





**SEPTEMBER 2023** 





# COME ENJOY OCT. 15 FAUNTLEROY FALL FESTIVAL - AND SUPPORT IT

Hands are everywhere at the Fauntleroy Fall Festival decorating salmon hats, building birdhouses, picking guitars, holding cups of cider.

This wildly popular annual community event will be **Sunday, Oct. 15, 2-5 pm**. The church and schoolhouse will be a beehive of free activities for all ages, plus food and beverage vendors.

Kids can jump in a bouncy house, pet a bunny, climb a wall, or win a cake while adults catch up and newcomers get acquainted. It's all made possible by donations.

"We pride ourselves on being one of the last events in West Seattle that is free for kids," said Reed Haggarty, head of the festival's steering committee." To keep it that way, a spring fundraiser at Endolyne Joe's and a donation from FCA provided working capital but the committee relies on additional funding to pay all the bills.

"Our economic environment is making it more expensive to rent tents, pay for required security, and organize the festival itself," he said. "That's why we added two summer fundraisers."

On Aug. 29, Wildwood Market offered beer and wine on its roof top, with all proceeds going to the festival. And on Tuesday, Sept. 12, The Birdhouse (just off 35th Ave. SW at SW Henderson) will be donating 30% of all beverage, breakfast, and lunch sales to the event.

To help fill out the budget, plan to bring cash or a check when you come to the festival. Volunteers will be staffing donation boxes. *Photos courtesy Sara Weagraff* 

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# COMMUNITY SURVEY YOUR CHANCE TO HELP DETERMINE FCA PRIORITIES

By Catherine Bailey, FCA vice president

While the FCA Board is always open to hearing from you, we are about to invite more than 3,000 greater Fauntlerov residents to sound off

Fauntleroy residents to sound off about what needs our attention through a community survey.

Findings of our 2020 survey allowed us to act on your priorities, including traffic problems, pedestrian safety, and parking. Also as a result, we sponsored or co-sponsored more community-



building events, which now include pumpkin and egg hunts as well as the Fall Festival and spring Food Fest.

Your experiences and opinions make a difference in what the board emphasizes and help us speak with a louder voice when we communicate with government officials and agencies about changes you want to see.

Watch for a postcard with details about responding to this survey. We look forward to hearing from you!



Gremlins will be busy on Saturday, Oct. 21, hiding an assortment of orange orbs around the Endolyne business area for searchers of all ages to find during FCA's annual Great Pumpkin Search.

The hiding will start at 11:30 am. If you'd like to join in, call Candace Blue at 209-401-8406 for details. The searching will start across from Endolyne Joe's at 1 pm.



#### By Marty Westerman, FCA Board

Six years ago, a federal class-action lawsuit required the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to improve access for pedestrians with disabilities on sidewalks, curbs, and corners. As a result, the city is to build or fix an average of 1,250 per year until 2035.

About two years ago, FCA noted several curbs and corners along Fauntleroy Way SW at the north end of Lincoln Park that hadn't been improved. It's a high-use area for pedestrian, bike, wheelchair, and other traffic.

We found requesting ramps to be surprisingly easy: Just fill out the on-line application to put locations in SDOT's queue.

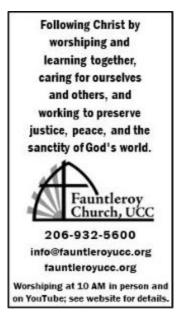
SDOT recently completed installing the ramps we requested along both sides of Fauntleroy Way from the tennis courts south to SW Kenyon.

If a ramp would help you or someone you know have an easier time getting around the neighborhood, visit <a href="https://www.seattle.gov/transportation">https://www.seattle.gov/transportation</a> and search for "request a curb ramp."

#### **HOW DO YOU WANT TO HEAR FROM FCA?**

If you prefer to receive this newsletter and/or periodic notifications from FCA by email, update your email communication preferences by using the form at fauntleroy.net/flash. If you check "Neighbors Newsletter," you will start receiving it by email, NOT by mail.





#### CREEK UPKEEP DEPENDS ON DONATIONS

Over the past three decades, this community has won many grants for instream and riparian restoration along Fauntleroy Creek. Grants typically fund the work itself, plus three years of any plant replacement that might be needed.

That's it. The community is almost always on the hook for any ongoing maintenance.

In 2018, the Fauntleroy Watershed Council established a stewardship fund to meet this need so that investments in restoration aren't lost for lack of upkeep.

Administered by EarthCorps, this fund has to date accepted just over \$33,000 in tax-deductible donations from



In 2019 when spawners could not get through invasive plants near the mouth of the creek, fund donations paid for emergency removal. Photo by Dennis Hinton

individuals, businesses, and nonprofits. Over the past five years, the council has put about half of those donations to work on such projects as maintaining healthy habitat along the middle reach of the creek (Kilbourne ravine) and keeping invasive plants from blocking spawner access from the beach.

If you once donated to this fund, consider doing so again - or donating for the first time. To find out how, visit fauntleroywatershed.org/ and click on "donate."



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#### 'NORTHWEST TROLLS: WAY OF THE BIRD KING'

#### WHIMSICAL SCULPTURE IN LINCOLN PARK COVEYS ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGE

By Judy Pickens

As Tom Trulin's photos express, the arrival of a giant troll in Lincoln Park was quite an exclamation mark on a beautiful Fauntleroy summer.

After extensive planning, Danish artist Thomas Dambo came to the Pacific Northwest in August to create a six-troll art exhibition in Portland and the greater Seattle area. *Northwest Trolls: Way of the Bird King* set out to turn trash into treasure to emphasize the importance of exploring natural spaces and preserving resources.

Some three dozen volunteers signed on to work with Thomas on the Lincoln Park troll. Meals for the crew came from The Birdhouse and individual donors.

The crew used primarily slats from shipping pallets to build the giant near Colman Pool over 10 days. Like the 100+ trolls Thomas has created around the world, ours is intended to decompose over time.

A fairy tale links this Pacific Northwest clan of trolls; each a character in the story conveys the importance of valuing land and water resources for the good of all, especially this region's salmon and Orcas. Coast Salish and Nordic lore both include stories of such creatures.

Muckleshoot artist Coyote (John Halliday) spent several days with the troll team in Denmark to provide both a cultural and artistic perspective. He created the flute that our troll is playing.

Scan Design Foundation, a local nonprofit, spearheaded the project as part of its mission to advance cross-cultural relations between the United States and Denmark. Support also came from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and a host of other supporters, sponsors, and in-kind contributors.

When all six installations are finished, this troll clan will be added to the artist's global map (*trollmap.com*). An adventure geocaching app, customized to each troll location, will be posted for downloading at *nwtrolls*.

I broke down pallets and built birdhouses. It was fun taking part and seeing so many people interested in what was going on. - Volunteer Adam Palmer

#### **Photos by Tom Trulin**



The Dambo team was skilled at using local volunteers to help bring the troll to life.





Fingers fashioned from pallet slats play the driftwood flute.



**'HAPPY CITY BIRDS'** 

Since 2006, artist Thomas Dambo has installed more than 3,500 brightly painted birdhouses in cities around the world to call attention to responsible stewardship. Building the troll in Lincoln Park included making more.



(L) Muckleshoot artist Coyote (aka John Halliday) and Bardur (R), lead builder with the Dambo team, coordinated creating the troll on Coast Salish ancestorial land in Lincoln Park.

# FAUNTLEROY COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY SEEKING NEW DIRECTOR

The Fauntleroy Community Service Agency (FCSA), which operates the Fauntleroy Children's Center and manages the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse, is in the market for a new executive director.

Cara Anderson-Ahrens had been commuting from Mountlake Terrace since accepting that position in December 2020. As of Sept. 8, she'll be pursuing a new opportunity closer to home.

Cara had three goals when she came to the center: keep it healthy and running smoothly through the pandemic, increase subsidies for tuition assistance, and increase staff diversity.

"We will be forever grateful for Cara's willingness to take the reins in the middle of a global pandemic," said Kirsty Grainger, FCSA board president. "Her leadership steered the center through an unprecedented time."

During her tenure, the percentage of families tapping into subsidies almost doubled, from 5% to 9% of students. Center families can now apply for tuition assistance through Seattle's Child Care Assistance Program, King County's Best Starts for Kids, and the state's Working Connections Child Care program.

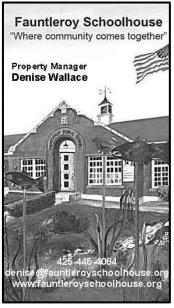
"Our students come from a wide variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds and our teaching staff now more fully reflects that diversity," Cara said. Persons of color hold half the center's 40 permanent and substitute positions, and languages include Somali, Tagalog, and Mandarin in addition to English.

The center's administrative team and members of the FCSA board developed a plan to keep operations running smoothly during the transition to a new executive director.

"As a non-profit agency that runs both a childcare center and owns and operates a large historic building, we're looking for a versatile leader who can manage both," Kirsty said.

FCSA welcomes referrals from the community. Find the job posting at *fauntleroychildrenscenter.org*/.





# PLANNING RESUMES TO REPLACE CULVERT UNDER 45TH AVE. SW

By Jonathan Brown, SPU project manager

Seattle Public Utilities now has a consultant team on board to continue designing a replacement for the culvert that conveys Fauntleroy Creek under 45th Ave. SW.

After a partial blockage last March that backed up flow for several days, the city installed a metal grate over the existing culvert inlet to prevent large debris from entering.

The project team recently did a stream walk to outline the creek channel and wetlands and take sediment measurements. This information will contribute to details that the city will share with the community as a workable design comes into focus.

Construction is tentatively slated for 2026. The city and Fauntleroy Church are exploring options for replacing the upstream culvert, under California Ave. SW and the church parking lot.

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**West Seattle Blog** 

**Wildwood Market** 

#### FROM PAST TO PRESENT

### MAIL WAS LIFELINE AND COMMUNITY BUILDER FOR EARLY RESIDENTS

#### By Judy Pickens

Mail arrival was the highlight of my early days because it was a welcome break from the isolation of farm life. Did early residents here have a similar experience awaiting letters and "wish book" catalogs long before the era of emails, texts, and social media?

Historians tout the landing of the Denny party in November 1851 as the founding of Seattle but, for the women folk, it was no cause for celebration. The promised shelter had no roof, and the incessant rain took the starch out of their bonnets and spines.

Add being cut off from family and friends - well, no wonder they "took a big cry." Imagine how a simple letter from home would have raised their spirits!

In the spring, the families began moving across Elliott Bay to the central waterfront. In October 1852, the Denny home became Seattle's first post office, with Arthur Denny as postmaster. Decades later, his daughter, Louisa Denny Frye, recalled the desk with small cubbyholes where her 30-year-old father sorted the small amount of mail that arrived by boat.

Those boats likely arrived from Olympia, the western terminus of the Oregon Trail. The territory's first post office had opened in 1850 in Nisqually, then moved with successive postmasters to various locations in Olympia.

In the spring of 1854, Charles Terry opened a post office at Alki Point, not far from where he had landed with the Denny party. He soon established a store there (though for just a year), and provided postal service was a logical extension of the store.

In June 1854, Webster Kimball hitched a ride on the small, open boat that provided mail service between Olympia and Bellingham. Years later, he recounted the journey north, with Steilacoom as the first stop.

"The next day we left Steilacoom at such time...as the tides would favor our passage through some of the narrow channels where the current was very strong...

"We were all night on the Sound, and rounded Alki Point about three o'clock in the morning... (We had) a very rough passage of our little craft, from (Vashon) Island to Alki Point, a distance of several miles. The wind was blowing quite hard and the sea was rough. I had to steer the little boat with an oar, while the mail carrier managed the sail."

The Mosquito Fleet (1880s-1920s) delivered pretty much anything, including mail, to small ports of call, including early Fauntleroy. Mail service likely was not as regular then as it became shortly after the turn of the century.

Several merchants followed Terry's model by providing mail service in their stores until 1908, when Station W opened in the Admiral District. Two mail carriers - one mounted and one on foot - were adequate for the job.

Starting in about 1906, Fauntleroy had a series of small, short-lived general stores. Their proprietors could have, in turn, been among the West Seattle merchants who offered postal service.

After completion in 1926 of the Adams Building on the southwest corner of 45th Ave. SW and SW Wildwood Place, a more substantial general store opened there. In a 1989 interview archived by the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, Fauntleroy elder Mildred Oordt recalled "an office in the back where they had all the mailboxes."

This simple arrangement spared carriers from walking long distances to reach widely spaced houses. Posting and checking mail would also have brought residents together frequently, thus helping build community.

Sources: West Side Story; HistoryLink; The Seattle Times; Museum of History and Industry; Log House Museum/SWSHS

#### **FAUNTLEROY MAIL ROUTES**

Station W opened in 1908 to provide regular mail service to West Seattle's developing neighborhoods. The circa 1915 map at left from the Southwest Seattle Historical Society documents the three postal routes then serving Fauntleroy.

Today, seven mail routes serve about 3,000 addresses in what is generally considered to be this neighborhood. Each carrier delivers to between 368 and 513 addresses.

### ON THE CALENDAR

FALL FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER: On Tuesday, Sept. 12, the Birdhouse Cafe (3507 SW Henderson) will donate 30% of all sales to the festival; hours are 6 am - 3 pm. Find what's on offer at thebirdhousews.com/#/.

FCA BUSINESS MEETINGS: Residents are welcome to attend FCA business meetings on Tuesday, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, and Nov. 14, starting at 7 pm in person at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse or on Zoom. Email FCA President Mike Dey (msdey50@aol.com) for the link.

<u>2ND TIME SALE</u>: Fauntleroy Church's huge annual community sale will be open for business on **Saturday**, **Sept. 16 (9 am - 4 pm)**, and **Sunday**, **Sept. 17 (11:30 am, - 3 pm)**. Discover all manner of things you need or simply want, at bargain prices. Cash or check only.

**RECYCLE ROUNDUP:** Fauntleroy Church will host this free event on **Saturday**, **Sept. 23**, **9 am - 3 pm** in the church parking lot. Visit *fauntleroyucc.org/the-congregator* for what to bring/not bring for responsible recycling.

**GREAT PUMPKIN SEARCH:** This free FCA event for all ages will be **Saturday, Oct. 21, 1 pm** in the triangle across from Endolyne Joe's.

SALMON DRUMMING: The Fauntleroy Watershed Council will host its annual drumming to call in coho spawners on Sunday, Oct. 22, 4 pm near SW Director and upper Fauntleroy Way SW. Free for all ages.

**FAUNTLEROY FALL FESTIVAL:** This annual gathering of neighbors will be **Sunday**, **Oct. 23**, **2 - 5 pm** in and around Fauntleroy Schoolhouse and Fauntleroy Church. Free activities, plus food and beverage vendors

**LINCOLN PARK WORK PARTIES:** The Friends of Lincoln Park group continues to host opportunities for volunteers to be involved in restoring and maintaining vegetation in the park. Find details and sign up at seattle.greencitypartnerships.org/event/map/.

FAUNTLEROY FINE ART & HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW: A wide variety of creative work from area artists and artistic crafters will be on sale for gift giving or collecting Nov. 4 (5 - 8 pm), Nov. 5 (10 am - 4 pm), and Sunday, Nov. 6 (11 am - 2 pm) in Fellowship Hall at Fauntleroy Church.

PLANTER BOX WORK PARTY: FCA's fall work party to weed, prune, and plant bulbs in planter boxes in the Endolyne business area will be **Saturday**, **Dec. 9**, **starting at 10 am**. Email *kmfrost1965@comcast.net* to get on the list for updates and what to bring.



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#### **WANT TO BE A SALMON WATCHER?**

The arrival of coho spawners in Fauntleroy Creek is always dependent on their having survived ocean conditions but, if they do come in this fall, watchers need to be on duty to document them.

This year's watch will start Oct. 22 and continue until no more spawners have come in for a week. Contact Judy Pickens at *judy\_pickens@msn.com* or 206-938-4203 to learn about what watching entails.

If spawners are present over a weekend, volunteers will host an "open creek" for the general public. Watch the *West Seattle Blog* for an announcement.

#### **ALREADY THINKING SPRING**

You can help ensure another colorful show of flowers come spring in FCA's planter boxes throughout the Endolyne business area.

Kim Frost Immel has started a list of those who may be able to volunteer for FCA's fall work party on **Saturday**, **Dec. 9**, **10 am**. If you're interested, email her at *kmfrost1965@comcast.net* and she'll be in touch a few weeks ahead of the work party.



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# FERRIES TO RECONVENE TERMINAL PROJECT COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

After a year's hiatus, Washington State Ferries has scheduled a meeting of the community advisory group for **Oct. 25, 6 - 8 pm**. Technical and executive advisory groups will also reconvene that month.

Launched three years ago, the project aims to make seismic upgrades, elevate the trestle for sea-level rise, and improve operational efficiency. Advisory groups have been meeting since summer 2021 to comment on design alternatives. The community group includes representatives from each location on the triangle route.

At the urging of advisers from this community, planners have used the past year to study transportation and environmental issues and opportunities, as well as examine pre-ticketing and automated toll collection.

Only members of the community advisory group may actively participate in the online meeting but others may register to sit in. For details, visit the project website: wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-160-fauntleroy-terminal-trestle-transfer-span-replacement.

Comments or questions are always welcome a FauntleroyTermProj@wsdot.wa.gov. Public meetings and other opportunities to comment will be announced as planning continues.

#### FCA'S POSITION ON FERRY TERMINAL

While members of the ferry system's community advisory group for replacing the terminal await resumption of meetings, here's a reminder of FCA's stance:

YES to pre-ticketing and automated toll collection.

**YES** to promoting transit alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.

**YES** to improving seismic stability, elevating for sea-level rise, and installing non-toxic piling.

**NO** to expanding over-water coverage to enlarge the trestle or add a second slip.





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#### **FAUNTLEROY PITCHES IN FOR KIDS**

The Fauntleroy community made a substantial contribution to school supplies in August so that area low-income students have what they need for learning.

Treo Organic Salon, Hazelwood Preschool, and Wildwood Market invited customers to donate supplies to the local drive coordinated by Fauntleroy Church. All supplies went to West Seattle Rotary for distribution to schools needing to augment their supply budgets. Cash donations enabled Rotary to purchase supplies in bulk.

The church is using cash donations from the congregation to purchase special supplies that the four lowest-income elementary schools in this area would otherwise not be able to afford.







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### FCA ADDS BUSINESS EMPHASIZE, ADVOCATES WITH CANDIDATES

By Mike Dey, president

Greetings, everyone, as we close out a lovely summer and begin to feel the pace pick up. I have two things to call your attention to.

One, in June we announced that Meredith Sciarrio had joined the FCA Board to focus on residential memberships. Now Amber Heinemann has joined to put more emphasis on business memberships.

Amber has both personal and professional relationships with this community. She has been a resident for more than two decades and was for six years manager of Endolyne Joe's. In March 2020, she purchased The Birdhouse at 35th and SW Henderson and has since expanded it from one to 14 employees. She also owns Fremann Foods, a catering and wholesale business located next door to The Birdhouse.

In addition to encouraging more business participation in FCA, Amber will give a hand when needed to help make this the best place possible to live and do business.

And two, as many of you know, FCA does not endorse or support specific political candidates. Having said that, the next person to represent us as District 1 City Council member will be very important.

We'll need our representative's understanding and support about many things but especially about the possible impacts of ferry-terminal expansion. Other District 1 community groups (Morgan Junction, Admiral, and Highland Park Action Coalition) have also gone on record as opposed to expansion.

Before the primary election, several FCA members attended the *West Seattle Blog's* candidate forum and

quickly learned that our position about ferry expansion wasn't widely known to those on the stage. In response, we made our position clear to every candidate and hosted substantive conversations with two of the major contenders.



I strongly encourage you to vote to make sure that the person elected to represent us reflects what is best for the majority of West Seattle residents. Less than 40% of eligible voters cast a ballot in the primary. Please join me in making that percentage much higher in the general.

#### FCA LEADERSHIP

Mike Dey, president; 206-661-0673
Catherine Bailey, vice president
Kris Ilgenfritz, secretary
Meredith Sciarrio, residential membership
Amber Heinemann, business membership
Bruce Butterfield Alan Grainger David Haggerty
Frank Immel Susan Lantz-Dey Diana Spence
Nils von Veh Bill Wellington Martin Westerman
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Judy Pickens, writer/editor

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