

# Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 28, Issue 2  
February 2025



We want our little town to stay as it is and has been for many years, but change is happening and will continue as new families move in. In this month's issue we meet and welcome some of those Fall City "newcomers," learn how our local firefighters helped our neighbors-in-need in LA, see what our youth are doing to make our neighborhood better, and discover a new place for healing our hearts and souls.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Sponsors .....	4, 6, 10, 14	A New Place For Healing.....	11
Editor's Note .....	2	Getting Around Town.....	12
FCCA Meeting Minutes.....	3	Poetry Corner .....	12
The Changing Face of Fall City.....	5	Youth Sustainability Summit .....	13
Local Firefighters in LA .....	8	Senior Center Events .....	14
Historical Society .....	9	Food Pantry .....	15
		Community Calendar .....	16

## February Highlights



Living In  
Fall City  
— page 5



Firefighters  
in LA  
— page 8

## Neighbors Donors

Donna Driver-Kummen  
Noma & Craig Edwards  
Sarah Curtis Greer  
Carolyn & Dan Guettler  
Brian & Alexis Hulet  
Teresa Kluer &  
Glenn Boettcher

Carrie & Dean Lee  
Dwight & Rebecca Miller  
Laurie & James Needham  
Gay & Dennis Norman  
(In Memory of Tom &  
Patsy Calvin)  
Cameron & Nicole Schick

William Tashima &  
Chris Bentley  
Ralph Westermann  
Jeremie Wilkins

*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

Facing change in our community can be difficult, but it is inevitable. New faces, new homes, new perspectives. Those who choose to move here are coming for all the same reasons we have chosen to live here...its small town charm and friendly people. Although they may be new, they bring new perspectives and seek new opportunities for their families and businesses. They just want to feel a part.

*Fall City Neighbors* is not immune to change either. Our longtime treasurer Janet Kautz has announced her retirement from Neighbors as of mid-year. After 21 years of service, she has decided to spend more time travelling and enjoying some free time. Her dedication to our community is inspiring and we wish to say, "thank you so much!"

Of course, we are looking to the new generation of community leaders to step up and carry the torch that Janet has kept lit for so many years. If you, or someone you know, has a background in bookkeeping and would like to contribute to the betterment of our town, please express interest and learn more by contacting [editor@fallcity.org](mailto:editor@fallcity.org).



Hutch  
Editor,  
[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, 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](mailto: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](mailto:kautzjl@gmail.com).

Ad sizes: 3.5" x 2"—\$90/qtr or \$360/yr; 3.5" x 4"—\$180/qtr or \$720/yr; 7" x 4"—\$360/qtr or \$1,440/yr.

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

©2025 Fall City Community Association.  
All rights reserved.

Read *Neighbors* online at [fallcity.org/community-1](http://fallcity.org/community-1).

Also follow us on social media.



### Newsletter Contributors

Editor: Jim Hutchins  
Layout: Analise Hannah  
Distribution: Kristin Minner and the Minner Family; Sarah Kieffer

Treasurer: Janet Kautz  
Articles & Interviews: Kate Grossman  
Historical Society: Kim Weiss and Donna Driver-Kummen

Climate/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 from the December 2024 Meeting*

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT.** *Rachel Shepard.* The 2025 board officers were introduced and confirmed: President Rachel Shepard, Vice President Sarah Kieffer, Treasurer Laurie Hauglie, Recording Secretary Adam Grossman, and Corresponding Secretary Erica Mentor. Five new members were welcomed to the association in December. Rachel reminded folks to please send in their membership dues for the 2025 calendar year. Rachel is working on a payment option through our website and in the meantime writing a check at the next meeting would be great. December's meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Rachel also gave a brief overview of 2024 finances ahead of 2025 budget planning. There will be a full budget review over the next two weeks with the board. The 2025 forecast and budget will be reviewed in February's meeting and put to a discussion and vote for approval. Any member is welcome to join the planning meeting. Members interested in participating are encouraged to contact Treasurer Laurie Hauglie at [fallcitytreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:fallcitytreasurer@gmail.com).

Additional announcement included that the levee study for the lower Raging River was completed. A report on that study will be communicated in a future meeting. In December the FCCA was contracted by King County to communicate about the new minimum wage laws that went into effect for unincorporated King County on January 1st. Efforts included articles in Fall City Neighbors, website posts, a live presentation by King County officials and outreach to 30 local businesses. For its efforts the FCCA will earn \$7,000 of unrestricted funds when all paperwork is submitted.

**TOTEM GARDEN RENAMING.** The garden formerly known as the Totem Garden was officially renamed the Fall City Giving Garden. In December Anji Donaldson began a discussion and recommendation for official renaming of the community garden area outside of Fall City Elementary now that the totem pole has been removed. There was substantive discussion and debate over the name such that the vote for a new name was tabled for a month so a survey could be sent to community members for input. A survey was sent and received 37 responses. The results were reviewed and the floor was opened for discussion. The volunteers who are currently maintaining the garden made their case for Fall City Giving Garden while individual members advocated for Julia Harshman Garden. A vote was called and Fall City Giving Garden was confirmed as the new name after receiving 63% of the 27 votes cast.

**2025 PRIORITIES.** Rachel gave an overview of a member survey that was sent to understand what the community views as top priorities for 2025. This survey will serve as guidance as the board puts together its 2025 plan in the coming months. Top priorities for the FCCA leaned toward infrastructure and town events including additional land use planning, roads

and street maintenance, and business district revitalization. There was a desire for the board officers to focus their efforts on improving communication with local government representatives and pursuing funding initiatives. Rachel also asked folks who head committees to let her know if their committee plans to be active in 2025 at [ilovefallcity@gmail.com](mailto:ilovefallcity@gmail.com). Committees without responses will be set to dormant in the February meeting.

#### **SUB COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**COMMUNITY CENTER.** *Todd Brown gave a brief update on progress.* The community engagement phase that occurred in the fall has concluded. In the coming months the team will begin to evaluate sites that could be options for procurement. The Freemasons will also be included in those discussions to continue exploration of a rental of the Masonic Lodge as an option. This is an RFP out to five consultant groups for land use feasibility study services. A partner will be evaluated and selected in the coming months. Sarah Perry's office also requested an update and feedback session.

**FALL CITY METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT.** *Kirk Harris updated membership on a busy year by the park district.* He was excited to report that the West Side Trail project is scheduled to begin construction this year after many years of fundraising, advocacy and partnerships. The proposed trail is a pedestrian and bike path along the northern side of SR-202. Phase 1 will begin at the Fall City Elementary parking lot area and terminate at 324th Ave., just past Chief Kanim Middle School. It will be a big step to connecting the western neighborhoods of Fall City with a safe path into town and to Fall City Community Park. Pending final approvals by King County, construction is scheduled to begin in the spring and conclude by the end of year. More information can be found on their website [www.fallcityparks.org](http://www.fallcityparks.org)

**FALL CITY SUSTAINABLE GROWTH (FCSG).** *Mike Seulzle updated the membership about FCSG progress.* Updates were primarily around the appeal of SEPA decision for Stevens-24 site. Oral arguments were presented in Washington Superior Court. The decision was partially approved. The hearing examiner was quite critical of the work that was originally done by King County. The examiner's ruling required Taylor development and King County to perform a new cumulative impact survey (similar to an Environmental Impact Survey) on all plots including Stevens-24. It will need to be approved under the new comprehensive planning guidelines.

*An additional update on Arrington Court HOA-LOSS system was also presented.* The system renovation has been completed and tested. They are meeting their nitrate levels for the first time in three years.

(Continued on p. 16)



## PASTURE RAISED

Lamb Cuts Available

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



*Cosmina Hertog*

Managing Broker  
HomeSmart Real Estate Associates  
Direct: 206-384-5510  
[cmhertog@comcast.net](mailto:cmhertog@comcast.net)



## BAXTER BARN

We are small, family-run farm dedicated to raising happy animals, producing the highest quality feed products, and demonstrating sustainable farming practices.

[BAXTERBARN.ORG](http://BAXTERBARN.ORG)



**FARM STORE**  
Feed & Supplies  
10-5, Tue-Sat

**FARM TOURS**  
By Appointment  
10-4, Tue-Sat

31929 SE 44th St  
Fall City, WA 98024  
(425) 765-7883



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

425-392-4712

[KungFuClubIssaquah.com](http://KungFuClubIssaquah.com)

虎山館

## BROWN & STERLING

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Lawrence F. Brown, Jr.**  
Attorney at Law  
Certified Public Accountant

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

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



## NOBLE PLUMBING

SNOQUALMIE, WA

Residential and Commercial Plumbing  
in the Snoqualmie Valley

Water Heaters | Repiping | Leaks & Clogs  
Faucets, Toilets, Tubs  
Remodels | Commercial Spaces

(425) 200-5642 | [admin@thenobleplumber.com](mailto:admin@thenobleplumber.com)  
License NOBLEPL772BE



**Snoqualmie Valley Transportation**  
Your local bus company  
**WE'RE HIRING!**

7 Days a week service for the general public  
Serving Fall City and the valley since 2003

Fixed route and door-to-door for \$1

Youth 18 and under ride free

Buses are accessible and have bike racks

425-888-7001

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

*Little cities, little buses. SVT does rural right.*



# The Changing Face of Fall City

by Kate Grossman

Whether at an FCCA meeting, over a cup of coffee at Aroma, or at school pickup in the afternoon, neighborly conversation about Fall City frequently turns to growth: how will the large onsite septic system change the business district? Will new housing developments be built in character with the rest of town? And who are all the new people moving in? Fall City is indeed changing, as any town does over time, but one thing seems to remain the same: the people who live in Fall City love Fall City.

According to Fall City Sustainable Growth, more than 70 homes were built within the Fall City Rural Town boundary between 1990 and 2024, and many homes have also been rebuilt or renovated. From young families to retirees, new-to-Washington families to those who grew up here, Fall City is a desirable place to be. Many people come for the peaceful environment and proximity to nature, and then find they want to stay for the community.

Stephanie and Kurt Sjoberg bought a home last fall just west of downtown, within what they called the “15 minute Aroma radius” during their search. They moved from the Bay Area via Sammamish, where they rented before buying here. “It’s been everything we hoped for. Kurt loves mountain biking in Tokul, and I love trail running there, too. We often stop for a cup of coffee together, we’ll get burgers from Small Fries and eat them sitting on the shore of the river. We got our Christmas roast from Fall City Meats. [People] have all been so friendly and welcoming. It’s great to see a group of people so dedicated to making the town a fantastic place to live!”

Mountain biking was also a large part of what drew Sonja and Juha Luoto to Fall City. “We are avid mountain bikers, we love being outdoors, and we want to live in a place where nature is close,” says Juha. Recent empty nesters, Sonja teaches at Tolt Middle School and Juha is a “tech nerd” during the week and a former coach of the Cedarcrest Mountain Biking team. Most recently from Carnation but originally from Finland, they have been most impressed by the community after moving to Mitchell Hill in late 2024. Says Sonja, “I had concerns because we didn’t know anyone, and it was a really nice surprise when the neighbors came and introduced themselves. After the storm everyone was helping each other. A neighbor



**Rajat Agarwal moved to Fall City a year and a half ago with his young family for the natural beauty, the space, and the quiet. “We love the area, being close to nature, local farms - it’s so quaint and beautiful.”**

came first thing and cleared the trees that had fallen across our driveway.” They’re adapting to their new neighborhood quickly: adds Juha, “Now I have a chainsaw!”

Rajat Agarwal, who moved to Fall City with his young family, has been in Fall City for a year and a half and came to town for “the natural beauty,” the space, and the quiet. Raj is a resident of Arrington Court, which has gotten some negative attention as a new development in town. As more developments continue to be planned, residents anticipate more discussion, but says Raj, “we love the area, being close to nature, local farms - it’s so quaint and beautiful.”

Other new residents of Fall City, like the Rodriguez family, aren’t truly new, but are coming back after time away. “I really love this town!” says Abbey Rodriguez, who grew up in Fall City. She is now the general manager at Treehouse Point. Abbey moved away after high school but is back to raise her own family with her husband Manny, the executive chef at Treehouse Point. He also supplies syrups to Aroma. “Fall City is the best town in the world. And the people have always been amazing! Isn’t that

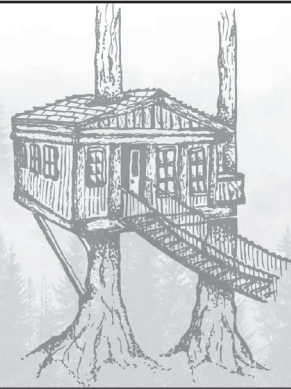
(Continued on p. 7)



**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



Stay overnight, join a tour or reserve the entire property for an unforgettable celebration.

[TREEHOUSEPOINT.COM](http://TREEHOUSEPOINT.COM)

*Rooted in Integrity. Blooming in Quality.*



Cory Lewis  
 PN-9353A

(425) 998-3671  
[lewispruning@gmail.com](mailto:lewispruning@gmail.com)  
[lewispruning.com](http://lewispruning.com)

**Affordable Window Cleaners**  
 Gutter Cleaning Also!



**Dan Skipworth**

P.O. Box 6517  
 Bellevue, WA 98008  
 425-747-3768 253-227-2588  
[awcleaning@comcast.net](mailto:awcleaning@comcast.net)  
[affordablewindowcleaners.com](http://affordablewindowcleaners.com)



## Fall City Methodist Church

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

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](http://www.fallcityumc.org)



**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](mailto: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](mailto:allenm@johnlscott.com)  
[kristinm@johnlscott.com](mailto:kristinm@johnlscott.com)



**Allen Minner**

2005-2010-2015-2016-2017  
 2018-2019-2020-2021-2022

[TeamMinner.com](http://TeamMinner.com)





## CHANGING FACE

(cont'd from page 5)

incredible that one town can attract the nicest people on the planet? The families that have been here forever, and the new families that have moved here - all amazing! This town is filled with warm, compassionate people that make the world better."

While many new residents have discovered (or introduced their young families) to the magic of this small town, others are doing what they can to stay, choosing to build out their current home rather than move somewhere else. "It's the smalltown feel, and our street just has the best community. We got so lucky with our neighbors," says Cait Zavaglia. She and her husband, Paul, moved to a small home in Fall City in 2014, but as their family grew, they realized they needed more space. They found out a new septic system was required to add a bedroom and bathroom and found a way to get it installed. The rest of the work they did mostly on their own as "naptime DIYers" while their kids slept, or on days off for Paul, a firefighter with a degree in construction.

"When we designed the look of our remodeled house," says Paul, "we still wanted it to look like it was originally built in the '30s or '40s. The guy who first built our house was a builder and a volunteer firefighter for Fall City - I uncovered his initials on the side of the house when we stripped off the tar paper. So, I was happy to be the firefighter and 'volunteer' builder to expand our home."

Nic Chambers, a local real estate broker, frequently encounters this trend among potential new residents searching for a home in Fall City. "Most buyers are drawn to the charm and convenience of being 'on the grid'—the vibrant downtown area where everything feels within reach. But the challenge lies in finding the perfect home," Chambers explains.

"Many buyers want a turnkey property with all the modern touches, but they're less interested in new construction," he adds. "What I hear from new buyers and longtime residents is the same—they're captivated by the charm and character of older homes but want that charm to come with an updated, move-in-ready feel. It's this perfect blend of timeless appeal and modern comfort that makes Fall City so special—and why it continues to shine as a sought-after place to call home."

Carley Schweet and Corbin Nakamura moved to Fall City eight years ago, but also completed a rebuild of their home in order to stay. Despite needing a new septic system for the renovation and many delays thanks to permitting and COVID ("just about every delay you could think of"),



**Cait Zavaglia grew up with a porch swing on her front porch in Chicago. When she and her husband Paul realized they needed more space, they chose to remodel and stay "on our street that has just the best community."**

"it was absolutely worth it in the end," says Carley. "We know how special Fall City is, and we're honored to be a part of this little town."

The town's character and idyllic location make Fall City memorable, and for those who have moved here, it's the community and the people that impress them the most. Abbey Rodriguez sums it up for new residents and older locals alike: "We love this town and the fact that I get to raise my kids here is one of the biggest blessings of my life."

As the sign in the newly named Giving Garden reminds us: "If you're lucky enough to live in Fall City, you're lucky enough."

# Fall City Fire Crew in California

by Cindy Parks



After their debriefing every morning they were given a sack with meals for the day. Residents (some of them famous) were very kind and invited them in for a meal. One film director had them in for coffee and a quick break. After their shift, they collected hotel and meal vouchers and got 8 hours of rest before heading out again.

Deputy Chief Patrick LeDoux from Fall City Fire acted as one of the area coordinators for Washington State. He reported if any firefighters were injured or had any equipment problems. He also met with the crews coming off the line to sign timecards and make sure everyone was accounted for. All the expenses for the trip and the firefighting services will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“This was an invaluable experience for our firefighters,” noted Fall City Fire Chief Brian Culp, as Fall City is prone to such a catastrophe. The wooded hills, combustible materials near residences, and dry summer weather can provide the right conditions to spread a wildfire. Chief Culp encouraged Fall City residents to Firewise their property in advance of the summer season. In an article in the August issue of Fall City Neighbors, Chief Culp said, “Fall City is within a Wildland Urban Interface and residents need to have a defensible space in place before a wildfire occurs.”

On January 9, Fall City Fire sent one fire engine, with two firefighters from Fall City and two from Kirkland, to the wildfires in California. Captain Scott Fleming and Firefighter Parker Dumas from Fall City were part of the four-man crew that made for a full engine.

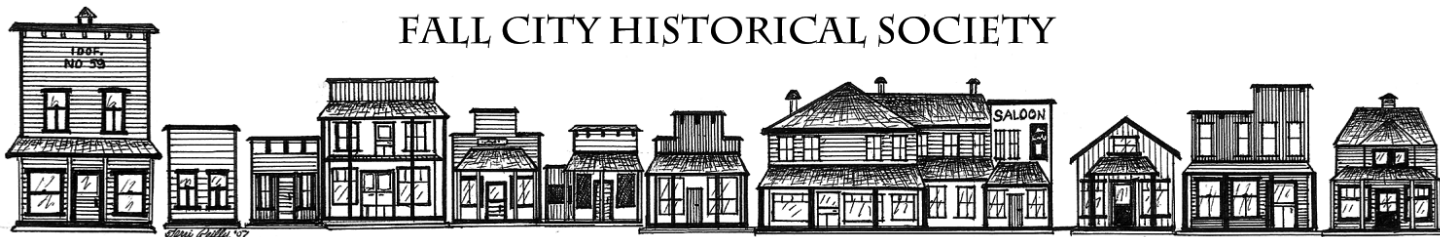
They were part of a Strike Team, which consisted of five engines and four firefighters per engine. Washington State had 11 Strike Teams in California. That was more than 220 firefighters. Each Strike Team also has a Strike Team Leader who traveled there in a truck. Each crew was expected to be in California for two weeks and then a decision was made whether to replace them.

“Our team was in the Palisades neighborhood, along with the other King County teams, protecting homes from any flare-ups and improving fire lines,” said Capt. Flemming. The crew worked 24-hour shifts and during that time grabbed an hour nap in the truck or on top of it.



Pictured (l to r): Captain Scott Fleming, Firefighter Patrick Dumas, and Deputy Chief Patrick LaDoux





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

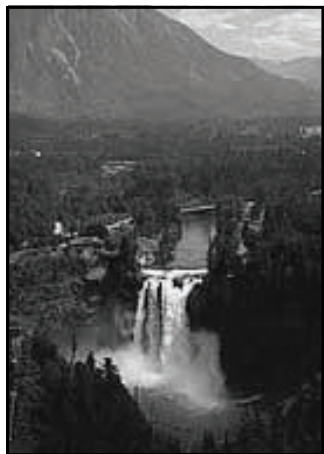
historylives@fallcityhistorical.org

www.fallcityhistorical.org

*The Landing**What's In a Name?**Falls City**Fall City*

**When you tell people you live in Fall City**, many don't know where that is. But if you tell them you live a couple of miles from Snoqualmie Falls, they instantly know where you are. Small wonder when the post office was being established in the 1870s, the bureaucrats in charge noticed Snoqualmie Falls on the map and decided the town should be called Falls City. Prior to this, the town was called The Landing, because it was the farthest the boats could come up the Snoqualmie River to bring people and supplies and take on loads. At that time the goods were the huge bales of hops being grown in the upper valley that needed to be shipped to Everett for their destinations around the world. Fall City and Falls City co-existed for many years until the "s" was dropped around 1950. The depot at Lake Alice used "Falls" as did the fire department trucks in a 1952 photo. To muddy the waters, there is one mention in an article from the University of Washington archives suggesting a landowner named Falls was the source of the town name. One thing is sure, you can find "Falls City" in Oregon and Nebraska, but the only "Fall City" in the United States is right here!

## The History of Electrification in the Snoqualmie Valley



The falls proved to be pivotal in the development of the Valley. Charles Baker saw potential in water power and built a power generator to harness it. In 1899 construction of the power plant deep beneath the falls was completed generating 32,000 volts of electricity. The generators are still in use these hundred years later.

The Fall City Historical Society has engaged Elizabeth Dubreuil, MA, CA, of Puget Sound Energy Cultural Resources to tell the rest of the story. Come and learn about the role electricity played in the history of the Snoqualmie Valley.

**Please join us on**

**Tuesday, February 25th from 6:00pm -7:45PM**

**Fall City Library—FREE Event**

**Light refreshments will be served.**



Learn more about  
your park district!

Visit our website at  
[www.fallcityparks.org](http://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



**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.

Your go-to in real estate. Your neighbor in Fall City.



Fully remodeled NW lodge style home  
sold for \$115K over list price in only 5  
days!

**5821 322nd Ave SE**  
Fall City, WA 98024

2 BED | 2.25 BATH  
2,575 SQ FT | 4.67 ACRE LOT

**SOLD PRICE**  
\$1,265,000



Spacious, downtown Fall City mid-  
century home on a 0.58 acre lot sold  
in 5 days!

**33323 SE 42nd St**  
Fall City, WA 98024

3 BED | 1.75 BATH  
2,120 SQ FT | 0.585 ACRE LOT

**SOLD PRICE**  
\$1,010,000



Sold in just 4 days! Beautifully  
remodeled Fall City gem, on a shy 2-  
acre lot.

**4051 280th Ave SE**  
Fall City, WA 98024

4 BED | 3 BATH  
2,810 SQ FT | 1.68 ACRE LOT

**SOLD PRICE**  
\$1,550,000



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)

**kWEASTSIDE**  
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY



**Treasurer**

Fall City  
NEIGHBORS

**Digital Media Editor**

Fall City  
NEIGHBORS





# A New Place for Healing and Hope in the Valley

by SVA Pastor Baly Botten

Nestled on the campus of Snoqualmie Valley Alliance Church (SVA), four cozy cottages stand as an innovative answer to two pressing challenges facing our community: the need for more usable spaces for gathering and the growing demand for accessible mental health resources. These “Care Cottages” are more than just physical structures, they represent SVA’s commitment to serve, uplift, and bring hope to the Snoqualmie Valley.

Since its founding, the church has sought ways to make a positive impact, looking beyond Sunday services to address real-life needs in our town. As our community struggles with rising mental health challenges, SVA recognized that local therapists, counselors, and non-profit organizations often lack affordable, confidential spaces to meet with clients. Meanwhile, the church’s own property, along Fish Hatchery Rd. was underutilized during much of the week.

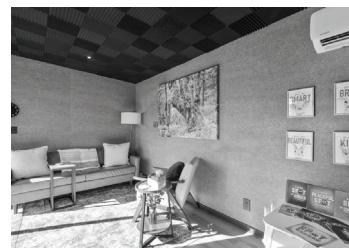
From this realization came a bold vision: transform a portion of the campus into private, welcoming cottages that could be used by professionals, pastors, and community groups alike. The goal was to create a place of hope and respite where a continuum of care could be offered, ranging from professional therapy to pastoral care and community support.

At the heart of the Care Cottages is the idea that healing encompasses many forms. SVA wanted to meet people where they are, whether they need clinical counseling, spiritual guidance, or simply a quiet place to talk. The cottages were developed to address the following needs:

1. **Professional** By partnering with therapists and mental health providers, the cottages provide office space either free or at a nominal fee. This reduced overhead allows professionals to lower their session costs, making therapy more affordable and accessible for Valley residents. This cooperative model underscores a simple but powerful principle: when organizations and local providers pool resources, the whole community benefits.

2. **Pastoral** The cottages are also designed to support ministry needs, including pastoral counseling, prayer sessions, small group gatherings, and support circles.

3. **Community** Non-profits and other community professionals can reserve these spaces for confidential meetings and critical face-to-face connections. The hope is to foster a supportive network where neighbors help neighbors.



Walking through each of the four cottages reveals thoughtful design meant to encourage safety, solace, and growth. All are heated and air-conditioned, ensuring a comfortable environment year-round. High-speed, secure Wi-Fi and passcode access allow users the flexibility of meeting at various hours throughout the week.

- **Maple Cottage:** Purpose-built for child therapy sessions or meetings with kids in tow, it includes seating and resources designed to welcome young children.
- **Cherry Cottage:** This cottage serves as a conference room for groups of up to 8 and is equipped with screen-sharing capabilities.
- **Fir Cottage and Cedar Cottage:** These cottages offer privacy through window tinting and a cozy environment designed for one-on-one counseling or small group discussions.

Though modest in size, the Care Cottages are a significant addition to the Snoqualmie Valley’s mental health and wellness landscape. They are places of comfort for those navigating life’s challenges, a quiet refuge for those seeking solace, and a hub for community groups to gather.

To learn about reserving a cottage or about counseling options, visit [svachurch.org/cottages](https://svachurch.org/cottages) or email [baly@svachurch.org](mailto:baly@svachurch.org)

# Valley Buses: A Great Option in Winter Weather

*contributed by Snoqualmie Valley Transportation*

Snoqualmie Valley Transportation (SVT), our local bus company, now has regular bus service seven days per week from North Bend to Duvall via the Valley Shuttle. It operates two routes connecting points throughout the valley and offers door-to-door service, by reservation. The door-



Getting around the Valley has gotten easier with regular seven-day bus service. It is now an easy, convenient, and low-cost option, especially during the cold, snowy days of winter.

to-door service area includes North Bend, Snoqualmie, Fall City, most of Preston, Carnation, Duvall, and Monroe.

"We are working hard to accommodate Valley folks who need to get around," said SVT Director, Amy Biggs.

Winter driving can be a challenge for some vehicles, and some drivers. Biggs suggests that it might be a good idea to take a bus when someone is having car trouble, is not completely confident about driving in winter weather, or letting a younger driver go out on their own when weather conditions are dangerous.

"Our drivers are well trained, our tires have been seasonally switched over, everybody has had expert chaining classes, and we're as ready as we can be," said Biggs. "We all know how unpredictable our weather gets here in the foothills. We listen to the drivers, monitor the conditions carefully and will shut routes down only if public and driver safety requires it. We don't want to, but sometimes it must happen for everyone's safety."

Riders can access the Valley Shuttle at stops along the routes or arrange pickup service by calling 425-888-7001. General information and timetables for each route are available on the Web at [svtbus.org](http://svtbus.org). Rides cost either \$1 or \$2 suggested donation based on the type of service. As of this year, the SVT routes also show up on an innovative new tool called Find a Ride, which includes all valley transportation options. Find it at: [findaride.org/tripplanner](http://findaride.org/tripplanner).

"We make sure we have the information available in all the ways people might access it – including by making an old-fashioned phone call to talk to us directly," says Biggs.

## POETRY CORNER

### Angel Eyes

*by Laura Rice*

I've never been a fan of blue;  
I think it's now my favorite color.  
Like oceanic terrace views  
I cliff jump in and get dragged under.

Though sometimes I do see red,  
It's never like your coral hues.  
Your sun-blushed cheeks at summer's end.  
I feel fate-tied to you.

I am not known to love azure;  
But your eyes are like an angel's.  
And my hands run through your soft maroon  
Curls I untangle.

So, if today, I caught a rainbow,  
I'd pick these colors out.  
The first blue sky after winter's snow,  
And the scarlet of your mouth.



# Local Youth Attend Sustainability Summit

by Andrew Rapin

Seattle University resonated with the excitement, passion, and enthusiasm of more than 200 high school students at the Environmental Leaders Summit in December. The Summit, sponsored by the YMCA Earth Service Corps (YESC), was attended by Mount Si High School (MSHS) students representing the school's Green Team and AP Environmental Science class. Included were Alliya Kretz, Leo Mitchell, Emily Mitchell, Leif Peterson, Bethany Holler, Elizabeth Buergi, and Vivian Cleary.

It was encouraging listening in on the discussions of 25 different group sessions led by more than 30 environmental leaders throughout Puget Sound. The social awareness of the students about the pressing environmental threats that they are inheriting from previous generations was palpable. Many of the students were surprised that they were not alone in their environmental anxieties and concerns about big issues their generation is facing and will need to address in their lifetime.

Issues include human-caused climate change, losses of biodiversity, pollution, overconsumption, and a global human population of 8.2 billion and climbing. Table topics included local issues such as public transit, sustainability in schools, microplastics, climate action planning, climate justice, salmon survival, and many others. These student-centered discussions raised awareness of economic, social, and environmental challenges, their solutions, and their complexity. Driving questions for the discussion sessions included: What is this issue all about?; How is this issue impacting this region, in its neighborhoods and schools?; Why should youth care?; What can youth do to address and solve these complex issues?; and how can young people get involved to make a difference?

A "Town Hall" forum was an opportunity for young people to "speak their truth" to the entire group and share their takeaways about what they learned as well as what actions they will take to address the environmental issues they discussed. Their sincerity and passion for these issues were contagious and instilled hope for the future.

An Opportunity Fair followed where students could interact with representatives of local universities, colleges, and technical schools having environmental studies/science programs. Nonprofit environmental organizations were well represented at this event as well as businesses, and local, state, and federal governmental agencies engaged in conservation, environmental education, research, monitoring, and regulation.

There are so many Green Job pathways for today's youth. Participants learned about volunteer positions, internships, jobs, and educational outreach opportunities for which they could become involved. Sustainability Ambassadors, a professional development program for student leaders, teacher leaders and community leaders



Members of the Mt. Si High School Green Team recently participated in the Environmental Leaders Summit at Seattle University. (l to r) Aliya Kretz, Leif Peterson, and Leo Mitchell.

committed to educating for sustainability, has just released a comprehensive guide to local jobs. It can be accessed at: [sustainabilityambassadors.org/new-green-jobs-youth-pathway](https://sustainabilityambassadors.org/new-green-jobs-youth-pathway).

According to Alliya Kretz Co-President of MSHS Green Team, "There were useful tips and advice for sustainability projects the Green Team is working on this year such as lunchtime composting, education, and school gardens. The Green Team plans to use what was learned at the summit to benefit the club, school, and district".

Leo Mitchell, Green Team Secretary, noted "There are so many ways people can get involved, whether it's personal decisions, volunteering or working in an environmental field. If we work together, we can do great things."

One "great thing" is the development of a "Sustainability Plan" that is to be part of the Snoqualmie School District's Strategic Plan. It will hopefully make meaningful reductions in the District's carbon and ecological footprint by lowering energy use, restoring important habitats around school campuses to support local wildlife and sequester carbon dioxide, starting student-centered Green Teams at every school, use best practices to reduce landfill waste, and have meaningful curricular connections to pressing environmental, economic and social issues such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and environmental sustainability. The Mount Si Green Team is currently collaborating with the local community leaders and District officials to create the plan that can be used by school districts throughout the area.

Andrew Rapin is a member of the Fall City Climate Change Committee, is a science teacher at Mount Si High School and is the advisor of the MSHS Green Team.

## Sno-Valley Senior Center, Carnation

### EXPLORING LONGEVITY

Wednesdays, February 5 – March 26, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Join Mary Lynn PT, DPT for this 8-week course exploring the science and lifestyle factors that contribute to longevity. Explore the latest research on aging and engage in practical strategies for extending your “healthspan.” Members: \$40 / Guests: \$60.

### CHARCUTERIE BOARDS

Monday, February 10 at 1:00 p.m. This hands-on class will show you how to make a healthier, but sweet, dessert board with the charcuterie trend in mind (fruits, nuts, cheese, etc.) The class includes a board to take home. Limited seating. Must sign up by February 6. Members \$35 / Guests: \$50.

### GARDEN PLATE ART CLASS

Tuesday, February 1 at 2:00 p.m. Join Sue Beauvais of Yard Art by Sue and make your own garden art with plates that she will bring. Includes a copper pole and steel stake if you choose, for an extra \$15. Members: \$15 / Guests: \$25. Limit 15 people per class; minimum five participants.

### LET'S TRAVEL PRESENTATION

Tuesday, February 11 at 11:00 a.m. Get excited about travel in 2025. Liz Bell will present some upcoming group trips with Premier World Discovery. Q&A session afterwards. FREE.

### BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Friday, February 21 at 12:00 p.m. Celebrate your birthday with us. Members receive a FREE lunch the month of your birthday. Call 425-333-4152 by February 20 at 12:00 p.m. to make your reservation.

### CHEESE, CHOCOLATE, & WINE

Monday, February 24, 1:00 p.m. Join The Cheese Lady for a titillating tasting of the most pleasurable of victuals and some wine to wash it down. Come savor the experience and learn why fermented foods love to buddy up to other fermented foods. Members: \$35 / Guests: \$50.

### RED CARPET RAINBOW BINGO

Friday, January 30, 7:00 p.m., doors open 6:30 p.m. Have a fun evening of bingo and entertainment and get a chance to win awesome prizes with Sylvia O'Stayformore. Tickets are to be paid at the door, using a debit card, cash or check (not credit card).

For more information or to register for Sno-Valley classes and events go to [snovalleysenior.org](http://snovalleysenior.org) or call 425-333-4152.

## Mt. Si Senior Center, North Bend

### SEEKING AUCTION DONATIONS

Support programs for more than 1,400 Snoqualmie Valley seniors by donating to the Golden Hearts Auction in May. Contact Tracie Jones at [Development@MtSiSeniorCenter.org](mailto:Development@MtSiSeniorCenter.org) to learn more.

### COOKIE BAKE SALE

February 10 at 9:30 a.m. Come for the cookies and stay for the free coffee and great conversation. Open to the entire community.

### VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCH PARTY

February 14 at 12:00 p.m. Enjoy romantic tunes, delicious lemon-dill salmon, and our festive Hearts and Flowers Contest. Reservations are required. Call to save your spot. Lunch is a \$5 donation.

For more information or to register for Mt. Si Senior Center events go to [mtsiseniorcenter.org](http://mtsiseniorcenter.org) or call 425-888-3434.

## HOUSES SOLD FASTER THAN YOUR MOM SELLS OUT HER FAMOUS BROWNIES AT THE BAKE SALE



Hey Neighbor,

Are you tired of looking at houses that "almost" work? Or sitting on a property that's "almost" sold? Don't settle for "almost" — call your guy who gets it DONE.

"Why Work with Me?"

- 200+ homes sold (that's A LOT of brownies).
- Negotiations smoother than your grandma's mashed potatoes.
- Fast, fun, and frustration-free real estate experiences.

So, let's make your real estate journey a walk in the park (a really fancy park with swans, of course).

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

LET'S GET REAL... ESTATE, THAT IS!

Track Your  
Home's Value



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



CHAMBERS  
NORTHWEST  
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\***

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**

February 5 and February 19

## **FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY**

### **Acts of Kindness Overflow at the Food Pantry**

*Thank you to every volunteer, donor and partner who made this season unforgettable. Your generosity uplifts our neighbors and strengthens the bonds of our community. Together, we've proven that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.*

### **A Sanctuary Overflowing with Cheer**

Volunteers worked like holiday elves, filling bags with stocking stuffers and filling the pews of Fall City Methodist Church to overflowing. Organizer Katy Anthony, seen holding examples of these thoughtful gifts, helped ensure each family had something special to brighten their season.



### **Neighbors Lifting Neighbors**

A generous neighbor from Broadhurst demonstrated the power of community by rallying his peers to contribute a remarkable outpouring of donations. His time, compassion and effort turned goodwill into tangible support for Pantry clients.



### **A Tree for Every Home**

Stephen Bozick of the Sammamish Rotary added a touch of holiday magic by delivering several Christmas trees to Pantry families, ensuring everyone had the chance to celebrate the season in festive style.

### **Festive Wreaths from the Garden**

Nancy, a dedicated volunteer from the Fall City Learning Garden, delivered beautifully handcrafted wreaths and swags made by her creative arts group. These decorations, fashioned from greens gathered after the big windstorm, brought seasonal cheer to many homes.



### **High School Heroes**

Eastlake High School's baseball team showed the true spirit of the holidays by collecting bags and boxes of food for the Pantry. With their coach leading the way, the players enthusiastically pitched in, carrying donations upstairs and spreading goodwill with friendly energy.



### **"Pintsgiving" Success**

Snoqualmie Ice Cream's "Pintsgiving" fundraiser brought sweet support to the Pantry, raising \$185. For every three pints sold at their Snoqualmie location, a portion was donated, turning ice cream lovers into community champions.



*We look forward to continuing to serve our community with your support in the coming year!*



# FEBRUARY 2025 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 preceding the month of the event.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Mark Rowe of the King County Department of Local Services staff offers support with county building permits and general information about county services. Fall City Library.

**4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Volunteer tutors provide homework help in the Fall City Library for grades K-12. They can also give language support for homework or translation in many languages.

**6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** *Rhythm & Rhyme: Song & Poetry Group.* Explore the art of words and music at this monthly gathering for songwriters and poets of all levels. Meet fellow creatives, share your work and find inspiration. Whether you're penning poems or crafting lyrics, bring your ideas to life. Fall City Library.

**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, FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19, 26

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** *Fall City Learning Garden.* The gardening season starts Wednesdays in February, weather permitting. Garden is located behind the Masonic Hall at 4304 337th Pl. SE.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** *Board Games & Puzzles for Kids.* Unwind after school with board games and puzzles! Play child-friendly board games (including chess) or work on a jigsaw puzzle with friends and family. All ages welcome, ages 9 and younger with adult.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 14, 21, 28

**10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** *Family Story Time.* Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that help with your child's early literacy skills. A short play time follows. All young children are welcome with an adult. Fall City Library.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

**2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Fall City Library Group. Join a relaxed and friendly discussion of a new book, covering a range of genres and topics. Whether you're an enthusiastic reader or just enjoy chatting about books, we'd love to have you. Fall City Library.

**4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Study Zone Tutoring. Volunteer tutors provide homework help in the library for grades K-12. They can also give language support for homework or translation in many languages. Students may drop in any time during Tutor hours. Look for volunteers wearing the Tutor t-shirt.

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

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**7:00 p.m.** Fall City Water District Commissioners Meeting. Public comment opportunity and discussion of water system plans and activities. Water District office: 33015 SE 43rd St.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 & FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21

The Tenacious Farmers' Exchange: Farming for a Climate Resilient Future. Snoqualmie Preservation Alliance presents a farmer-led symposium to empower farmers and ranchers with practical strategies for thriving in the face of climate change. TFE focuses on actionable pathways to restore soil health, boost resilience to climate impacts, and implement climate-smart agricultural practices that enable long-term profitability and viability of farming and ranching.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Blocks & Bricks Build together at an unstructured, creative play open-house. 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.

## FCCA HIGHLIGHTS

(cont'd from page 3)

### COMMUNITY UPDATES

**FALL CITY LIBRARY.** *Mary Comstock.* Big thank you to the volunteers who did the Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 7th. The library extended hours during the event for two hours. The library hosted 5-10x as many visitors as it normally does during the festival.

FCCA meetings are open to the public on the first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., via Zoom, Facebook Live, and in-person at the Fall City fire station.