

SUMMER 2010

IT'S OFFICIAL: SCHOOLHOUSE PROPERTY BELONGS TO FAUNTLEROY!

By Kim Sheridan

On February 26, Fauntleroy Community Service Agency president, Kevin Wooley, signed closing documents for purchase of the Fauntleroy schoolhouse property.

The purchase was the result of years of effort, including advocating with city and state officials for all the money needed to put the site in community hands.

Public funding enabled purchase of the school building, parking area, and a majority of the lower playground. FCSA plans to continue to pursue funding that might become available to buy the remainder of the playground and the back lot.

City of Seattle funding is contingent on doing a series of renovations over the next four years that will cost a great deal, so much still needs to be done!

Dr. Jack Pierce was center stage at a community open house on June 3 to celebrate the purchase. His vision for a quality childcare center in the neighborhood prompted formation of FCSA and its leasing of the schoolhouse in 1981, shortly after the Seattle School District closed the school.

Other special guests included current city and state officials, as well as former Mayor Greg Nickels, a parent of Fauntleroy Children's Center "alumni" who was instrumental in securing city funds.

Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering outdid itself with treats for the occasion, and the West Seattle Big Band drew people to the dance floor.

FCSA has taken two big steps in order to move forward with renovations, set long-term goals, and increase rental income.

One was to pull together a building advisory committee of diverse talent under the leadership of FCSA Board member Joe Cachero. Members include representatives of the children's center, Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes, and the community. Its first monthly meeting was on March 11.

The other was to hire Kat Jones as property manager. She has a wealth of experience and has already rented a classroom! She's available Monday and Wednesday mornings in the front office of the schoolhouse. She will have limited on-site hours and by appointment (391-9054) to show space.



Dr. Jack Pierce, a major force behind creating the Fauntleroy Community Service Agency, cuts the ribbon on June 3 to open the Fauntleroy schoolhouse as a community-owned property. FCSA President Kevin Wooley (left) held one end of the ribbon and FCA President Bruce Butterfield (right) held the other. *Photo courtesy Gail Ann Photography*

Stay tuned as we work on long-term goals that are sure to include opportunities for everyone in Fauntleroy to invest in this new community resource.

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RAPIDRIDE

FCA ASKS METRO TO INVOLVE COMMUNITY IN STOP DESIGN

By Judy Pickens

When voters approved the "Transit Now" initiative in 2006, they agreed to fund six RapidRide bus routes for high ridership areas in King County. One of those routes will link the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal with downtown, via the Junction.

Using specially designed quick-board/quick-exit coaches and scheduling them every 10 minutes during rush hour and every 15 minutes at other times, RapidRide is intended to move commuters and those going elsewhere in West Seattle more quickly, thus enticing more people out of their cars.

"Shifting our auto-centric thinking toward mass transit becomes increasingly important as housing density increases in West Seattle and Fauntleroy," noted Susan Lantz-Dey, FCA director and member of the RapidRide citizens advisory committee.

Once RapidRide planning got under way, Metro and the Seattle Department of Transportation tapped the advisory group through the process of selecting routes. Information tables at several Fauntleroy events promoted RapidRide during route selection but offered few details, other than that RapidRide service would replace the #54 through Fauntleroy.

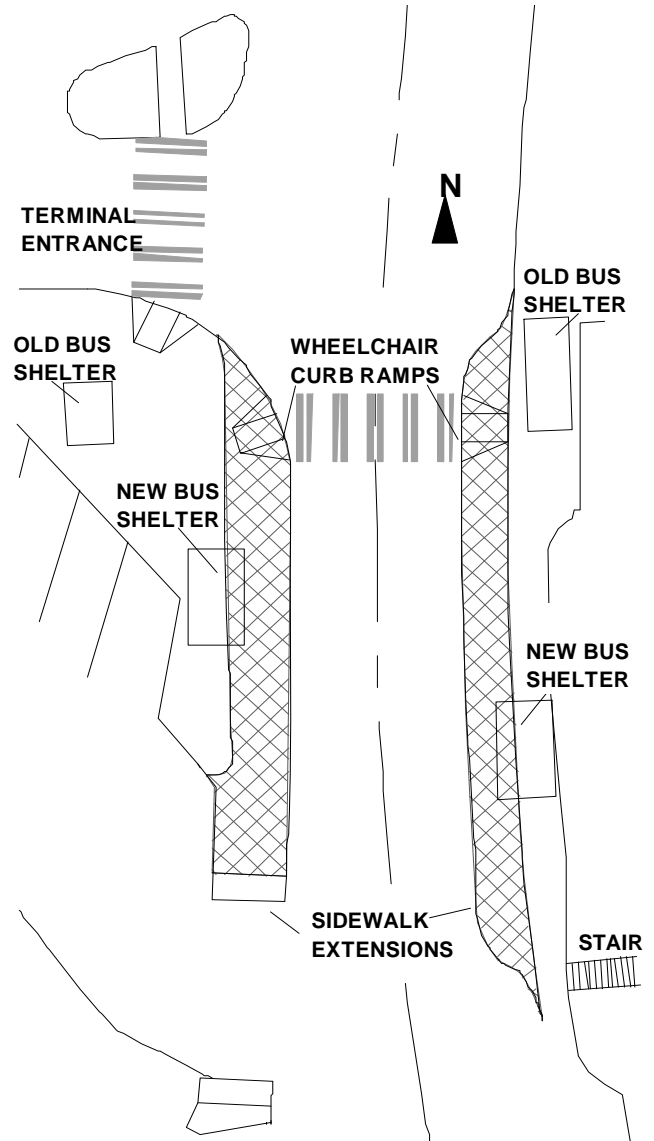
Metro did not, however, share design of RapidRide bus stops at the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal until it was 60 percent complete - meaning changes this late in the game could be expensive. The plan shown to the FCA Board would narrow Fauntleroy Way S.W. to two lanes at the terminal entrance.

As shown on the accompanying diagram, curb bulbs (sidewalk extensions) would be added on both sides of the arterial at the ferry terminal entrance, narrowing the street from 40 feet to 25 feet (one lane of traffic each way). When a coach is at the northbound stop, other northbound traffic would back up behind it. When north- and southbound coaches arrive simultaneously, traffic in both directions would stop.

At the June 8 FCA business meeting, Metro transportation planner Paul Roybal explained that curb bulbs are to be installed at all RapidRide stops to make each one fully accessible and keep cars and bicycles from endangering pedestrians by passing on the left of a stopped coach.

In a letter to King County Executive Dow Constantine, FCA President Bruce Butterfield called design of the ferry-terminal stops "unacceptable."

"Narrowing Fauntleroy Way where it is already a bottleneck increases neither mobility nor safety," he wrote. "This design would cut off all vehicle, bicycle, and emergency services near this location while the stops are in use."



Other concerns raised by the FCA Board:

- Frustrated drivers or cyclists would likely pull into oncoming traffic to try to pass a stopped bus, endangering pedestrians and other drivers.
- Exhaust from idling cars behind a stopped bus would pollute the neighborhood.
- When a coach breaks down, traffic would back up and Metro drivers are not allowed to get out to wave cars around the coach.

In response to a request by Susan Lantz-Dey, a select group of planners and community stakeholders (including bus commuters, stop neighbors, and a ferry-terminal representative) will convene soon to explore alternatives that will address project objectives *and* neighborhood concerns.

COMMUNITY, COUNTY CLOSER TO PLAN TO CAP SEWER OVERFLOWS

By Judy Pickens

By late summer, King County expects to reach a milestone in planning how to better manage stormwater destined for Fauntleroy Cove: submission of one proposal for state environmental review.

The county's goal is to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that, during heavy rainfall, send an estimated four million gallons of raw sewage into the cove annually. Like many areas in the city, Fauntleroy was "plumbed" to carry both sewage and stormwater in the same pipes. Thanks to this system, more than 20 billion gallons of combined sewage and stormwater polluted Seattle lakes, the Duwamish River, and Puget Sound every year in the 1950s.

By 2005, major infrastructure investments by the city and county had reduced the annual volume of CSO pollution citywide to less than 1 billion gallons per year. The goal is complete CSO control by 2030.

The "Barton basin" (from near Westwood down to the cove) is now one of four high-priority CSO areas for the county because of the potential for people to come into contact with sewage-laden water while enjoying the beach. The plan being developed is three-pronged:

- increasing pumping capacity of the pump station next to the ferry pier and adding a generator to ensure uninterrupted service during power outages.
- increasing the ability to store the combined stormwater and wastewater for release to the pump station after the storm has passed.
- reducing the amount of stormwater entering the system in the first place.

ANNUAL FEST DISHES OUT FOOD, INFORMATION, FCA MEMBERSHIP

An estimated 150 people packed the Hall at Fauntleroy on March 23 for the 2010 Fauntleroy Food Fest and FCA Annual Membership Meeting. In addition to visiting with neighbors and sampling local cuisine, they checked out displays about area activities, renewed or started FCA membership, and elected FCA officers and directors.

Eateries participating this year were Endolyne Joe's (with tasty gumbo dished out by servers Carly Hampton and Joby Sewell at right), Giannoni's Pizza, Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant, The Kenney's catering service, The Original Bakery, Bird on a Wire Espresso, and caterers Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes and The Dreaming Dane Cafe and Catering.

Photo courtesy Gail Ann Photography

In late winter, county wastewater staff and consultants presented three options for public comment by e-mail, phone calls, an online survey, and a public meeting in March. About 50 people weighed in.

Many had strong concerns about the option that would put large storage pipes under upper Fauntleroy Way S.W., overlooking the ferry pier. Several large trees are on the bluff there and the area is known to contain cultural resources.

Many supported the "green infrastructure" option that would employ several techniques to enable residents in a multi-block area northeast of the Southwest Branch Library to retain more stormwater on their property. This option would also enable more street runoff to filter through the soil and contribute to groundwater.

People also supported adding storage tanks under the former playground at the Fauntleroy schoolhouse. This option would retain parking capacity and help the Fauntleroy Community Service Agency afford building restoration.

By late summer, the county will forward one proposal for state review (targeted for December). Not until then will costs be clearly in focus.

Board member Vlad Oustimovitch is FCA's representative on the Murray Basin Community Advisory Group, formed to develop a strong connection with stakeholders as the county moves forward on a CSO solution for the Lowman Beach area.

Watch for an article on plans for enlarging and upgrading the Barton pump station in the next issue.



ROUTING OF SOUTHWORTH DOWNTOWN AWAITS NEW BOAT

By Gary Dawson

After a hiatus of a couple of years, public meetings hosted by local ferry advisory committees and Washington State Ferries (WSF) are back on a routine schedule.

What that means for the Vashon-Southworth-Fauntleroy service area is that the Fauntleroy Ferry Advisory Committee will host a public meeting here every 8 to 12 months.

At a recent meeting on Vashon, WSF head David Moseley and members of his staff made an informative presentation about service, vessel status, the ticket reservation study, and proposals for fare increases.

In brief, service on the triangle route will not improve until WSF can procure an additional vessel. The boat now under construction is destined for another route, and no one knows when one can be built for the triangle route. When it is, the shift of Southworth ferry traffic to downtown Seattle could occur. WSF has included this proposed change in its long-range plan and Kitsap County is supportive. A lack of resources is what is preventing the change from happening now.

Regarding the reservation system, WSF has no plans to implement reservations on the triangle route. Route users do not support reservations and Fauntleroy lacks the vehicle staging area needed for the system work. One member of the audience commented that WSF should just construct an additional dock at Fauntleroy to make it work!

Although this idea is not the long-range plan and

was prohibited by Seattle City Council action in 1998, the thought persists in the mind of many triangle-route users. They experience Fauntleroy as a bottleneck and believe that additional waiting and parking areas should be provided here.

The most obvious way to reduce congestion and shorten wait times to and from Vashon is to reroute Southworth to downtown. Until that happens, Vashon Islanders - or any of us going to Vashon - will have to wait our turn in line.



KIDS GET THEIR GOAT

Youngsters at the Fauntleroy Children's Center can't let this resting goat digest its blackberry/ivy lunch. A small herd of goats came in early June to chew down weeds around the parking lot at the Fauntleroy schoolhouse.

Photo courtesy Center staff

LAST SEGMENT OF FAUNTLEROY CREEK BEING RESTORED



Kennedy High student Jaréll Rebar is one of several volunteers whose hours are matching grant funding for the glen project. *Photo courtesy Judy Pickens*

Restoration of the last degraded segment of Fauntleroy Creek is under way. The focus is 180 feet of channel through Fenton Glen at the east end of the Fauntleroy Church parking lot.

Planning for the project on church property began more than two years ago when the Fauntleroy Watershed Council applied for grants. Primary funders for the \$51,850 undertaking are Seattle, King Conservation District, and King County.

The goal is to restore creek

channel through the glen, eradicate a heavy infestation of invasive non-native plants, and revegetate with native species that hold the soil, benefit wildlife, and add to the beauty of the site, the upper part of which is a meditation garden.

Work to date has been the use of a state-approved herbicide, primarily on yellow archangel that blankets the half-acre site. In-stream construction is scheduled for early September, with revegetation to follow as areas can be cleared of invasive plants.

FROM FCA'S PRESIDENT

HURRAY! FAUNTLEROY SCHOOLHOUSE IN COMMUNITY HANDS

First came a little brown church in the woods, built in 1908. Second came a community gymnasium, built alongside that church in 1914. Then came Fauntleroy School, built in 1917 across the street.

For 93 years, this trio of buildings made up the three-legged stool that was the heart of Fauntleroy.

When the school closed in 1981, we felt the loss of one leg of that stool.

But not for long. In 1981, Dr. Jack Pierce, Roberta Weeks, Bob Sleem, and others incorporated the Fauntleroy Community Service Agency (FCSA) to lease the building, establish the Fauntleroy Children's Center in the north wing, and help support its program by renting out classrooms to small businesses and the south wing to Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering. Now with the successful purchase of the building, we can look forward to having that third leg firmly back in place!

It sounds so easy, doesn't it? Ask any FCSA board member and you'll hear about years of uncertainty, then talks, then negotiations, and finally piecing together the funding. *Hurray!*

The children's center can now breathe a sigh of relief. After years of planning based on short-term leases, it finally knows where home will be over the long-term.

Despite those years of uncertainty, the children's center has cultivated *community* from Day One. The thousands of youngsters who have enrolled began learning from their first day how to get along with

others. They've learned about people from different families, backgrounds, and even nations.

For many, it's their first exposure to the world outside their home and family.

The building is also home to Seattle Civic Dance Theatre, which draws budding dancers from throughout West Seattle and beyond to experience

personal achievement and teamwork. Again, learning about *community*.

Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes has brought us The Hall At Fauntleroy - a "go to" location for weddings, receptions, reunions, and community meetings of every type. Its rooms have also served as festive sights for numerous fund-raisers that encourage support for many worthwhile *community* services.

A big neighborhood CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to all those involved as we look forward to helping this leg of the stool fully realize its potential for Fauntleroy. - *Bruce Butterfield*



VOLUNTEERS PLUG IN

FCA Directors Vicki Schmitz-Block (left) and Gary Dawson (center) chat with Pat Ninburg, who was one of several new recruits at a recent "meet and greet" at the Schmitz-Block home to learn more about volunteer opportunities through FCA. To join them, contact any FCA board member! *Photo courtesy Judy Pickens*

COLOR THIS LIBRARY GREEN

By Martin Westerman

A "tool library" is the latest venture by Sustainable West Seattle to help make our part of town both "green" and self-sufficient.

Largely funded by a grant from the Department of Neighborhoods, the library offers a wide range of tools, training, and advice. Membership is on a pay-what-you-can basis, as are weekly rental rates on all the tools. It's housed in the horticulture center at South Seattle Community College, just across from the north parking lot.

By using the library, individuals won't have to own every tool needed to create a backyard garden, say, or make home improvements that save energy. The library is even stocked well enough to support community projects, such as a work party in a neighborhood park.

Find out more at www.sustainablewestseattle.org/tool-library or check it out in person at 6006 16th Ave. S.W. Hours are 9 AM - 2 PM on Saturdays and 4 - 8 PM on Thursdays.



GOODBYE SALMON

Children with the West Seattle MOMS group introduce salmon fry to moving water in Fauntleroy Park. They were among 500 youngsters who put nearly 2,200 coho in Fauntleroy Creek in May, most raised from eggs through the state's Salmon in the Classroom program. Volunteers documented 25 smolts leaving the creek for saltwater this spring, up from last year. *Photo courtesy Dennis Hinton*

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NIGHT OUT AUGUST 3

Seattle Night Out is Tuesday, August 3, this year and neighbors throughout Fauntleroy will be gathering for potluck dinners in the street. The Seattle Police

Department promotes the event to improve crime prevention, increase support for anti-crime activities, and unite communities.

Fauntleroy residents who have participated can attest that the little bit of effort involved to pull off a Night Out gathering is well worth it. Register or find out more at www.cityofseattle.gov/police/nightout.



MORE DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sat., July 24: Lend EarthCorps a hand with invasive plant removal in Fauntleroy Park, 10 AM - 2 PM. Learn how to get rid of ivy and blackberry, plus enjoy a guided nature walk. Details and sign up at www.earthcorps.org/volunteer.php; click on Fauntleroy.

Tues., Aug. 3: Seattle Night Out block-party events.

Sat., Aug. 14: 10th anniversary party for Stage Struck, the summer drama camp rooted in Fauntleroy; 5 PM at Parish Hall, St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church. Details at www.stagestruckseattle.com.

Thurs., Sept. 9: Fauntleroy Watershed Council, 7 PM at Fauntleroy Church.

Tues., Sept. 14: Fauntleroy Community Association business meeting, 7 PM in the schoolhouse conference room.

Thurs., Sept. 30: Deadline for West Seattle artists to apply to participate in the Fauntleroy Fine Art & Gift Faire. Details at www.fauntleroyucc.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Sun., Oct. 17: Fauntleroy Fall Festival at Fauntleroy Church, YMCA, and schoolhouse, 2 PM - 6 PM; free for all ages!

Nov. 19-21: Fauntleroy Fine Art & Gift Faire at Fauntleroy Church; free.

CHEAP DATES

For a cheap evening with your sweetie, check out these events just down the street:

"Sweet, Sweet Music" coffeehouse: Vocalists Sarah Ackers, Betsy Boyer, and Bronwyn Edwards-Cryer on Friday, **July 30**, 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall, Fauntleroy Church; \$5 at the door includes dessert.

Stage Struck: Student performances on Fridays at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall, Fauntleroy Church; donation at the door. Cinderella **July 9**, Oliver **July 16**, Mary Poppins **July 23** and **Aug. 20**, Jungle Book **Aug. 5**.

END IN SIGHT FOR CHURCH UPGRADE



Extension of the church office to the east will gain 10 more feet for staff. (The YMCA wing is in the background.) An enlarged narthex (sanctuary lobby) below the office, with a patio, will be open to the view into Fauntleroy Park. *Photo courtesy Phil Sweetland*

If you frequent Fauntleroy Church and/or the Fauntleroy YMCA, you are keenly aware that a lot of construction has been going on. Rest assured: The end is in sight.

The congregation has undertaken a \$2.8 million renovation to upgrade mechanical and safety systems, install an elevator to serve all levels, and gain more space and more functional space. The church and Y offices will be more visible and welcoming.

Replacing the wood framing in the big sanctuary window with steel was done several months ago. Then a small fire in December prompted further upgrades to the sanctuary.

Fresh paint has brightened the room, and insurance money has enabled new carpeting throughout. Before it was installed, volunteers simplified the chancel (front of the sanctuary) to be more flexible and accessible.

The contractor, Howard S. Wright, is projecting completion of interior changes by late August. Planning is under way for a community celebration of the new and improved facility in early fall.

FAUNTLEROY BRINGS MARINE SCIENCE TO FIFTH GRADERS

Fifth graders at West Seattle Elementary in High Point capped their school year with a marine-science unit that would not have been possible without Fauntleroy residents.

The 28 students participated in classroom, aquarium, and beach experiences, all aimed at helping them and their low-income/immigrant families see Puget Sound as an sensitive habitat worth caring about.

Fauntleroy Watershed Council member Judy Pickens secured grant funding from the Puget Sound Partnership and collaborated with school, aquarium, and school-district staff to pull off the project. Council member Phil Sweetland and long-time neighborhood resident Liz Thomas chaperoned field trips; Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering prepared a picnic for beach day.

"Everyone needs to help clean up Puget Sound, yet most water-quality advice is for people who have a garden, a car, or a dog, all of which require a certain level of income," Judy explained. "Many of these students don't have those things but they were able to see ways they *could* help."



"Please touch" is the rule as Fauntleroy's Liz Thomas encourages West Seattle Elementary students to examine sea critters during a workshop at the Seattle Aquarium.

Photo courtesy Judy Pickens

EIGHTH ANNUAL FAUNTLEROY FALL FESTIVAL OCT. 17

By Kim Petram

Mark your calendar now for the 8th Annual Fauntleroy Fall Festival on **Sunday, October 17**. Anticipated hours are 2 PM to 6 PM in the community triangle: Fauntleroy schoolhouse, Fauntleroy Church, and Fauntleroy YMCA.

Your favorite activities will return, including the kids' climbing wall and bounce toys, plus the very popular pony rides and animal petting zoo.

We expect an expanded environmental focus, an all-new woodworking project, and new performers circulating through the event area to offer dance, song, and instrumental music.

Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes will cater a full



meal in the Hall at Fauntleroy, with music for listening and dancing. As usual, local eateries will be selling snacks and drinks highlighting their food specialties.

Please plan on attending this premier Fauntleroy community event! It remains free thanks to your support of fund-raisers and the leadership of FCA, the Fauntleroy YMCA, Fauntleroy Church, Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes, Little Pilgrim Preschool, and the Fauntleroy Children's Center.

For questions or to volunteer to help with planning or day-of-event activities, contact me at kim@petram.org.

KEEP UP TO DATE ON FAUNTLEROY EVENTS AT www.facebook.com/FauntleroyCommunityAssociation!

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