect, knew what houses look like, Don, a visual artist, knew something about tools (that's about it), but they had youthful energy. Now 50 years later their home has had many additions and remains a treasure.

A decade ago, Vanessa, the French born wife of their son Benjamin who attended Fall City Elementary and Chief Kanim Middle School, suggested they all purchase a holiday home in Puglia, Italy for the entire family to visit. At the time Benjamin and Vanessa lived in London.

The Fels, who are fluent in Italian, had no reason to want another place of their own, but together the foursome visited Puglia a few times. Eventually Patricia and Don found a very cheap, very small, 500-year-old stone house. They bought it and Patricia designed a wonderful update. After six years, and with the arrival of a grandson, they had outgrown the tiny place. But they were then spending half the year there.

So, they found another much larger stone house in the same small town, which had been abandoned for 40 years and, to the eye, seemed a complete disaster. Suckers for crazy projects, they sold the first place and with the money bought and fixed up the second one. It is now a fabulous home. Don has an art studio a few blocks away in an old garage.

A few years ago, they bought a 2.5-acre abandoned olive grove with 90 ancient trees that was walking distance from their house. No longer economically viable, these small plots of olive trees were left by families to fend for themselves. The Fels slowly nurtured the trees, pruning, fertilizing, and picking the fruit. It turns out that the oil from the trees is truly remarkable. With help from friends, they hand pick the olives and take them to a nearby *frantoio*, where they are pressed into oil. During olive picking season the presses around the town run 24 hours a day. Their olives are pressed within a day of picking, using stainless modern equipment, by centrifugal force. The oil is organic and unfiltered. It has a peppery but not bitter taste.



Longtime Fall City resident Patricia Fels stands in the family olive orchard in Puglia, Italy.

The olive oil production for them is a labor of love. This year they made enough oil to send some back to themselves in Fall City to give to friends and sell. Farmhouse Market in Fall City has begun to sell half-liter bottles of the oil. People love it since truly real extra virgin olive oil is very rare in the U.S.

An exhibition of Don's work (artisthinker.com), completed in Italy, is currently at the Museo art gallery in Langley, Wash. and an exhibition at Peter Miller Books in Pioneer Square closed recently. Patricia, who specializes in historic preservation has done projects throughout the area, including the Fall City Masonic Hall, the Meadowbrook Interpretive Center, the North Bend Theatre and scores of private homes. Benjamin has his own company in partnership with Drew Arndt who grew up on the family's Fall City Farms and who he met in 4th grade at Fall City Elementary.



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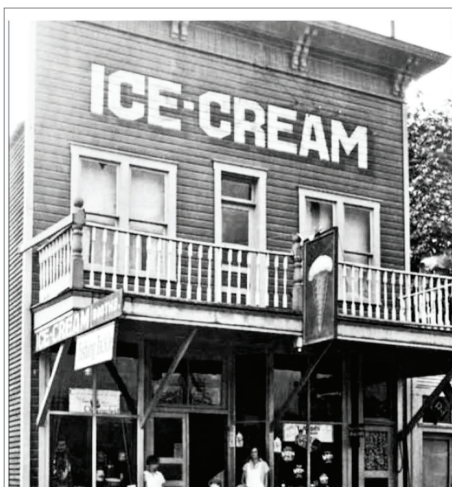
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Raging River Café ➡ Fall City Bar & Grill

It was bittersweet as we waited for the re-opening of the Raging River Café as the new Fall City Bar & Grill. On July 21, the Raging River Café closed, allowing owners Lyle and Kia Geels a well-earned retirement after 40 years of working in Fall City between the Colonial Inn and Raging River Café. Many in the Valley have happy memories of great live music, dancing, and excellent food and drink, all thanks to the Geels.

This spot on River St. has been home to a number of eateries, starting in 1915 with Charles and Minnie Moore who operated a restaurant for men working on the Milwaukee Railroad. Next,



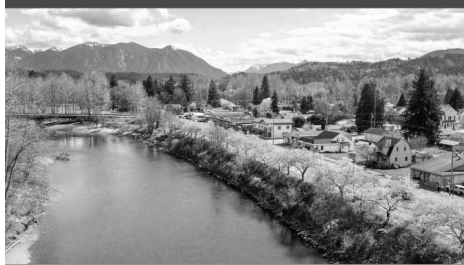
Leslie Confectionary Building where Raging River Café now stands. In 1926, the business was sold and building moved to Taylor Street.

John Leslie opened a confectionary until 1926 when it was sold and moved to Taylor St. At this time, Henry Hamilton replaced the building, and sold hamburgers, light lunches and desserts with an apartment in back and pool room below. About 1940, Bill and Mavis Nelson moved in to the apartment, and continued the limited food menus. In subsequent years, it was Joe Harris' Place, Skip's Café, The Sportsman's Café and Martinelli's. In 2001, Lyle and Kia opened Raging River Saloon and Eatery. When they stopped operating the Colonial Inn in 2005, they and their partners transformed the Saloon and Eatery, and changed the name to Raging River Café and Club. We're all looking forward to the next enterprise!



Lyle & Kia Geels, 2024

2025 FALL CITY CALENDAR



\$15 ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RIVER STREET

Our 2025 Calendar Is Here!

Want to know more about River Street? In this year's calendar, we are sharing some of our favorite historic images of River Street. See how downtown has changed through the years! You can find calendars at Lucky Duck Thrift Shoppe and Farmhouse Market. You can also pick up a calendar at this year's Holiday Market on Dec 7. For online orders, please visit our website listed above.

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



*Learn more about
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Visit our website at
www.fallcityparks.org

Public meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
Please check agenda on our website for time and format of meeting



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Library Offers Wide Variety of Student Services

by Alana O'Neill Gaulin, Teen Services Librarian

Days are getting shorter and nights are getting colder. That can only mean one thing – kids are officially back to school. While the new school year brings a lot of excitement, it also brings challenges. Your local King County Library System library is here to help. Highlighted below are a few of my favorite resources. For a complete list of resources for school, visit kcls.org/back-to-school.

All school districts in King County, except for Seattle School District, partner with KCLS to bring student accounts to their students, as do several private schools and colleges. A student account provides full access to eBooks and downloadable materials, plus access to databases for research and homework help. Though student accounts don't allow for check out of physical materials, public computer use, or printing in libraries, you can register for an All-Access library card at kcls.org/library-cards to receive those services.

To utilize your student account, you will need your school district's unique code and either the student's school-issued identification number or college-issued email address. To find your school's log-in information, visit kcls.org/students.

Our online resources are numerous and cover lots of subjects. Use Libby, hoopla, or Kanopy to check out eBooks, audiobooks, movies, comics, and more. For eBooks and comics in Spanish, check out our new database MakeMake. A special call out goes to Brainfuse. Not only does Brainfuse offer free live homework help everyday from 1 pm – 11 pm, it also offers a writing lab, test prep, skills building and more.

King County Library System also offers free tutoring and student support via our Study Zone programs. Fall City Library currently offers in-person tutoring every Tuesday from 4 pm – 6 pm. If that time frame doesn't work, check out our online tutoring times at kcls.org/studyzone.

The library offers more than just school resources. Fall City Library has a full slate of programs for adults, teens, and kids. Children's Services Librarian Jenni offers weekly Family Story Times on Friday mornings and Friday afternoons filled with after-school activities. Every other Monday morning, a baby story and play time takes place. There are even some cozy pajama Story Times planned on select Wednesdays over the next few months. The third

Wednesday of every month, I help host a Middle School Graphic Novel Club, where we talk about our read of the month and work on creating our own graphic novels. Also, keep an eye out for a teen Dungeons and Dragons group that will launch in a few months. And Adult Services Librarian Kellyn hosts a monthly book group on the second Tuesday of the month, and a wide variety of programs that highlight different interests. Coming up, there will be a Kathak Workshop: Unveiling the Art of Storytelling Through Dance on Saturday, November 16th and a look into *A Year in the Lives of North American Owls* on November 19th.

For a full list of events, visit 1.kcls.org/FallCityLibraryEvents. Some events require registration. A big thank you to our incredible Friends of the Fall City Library for their unwavering support in helping to make so many of these programs happen. And remember, you are always welcome to stop by the library and grab a book. We always love hearing from our community, so never hesitate to ask questions or make suggestions.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

NOVEMBER
8-22, 2025



Please help our neighbors who are facing food insecurity by bringing pantry staples, grocery gift cards, and toiletries to our donation centers. All donations will benefit the Fall City Food Pantry.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Aroma Coffee
Fall City Fire Department
Fall City Meats and Seafood
Farmhouse Market
Reign Church
SVA Church

ITEMS MOST NEEDED

- ▶ Boxed cereal
- ▶ Canned chicken, tuna or SPAM
- ▶ Condiments
- ▶ Canned corn
- ▶ Hand soap
- ▶ Kraft mac & cheese
- ▶ Peanut butter (Jif or Skippy)
- ▶ Spaghetti noodles
- ▶ Strawberry jam
- ▶ Toilet paper
- ▶ Toothpaste
- ▶ Toothbrushes

Sponsored by Fall City Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and FCES ASB



FALL CITY FIRE DISTRICT 27

Emergency Preparedness - Plan, Prepare, Stay Informed



HAVE A PLAN

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 events, landslides, and winter ice storms.
- Establish a meeting place outside your neighborhood if you cannot reach your home.
- Identify an out-of-state contact; local telephone lines may become overwhelmed.
- Know the emergency plan at your children's school.
- Get to know your neighbors and find out what you can do to help, especially if they are elderly.
- Have a plan for your pets.

Utilities

- Water, electricity and gas are key services in your day-to-day life. However, these services can also cause special problems during an emergency.
- Learn ahead of time how to turn off the water, gas and electricity safely.

Documents

- Collect copies of important papers and records. Keep them in a safety box and keep copies in a waterproof container with your emergency supply kit.
 - Take photos/videos of your personal belongings for insurance purposes.
- Keep some cash available in your emergency kits.

As we watched North Carolinians contend with the aftermath of Hurricane Helene and the tragic events that affected many people in the Southeastern region of the United States, our hearts go out to all of them.

Each year in our area we experience events of flooding, high winds, ice and winter storms. We also need to be prepared for large earthquakes. Fire District 27 would like to remind you to take the time and plan today to be better prepared to take care of yourself and your family when those emergencies occur.

ASSEMBLE YOUR EMERGENCY KITS

In an emergency, you will need some basic supplies. Plan to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hrs. If your power goes out it may take several days and up to a week for it to be restored.

It's a good idea to have your supplies in a couple of easy to move containers making it easier to grab-and-go if necessary.

Here is a check list to get you started. ✓

Emergency Kit Essentials

- ☐ Water-1 gallon per person per day
- ☐ Food - dry, canned, non-perishable
- ☐ Battery powered radio
- ☐ Flashlights, extra batteries
- ☐ Car cell phone charger
- ☐ Tent, sleeping bag, blankets
- ☐ Extra clothes, gloves
- ☐ Waterproof matches
- ☐ Eye glasses
- ☐ Toys, books, deck of cards
- ☐ Cash, Identification
- ☐ Copy of important documents
- ☐ Camp stove, fuel for cooking
- ☐ Liquid detergent, bleach
- ☐ Paper plates, foil, plastic bags
- ☐ Can opener, utensils
- ☐ Trash bags, toilet paper
- ☐ Personal hygiene items
- ☐ Infant supplies, moist towelettes
- ☐ Axe, shovel, rope, pliers
- ☐ Knife, multi-purpose tool
- ☐ Plastic sheeting, duct tape
- ☐ Fuel for generators

First Aid Kit Supplies

- ☐ First Aid Book
- ☐ Hydrogen peroxide
- ☐ Antibiotic ointment
- ☐ Thermometer
- ☐ Aspirin, Ibuprofen
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Bandages, gauze
- ☐ Splinting material
- ☐ Adhesive tape
- ☐ Cotton swabs
- ☐ Eye drops
- ☐ Diarrhea medication
- ☐ Antacids
- ☐ Scissors, tweezers
- ☐ Medical shears
- ☐ Soap, sanitizer
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Safety pins, needle
- ☐ Instant cold packs
- ☐ Antihistamine
- ☐ Insect sting ointment

STAY INFORMED - Emergency messages are sent by state and local governments and the National Weather Service via television, radio, social media and alerts on cell phones. **Sign up to receive emergency messaging with ALERT King County a Regional Notification Service www.kingcounty.gov**

King County Fire District 27 • 4301 334th Place SE, Fall City, WA 98024 • 425-222-5841 • www.king27fire.com



Winter Is Coming

It's time to start preparing your garden for winter. Bring your containers with your sensitive and tolerant plants into the garage, carport, or solarium. If they need a minimum of heat, place a small heater among them, and prepare for a mid-November first frost. You can choose to cover and protect your plants, especially vegetables, with a used sheet, old blanket, or protective covering. Consider a tight and light fabric called Reemay that you can reuse. It transmits 70% of available light, keeps heat in and bugs out, and allows rain to reach plants and soil. It will protect plants from frost damage down to 28°F.

Also protect our pollinators. Per the Xerces Society, bees and other insects wait out the weather or hibernate. Most pollinators prefer to stay at home and ride out the cold. So, unlikely as it seems, you are currently surrounded by bees and butterflies, although you don't usually see them. Most of the 400 native bee species in Washington will spend the winter in the nests that their mothers provisioned. In fact, like bears, many pollinators hibernate through the winter and they may need a little help to survive until spring. Since many species exhibit similar nesting behavior, you can protect multiple species of bees with similar actions.

So, take these actions:

1. Leave the Leaves

Leaves and other litter are essential shelter for bumble bee queens and the larvae of numerous butterfly and moth species. Many will happily back into a leaf or mulch pile. Beneficial insects like lady bugs will also back in and be ready to eat aphids in the spring.

2. Minimize Ground Disturbances

About 70% of all bee species nest in the ground. Don't dig more than 6" deep. Put little plastic markers where (you think) they are.

3. Collect Cavity Nests

If you must prune this fall, look for muddled-in caps and avoid them or gently clip and store them in a garage or covered area. Then undo your storage in spring.

4. Check Under Logs or Rocks Before Pruning

Check out woody debris like stumps trunks or branches. If you can, wait until spring to remove when winter pollinators move out.

5. Keep an Eye Out for "Creative" Nests

Best wishes to all of us as we try to preserve our pollinators and future crops.

CLIMATE CHANGE GARDENING

by Susan Miller

Master Gardener & Pruner

Planning ahead...

You all know the story of how Hurricane Helene intensified over the 80°F waters of the Gulf of Mexico and made landfall near the inner corner of Florida. It also rained 12 inches 400 miles due north in the eastern North Carolina mountains and so saturated the soil ahead of the storm that the harder hurricane rains just flooded over the saturated

land. The shocked media, nationally and worldwide, used the term "climate change" to inform readers that such climate change events can devastate people anywhere, not just in coastal areas.

Only .4 square miles of Antarctica was green in 1986, mostly from mosses. Now, five square miles is green. That's more than a tenfold increase in forty years, per CNN. The Antarctic's Thwaites Glacier, the size of England, is likely to break off in part or whole between 2025 and 2034.

"Millions of Americans have never been this hot in the month of October," wrote CNN (9/28). A historic October heat wave hit 125°F in places west of the Rockies. Palm Springs, CA hit 117°F, the highest U.S. temperature record for October in 40 years. Phoenix, AZ, which experienced nine consecutive days of record-breaking 100°F+ temperatures had 113 days where temps reached or exceeded 105°F this year.

Dangerously hot temperatures will linger longer if carbon pollution grows. The Union of Concerned Scientists told CNN if we prolong our use of fossil fuels, we'll prolong our heat waves. And thus, late season heat waves will become more common.

We will need to keep this in mind as we plan our gardening strategies and plant selections.



Consider using Reemay fabric to protect your over-wintering plants from frost and wild swings in temperature brought on by climate change.

Send your comments and questions to:
susanamiller@hotmail.com

November Sno-Valley Senior Center Events

THAT'S AMORE RAINBOW BINGO

Friday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
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.

ANNUAL VETERAN'S DAY BREAKFAST

Monday, November 11 from 8-11:00 a.m. Celebrate our veterans and enjoy a home-cooked breakfast. All current and former service members are invited to a free breakfast. \$5 for friends and family, \$3 for children. The Sno-Valley Singers will be performing to entertain you.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Friday, November 15 at 12:00 p.m. Come celebrate your birthday with us. Call 425-333-4152 to make your reservation at least 24 hours in advance.

HOLIDAY ZENTANGLE

Thursday, November 21 at 1:00 p.m. Join us for a relaxing, fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Zentangle incorporates breath, mindfulness and enjoying the practice and is a great artform to share across generations. In this session we will work on a large format paper to create your very own wrapping paper. No experience required. Materials provided for use in class and to take home. More info at soundtangle.com/snovalley-faq. \$45pp for beginners, returning students \$38.

STEAK DINNER & PIE AUCTION

Saturday, November 23. Seatings at 4:30 & 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a great meal and bid on a wonderful dessert to maybe add to your Thanksgiving festivities. Steak, salmon or vegetarian entrees available. Advanced tickets \$20 or \$25 at the door. Register here: igfn.us/form/tId-Cw

LUNCH OUT!

Wednesday, November 27 at 11:00 a.m. Every month on the last Wednesday we will be going out to lunch. The restaurants will be casual and not too far. November we will be going to Birdsvie Diner in Concrete, Wash. Maximum lunchers is 11, so sign up early. The van will leave here at 11:00 a.m. \$5 members/ \$10 guests

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Sno-Valley Senior Center will be closed on Monday, Nov 11th in honor of Veterans Day and Nov. 28th & 29th for Thanksgiving.

For more information or to register for classes and events go to snovalleysenior.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

November 6 and November 20

FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Holiday Stockings for Food Pantry Children: How You Can Help!

The holiday season is a time for giving, and this year, we're excited to make the holidays special for the children served by the Fall City Food Pantry through our Holiday Stocking Project organized by Katie Anthony!

We're collecting stocking stuffers tailored to different age groups, ensuring that every child receives thoughtful, age-appropriate gifts to brighten their holiday.

Age Groups for Stocking Donations:

- Baby (0-1 year)
- Toddler (2-4 years)
- Little Kid (5-7 years)
- Big Kid (8-10 years)
- Adolescent (11-14 years)
- Teen (15-18 years)

Examples of Stocking Stuffers by Age Group:

- **Baby:** "My First Christmas" items, teething, blankets, board books, baby toothbrushes, small stuffed animals (stuffedies or loveys)
- **Toddler:** Bluey, Paw Patrol, or Mickey Mouse books (especially those with buttons), simple toys, blocks, play food, Play-Doh, hair accessories, fun socks
- **Little Kid:** Small Lego sets, jewelry kits, art supplies (washable), Squishmallows, Nerf toys, dolls, action figures, sports cards, fun socks
- **Big Kid:** Hot Wheels, Pokémon or football cards, sports hats, Taylor Swift-themed items, journals, art kits, LED light strips, hair accessories, fun socks
- **Adolescent:** Makeup, sports brands (Adidas/Nike), journals, advanced art supplies, hygiene products (deodorant, moisturizers), LED lights, water bottles, small cosmetic bags
- **Teen:** Gift cards (restaurants, Amazon, Sephora), tumblers, wireless earbuds, skincare products, hats, sunglasses, hair accessories



Donation Guidelines:

All gifts should be new, age-appropriate, non-perishable and small enough to fit into a medium-sized bag along with other items. This ensures each stocking is packed with care and full of holiday cheer!

How to Donate:

Katie will create an Amazon wish list for those who prefer to shop online. For in-person donations, please contact Katie at kysanthony@gmail.com or 303-815-6468 to arrange a drop-off. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please make checks payable to *Fall City Food Pantry*. Write "Stocking Project" in the memo line. Mail checks to: *Fall City Food Pantry, PO Box 640, Fall City, WA 98024*.

Together, we can make this holiday season a little brighter for children in need. Thank you for your generosity and support!

NOVEMBER 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, NOVEMBER 5

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, NOVEMBER 6, 13, 20

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Fall City Learning Garden. Come help harvest cool season greens, clean up and make compost pile before our winter break. 4304 337th Pl. SE (access behind the Masonic Hall).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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, NOVEMBER 8

2:30 p.m. Kids Storytelling with Pastels and Watercolors. Fall City Arts will guide children in telling visual stories in the style of Roy Henry Vickers. Fall City Library.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

DEADLINE TO ORDER. Fall City Methodist Church Pie Sale. The Methodist women and handbell choirs have joined together to raise funds to support women, children, and youth in Fall City and neighboring communities. For \$25 buyers can choose homemade pies including apple, bumbleberry, berry crumble, cherry, pecan, and rhubarb crumble. Place your orders by calling/texting 206-295-7569 or emailing harvestpiesale@gmail.com. Tell us your name,

phone, email, and choice of pies. Pies can be picked up at the Fall City United Methodist Church from noon-2 p.m. on Saturday, November 23rd.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

7:00 p.m. Fire District Commissioners Meeting. Join the meeting live at the Fire Station or remotely. king27fire.com/remote-meetingBuild together at an unstructured, creative play open-house.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Blocks & Bricks. Build together at an unstructured, creative play open house at the Fall City Library. Both Legos and large building blocks available. Stay for the entire event or pop in for a few minutes. We supply the bricks. You supply the imagination! Supplies are limited. Suitable for kids ages 3 to 9 with an adult.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. A Year in the lives of North American Owls. Join an inspiring author, award-winning photographer and conservationist Paul Bannick as he shares insights from his acclaimed book, Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls. Fall City Library. Registration required. 1.kcls.org/FallCityLibraryEvents

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:00 p.m. Fall City Water District Commissioners Meeting. Public comment opportunity and discussion. Water District office: 33015 SE 43rd St.

FCC HIGHLIGHTS

(cont'd from page 3)

Corporations and other groups help with supplying gifts. Last year the Giving Tree had gifts for 520 Valley children and families.

FALL CITY SUSTAINABLE GROWTH. *Mike Suelzle.* The Stevens 24 SEPA appeal was heard on September 18th and 19th. The Fall City Water District appeared during the hearing and made a formal request for a delay in any environmental determinations so their work on wellhead setbacks and a wellhead protection plan can be finalized and shared. It is known that there is contamination in the upper aquifer (the top 50-100 feet) which was thought to be separated from the lower aquifer (about 250 feet – where wellheads are located) by a hard clay layer. The Water District's hydrogeologist is

studying whether the upper and lower aquifers are connected and what impact additional septic loading will have on Fall City's water. During the hearing, Taylor Development shared plans to go ahead with the Hazel project located next to the Water District. The septic system at Arrington Court is still not meeting nitrate requirements and is undergoing a massive redesign.

Over \$6,000 was raised through Sustainable Growth's recent auction. All donated funds are appreciated and support legal and other experts, including hydrogeologists, required for the group's work.

The appeal in Washington State Superior Court will be heard on November 1st. Because the court has a large staff team that reviews issues, a response will likely take a couple of months.