

DECEMBER 2011



CAMPAIGN FOR SCHOOLHOUSE ROOF SLATED FOR SPRING

The Fauntleroy Community Service Agency (FCSA) expects to launch a \$1 million capital campaign this spring to replace the roof and roof structure on the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center.

In addition to putting on a new roof, the project will reinforce the roof structure to bring it up to current earthquake code. The goal is to complete the work by year-end 2012.

As passersby will attest, the roof and gutters have needed attention for years. Replacement could not happen, however, until the FCSA finalized purchase of the building from the Seattle School District, which it did in early 2010.

Since then, the FCSA board has prioritized a significant backlog of renovations and upgrades, increased use of the building for community activities, upgraded former classrooms to better fit desired uses, and strategized how to approach a capital campaign.

"Suggestions from the community about expanded use of the building have been great to have," said FCSA President Kevin Wooley. "We've had lots of interest in using the property, both full-time and part-time. It's wonderful to see the space being used."

New activities include YMCA soccer practice on the playground; yoga, Pilates, and karate courses; massage sessions; art and photography classes; and the Lincoln Park Co-op Preschool.

The board recently engaged Laura Ehret to coordinate the capital campaign. The plan calls for both financial and volunteer support from the community to match whatever grant funding can be won. Details are still in the works.

"We know that, with tight budgets, the task will be challenging," Kevin said. "We're approaching the city for a neighborhood matching grant but we'll need private donations as well to be successful, along with the revenue we receive from use of the building."

"We also know that, with all the neighborhood enthusiasm for keeping the building as a community asset, we can expect continued support for keeping it viable."

FLAGS FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Heavy traffic and frequent pedestrian crossings are not a safe mix. Fortunately, Fauntleroy has not experienced any severe pedestrian accidents, only near misses.

Nonetheless, key crossings in the neighborhood are getting bright orange pedestrian crossing flags, courtesy of area businesses who advertise with FCA. They are between the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center and Fauntleroy Church and at the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal. A third set of flags is planned on Fauntleroy Way SW near The Kenney.

The bright flags in their receptacles on both sides of the street alert drivers that they are entering a crosswalk zone. With flag in hand, a pedestrian should be able to cross safely. Reflective markings will be added to the flags to increase visibility at dusk and night.

Contact FCA Director Susan Lantz-Dey (slantzdey@aol.com) to suggest another high-priority crossing for consideration.

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(Above) Bonnie Beerman's custom chef hats went to winners of the cake decorating contest. (Clockwise from upper left) Many hands assembled planter boxes. Chief Sealth musicians made their drum sticks fly to the beat.

FAUNTLEROY FALL FESTIVAL 2011

Backyard bunnies got lots of loving - and who would have thought that goats would chew on hoodie strings? Ileigh Reynolds bends WAY down for a high five. A salmon feels funny when you wear it on your head! An estimated 1,500 people of all ages, including these fair-goers enjoying the music of the Five Buck Band, attended this year. Photos courtesy Cindy Hegland



TRANSPORTATION NEWS

FERRY UNLOADING A SAFETY CONCERN

By Gary Dawson

During a Washington State Ferries public meeting in mid November, the perennial “what to do about Fauntleroy” topic came up. This time, the focus wasn't on dock capacity, queue cut-ins, or toll booth bottlenecks. It was on traffic, now that Washington State Patrol officers are no longer assisting with loading and unloading vessels.

State Ferries reported that it has been able to maintain its loading schedule and process during the afternoon commute. Unloading, however, remains a safety concern at all hours of operation.

It's a concern we share. Neither drivers nor pedestrians are as safe as they were when an officer directed vehicles exiting the dock onto Fauntleroy Way SW.

State Department of Transportation Assistant Secretary David Moseley said that safety at Fauntleroy - the state's most complicated and problematic terminal - is his number one concern. Given the budget picture, reinstating State Patrol officers is a remote possibility, he said, and he doesn't see any clear-cut solution.

We can certainly point to one: Reroute Southworth traffic to downtown Seattle. We have discussed this idea many times but realize the state doesn't have funding to upgrade Colman dock or enough vessels to service the route.

A new vessel is to begin service in January and construction on another is to start next year; they will complete replacement of four vessels retired a few years ago. But pending retirement of another vessel will leave the system no latitude for a Southworth-downtown route.

In its pursuit of better traffic management at Fauntleroy, State Ferries had floated the idea of a traffic light at the terminal. Many questions are yet to be answered, including type of light, funding source, and the pros and cons for both ferry users and the community. The Fauntleroy Ferry Advisory Committee is a part of this discussion.

A task force appointed by the governor is developing a sustainable 10-year funding strategy for Washington's entire transportation system, including ferries. Its meetings are open to the public, with opportunity to comment. A report is due for the upcoming legislative session.

Information about the task force, vessel construction, and cost-reduction strategies is posted at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries.

RAPIDRIDE CONSTRUCTION STARTS SOON

Construction will start in January at the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal bus stops to upgrade them for the “RapidRide C Line,” which is to start serving West Seattle in September.

C Line buses and bus stops are designed for fast service - low floors at sidewalk level, three doors, and “bulbs” that extend sidewalks to the bus so it doesn't have to pull in and out of traffic. Time at a bus stop is to be less than 45 seconds.

Expect several changes at the terminal stops on Fauntleroy Way SW.

- **Temporary stops:** North- and southbound temporary stops will be one block in the direction of travel (north where lower and upper Fauntleroy Way meet, and south at Fauntleroy Way SW and SW Wildwood). These stops won't have shelters.

- **Northbound stop:** RapidRide will construct a sidewalk bulb on the east side of Fauntleroy Way to gain wheelchair access. That bulb will prevent cars from passing a stopped bus.

- **Southbound stop:** A similar change was proposed for southbound buses, which would have resulted in gridlock whenever north- and southbound buses occupied stops at the same time. FCA successfully advocated for leaving space for emergency vehicles to pass between stopped buses.

Concern is now on the Morgan Junction. Seattle Department of Transportation planners have inserted bus bulbs at the main intersection (Fauntleroy Way SW and California Ave. SW). Buses there would remain in the traffic lane when loading and unloading. The northbound bulb (near Washington Federal) would leave room for only three cars between a bus there and the intersection. The southbound bulb on Fauntleroy Way SW (by Zeek's Pizza) would leave no room for cars between a bus there and the intersection.

The FCA Board did not see these plans until they were fully developed, with no opportunity for community input. Planners contend that the new bulbs won't snarl traffic at that busy intersection because RapidRide buses are to spend less than a minute at each stop. Regular buses will take longer.

To learn more about the plan for C Line service, go to <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/travel-options/bus/rapidride>. Click on “contact us” or go to www.kingcounty.gov/metro/haveasay to comment about changes in other routes.

LED STREETLIGHTS TO SAVE ENERGY, IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

Moonlight becomes public safety and more of it is coming to Fauntleroy streets.

Seattle City Light is replacing all high-pressure sodium streetlights on residential streets with light-emitting diodes, better known as LEDs. The process has begun along streets in the Brace Point area and work in Fauntlee Hills is on the horizon.

After pilot installations to gauge resident response, the project started last year north of the ship canal and is due to replace all 41,000 bulbs by the end of 2014. In addition to updating broad areas, crews are replacing burned out bulbs with LEDs, wherever they occur.

City Light expects the \$20 million undertaking, partially funded by a federal stimulus grant, to have several benefits:

- The white light emitted by LEDs (similar to moonlight) will give drivers better depth of field and peripheral vision to spot you and your dog after dark. (High-pressure sodium lights have an amber tint.)
- LEDs use at least 40 percent less energy and last at least three times longer than the bulbs they replace. Consequently, the city expects to save \$2.4 million annually in energy and maintenance costs.
- LEDs emit less greenhouse gas during manufacture and use.
- With less frequent bulb replacement, crews will be driving less, thus cutting carbon emission from City Light maintenance vehicles by an estimated 20,000 tons a year.
- The new lights are "dark sky friendly." Unlike



How white the LED streetlights in Fauntleroy will be depends on resident response in test sites around the city. Photo courtesy Kelly O/The Stranger

high-pressure sodium lights, LED fixtures allow close control over where illumination falls. City Light crews are installing them for zero up-light.

City Light has been testing LEDs for installation on arterial streets as well. Those fixtures may have the ability to save even more energy by being set (by remote control) at full output when traffic is heavy and full illumination warranted and reduced output when traffic is light.

In addition to bulb replacement, a contractor has been checking the condition of underground cables, some of which date to the early 1970s. When cables are in poor condition, they will be replaced.

Cables along Brace Point streets were checked this summer. About 75 percent will need to be replaced. Cable assessment in Fauntlee Hills has not yet happened.

No date has been set for starting to replace cables. Affected residents will be notified about when to expect a short-duration interruption in electrical service.

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PUBLIC INPUT GUIDING DEVELOPMENT OF MURRAY BASIN CSO FACILITY

By Judy Pickens

If you visited Lowman Beach Park this fall, you likely noticed heavy equipment across the street. It appeared in October as geotechnical work got under way to evaluate soil conditions where King County Wastewater plans to build an underground storage facility for stormwater.

The latest development is appointment of an advisory group to guide design of the facility.

The project is in response to a federal requirement to reduce the number of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into Puget Sound. CSOs occur when heavy rain sends a high volume of stormwater into the wastewater conveyance system, forcing release of the excess - including untreated wastewater - into the Sound.

The Murray pump station at Lowman has averaged five CSO discharges per year, and the new facility aims to reduce that to one.

The project began in mid 2010 with public

meetings to help define and narrow options. Initial planning also involved how to reduce CSOs into Fautleroy Cove from the Barton pump station adjacent to the ferry terminal. The selected option for the Barton drainage basin is a "green streets" installation up the hill, south of High Point, to capture more rainwater where it falls.

A solution for the Murray drainage basin was more elusive, given confined space and resident sensitivity about the park. Finally, the county chose to install underground storage tanks across the street from the park, where rental homes now stand.

In addition to the geotech work, the county hosted three events this fall for public input and has briefed both FCA and the Morgan Community Association (MoCA) boards. A community meeting in mid October began the conversation about design and also touched on traffic impacts during construction.

A day-long workshop in late October got down to specifics. The resulting conceptual drawings and common themes were the focus of a public open house in mid November. Those themes are

- minimize an "industrial facility" feel
- encourage views of the Sound
- discourage through traffic down Beach Drive
- enhance continuous space between Lowman

Beach Park and the facility site.


Now the county has formed a 10-member citizens advisory group to ensure that the facility reflects community values and becomes a neighborhood asset. The group includes park users and neighbors, an architect, an environmental advocate, and a representative of MoCA. Ex-officio members represent Seattle Parks and King County Wastewater.

The group is to meet monthly through early 2012 to review and comment on such aspects as equipment location, architectural elements, and green-building techniques. All meetings will be open to the public; times will be posted at www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/MurrayCSOStorage.aspx.



COMMUNITY THEATER ALIVE AND WELL!


Tastes in theater have changed since the Fautleroy Community Players (top) first hit the boards in the early 1920s for "The Old District School." The cast of "The Foreigner" (above) played to enthusiastic audiences in November. Care to join them for more community theater? Contact Kevin Finney, 829-8929 or kfinns@comcast.net. Current photo courtesy Bruce Butterfield.



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RESEARCH EXPLORES SOURCES OF NITROGEN FEEDING STENCH

A consolation of our protracted cool weather this past spring was a summer with no "stench." Without warmth, sea-lettuce algae in Fauntleroy Cove did not grow enough to send hydrogen sulfide gas wafting through the neighborhood.

The summer was, however, an opportunity for researchers to finalize an informative report about what feeds sea lettuce, which can grow in huge mats in many locations throughout Puget Sound, including the cove.

Tim Nelson, PhD, teaches biology at Seattle Pacific University and specializes in sea-lettuce research. During spring and summer 2010, he led a study funded by the State Department of Ecology and the City of Federal Way in Dumas Bay, which has been severely impacted by algal blooms for several years.

Sea lettuce requires water, light, warmth, and nitrogen to thrive. The study sought to determine the sources of nitrogen supplying it in Dumas Bay.

The team had a very technical way of finding answers. Suffice to say they did a lot of analysis! And many of their findings are informative for Fauntleroy:

- Some sites in Puget Sound are more vulnerable than others to added nitrogen, leading to excessive growth of sea lettuce. Fauntleroy Cove may be such a site.
- Upwelling (churning of the water) is the biggest source of nitrogen throughout the Sound, and, in general, altering this phenomenon isn't in the cards. Some of that nitrogen could find its way



into surface water when upwelling disturbs sewage discharged in deep water.

- Specific locations may have other sources of nitrogen (such as pet waste or lawn fertilizer) that heavy rain washes into the Sound.

The report recommends further research to examine whether or not severe sea-lettuce blooms at other Puget Sound beaches are also being fed by strong upwelling. If so, a significant portion of the nitrogen is not coming from the immediate locale of a bloom.

Residents of the Fauntleroy Cove watershed can, however, do something.

A principal recommendation of the study report is that residents in affected areas reduce nitrogen input to the water from fertilizers and from domestic and wild animal waste.

FCA plans to brief legislators about this study to ensure that criteria for accessing existing state research funds are based on current science.

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WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?

By FCA President Bruce Butterfield

A few weeks ago, I was on the www.fautleroy.net website checking details of an event when it occurred to me what a great service we offer.



There I found a sizable list of upcoming events, including the festival, salmon drumming, a play staged by the Fautleroy Players, a Cove Park work party, and a workshop on emergency preparedness, plus the latest issue of this newsletter and links to transportation schedules, Seattle Parks, emergency contacts, and local businesses that partner with FCA.

Nothing about such a healthy resource happens automatically; it takes skill, time, and attention to detail.

So it is with regret that I let you know Chris Nack, our webmaster, will be stepping down. Chris inherited our site from Mary and Mike Ashby and she wrapped her arms around what they had started to add more substance and keep it inviting.

FCA is built on volunteers who see something they can help with and step forward as Chris did in 2002. We are happy she's not bowing out entirely. She will continue to maintain and enhance the Fautleroy Watershed Council's new website at www.fautleroywatershed.net (after Dec. 31); we'll have a link at www.fautleroy.net.

Please join me in expressing a big THANK YOU to Chris!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The Fautleroy Church Christmas concert will be **Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 PM** on the sanctuary performance stage. This year's concert will debut "Wonder," a cantata composed by Music Director Bronwyn Edwards to explore a key emotion of the age-old story. The afternoon will include carol singing and a reception.

FCA BUSINESS MEETINGS: **Tuesday, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, and March 13, 7 PM** in the conference room at the Fautleroy Schoolhouse Community Center. E-mail brucebutterfield@pnwrealty.com to propose an agenda item.

FAUTLEROY FOOD FEST 2012: This much-anticipated evening of food sampling, chatting, checking out information tables, and taking care of FCA business will be **Tuesday, March 20, 6 PM** at The Hall at Fautleroy.

FAUTLEROY.NET SEEKS WEBMASTER

FCA needs a volunteer to take on maintaining and updating our website. The new webmaster will need current software and time to make a half dozen or so updates per month.

This could be an opportunity to showcase your design capability and beef up your resume while contributing to the community.

To inquire, contact FCA President Bruce Butterfield soon at 932-2400 or brucebutterfield@pnwrealty.com.

TURKEY DINNER DRAWS CROWD

From early morning to late afternoon, all hands were on deck at Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering to serve a free Thanksgiving dinner to a record 350 guests at the Hall at Fautleroy.


People were in line before the doors opened at noon and they kept coming - singles, couples, friends, whole families. Tables were an eclectic mix of familiar and new faces. The room was abuzz as nearly everyone finding something in common to talk about and provide a reason to linger over dessert.

Several guests said they had been coming for years. Many learned about the meal at food banks, and many were area residents who were alone for the holiday or could not cook. Several meals were delivered to homes by special request.

This was the 14th year that Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes has prepared a meal. Newcomers were surprised at how nice it was - and how great everything (including the chef's latest take on cranberry sauce!) tasted. Dozens of people donated desserts, and nearly 50 volunteers greeted, seated, and served guests. Those who could donate to the West Seattle Helpline as payment for their meal.

"At mid afternoon, we ran out of mashed potatoes so we served pasta," said co-owner David Haggerty. "And when we ran out of turkey, we served meatballs. No one was turned away."

Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes usually takes leftovers to the Union Gospel Mission. Not this year. Only one pie was left when the doors closed at 3:00.



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COHO SPAWNERS CALL FAUNTLEROY HOME

By Judy Pickens



Salmon watcher Dennis Hinton (left) helps students and parents from Alki Cooperative Preschool see a spawner in Fauntleroy Creek. Photo courtesy West Seattle Blog

Between 2002 and 2010, the number of coho spawners in Fauntleroy Creek varied widely, with only a handful - or none - for six of those years.

Seeing dozens jumping up the fish ladder appears to be a thing of the past, thanks to warm water in the ocean, habitat loss, pollution from runoff, and who knows what else.

Consequently, the arrival of any spawners this fall was cause for celebration. The first arrived Nov. 19 and, by press time, a dozen had come in.

Tides, rain, and perhaps the energetic crowd of 75 residents at the annual drumming could be credited. Eggs left by these fish will mean "home hatch" in March.

The spawners are always a mix of hatchery-reared fish (as evidenced by a missing adipose fin, clipped before release) and fish that could have originated in the creek.

Students from Alki Cooperative Preschool were prepared to embrace the pair they saw as returning. Several Salmon in the Classroom students came by, as well, with parents to have a look. Thirteen schools will receive coho eggs in early January and release their fry into the creek next May.

In other watershed news, the Fauntleroy Watershed Council turned 10 in September and received a commendation from the director of Seattle Public Utilities, a partner agency, for "preserving and restoring the Fauntleroy Creek watershed over the past decade."

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