



## IT'S TIME TO START BEING HEARD IN FERRY-TERMINAL PLANNING

By Frank Immel, Fautleroy Ferry Advisory Committee

Along with eight other residents of Fautleroy and the wider West Seattle area, I am fortunate to have a seat on the ferry system's Community Advisory Group for the trestle and span replacement project.

After two meetings, we are now working on refining the project's purpose and needs statement. See Hadley Rodero's article elsewhere in this newsletter that describes this process and provides links so that anyone can stay up to date and involved.

I can't encourage you enough to participate as you are able and to submit comments. State planners need to know we are paying attention.

Other recent ferry-related activities include downsizing from three boats to two on Sundays and ongoing struggles having adequate crew, resulting in sporadic cancellations.

With the Vashon School District's returning to in-person learning, morning and afternoon student traffic will be picking up. Please keep an eye out for these young people near the terminal and be patient with them. The ongoing bridge closure and resulting traffic detours also require patience. With bridge repair under way, we do see light on the horizon.

By Hadley Rodero, Washington State Ferries

Community engagement is at the core of how we're developing the Fautleroy Terminal project to make sure that options to replace the aging and seismically vulnerable terminal best address and balance community and transportation needs.

Earlier this summer, Washington State Ferries (WSF) launched three advisory groups to help shape the project. One is a community advisory group with members representing the communities served by and adjacent to the terminal. By engaging in cross-community dialogue, this group will be providing advice and feedback to WSF throughout the two-year planning process.

To learn more about the role or membership of all three groups, view past meeting materials, or sign up to watch a future meeting of the Community (*continued p. 2*)

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### LOOK WHAT JUST POPPED UP!

A pop-up table highlighting FCA accomplishments and promoting membership drew these walkers on a recent Saturday in Lincoln Park. In addition to information, they could help themselves to water and a treat. Expect to encounter these tables elsewhere in the neighborhood. Photo by Kimberly Terry

## OCT. 24 FESTIVAL WILL BE COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

Good news! The Fautleroy Fall Festival will happen this year. More good news! It will be fun and neighborly while being safe.

The steering committee is planning a drive-through event on **Sunday, Oct. 24, 2 - 5 pm** or as long as supplies last. Expect to be able to sign up for a time to pick up goodies as you drive through the main and upper parking lots at Fautleroy Church. Walkers and bikers will also be welcome.

The line-up so far includes a birdhouse kit to assemble, salmon hats to decorate, a Fautleroy word-search puzzle to work, a bag of family friendly goodies for later, and hot chocolate, cider, and pretzels to enjoy on the spot. The committee is hoping to fest-ify the event with music and Halloween decorations.

If you're able to give a hand in some way, call Jenny Mandt (206-915-0585) to volunteer. Tasks range from directing traffic to joining the steering committee. Watch for details closer to the date on the *West Seattle Blog*, as well as on church and social media.



# DESIGN WORK CONTINUES TO REPLACE CREEK CULVERT UNDER 45TH AVE. SW

By Betsy Lyons, creek culvert program manager

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has the following updates as it continues planning to replace Fauntleroy Creek culverts:

**45th Ave. SW** - With the options analysis phase complete, the project team is poised to submit its preliminary design to SPU leadership for approval of the project footprint. This approval included alignment and location as well as refined project scope, schedule, and cost estimates. If approved, the team will develop 60%, 90%, and final design plan sets.

**California Ave. SW** - This system includes the city-owned roadway culvert and the Fauntleroy Church owned culvert under its parking lot. Efforts to agree on a design are on hold as SPU and the church continue to discuss the requirements and needs of both parties.

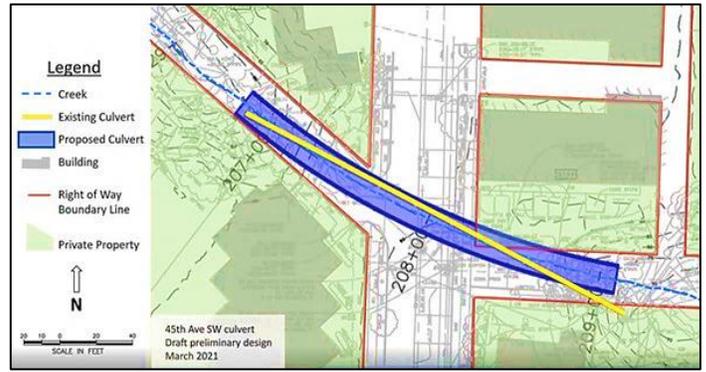
**Community outreach** - SPU plans to host an online open house later this year to provide more details about the design at 45th Ave. SW, as well as the potential for community amenities (such as a creek overlook). It will also invite public comment. Get on the project's email list at [seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/fauntleroy-creek-culverts](mailto:seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/fauntleroy-creek-culverts) to know when the open-house site is live.

**Project grant opportunities** - In June, the project received a \$200,000 grant from the King County Flood Control District to continue design. It complements \$1M grants for each culvert site received earlier from another district funding program.

The new grant is for projects that remove culverts or other instream structures that partially or completely block fish passage and that also reduce potential or existing flood risks.

While the city's grant applications to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fish Barrier Removal Board scored below the cutoff line based on state budget appropriations, they have been flagged as alternates if additional funding become available.

The project team has also identified state and local grant programs to approach to reduce construction costs



and will continue to seek the support of community groups for city applications.

**Reaching out to the team** - As the new project manager, Jonathan Brown will be coordinating further design development and providing updates to the community about the 45th Ave. SW replacement. Reach him at [jonathan.brown@seattle.gov](mailto:jonathan.brown@seattle.gov) if you have questions or comments.

## TERMINAL PLANNING *(continued)*

Advisory Group, visit [wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr160/fauntleroy-terminal/fauntleroy-terminal-project-advisory-groups](http://wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr160/fauntleroy-terminal/fauntleroy-terminal-project-advisory-groups).

In addition to the three advisory groups, WSF will be sharing information and seeking feedback from the community at large through hosting virtual public meetings, updating the project website, sending regular project e-mail updates, and participating in briefings to FCA and other neighborhood groups.



### Fauntleroy Trestle & Transfer Span Replacement Project

This fall, we'll be asking members of the public to share thoughts and ideas about the problems this project is trying to solve, potential solutions/alternatives to address current and future needs of the terminal, and what should be considered as we evaluate alternatives for a new terminal. Stay tuned for more information about when meetings will occur and how you can be involved.

Visit [wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr160/fauntleroy-terminal](http://wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr160/fauntleroy-terminal) any time to check in on the project. To sign up for email updates or to share a comment or question, email [FauntleroyTermProj@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:FauntleroyTermProj@wsdot.wa.gov).

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# WATERSHED COUNCIL MARKS 20 YEARS STEWARDING PARK, CREEK

Twenty years ago when Fauntleroy residents decided to form a watershed council, few would have expected it to still be around. But it is, and current members will mark the milestone during the council's Sept. 9 meeting.

Over two decades, the council's emphasis on Fauntleroy

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
Meeting #1 - July 12, 2001  
Fauntleroy Church Fellowship Hall

Park and the Fauntleroy Creek system has enhanced these and other natural amenities here and introduced nearly 13,000 students to environmental stewardship.

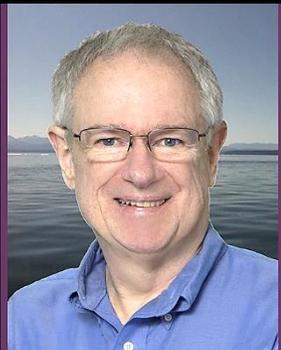
"I love to fly fish and have been a member of the council since the beginning because it enables me to make good things happen around salmon," said Dennis Hinton. "This small urban creek isn't the Columbia River, where the emphasis can be on salmon numbers. Here we've focused on what it can teach students, their parents, friends, and neighbors about ecosystems and personal stewardship."

Peggy Cummings joined the council to help transform Fauntleroy Park. She is currently updating the park's self-guided nature walk.

"The watershed council attracted resources to what was once a sketchy woods overrun with invasive plants," she said. "Though work remains to be done, it's become a safe place to enjoy a taste of the wild close to home."

"Our biggest challenge now is engaging new people as elders need to pass the baton," said Judy Pickens, also a founding council member. "We have one-time and ongoing projects in need of fresh energy and ideas."

Check out past and present council activities and current volunteer opportunities at [fauntleroywatershed.org](http://fauntleroywatershed.org). Email [judy\\_pickens@msn.com](mailto:judy_pickens@msn.com) to discuss how you might get involved.



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## IT'S TIME FOR SALMON WATCHERS

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. 16 and continue into November or until no more spawners have come in for a week.

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.

Contact Judy Pickens at [judy\\_pickens@msn.com](mailto:judy_pickens@msn.com) or 206-938-4203 for details.

## DECEMBER WILL BE THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR FCA MEMBERSHIP

By Sydney Hammerquist, FCA membership

Did you know that the Seattle Police Department's Southwest Precinct assigns a representative to attend every FCA business meeting to answer questions about crimes and accidents in our area? I consider the up-to-date information

these officers provide to be a valuable benefit of being a member of such a strong community association.

**RENEWAL REMINDER**

FCA household membership renewals will be due by Dec. 31. Your renewal will help us provide such community services as pedestrian-safety crossing flags, floral color in the Endolyne business area, this quarterly newsletter, and our biennial resident survey. Your dues also enable FCA to support the annual all-ages Fauntleroy Fall Festival.

A front-burner issue for FCA is the state's planning process to replace the ferry trestle and transfer span, given that the final design will impact this neighborhood for decades to come. FCA members have seats at that table, and we're making sure that all residents have a voice.

So far this year, nearly 300 homes in Fauntleroy have changed hands, and FCA welcome packages have greeted each new neighbor. Like you, a number of them are now members.

Keep Dec. 31 in mind as your renewal date and watch for details and a membership form in the Dec. 1 issue of this newsletter.

## WANT TO STAY INFORMED BY EMAIL?

FCA is updating member communications by adding email as a primary means of staying in touch. You should have received an email in July, asking you to update your email preferences.

If you haven't already done so, please go to [fauntleroy.net/flash](http://fauntleroy.net/flash) to complete the update. And, be sure to let us know if you would like to receive your *Neighbors* newsletter via email ONLY.

## FROM PAST TO PRESENT

# BARRAGE BALLOON OVER FAUNTLEROY PART OF WARTIME DEFENSE

By Judy Pickens

*In 2020, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society collected oral histories from alumni of West Seattle High School to document the impact of World War II on area youth. The photos that sparked this article were among the results.*

After the U.S. entered World War II, Fauntleroy residents did what most people on the home front did. They hung black-out curtains over their windows at night, volunteered as neighborhood air-raid wardens, and tended victory gardens.

What sets Fauntleroy a bit apart is that, from early 1942 until mid 1943, it hosted a barrage-balloon detachment meant to deter enemy aircraft that might try to approach critical production plants in the Seattle area.

Barrage (or kite) balloons employ helium or hydrogen gas to hold them aloft at a given altitude. They have no crew or means of propulsion. Those deployed here were typically about 35 feet long and were commonly tethered to stay at 1,000 feet.

Steel cables dangling from the balloons could disable low-flying aircraft and posed an even greater risk when outfitted with small explosives. If the balloons forced planes to fly higher, they would become easier targets for anti-aircraft guns.

The 304th Coast Artillery Barrage Balloon Battalion arrived in Seattle in January 1942 and was assigned to the 39th Coast Artillery Brigade. The troops deployed to 55 sites throughout the city, mostly to protect Boeing Field and Todd Shipyards. The balloon based on the beach here at the foot of Brace Point SW was intended to deter any bombers that might approach from the southwest.

Barrage balloons were best known during the war for protecting ships and soldiers on D-Day. Members of the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion were in the first wave to come ashore in Normandy, and the balloons they were able to launch are seen in photos of that day. Balloons



**Servicemen assigned to the balloon “bed” in Fauntleroy had quite the view. This photo from the Southwest Seattle Historical Society was stamped confidential.**

deployed to other locations around the world, however, saw little action.

In 1942, wind gusts in Seattle broke balloons loose multiple times. One dragged its cables across power lines, cutting electrical service throughout the city. Another started a fire.

In submitting a claim to Fort Lewis for damages caused one night when about 25 balloons went astray, the head of City Light showed his frustration by writing that Seattle had “experienced a sustained attack by United States Army balloons.”

According to recollections by Mildred and Dan Calvin, the unit stationed in Fauntleroy was comprised of eight or nine servicemen. During six weeks of training in Tennessee, they had learned how to fill, camouflage, deploy, and repair balloons.

The barbed wire surrounding the balloon “bed” on the edge of Edith and Ken Colman’s property may have deterred the curious but it did not deter Edith from bringing cookies and pies for the men stationed there. Meeting minutes document that Fauntleroy Church and the YMCA agreed to open the gym one night a week to them and others serving in anti-aircraft units in the area.

Of particular note was that the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion was an all-Black unit. By extension, so were the men stationed here. In the spring of 1943, church members hosted the men at a breakfast before worship, then took them home for Sunday dinner. Those familiar with Seattle’s racial history will know that such hospitality was exceptional for the time.

By mid 1943, the air went out of barrage balloons for defense of the homeland. After World War II, a few saw service during nuclear tests in Nevada, then they took their place as wartime relics.

### Sources

Southwest Seattle Historical Society archives; Fauntleroy Church archives; HistoryLink; *Fauntleroy Legacy* by Roy W. Morse and E. Richard Brown; *The U.S. Army Barrage Balloon Program* by James R. Shock



**Many hands were needed to release and retrieve a barrage balloon, plus guard the camp.** Image 1986.5.643.2 Museum of History & Industry Collection

## CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY IN PARKS

Two parks in the neighborhood are on the city's "under construction" list.

Site work will start soon to remove the failing seawall at Lowman Beach Park and continue shoreline restoration begun when half the wall failed in the mid 1990s.

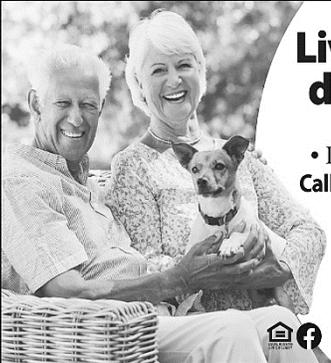
The design takes into account the habitat benefits of removal as well as the coastal ramifications of that removal. The existing tennis court will also be removed and a portion of Pelly Creek that has long flowed under the seawall will be daylighted.

Public access to a portion of the lawn and playground will be maintained during construction.

Visit [seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/lowman-beach-park](http://seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/lowman-beach-park) to follow this project.

As reported here in the June, the construction contract for renovation of the south play area in Lincoln Park will go out for bid this fall. The project will feature structures accessible to children of all ages and abilities and meet disability standards throughout the marine-themed play area. Completion is expected by late spring 2022.

Follow this project at [seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/lincoln-park-south-play-area-renovation](http://seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/lincoln-park-south-play-area-renovation).



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## CITY UPDATES POPULAR RESOURCES

The city has updated the list of contacts we published in March to report specific concerns. Keep this one handy in case you need it:

**Criminal activity in progress:** Call 911 to report what you have observed.

**Parking enforcement:** Report at [seattle-cwiprod.motorolasolutions.com/cwi/select](http://seattle-cwiprod.motorolasolutions.com/cwi/select) and click Parking Enforcement.

**Homeless encampment in park or natural area:** Call 206-684-2489 or go to [seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau](http://seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau) and file a "general inquiry" report.

**Homeless encampment on public right of way, sidewalk, planting strip, or green belt:** Report at [seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/report-a-problem](http://seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/report-a-problem).

**Sidewalk or street issue:** Report at [seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/report-a-problem](http://seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/report-a-problem).

**Issues in city parks:** Email [ParksEncampResponse@seattle.gov](mailto:ParksEncampResponse@seattle.gov) or [PKS\\_Work\\_Order\\_Desk@seattle.gov](mailto:PKS_Work_Order_Desk@seattle.gov).

**Issues related to recreational vehicles:** Email [david.hare@seattle.gov](mailto:david.hare@seattle.gov).

**Issues with vacant or abandoned buildings, illegal structures, housing, ongoing noise, or zoning:** Complain at [cosaccela.seattle.gov/Portal/Welcome.aspx](http://cosaccela.seattle.gov/Portal/Welcome.aspx) or call 206-615-0808.

**Issues involving animals:** Report at [seattle.gov/animal-shelter/animal-control](http://seattle.gov/animal-shelter/animal-control) and click on your specific concern.

**Issues not covered above:** Report at [seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau/find-it-fix-it-mobile-app](http://seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau/find-it-fix-it-mobile-app).



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# WHAT GOES UP ... THE DOWNSIDE OF SKY LANTERNS



One night this spring, the *West Seattle Blog* reported a Seattle Fire water-rescue response happening south of the ferry terminal. A resident saw what appeared to be a parachutist land in the water and called 911.

The department's standard water-rescue response includes two boats (plus swimmers and divers), eight shore units, and three supervisory personnel. In this case, the response was quickly downgraded after units first on the scene found that the object had been a sky lantern.

The incident occurred at the start of Seattle's spectacular summer weather and just a few days before the early arrival of this region's fire season. As forests began burning, local media began warning of potential fire hazards, and sky lanterns are definitely on that list.

A sky lantern (wishing lantern, Chinese lantern) is a small hot-air balloon made of paper or other light material and suspended over an open flame. Amazon sells them in several colors and some even come with preprinted wishes. Just light the waxed square of cardboard below the balloon, hold aloft until it fills with hot air, and launch for an "unforgettable" 10-minute flight.

Sky lanterns have become popular features of weddings, memorial services, and other celebrations. In recent years, neighbors north of the ferry terminal have seen dozens launched, sometimes in big groupings, from residences and from the beach at Lincoln Park.

While sky lanterns are intended to drift gracefully through the night sky and settle safely after the fire goes out, a slight breeze can send them off course and spark a fire in anything flammable. They also leave behind litter that can be hazardous to marine and other wildlife and may not biodegrade.

The Municipal Research and Services Center (which advises jurisdictions throughout Washington) says this state is one of at least 30 that prohibit the release of untethered sky lanterns. The only exemption is when the person launching them owns or has written permission to use the area over which they are intended to drift.

Sky lanterns are included in Seattle Parks and Recreation's prohibition against leaving anything in a city park or having a fire outside a designated ring or stove.

# CEDARS NEED COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS

The health of Western red cedars is the focus of a new regional monitoring effort by "community scientists."

Forest Health Watch empowers communities to keep forests healthy. No tree species is more historically important in this region than Western red cedar and it's an indicator species of overall environmental health.



Close to 2,000 red cedars have been mapped in Seattle but many of those are dying. Which trees are at risk and what factors are causing the dieback are unclear.

Researchers are recruiting residents to map unhealthy cedars and monitor and photograph specific ones over time. Findings will contribute to identifying patterns, predicting vulnerable areas, and finding solutions. For details and how to become a community scientist, visit [foresthealth.org/redcedar/dieback/](http://foresthealth.org/redcedar/dieback/).



# TWO TREE WALKS IN FAUNTLEROY

Trees for Seattle is the city's one-stop resource about everything trees, including its Tree Ambassador program, which has created self-guided

tree walks throughout the city. Find them at [seattle.gov/trees/get-involved/tree-walks](http://seattle.gov/trees/get-involved/tree-walks).

Two of these walks are in Fauntleroy. The one in Lincoln Park starts at the kiosk in the north parking lot and highlights 19 trees of interest. The other starts at the fish-ladder viewpoint above Fauntleroy Creek and features 20 trees along Fauntleroy Way SW, all of which are visible from the sidewalk.

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS RETURNING!

**COMMUNITY BUSINESS:** The FCA Board will host its monthly business meeting on **Tuesday, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, and Nov. 9** at **7:00 pm** on Zoom. Register to attend at [www.fautleroy.net/meeting](http://www.fautleroy.net/meeting). Contact FCA President Mike Dey at [msdey50@aol.com](mailto:msdey50@aol.com) or 206-661-0673 to suggest a topic for the agenda.

**FAUTLEROY FALL FESTIVAL:** **Sunday, Oct. 24, 2:00 - 5:00 pm** in the Fautleroy Church parking lots. See details on p. 1.

**2ND TIME SALE:** Because of the pandemic, Fautleroy Church has moved this huge community sale to **March 12-13**. Find details about donating quality items at [fautleroyucc.org/2nd-time-sale](http://fautleroyucc.org/2nd-time-sale).

**KINDIE WEST MUSIC SERIES:** These popular performances for kids are coming back to the Emerald Room at the Fautleroy Schoolhouse! Doors will open a half hour before each **10:30 am** Sunday performance:

Oct. 24-Dani and the Bee	Jan 9-Dani and the Bee
Nov. 7-The Not Its!	Jan. 23-The Not Its!
Nov. 21-Harmonica Pocket	Feb. 6-Harmonica Pocket
Dec. 5-Johnny Bregar	Feb. 20-Eli Rosenblatt
Dec. 19-Eli Rosenblatt	March 6-Johnny Bregar

Purchase tickets for kids six months+ and learn about public-health safety measures at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com). Free parking west of the building.



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## DECAL DRAWING ATTENTION TO VALUE OF FCA

This bright decal on crossing-flag holders is drawing attention to how FCA is enabling neighbors to support the neighborhood. It is soon to appear as well in planter boxes in the Endolyne business area. Photo by project coordinator Catherine Bailey



## FCA'S BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

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- Dance! West Seattle
- Daystar Retirement Village
- DSquared Hospitality Company
- Earnest Frivolity
- Endolyne Joe's Restaurant
- Fautleroy Church, United Church of Christ
- Fautleroy Community Service Agency & Fautleroy Children's Center
- Friends of Lincoln Park
- Garden Coaching Solutions
- Kamila Kennedy Homes
- Kimberly Terry, Evergreen Home Loans
- Pia VanHanen, Keller Williams Realty
- Pilates at Fautleroy
- Sky Printing
- South Tacoma Way, LLC
- Synergy Homecare
- The Kenney Retirement Community
- The Unsweetened Tooth
- Treg Organic Salon LLC
- West Seattle & Fautleroy YMCA
- West Seattle Blog
- Wildwood Market

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# ALL HANDS NEEDED ON DECK TO INFLUENCE FERRY-TERMINAL PLANNING

By FCA President Mike Dey

As we sense the end of summer and more frequently reach for the light warmth of a jacket, I call your attention to very important business that requires we muster all hands on deck.

The state's planned replacement of the existing trestle and transfer span at the ferry terminal has HUGE implications for Fauntleroy, as well as for the Morgan junction. When the high bridge is back in service, the rest of West Seattle will also be impacted.

As the ferry system's article in this issue emphasizes, planners are asking for input. While it suggests that community engagement will start this fall, FCA has already submitted an over-riding position statement on the project (posted at [fauntleroy.net](http://fauntleroy.net)).

In a nutshell, if the state decides to continue to use Fauntleroy Cove as the site for a ferry terminal, the FCA Board supports the removal of existing piles and the deteriorated trestle and transfer span. Replacements should not, however, increase the existing footprint or over-water coverage. We'll follow our position statement soon with supporting rationale.

I strongly encourage you to become active in the planning process as it could well be the most serious issue our neighborhood has faced.

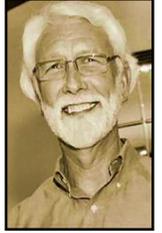
Meetings of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) are virtual. You must register to watch and listen at [wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr160/fauntleroy-terminal/fauntleroy-terminal-project-advisory-groups](http://wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr160/fauntleroy-terminal/fauntleroy-terminal-project-advisory-groups).

The project has three advisory groups and, as of now, meetings of the Community Advisory Group are the only ones open to the public. I sent a letter requesting that the state comply with its public process by also opening

meetings of the Technical Advisory Group and Executive Advisory Group to the public for viewing in real time.

Project details and an invitation to comment or submit questions are at [FauntleroyTermProj@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:FauntleroyTermProj@wsdot.wa.gov). If you decide to comment, I'll appreciate being copied ([msdey50@aol.com](mailto:msdey50@aol.com)) so the Board can incorporate your thoughts and concerns into our discussions and positions.

Please get involved soon and stay involved. Decisions are about to be made right in your backyard.



## FCA LEADERSHIP

Mike Dey, president; 206-661-0673

Catherine Bailey, vice president

Alexis Zolner, treasurer; 206-935-6721

Nils von Veh, secretary

Sydney Hammerquist, membership chairwoman

Bruce Butterfield Alan Grainger

David Haggerty Kris Ilgenfritz Frank Immel

Susan Lantz-Dey Kimberly Terry

Bill Wellington Martin Westerman

Bill Wellington, webmaster/Facebook

[fcacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:fcacommunications@gmail.com)

Judy Pickens, writer/editor

P.O. Box 46343, Seattle, WA 98146; [www.fauntleroy.net](http://www.fauntleroy.net)  
[www.facebook.com/FauntleroyCommunityAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/FauntleroyCommunityAssociation)

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[WWW.FAUNTLEROY.NET](http://WWW.FAUNTLEROY.NET)

P.O. BOX 46343  
SEATTLE, WA 98146

