

Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 28, Issue 8
August 2025

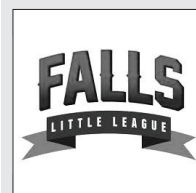


Our Falls Majors All-Star Softball Team celebrates it's District 9 Championship. In this month's issue, we get an update on the baseball season and plans for the off-season, discover the only fuel oasis on the Old Sunset Highway, build community among gardeners, and so much more.

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July Highlights



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You are invited to show your support of local journalism with a donation to Fall City Neighbors. Help us cover expenses for the coming year by visiting fallcity.org/community-1 and give what you can. Thank you!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Neighbor's needs a Treasurer! Janet Kautz has stepped up to the plate for more years than she'd like to admit and it's time for her to take a well-deserved rest from keeping the *Fall City Neighbors* afloat. The treasurer's job includes keeping track of the donors and sponsors (advertisers) and paying the monthly bills. It's not a big job, but it's an important one that makes it possible for us to bring you the latest Fall City news and happenings every month.

If you have some financial savvy, know how to use a spreadsheet, have an hour or two to spare once per month, and want to give back to your community, give Janet a call. She can fill you in on all the particulars. Please help!

Write: kautzjl@gmail.com



Jim Hutchins, 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.

ARTICLE SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR REQUEST A

BUSINESS PROFILE: Email editor@fallcity.org

TO SPONSOR: Contact Janet Kautz, kautzjl@gmail.com

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Make payments at fallcity.org/community-1.

Deadline for submissions is the TENTH of each month.

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Big Success and Big Plans for Falls Little League

q Brennan Schick

The Little League baseball and softball season just wrapped up and it was an amazing season for the players in our community. I'm sad the season is over and I'm already looking forward to next year. I cannot write about Falls Little League without talking about All Stars. This is a fun, competitive way to end the season for those selected to be on the All Stars teams. Three baseball teams and two softball teams competed in the Little League District 9 All Stars Tournaments. Dedication, hard work, team building, and perseverance are essential for all players. Practices were nearly every day for most of June and games started at the end of June. The Majors All-Star Softball Team became the District 9 Champions with a 7-1 record. A huge congratulations to them. Their winning ways continued into the State Tournament, but were eliminated after three games. Despite the outcome, it was a great run!

Falls Little League prides itself on being an organization that values community, teamwork, integrity, inclusion, and fun. The Aldarra Fields and the softball field at Fall City Elementary are places for the League to live out those values, as well as a safe place for all kids of the community to gather and connect. Now that the season is over, there is still much work to be done at both these fields and the League has big plans and goals.

I wrote an article in the January issue of Fall City Neighbors about improvements to the Aldarra Fields and have updates that I'd like to share. The Falls Little League owns and maintains Aldarra Fields and has been working to spruce up the fields to make it a better experience for everyone. In October, the League teamed up with the Mariners Grounds Crew to work on restoration of the outfields. Thanks to the generous support from Rick Rizz's charity, Rick's Locker, and the Mariners, the outfield has provided a much better experience for all the players in the outfield. There are no potholes to roll your ankle in and the grass is fuller. It makes a play so much easier to make, especially when running to catch a flyball. Justin Valente, the field manager, continues to put extensive work into the Aldarra infields and the softball field. The infield dirt has less weeds, drains better when it rains, and there are not as many bumps, which helps there be less 'bad hops' of the



ball when it's a grounder. I enjoyed playing there so much more this season.

Water is needed to effectively maintain the fields, but there was no supply at Aldarra until recently. Thankfully, Gregory Drilling in North Bend has already supported our efforts and drilled a well as a first step.

"My brother and I grew up playing baseball in a small town, with a small town budget for fields. We were happy to help provide the resource needed to improve the quality of the fields," said Chris Gregory, the vice president of Gregory Drilling.

Next steps include installation of a pump and irrigation system in the fields for watering, which would help maintain quality grass. Other important plans for Aldarra include improved entrance and parking, covered batting cages with lights, new equipment and tools for maintenance, snack shack remodel, and a playset for the littles who come to support their older brothers and sisters.

The Falls Little League Board approved a fundraiser to support these efforts and make Aldarra the amazing place we know it can be. A GoFundMe page has been set up so that supporters in the community can give to this great cause and help all of the kids. All money raised will be used specifically to accomplish the plans. We are asking the community to donate directly to the League with matching contributions from your employer. We also happily accept donations in kind, such as help with electrical, materials, or construction. There are many ways to help us reach our goal and no donation is too small.

Falls Little League has provided community, teamwork, competition, and fun for hundreds of kids through the years. I know I've gained so much being a part of the League and I'll always remember my teammates and our games. The League wants to continue providing this to kids in our community but we need your help.

Please consider donating to our cause and know that your gift will be appreciated for years to come.

Scan the code to help out or visit: gofundme.com/f/build-community-pride-at-aldarra-fields





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Perspectives on Climate Change

by Susan Miller

Our weather events occur at the lowest level of the Earth's atmosphere called the Troposphere. We live inside this zone, and the Troposphere goes up to 5-6 miles.

Weather elements that exist within this level include clouds, storms, and temperature variations. Weather events are short-term atmospheric conditions, whereas climate refers to the long-term patterns of weather in an atmospheric region.

It was Nature's flora and fauna that first evidenced slight temperature increases over time. Global warming was detected and hypothesized to be of human origin in 1898 by a Swedish scientist. Coal had been used to power steam engines in trains since 1712.

Coal continued to be the major fuel for industrial machinery until the discovery of oil in 1859.

When refined oil became our primary fuel in the late 19th century, it accelerated concentrations of gases emitted by fossil fuel in powering the industrial revolution. By 1938, a British scientist showed that industrial exhaust fumes from fuels had increased the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere to an extent that global temperatures had risen by 2 degrees Celsius during the prior 50 years. These findings, made prior

to the discovery of computers, have been confirmed and found remarkably accurate.

We continued to learn that increased heat had adverse consequences for Nature's creatures. They were dying off, and their fraught absence could not be ignored. Social groups formed to protect them such as the Wilderness Society, the Ocean River Institute, the Xerces Society, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Fine Gardening, Project Drawdown, and the Climate Society, named just to illustrate the multitude of organizations formed to protect Nature's fauna and flora.

Native plants, pollinators, and soil amendments are being bought and taught among Washington Master Gardeners, general gardeners; and farmers are meeting with change agents who show them how to follow resilient agricultural practices.

The *Seattle Times* recently featured a wagyu beef farmer who coddles his livestock with natural grass and feed. He butchers stock on site to avoid feed-lot pollution.

The Snoqualmie Tribe has purchased over 1,000 trees for the Mt. Si High School's Green Team to plant since 2020. The City of Snoqualmie also invited the Green Team to give their "youth perspective" to the City's required Climate Resilience Plan.

So much help is now integrated into our state's machinery for doing, giving, mandating climate remedies that while our progress may be slowed by backward presidential orders, advancement on the ground does and will continue.

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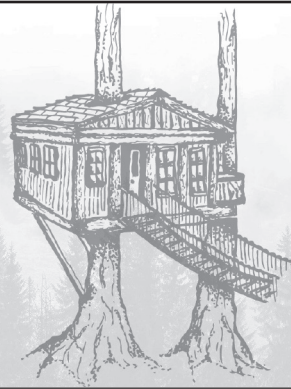


Fall City Methodist Church

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

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Garden Corner

Find Your Garden Community

by Teresa Kluver

If you are interested in meeting other gardeners, find inspiration from visiting gardens, nurseries, or parks, or want to attend classes or workshops on specific garden and landscape design topics, joining a garden group may be just the ticket.

The Pacific Northwest is a gardening oasis and our local garden groups provide many options to glean information, meet others, or dive into greater participation to fit your interests. I currently belong to three garden groups and appreciate visiting the gardens of others, sharing plants and ideas, and attending a live or zoom presentation on occasion. Here are some local options:

Fall City Garden Group is a dedicated group of local gardeners who have been gathering for many years. During spring and summer those interested host a “garden open” where you can stroll the garden of another and socialize for an hour or so. We frequently do a plant exchange and often someone may host a purely social event. No membership dues, no officers, no web page, but beautiful gardens with friendly folk. If you’re interested email Nancy Marshall at nancy@marshallaccounting.com to be added to the email distribution list. If someone is hosting an “Open” you will receive an email with date, time, and address.

Snoqualmie Valley Garden Club (snovalleygc.org) is a 501(c)(3) organization. They have a mission “To inform, educate, and inspire our members and the community in the art, science, and joy of gardening, while fostering a commitment to environmental stewardship.” This garden club holds monthly meetings and sponsors events such as plant sales, classes, workshops, garden tours, and field trips. Membership dues are \$25 annually for an individual or \$35 for a family. Go to their website to join.

Northwest Perennial Alliance (NPA) (northwestperennialalliance.org) NPA was founded in 1984 and is also a 501(c)(3). They have more than 2000 members. This is a volunteer led membership-based organization for everyone who is passionate about gardening in the Pacific Northwest. This organization has been a partner with the Bellevue Botanical Garden since 1992. If you have ever visited the perennial beds at this garden you will get a sense of their enthusiasm for perennial plants and gardening. NPA has a well-developed Open Garden Program. As a member you receive a booklet listing and describing the gardens or nurseries of members who sign up. It’s a great opportunity to visit gardens both locally and in the greater Puget Sound region. This organization also hosts specialty plants sales, produces a newsletter that is distributed twice monthly, and members receive



COURTESY OF SNOVALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Gardening is so much more fun when you share it with others. The SnoValley Garden Club focuses on fostering meaningful connections, lasting friendships, and cultivating a vibrant and supportive garden community.

a 10% discount at local nurseries and businesses. This is all in addition to free lectures and discounted classes and workshops. Membership dues are \$50 annually for an individual and \$60 for a household of two.

Northwest Horticultural Society (NHS) (northwesthort.org) is an organization that was Initiated in 1966 as Friends of Washington Arboretum but through several evolutions eventually became the Northwest Horticultural Society in 1985. Historically this group has been instrumental in raising funds to support the Elisabeth C. Miller Library, part of the Center of Horticulture at the University of Washington. They continue to support scholarships and grant programs focused on horticulture. I continue to be amazed by the number of programs available including educational opportunities, lectures, symposiums, classes, tours, and plant sales. Membership dues are \$35 annually for an individual, \$30 for a senior, and \$60 for a dual.

The greatest thing about garden groups is you can sit on the sidelines and reap the rewards of new knowledge or garden visits or you can get as involved as you like by becoming engaged in focused committees or neighborhood groups - you decide. Just like planting your own garden!

Garden Now, Garden Always.

Sno-Valley Senior Center, Carnation

BUTTON COLLECTING PRESENTATION

Tuesday, August 5, 11:00 a.m. Antique button collector Jan Levine will be here to share this interesting hobby. If you have buttons, please bring them to share and learn more. Free event. Sign up at the Senior Center, call 425-333-4152, or go online: igfn.us/form/wGtgQg

RECYCLED ART: MAGAZINES

Friday, August 8, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Learn how to use pages of magazines to create beautiful 3D designs, including frames, boxes, and silhouettes. All materials provided. \$5 Members/\$10 Guests. Sign up at the Senior Center, call 425-333-4152, or go online: <https://igfn.us/form/KWXpnA>

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDS PRESENTATION

Tuesday, August 12, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Whether you or a loved one is a resident in a long-term care facility, this presentation by the Long-Term Care Ombuds Program will share helpful information about their program and Residents Rights. Sign up at the Senior Center, call 425-333-4152, or go online: <https://igfn.us/form/ETNJ2Q>

BEGINNING WATERCOLOR – BLENDS, BLOOMS, & BRUSHSTROKES

Monday, August 18 & 25, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Join us to master watercolor basics with Inga. Basic supplies included. This is a beginner's course; all learners are welcome. \$5 Members/\$10 Guests (for both classes); Up to 15 participants. Sign up at the Senior Center, call 425-333-4152, or go online: <https://igfn.us/form/4s5IEA>

BLOOD DRIVE WITH BLOODWORKS

Friday, August 22, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Help support local hospitals that treat thousands of emergency patients by

scheduling an appointment to give blood. Go here to make an appointment: https://donate.bloodworksnw.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/7898

Mt. Si Senior Center, North Bend

SOOTHING SOUND BATHS

Saturday, August 9, 2025, 2:00 p.m. Experience a soothing and relaxing sound bath for yourself. This type of meditative practice is to balance and restore the body to its own natural, healthy frequency. \$10.

LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK DISCUSSION

Friday, August 29, 10:30 a.m. Join author Janet McGiffin as she shares her passion for historical fiction and weaving real events with imaginative storytelling.

TWINGES IN THE HINGES

Wednesdays, 1:05 – 1:55 p.m. or 4:05 – 4:55 p.m. Learn step-by-step self-massage techniques to ease joint pain, boost circulation, improve flexibility, and enjoy deeper, more peaceful sleep. \$5.

TEA AT THREE – MAD-HATTER STYLE!

Wednesday, August 20, 3:00 p.m. Join Alice and the Cheshire Cat for a British high tea—with all the finger sandwiches, scones, and pastries you'd expect, plus a delightfully whimsical twist. \$3.

LIVE MUSIC AT LUNCH

Stop by on the *first Wednesday of the month* for Gerald Baude's classical acoustic guitar and again on the second Thursday for Mr. Tom Lyons' celebratory birthday performances. Lunch is served at noon. \$5.

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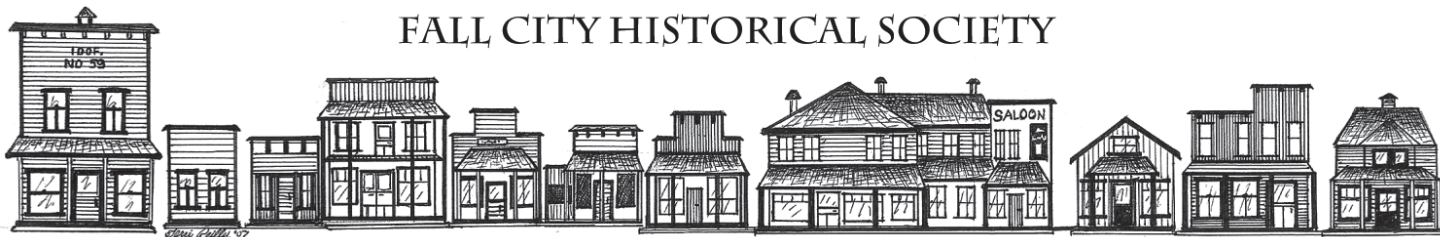
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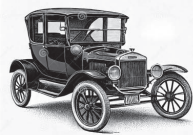
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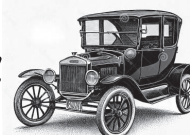
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From Seattle to Ellensburg



It's hard to believe, but in 1911 the only place to buy gasoline between Seattle and Ellensburg was the gas station in Fall City on Hwy 202 at 40th. It was run by Henry and Florence Stone. When Henry died in 1924, Florence continued to run the station till her death in 1949. Her estate sold it to Orland Hodges and his wife Lucille.

Orland and Lucille pumped gas and had a little store. Local kids remember Orland as a friendly guy who sold them penny candy with the money they made selling him the blackberries they picked.

After Orland and Lucille divorced, Orland married Elnora. They built a house on the property. Between them they had 13 children. You can still see the footprint of the bunkhouse the kids slept in. They continued to operate the gas pumps till the mid 50s. For a time Lee Peale also helped with the gas station.

Orland then converted the station into a cabinet shop. Known for fine workmanship, he and partner Marvin Moore made many of the cabinets in area houses. Orland also made metal sculptures that are still there.

When Orland retired, he rented the little building to a succession of small businesses. Alan Lind had a bicycle shop there from 1992-1998, then Larry Newcomb ran an upholstery business for a few years. In the early 2000s it was Biker B's Bathworks.

In 2007, David Speikers bought the property. His family moved into the residence, and he is currently using the gas station building as his law office.

Thanks to Gene Stevens, Marion Querro, Denny Hamilton, Alan Lind, and David Speikers who contributed details to this story. Also...we know a picture exists of the gas station with Model Ts in front. If you have a copy, we'd love to see it.

Coming Attractions!

Thursday, August 14th 6-8pm Cemetery Tour and Wine Walk
September, Sawmill Tour Watch our Facebook page for details

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



*Learn more about
your park district!*

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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Location

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NEXT FOOD PANTRY DATES

August 6 and August 20

FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Summer Spotlight: Gifts of Support and Service

Rainbow Girls Share Generosity and Joy

We are so grateful to the Rainbow Girls for their generous support of the Fall City Food Pantry! Last month, they delivered a beautifully crafted donation box—complete with lights!—filled with personal care items for our guests. The box was placed inside our prayer circle before the morning distribution and quickly became a source of admiration and gratitude. Special thanks to Ayame, this year's Rainbow President, for selecting us as the beneficiary of both of their drives this year, including a food drive earlier this year.



County Grant Strengthens Our Pantry

We're excited to share that King County Councilmember Sarah Perry's Office awarded the Fall City Food Pantry a District 3, \$2,500 food security grant in July! Thank you to Councilmember Perry and her team for their generous support of our mission.

Too Many Zucchini's? Share the Harvest!

As local gardens flourish this summer, we invite you to share your abundance with the Fall City Food Pantry! Fresh fruits and vegetables make a lasting impact for the families we serve. If your garden isn't overflowing, a cash donation is another meaningful way to help us provide healthy, nourishing food. Thank you for supporting our mission.

We are also deeply thankful for the ongoing fresh produce donations from the Fall City Learning Garden and Fall City Farms, as well as fresh eggs and homegrown produce shared by community members. Your generosity nourishes countless families and strengthens our community.

AUGUST 2025 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 preceding the month of the event.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. *King County Dept. of Local Services Office Hours.* Get support with county building permits and general information about county services. Fall City Library. No appointment necessary.

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. *King County Dept. of Human Services (DCHS) Office Hours.* Connect to essential services and resources for housing stability, behavioral health, developmental disabilities, veterans' services, employment assistance, and community safety. No appointment necessary.

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. *Fall City Community Association Meeting.* Fall City Firehouse Community Room.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 27

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Fall City Learning Garden.* August is busy with summer harvests and sowing for fall. All produce is donated to Fall City food pantry. Garden is located behind the Masonic Hall at 4304 337th Pl. SE.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 15, 22, 29

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. *Family Story Time.* Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes. Help develop your child's early literacy skills. Fall City Library.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. *Odissi Indian Dance Workshop.* Embark on a mesmerizing journey into the heart of India's cultural heritage. Join this rhythmic exploration, where the ancient art form of Odissi comes alive. Enjoy graceful movements, expressive storytelling and vibrant traditions. Led by instructor Sharbani Datta. Limited class size. Pre-register at: <https://shorturl.at/1rL6y> Fall City Library.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

3:00 p.m. *Fire District Commissioner's Meeting.* Fall City Firehouse.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. *Cemetery Tour and Wine Walk.* Learn about the history and ancestors of Fall City while you enjoy sipping wine with your neighbors. Fall City Cemetery, SE 47th St. and Cemetery Rd.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. *Intro to Hawaiian Dance.* Hula is a visual dance form of storytelling from Polynesia that has recently become a popular form of exercise. Learn basic hula steps and use your body to develop a hula "vocabulary". Limited class size. Pre-registration required: <https://shorturl.at/WhSVf>. Fall City Library.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

7:00 p.m. *Fall City Water District Commissioners Meeting.* Water District Office, 33015 SE 43rd St.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. *Fall City Community Market.* Purchase fresh organic produce, flowers, breads, kombucha, crafts, and more from local vendors or enjoy a beverage with friends in the Wine Garden. Sponsored by the Fall City Community Association. Along 335th Place SE.