

One hundred years ago, the West Seattle peninsula became part of Seattle. Extension of the streetcar line to the new southern city limits at "Endolyne" began Fauntleroy's transformation from summer getaway to year-round community.

In many respects, the hard work of nurturing this community began some 75 years later: The exodus of Baby Boomers had shifted the focus from kids to empty nesters. The resulting closure of Fauntleroy School had weakened historic hub of school, church, and YMCA. And the once-quaint ferry had grown into a monster.

In 1980, the Fauntleroy Community Association began picking up the loose ends of community and reclaiming the neighborhood's voice. Since then, FCA has been bringing residents together, standing up for Fauntleroy, and helping enhance our quality of life. Read on to learn the progress that FCA made during 2007.

Popular Events Build Community

FCA hosted three major events during 2007 aimed at getting residents together to cultivate community.

In March, nearly 100 residents attended FCA's **"Meet the Mayor"** night, sans Greg Nickels, who was called to Washington, DC, at the last minute. Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis ably fielded a broad range of questions, from traffic

safety to drainage issues. Seattle City Light contributed \$450 toward a mailing to publicize the event.

In May, FCA hosted the fifth-annual **Fauntleroy Food Fest**, which drew 170 residents to sample food and beverage from local eateries, browse information tables, and elect FCA officers.

Thanks to the generosity of Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering, both events occurred at the Hall at Fauntleroy.

The Hall was jumping again in October as residents danced to the West Seattle Big Band, one of many features of the wildly popular **Fauntleroy Fall Festival**. It drew on every facet of the neighborhood to provide an afternoon chock-a-block with activities.

Financial support came from "dine-out" nights at Endolyne Joe's and Guadalajara, plus donations from FCA, Fauntleroy Church, and many of the estimated 1,500 who attended.



Janet Rayor's remarkable cat (here with Paulette Elster) towered over everyone at the Fauntleroy Fall Festival.



Festival volunteers (including Jordan Petram, center) cut wooden hydroplanes and helped youngsters assemble and paint them to pull behind their bicycles.

FCA Gets State To Buy Into Solution for Green Tide

In cooperation with the Fauntleroy Watershed Council, FCA took a giant step forward in reducing the "Fauntleroy stench" that has plagued the neighborhood for more than 20 years. Judy Pickens worked with then-state Sen. Erik Paulsen to introduce a bill that included funding to remove the tons of seaweed produced in Fauntleroy Cove during the heat of the summer. As it decomposes, this seaweed gives off the toxic hydrogen-sulfide gas that makes residents ill and keeps us captive behind closed windows.

Although the bill did not move, we cooperated with the City of Federal Way (where residents of Dumas Bay also suffer from "green tide") to get a separate \$300,000 appropriation for 2008-09. Water-quality specialists with the State Department of Ecology were assigned the task of using this money to remove seaweed at Fauntleroy and advance understanding of this growing phenomenon throughout Puget Sound. Federal Way added its own money to the project to be able to offer relief sooner rather than later to Dumas Bay. Now, for the first time, green tide is "on the map" with a water-quality agency.

David Anderson, an air-quality scientist and marine

biologist familiar with Fauntleroy from his research here in years past, won the contract and is working with Ecology, permitting agencies, and the community to devise an approach. If permits can be secured in time, seaweed will be removed this coming summer.

To complement this action, the Watershed Council initiated an outreach plan aimed at reducing the amount of nutrients from the neighborhood that feed seaweed growth. Because of resources already available to the council and contracting complications, FCA decided to pass on \$5,000 allocated in the 2007 King County budget for green-tide response.



Boats in a sea of summer seaweed in Fauntleroy Cove

More Environmental Progress

The FCA Board was pleased to continue its support during the year for the work of the Fauntleroy Watershed Council by administering grant funding for restoration of the reach-to-the-beach of Fauntleroy Creek.

Two years in the planning, the project rebuilt much of the 200-foot reach to improve habitat and reduce the potential for flooding of adjacent homes. EarthCorps, an international conservation-training program headquartered in Seattle, completed construction and revegetation in time to welcome 89 coho spawners in November.



A crew member with EarthCorps installs saltwater-tolerant grasses near the mouth of Fauntleroy Creek.

Advising the Ferry System

Members of the Fauntleroy Ferry Advisory Committee volunteered approximately 100 hours in 2007 to maintain communication and working relationships with Washington State Ferries and the Southworth and Vashon communities.

Led by Gary Dawson, Fauntleroy committee members met with staff from the ferry system and ferry advisory members from other cities served by the system. They also participated in public meetings with other advisory committees and ferry users; agendas included status reports on ferry operations, commuter issues and concerns, and state strategies and planning. Each meeting included open discussion with ferry system management and state and local elected officials.

Through the committee, Fauntleroy is represented on the citizens advisory group that is reviewing design options for expanding and upgrading Colman Dock downtown. To present a united front, members of the committee met with West Seattle community and business groups and won their support in advocating for sufficient operating capacity downtown to enable the eventual relocation of Southworth auto-ferry service from Fauntleroy.

Check www.Fauntleroy.net for notices of open ferry-advisory meetings in Fauntleroy.

Neighborhood Safety

Improving the safety of neighborhood streets was an ongoing priority for FCA during 2007. In addition to encouraging residents to establish Block Watches and report burned-out street lights, FCA targeted pedestrian concerns and a proposed bus stop.

Pedestrians have long needed a safe way to cross Fauntleroy Way S.W. to reach the wading pool and ballfields at the north end of Lincoln Park. Although the city installed a second pedestrian light on the arterial in 2006, it is located in the middle of the park, not where it is needed. FCA continues to advocate for a real solution to this ongoing safety concern.

FCA wrote a strongly worded letter to city officials after the ferry queue did not stop for the pedestrian-activated light at the south end of Lincoln Park, nearly striking a child.

FCA alerted residents to Metro's proposal to re-



FCA encouraged residents to organize block parties for Seattle's annual "Neighborhood Night Out" in August, including this one on 46th Ave. S.W.

locate the bus stop at the ferry terminal, which would have blocked access to vanpool parking and increased trash, noise, and exhaust in front of homes. Metro tabled the idea after objections from the neighborhood, as well as ferry and bus commuters.

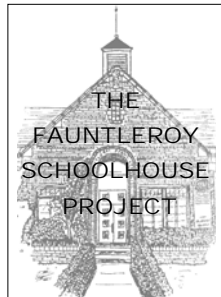
FCA Rallies Stakeholders To Secure Schoolhouse

In 2007, FCA initiated a community discussion about the future of the Fauntleroy schoolhouse and its largest tenant, the Fauntleroy Children's Center.

In the wake of the school district's decision to sell the five-acre property in the heart of the neighborhood, stakeholders pooled time and resources to host a community open house at the school on April 29.

The event drew some 100 residents and alumni to recall the school's past, tour current activities, and imagine a future for the site. Their overwhelming preference was to save and enhance the building, not turn the property over for re-development.

Some 80 guests registered to stay in touch with the



project and many of those offered to help in some way, from telephoning to fund-raising.

The Fauntleroy Community Services Agency, which leases the building and operates the childcare program, then contracted with the Cascade Land Conservancy to assess the structure and suggest a financially viable way to meet neighborhood aspirations.

FCA Director Vicki Schmitz-Block joined the agency board as a liaison. The FCA Board reconnected with the project toward the end of the year, advocating for a renewal of community involvement.

Growing Our Membership

FCA continued to promote the benefits of membership at special events and in every issue of our *Neighbors* newsletter. In addition, Ann Dunbar coordinated distribution of welcome bags to newcomers.

The bag includes information about the community, a hand-made gift donated by members, a coupon or gift certificate donated by businesses, and a membership form.

Also during the year, a special committee of the board devised an aggressive membership-development plan to be implemented during 2008 and applied (successfully) for a \$750 outreach matching grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to assist with this effort.



Guests at the schoolhouse open house voted for and against several possible uses for the property if it could be acquired by the community.



The Business End of FCA

Jordan Petram's membership records show that, year's end, FCA had 194 members, including 42 businesses and institutions.

Treasurer Phil Sweetland's records show that FCA started the year with \$9,698. In addition to member dues, we brought in \$36,174 in grant monies, \$4,539 in

donations for the Fall Festival, and a \$100 donation to FCA. After administrative expenses, we closed the year with a balance of \$10,617.

As a 501(c)4 nonprofit, FCA served as fiscal agent for grants (included above) secured by the Fauntleroy Watershed Council for creek restoration. The board also offered to be fiscal agent for any grants secured to help finance upgrades to Fauntleroy Church that will benefit the whole community.

The FCA Board met monthly (except August and December) in

open session on the second Tuesday evening at the schoolhouse.

Martha and Bob Callard published four issues of our *Neighbors* newsletter. Every month, Kirk Hopkins distributed our e-calendar, and Chris Nack ably maintained our comprehensive community website.

Vlad Oustimovitch represented the neighborhood on the Southwest District Council, which helps keep the FCA Board abreast of wider community concerns and amplifies Fauntleroy's voice in dealings with city staff and elected officials.



Spring Clean Work Party

Cal Bannon (left) and David Allen were among a dozen volunteers who spruced up Cove Park during FCA's Spring Clean event. Mark Harmon with Stonehedge Tree Experts donated the chips.

What's Ahead for Fauntleroy

- A documentary about Fauntleroy funded by sponsors and a \$15,000 grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. Partners on this project include FCA, Fauntleroy Church, and the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.
- Assuming permits come in time, removal of seaweed from Fauntleroy Cove several times over the summer.
- Through the Fauntleroy Watershed Council, outreach to residents to help reduce nutrients going into the cove and fecal-coliform bacteria from pet waste going into Fauntleroy Creek.
- Activities for the whole neighborhood around the Fauntleroy Church centennial, including 100 days of bell-ringing at noon starting April 19, an old-fashioned community bean feed during homecoming weekend July 25-27, and an art show in the fall.
- Another fantastic Fauntleroy Fall Festival on October 12!

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