



MARCH 2022

PROGRESS BEING MADE ON TRAFFIC-RELATED CONCERNS

By Catherine Bailey, Vice President

Fauntleroy residents long frustrated with traffic congestion, pedestrian hazards, and noise may have noticed positive changes after our October community meeting with city officials. Unfortunately, the process of working with the city on solutions has been slow and follow-up action has been variable.

That meeting covered a wide range of troubling issues that residents reported in our most recent neighborhood survey. Congestion, speeding, and fears about pedestrian safety were major themes, all of which closure of the West Seattle high bridge has exacerbated.

The FCA Board has been diligently following up with city and state entities, and I'm pleased to report several steps in the right direction:

Ferry holding lane: The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) repainted this lane along Fauntleroy Way SW to better define it and installed signs to emphasize that cutting into line is illegal. Enforcement, however, is up to either the Seattle Police Department (SPD) or State Patrol. We are seeking clarification with some urgency as warmer days will bring more ferry users and the potential for more road rage.

Curb extensions: SDOT painted curb extensions and defined them with post bollards to improve driver visibility of pedestrians at two busy crosswalks: SW Wildwood Place and 45th Ave. SW in our business area and California Ave. SW between the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse and Fauntleroy Church and YMCA.

Cut throughs: SDOT collected speed and volume data along side streets that drivers have been using to avoid congestion on arterials near the ferry terminal.

The Seattle Fire Department (SFD) gave SDOT permission to install speed cushion along *(continued p. 2)*



FCA PRESENTS 2022 SPRING EGG HUNT

Remember FCA's great fall pumpkin hunt in 2020? Or last spring's egg hunt? If you enjoyed participating or were sorry you missed them, another hunt is coming **the week of April 11!**

Watch for details in the mail about FCA's spring egg hunt, then pick a sunny-side-up day that week to scramble around the neighborhood searching for eggs to poach. This event is sure to go over easy with the whole family.

Candace Blue could use help whipping the hunt into high peaks. If you might be able to give a hand, contact her about what needs doing and when at 209-401-8406 or leeblue2@hotmail.com.

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POPULAR FALL FESTIVAL NEEDS FRESH VOLUNTEER ENERGY, IDEAS

By Reed Haggerty, Festival Committee Chairman

In September 2001, the United States went through one of its most challenging times. When I woke up that morning to the news that an airplane had flown into a building in New York, I hit "Snooze."

By the time my clock radio came on again, another plane had flown into another building. I rushed downstairs to watch on TV as one of the biggest tragedies in American history unfolded. Kids at school, our teachers, our parents - everyone knew our lives had changed.

But amid all the uncertainty, something wonderful happened - and we need your help to keep it going.

Over the next several months, this neighborhood came together to create the Fauntleroy Fall Festival. People enjoyed a Sunday afternoon of free activities and the kind of connecting that strengthens the ties that bind us in community. *(continued p. 2)*



This pair of painted curb extensions is meant to improve driver visibility of pedestrians crossing California Ave. SW at the schoolhouse.

Photo by Phil Sweetland

TRAFFIC PROGRESS (continued)

several streets, including 45th Ave. SW between SW Trenton and SW Director and along SW 106th Street and Marine View Drive SW. (SFD must ensure that speed cushions do not impede emergency vehicles.)

According to speed and volume data, the stretch of SW Trenton between Fauntleroy Way SW and 46th Ave. SW did not meet SDOT's criteria for similar traffic-calming measures. Data on side streets south of Wildwood (46th, 47th, and Fauntleroy Way) are not yet available.

Speed monitoring and enforcement: We noted light ticket writing shortly after the October community meeting but have not seen monitoring and enforcement since then. We asked to have traffic officers visit Fauntleroy regularly, but the city has only one traffic-enforcement team and it is already spread thin. We plan additional follow-up.

Motor vehicle noise: Excessive early-morning noise from ferry riders will also be on the agenda for discussions with Washington State Ferries and the State Patrol.

Detour choke points: SDOT declined to make any of the changes we requested to the detour route for ferry traffic heading toward downtown, citing the impending reopening of the West Seattle high bridge. They included altering the timing of lights at SW Barton and 35th Ave. SW. Expect choke points to continue until the bridge is back in service.

We are hopeful of moving other traffic improvements we've been seeking to the "success" column. Read updates in future editions of this newsletter and/or sign up at fauntleroy.net/meetings to attend the FCA Board's monthly business meetings on Zoom.

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.

FALL FESTIVAL (continued)

Then nearly two decades later, along came the seemingly unrelenting isolation of a global pandemic. Two years into it, we're still trying to figure out what the new normal will be.

Just as in 2001, community is what we most need now. If public-health restrictions can continue to ease, we hope to gather again on a fall afternoon to see friends and neighbors at the festival.

Over the years, many local partners have kept the festival free and a truly community event. To name a few: FCA, Fauntleroy Church, Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering/The Hall at Fauntleroy, the Fauntleroy Children's Center, Endolyne Joe's, Gail Ann Photography, the Fauntleroy Watershed Council.

As the festival has evolved, costs have risen and our pool of volunteers to serve on the planning committee and help the day of has gotten smaller. If this free event is to continue, we need to replenish that pool with fresh energy and ideas.

Email fauntleroyfallfestival@gmail.com if you might be able to help plan, coordinate, and/or execute our 2022 fall festival or a spring fundraiser to benefit the festival. We would love to have you!

To keep up to date on all things festival, follow us on Facebook or Instagram.





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'EMPHASIS PATROLS' AIM TO CUT CRIME AT WESTWOOD VILLAGE

In 2021, the Seattle Police Department responded to 473 calls from Westwood Village, the fourth highest volume in the city. Although complete data for the last half of the year are not yet available, thefts/shoplifting are sure to top the list.

In response, the Southwest Precinct announced in January that it was initiating a "emphasis patrols" to reduce crime in the shopping center, which serves the Duwamish peninsula, plus communities to the south and east. This emphasis is in addition to regular patrols.

"We have been working with the new property management company doing safety assessments and assisting with placement of new security cameras," said Lieutenant Dorothy Kim with the Southwest Precinct.

Last year, the department hired 81 officers but lost 170, for a net staff reduction of 89. As a consequence of such tight staffing, emphasis patrolling is being done by officers who volunteer for overtime shifts.

"Anecdotally, these emphasis patrols have made businesses and shoppers feel safer," she said. "Officers are getting comments of appreciation from business employees and people shopping at Westwood."



If longer days have you thinking about digging in the dirt, consider a visit to the garden center at South Seattle College. While finding something just right for your patio or landscape, you'll be encouraging future horticulturists.

Students in the school's landscape horticulture program select, propagate, and grow all the plants on sale, and staffing the center lets them hone their plant knowledge while gaining retail experience.

Expect to find perennials, broadleaf and deciduous shrubs, small trees (including natives), and houseplants.

Saturday hours this spring will be 10 am - 3 pm on April 16 and 30, May 14 and 28, and June 4 and 11. Cash, checks, or credit cards are accepted.

The college is at 6000 16th Ave. SW. Take entrance 1 into the north parking lot and look for the horticulture complex next to the Seattle Chinese Garden. Current public-health protocols will apply.

NEXT STEP IN PLANNING PROCESS: HOW TO EVALUATE FERRY OPTIONS

By Hayley Nolan, Washington State Ferries

The Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal project team at Washington State Ferries has been using feedback from advisory groups and the wider community to draft alternatives for needed upgrades and the screening criteria to evaluate them.



Fauntleroy Trestle & Transfer Span Replacement Project

Later this month, the project's community and technical advisory groups will have their first look at the draft screening criteria, and the public may listen to these online conversations. Visit wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-160-fauntleroy-terminal-trestle-transfer-span-replacement and click on

"community engagement" to learn more about these groups, view past meeting materials, or sign up to listen in on a meeting.

This spring, the general public will have opportunities to weigh in on alternatives and screening criteria. Watch the *West Seattle Blog* for details about community meetings and an online open house.

Email fauntleroytermproj@wsdot.wa.gov or call 206-470-0524 to sign up for project updates and meeting notices or to submit a comment or question. Full project details are at the web address above.

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FROM PAST TO PRESENT

LOGGING TRANSFORMED OLD-GROWTH FOREST INTO NEIGHBORHOOD

By Judy Pickens

To the casual eye, Fauntleroy is a well-wooded neighborhood, but the trees we enjoy now barely resemble the majestic forest that once blanketed these hills and shoreline. Here's a look at how the dramatic transformation happened.

Accounts of the Denny party's landing on the Duwamish peninsula in 1851 always note that the women were not amused. The rain, towering trees, and unfinished cabin made optimism hard to come by.

In time, though, every man of means set his sights on turning the forest into a fortune by hiring every man without means to cut down those trees and reduce them to building materials.

A temperate forest of Douglas fir, spruce, hemlock, and cedar defined the territory west of the Cascades. Explorer George Vancouver described it as an "impenetrable wilderness of lofty trees."

Having run out of trees in the Midwest, loggers headed west. Within 40 years of the landing at Alki, they were harvesting a billion board feet of lumber annually.

By 1905, 189 lumber companies employed nearly 8,000 workers in King County alone. Just five years later, Washington was the largest lumber-producing state. Production peaked in 1926 at 7.6 billion board feet (compared with 2.7 billion board feet in 2020).

Fauntleroy's tie-in to timber goes back to 1861, when James Colman arrived on Puget Sound to begin managing a commercial sawmill. He took a portion of his pay in timber lands such that, within a decade, he had extensive holdings around the state.



Split wood at John Adams' SW Rose Street sawmill was likely destined for shake shingles. The mill also made dimensional lumber from logging operations in the area. University of Washington Libraries Special Collections

He became friends with John Adams, another astute businessman in Fauntleroy's history. Having done well outfitting wannabe gold miners for the Klondike, Adams was able to buy 300 acres in the "Fauntleroy Park Addition" in 1905 for home sites. The first sale through his Fauntleroy Land Company was to Colman - 17 acres along the cove that would eventually become Laurentide.

Knowing that his land would not sell until it was cleared and prospective buyers could get to it, Adams helped secure extension of a streetcar line into Fauntleroy in 1907. Clearing the land was a more protracted venture.

The rule of thumb at the time was one logging camp per 160 acres. By definition, a camp was temporary and portable; after logging one area, men, equipment, and lodgings would move to the next. (continued next page)

Easter Season Services

Palm Sunday
10 am April 10
in-person & live-streamed*

Holy Friday
7 pm April 15
in-person

Easter
6:30 am April 17
Alki Beach near 59th
9 am & 11 am
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9 am also live-streamed*

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*youtube.com/FauntleroyChurchUCC




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If a mill weren't nearby, logs were skidded to a harbor where rafts could be assembled for towing to a mill. (Ed. Note: I once heard that logs were skidded to Fauntleroy Cove down the slope north of the schoolhouse but have not found substantiation.)

Adams established a sawmill at SW Rose and Fauntleroy Way SW, which in 1908 provided the lumber for "the little brown church" that would become Fauntleroy Church. The late David Hamlin recalled a second sawmill in this area, owned by L. R. Gale, west of the Fauntleroy Grade School.

One day when he was a lad, the late David Galbraith witnessed a milestone in local logging:

"We were walking down the lane to Fauntleroy School and came upon a crew of loggers cutting down a fir tree about nine feet across. To avoid injury, the loggers made us stay put until the tree was felled. We then convinced one of the loggers to come to school to explain why we were late. That tree was one of the last of the old-growth fir in these woods - and it was cut for firewood."

Sources: HistoryLink, *Fauntleroy Legacy*, Southwest Seattle Historical Society, Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest, Elizabeth Frisiano presentation (Harbor History Museum)



In 1906 or 1907, these men were felling trees in what would become Lincoln Park. University of Washington Libraries Special Collections

WATERSHED GAINS FOREST STEWARD

If you come across a woman with a British accent pulling ivy or stinky bob in Fauntleroy Park, introduce yourself to this watershed's newest forest steward.

The Green Seattle Partnership trains volunteers to monitor conditions in natural areas, lead restoration projects, and do public outreach on behalf of the city's forest areas.

Fauntleroy Park is their primary focus here.



Forest steward

Charlotte Linton met her husband when both were working in China. When they decided to move to his home state, friends drew them to Arbor Heights, as did its proximity to parks and Puget Sound.

She works from home as communication manager for Children's Alliance, a statewide organization advocating for public policies and programs that improve the wellbeing of children. Their family of three will soon be a family of four. Why add volunteering as a forest steward?

"I have always been interested in caring for our environment and combating the effects of climate change," Charlotte said.

"Up until now, my volunteer work was with Sierra Club Washington State and 350 Seattle - mainly working to stop new fossil fuel projects. The forest steward program sounded like a great way to get involved in more hands-on conservation in my own neighborhood."

She's looking forward to taking her newborn on walks in Fauntleroy Park, then pulling invasive plants again with the baby at her side. She also hopes to organize family-friendly work parties.

Charlotte joins Peggy Cummings as official forest stewards in this watershed. The Green Seattle Partnership recently recognized Peggy for her 10 years of service as one of 200+ forest stewards across the city.

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ON THE CALENDAR

FAUNTLEROY CHILDREN'S CENTER AUCTION: This online event **March 14 - 20** seeks to raise \$55,000 for scholarships, professional staff development, and outdoor play structures. The center's 33 staff members serve more than 120 children ages 1 month to 13 years.

LINCOLN PARK WORK PARTIES: Friends of Lincoln Park continues to organize opportunities for volunteers to restore and maintain vegetation in the park. Find details at seattle.greencitypartnerships.org/event/map/.

2ND TIME SALE: For public safety, Fauntleroy Church has postponed this huge community sale until September.

FCA BUSINESS MEETINGS: Any resident is welcome to attend FCA business meetings **March 8, April 12, or May 10** starting at **7 pm** on Zoom. Email FCA President Mike Dey at msdey50@aol.com to receive the link.

RECYCLE ROUNDUP: Watch the *West Seattle Blog* for an updated list of what you should/should not bring for free, responsible recycling on **Sunday, April 24, 9 am - 3 pm** in the Fauntleroy Church parking lot.

FAUNTLEROY FOOD FEST & FCA ANNUAL MEETING: This popular gathering is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 3, 6 pm** at The Hall @ Fauntleroy; details to come.

WEST SEATTLE BLOG

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westseattleblog.com

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FCA SEEKING DATABASE VOLUNTEER

Many thanks are due Elliott Berkhiser for giving generously of his time and expertise since 2018 to the important task of maintaining FCA's membership database. He now needs to pass the baton.

This volunteer assignment involves using Access to keep the database current and produce mailing labels throughout the year. Best of all: No meetings!
Call President Mike Dey at 206-661-0673 to discuss.

ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

By Sydney Hammerquist, Membership Chairwoman

Thanks to all new and returning FCA members! We received many membership renewals at the turn of the year, and we appreciate each one.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2022 or are unsure when your renewal date is, have a look at the mailing label on of this newsletter.

By renewing your membership or using our website (fauntleroy.net) to switch to auto-renew, you'll continue to receive *Neighbors* each quarter. It's your best way to learn about projects and people, upcoming events, neighborhood history, and more.

Questions? Email membershipfca@gmail.com.



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FOOTPRINT EXPANSION STATE'S #1 GOAL FOR FERRY TERMINAL UPGRADE

By FCA President Mike Dey

So much has been happening on the world stage and in our community, including the dramatic decline in COVID case numbers. Though with some trepidation, we dare to look forward to in-person events again, including the Fautleroy Food Fest and FCA Annual Meeting (see p. 6). We are so ready!

Planning by Washington State Ferries to upgrade the Fautleroy Ferry Terminal could not be a hotter topic as we are now convinced that expanding the dock's footprint is the state's number one goal.

FCA has been saying since the project beginning that this community is fine with replacing the deteriorated and polluting piles that support the trestle, with making the dock seismically stronger, and with elevating it to account for sea-level rise.

For more than 40 years, however, this community has steadfastly opposed increasing the dock's footprint. More over-water coverage would degrade the nearshore habitat on which Fautleroy Creek salmon rely, and a larger footprint would eliminate Cove Park as we know it.

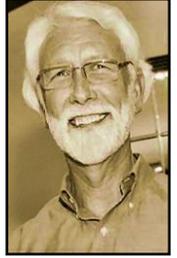
In addition, expansion would enable an estimated 250,000 more cars per year to travel through West Seattle and South Park on their way to somewhere else. If you think traffic is bad now, just wait! How ironic that the state wants to accommodate more cars at the same time the city is trying to get us out of ours.

I could go on to detail many reasons expansion is not needed but a key one is that the current dock is full only three hours a day. Expanding it would make it one of the

most environmentally unsound and expensive parking lots ever built.

Know that our collective comments have already had an impact. They successfully compelled state planners to commit to including ticketing efficiency as an integral component of the project.

See the article on p. 3 for how to keep up to date as planning continues and, critically, how to submit comments.



FCA LEADERSHIP

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