



## COMMUNITY SURVEY SHOWS PROGRESS ON PEDESTRIAN, TRAFFIC SAFETY

By Catherine Bailey, FCA vice president

The results are in from FCA's recent neighborhood survey and, as with past surveys, this one provided valuable feedback about public safety, transportation, and community events.

To encourage responses, we mailed almost 4,200 postcards to area residents announcing the online survey and made periodic reminders about it on the *West Seattle Blog*. We received 572 completed surveys for a commendable 13.6% response rate.

In our 2020 survey, residents were understandably vocal about impacts on daily life caused by closure of the West Seattle high bridge for repairs. In response, the FCA Board prioritized working with the Seattle Department of Transportation to improve pedestrian and traffic safety in this community. Almost half (48.9%) of respondents to last fall's survey felt that these efforts have made things better.

Respondents also ranked transportation issues in order of importance, with street parking ranking highest. Pedestrian safety came in second, followed by vehicle speeding, mass transit, and (tied) bicycle safety and ferry-related issues.

We asked residents to rank on a 1-5 scale (from not safe to very safe) their feeling of overall safety in the neighborhood. The vast majority (88%) said they feel moderately safe to very safe.

Given the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal replacement project under way, FCA asked about the impact that residents feel from the terminal and related activity. Sixty

percent of respondents said that they do experience an impact. As reflected in FCA's position, almost 82% said they support more efficient boarding and safety improvements, with the dock remaining its current size.

Of the community events that FCA sponsors or co-sponsors (the egg and pumpkin hunts, the Fauntleroy Fall Festival, the Fauntleroy Food Fest and FCA Annual Meeting), respondents most recognized the fall festival (60%) and 41% of them had attended.

Complete survey details, including a summary of responses to open-ended questions, will be available soon on our website: [fauntleroy.net/](http://fauntleroy.net/).

### FEST, ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 19

The Hall at Fauntleroy will come alive on **Tuesday, March 19, 6:00-8:00 pm** for the Fauntleroy FCA Annual Meeting and Food Fest.

The free, all-ages evening is all about reconnecting with neighbors while noshing on samples from local eateries and browsing information tables about several area projects and programs.

Board members will be on hand at the door if you'd like to join FCA or renew your membership. A brief business meeting will be mid-way through.



### FCA PRESENTS 2024 SPRING EGG HUNT

**Our free egg hunt is back by popular demand!**  
**Sunday, March 24, 1:00 - 2:00 pm**  
**Fauntleroy Schoolhouse playground**

Bring the kids and a basket for each, then stand back as they search for eggs with non-candy treasures inside.

Little ones (ages 4 and under) will hunt first, then older children will be given the go ahead.

Add to the fun by joining Candace Blue and Scott Wiesemann for an egg-stuffing party or help hide the eggs. For details and to volunteer, email [blueyvette47@gmail.com](mailto:blueyvette47@gmail.com).

### CITY BRINGING CULVERT DESIGN TO PUBLIC

In March, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) will be sharing the latest design updates for the 45th Ave. SW culvert replacement project, as well as seeking feedback on a future Fauntleroy Creek overlook for the public to enjoy after the project is completed.

On Saturday, March 9, from 10 am-1 pm, members of the project team will host an information table at the corner of 45th Ave. SW and SW Wildwood Pl. Community residents are welcome to stop by to get the latest project updates and ask questions.

In addition, SPU will post an online survey for further community comment. It will be available March 4 – 22 at [seattle.gov/utilities/FauntleroyCreekCulverts](http://seattle.gov/utilities/FauntleroyCreekCulverts).

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# FERRY ADVISORY GROUPS REACT TO DESIGN CONCEPTS, INTERSECTION CHANGES

By Hadley Rodero, Washington State Ferries

The Washington State Ferries' team working on replacement of the Fauntleroy terminal met with community and technical advisory groups in early February. The team shared updated design concepts and presented proposed improvements for the intersection where the terminal meets Fauntleroy Way SW. Here's a summary of what the team heard during both meetings:



- A lot of interest in further conversation around U-turns and left turns by northbound traffic on Fauntleroy Way.
- Interest in more information about motorcycle, bike, and emergency vehicle access and processing.
- Requests for more intersection information, including
  - impacts on dwell time, north- and southbound traffic, and timing of bus routes.
  - movement of off-loading vehicles into the intersection.
  - impacts of a traffic signal on views from Captain's Park.
- Interest in cost and budget information ahead of screening the alternatives.
- Requests for more details about eelgrass habitat.

- Questions around dock size and structural elements, including
  - Vehicle capacity and dual-destination holding, environmental impacts of dock length, elevation changes in compliance with FEMA, and light penetrating surfaces for environmental and aesthetic purposes.
  - Investment in accessibility accommodations, including benches and rest areas along the walkway.
- Requests for further research about *Good To Go!* and advanced ticketing, including impacts on efficiency and revenue.

Recordings of recent meetings and links to register for upcoming advisory-group meetings are available in the community-engagement section at project website: [wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-160-fauntleroy-terminal-trestle-transfer-span-replacement](http://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-160-fauntleroy-terminal-trestle-transfer-span-replacement). Members of the public are welcome to register to observe these meetings.

Watch for broader community engagement opportunities this spring to gather more input from customers and all three "triangle" route communities.

## FCA'S POSITION ON FERRY TERMINAL REBUILD

- YES** to pre-ticketing and automated toll collection.
- YES** to promoting transit alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.
- YES** to improving seismic stability, elevating for sea-level rise, and installing widely spaced piling.
- NO** to expanding overwater coverage to enlarge the trestle or add a second slip.

## HOW TO HEAR FROM FCA

To hear from FCA by email, fill in the form and check your preferences at [fauntleroy.net/flash](http://fauntleroy.net/flash). If you check "Neighbors Newsletter," you will start receiving it by email, NOT mail.

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## TROLLS' FAIRYTALE NOW AVAILABLE

Last summer, a crew of local volunteers assisted in assembling Bruun Idun, the wooden troll in Lincoln Park.

Now the fairytale associated with her is available locally and online.

Danish artist Thomas Dambo designed five trolls in this area, all reflecting his "Way of the Bird King" theme. The fairytale weaves together folklore, environmental awareness, and discovery of one's

potential by sending a young wooden troll on a road trip to find the bird king.

The 94-page *Way of the Bird King* is available in paperback at Paper Boat (6040 California Ave. SW) or online at [thomasdambo.com/product/way-of-the-bird-king-pre-order-for-shipping-in-march-2024/](http://thomasdambo.com/product/way-of-the-bird-king-pre-order-for-shipping-in-march-2024/).



## INTERESTED IN HELPING NEIGHBORS AT EMERGENCY HUB?

If/when "the big one" or other disaster occurs, trained volunteers will be needed for many tasks at the neighborhood level. This area's emergency-preparedness leaders, Chris Jaramillo and Cindi Barker, call your attention to two free trainings on the horizon.

On **Thursday, March 7, 6:30-8 pm**, Peace Lutheran Church (8316 39th Ave. SW) will host a "tabletop" exercise to demonstrate how a neighborhood emergency communication hub would operate and how volunteers will be needed. Anyone from Fautleroy is welcome to participate. You need not have experience; just a desire to learn more.

Then on **Sunday, April 7, 1-4 pm**, the American Red Cross (1900 25th Ave. S.) will host a clinic to train hub volunteers and amateur radio operators in collecting and sending private messages if a disaster affects disrupts commercial communication services.

The upper parking lot at Fautleroy Church is this neighborhood's hub. Residents would go there to get first aid, share information, pool resources, and solve problems until emergency responders could take charge.

Email [chris.jaramillo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:chris.jaramillo@kingcounty.gov) or [cindilbarker@gmail.com](mailto:cindilbarker@gmail.com) for more information.



## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT IMPROVES PARK ACCESS

Mild weather this winter enabled Eagle Scout candidate Kai Longmeier to rally a crew from Troop 681 to install a crushed-rock path and put in plants at the SW Barton Street entrance to Fautleroy Park.

The Fautleroy Watershed Council has been weighing ways to improve access for those who rely on wheels to enjoy the park. Amir Williams, trails program manager for Seattle Parks, suggested the path to provide firm footing from the sidewalk to the kiosk at the park entrance.

By the time photographer Tom Trulin stopped by, Kai and his crew had striped the pathway of grass, laid and compacted 7.5 yards of crushed rock, and put in 12 plants around the entrance's rainbow sign.

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## FROM PAST TO PRESENT

# GEORGE NICHOLS LIVED MUCH OF YMCA'S 100 YEARS SERVING FAUNTLEROY

By Judy Pickens

*This centennial year for the Fautleroy YMCA is an ideal time to dig into its history, and no one stands taller in the second half of that history than George Nichols, who logged 50 years with the Y, from boyhood through his entire career.*

George Nichols enrolled in Fautleroy School in 1949 when the post-war Baby Boom was booming. His parents had moved the family here from Brazil and were eager for him to have an American childhood. The principal recommended he check out the YMCA across the street, and he was instantly right at home. He participated in everything he could through high school, then left for college in Bellingham, intending to become a teacher.

"I graduated midyear in 1965 and a friend said he had the perfect job for me: fitness director at the Fautleroy YMCA," he recalled. "I thought it would be temporary until a teaching job opened up but I never left."

### **A going concern**

George came on staff at a very busy time. Fautleroy Y membership was at an all-time high; it had the largest Y youth program in the city, and its Junior Leaders Club was one of the largest in the country. Camp Colman had moved from Horsehead Bay to the present location on Case Inlet and the rush was on to get the new site open for the 1966 season. Within a year, Fautleroy would be the "branch of the year" in Seattle-King County.

As George learned more about the Y from the inside, he was inspired by how dedicated its founders had been. Well before his arrival, the Y's mission had broadened from cultivating "Christian character" as defined in the late 1800s to developing healthy minds and bodies.

Fautleroy Church built a gymnasium in 1914, the same year the Colman family began hosting summer camps on its south-Sound property. Ten years later, church leaders and the camp board coaxed the YMCA of Greater Seattle into creating a sub-branch of the West Seattle YMCA around these facilities. (It became a full branch the year George came on the scene.)

Programs at the Fautleroy Y had been spot on for him as a kid and, now as a staff member, he was determined to carry on that legacy for every kid who came through the door by offering a robust and responsive program of activities. Others would move into bigger jobs with the Y but George chose to stick with the neighborhood where he and his wife, Joann, established their home and raised their children.

"It was a family decision for me to stay with the Y," he said. "I had many chances to go elsewhere but they didn't give me the same opportunities to be involved with children, to do all the things we did at Fautleroy."

Joann made that choice possible by relieving George of the lion's share of work on the home front. She also helped their children understand why they had to share their dad with many other kids, even when it hurt.

### **Ever-changing interests**

George's priority was to make everyone feel welcome and seen. J. L. "Shad" Commeree was among them.

"He made a shy, awkward kid feel like there was a place to belong," Shad said. "When he gave me my 'Shadow' nickname, the Y became even more of a haven than it had been for me. To be recognized as an individual just as I was – that's how George always treated me and just about every kid who came to the Y."

He kept basketball and other popular activities going while responding to ever-changing interests.

"For me, there was always something new and exciting – swim camp, skateboard camp, biking to the World's Fair in Spokane, canoeing in Canada," he said. "When little kids wanted to play baseball but weren't old enough for Little League, I developed the Charlie Brown and Lucy Brown program for them. When kids wanted to play hockey but we didn't have ice, we came up with a way to offer field hockey.

"My job was to be creative, to listen to people and to my own kids. "What did they want to be doing at their particular ages?"

Pickleball is all the rage now, but in the mid 60s, George knew one of the game's creators and wanted to try offering it at the Y. Alas, no paddles were yet available. His solution: Talk John Wilson into making them. The gym needed a scoreboard but the Y couldn't afford to buy one. His solution: Talk Norm Christiansen into building it. ➔



Being with kids at Camp Colman was George's happy place. He's in the front row, at right, in this 1985 photo. Throwing him in the lagoon on the last day of camp was a cherished tradition.

"It wasn't just me," George insisted. "All these programs came about because of interest from the community."

Although Y Executive Director Jack Henderson had hired George as a fitness director, once on the job, he said, "I realized what we could do as a community to affect the lives of children." A decade into his tenure, no kid in the neighborhood - or adult, for that matter - could claim boredom.

### Societal shifts

In 1970 when Bill Heathman became executive director, he and George continued to be the only full-time employees - and that would be the case for several more years.

Keeping up with demand for activities required them to recruit scores of volunteers, especially when the Fauntleroy Y enlarged its service area.

A high percentage of the volunteers leading classes or chaperoning activities had always been women. Teenagers also gave a lot of hours as Junior Leaders, especially at

camp. As more and more women entered the workforce and teens became less available, the Y had to adjust.

"The camp and the Y could not have continued relying on volunteers past the mid 1980s," said Josh Sutton, who followed in George's footsteps as a Y "lifer." He is now facilities executive for the Greater Seattle YMCA.

More societal shifts happened as Baby Boom parents became empty nesters and Gen Xers were choosing to have fewer children. Both



In 2019, George and Joann helped raise money to build the "Nichols" cabin at Camp Colman.

greatly altered the mix in the community and the need for Y programs and services.

Mandatory busing played a significant role, too. It reached Fauntleroy School in 1978 and "blew everything up with the kids," as George put it. Just three years later, the Y lost its "feeder school" entirely when the district closed it.

"We had to adapt," he recalled, though it wasn't easy. "We were always solving problems in order to provide programs the community would be interested in."

### Cultivating leaders

To give Bill time in 1983 to focus on developing a Highline branch, George added administrative duties to his job description. He didn't just keep everything running, however. He initiated a variety of programs to meet demand, including saying yes in 1984 to Bob Washburn's idea to develop Clown Corps, a youth employment program for Y Junior Leaders.

Bob had been interested in clowning since the mid 70s, to the point that he auditioned for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College. A few years later, he created a booking agency for party talent. When he and his wife moved to West Seattle from the north end, he naturally offered to volunteer at the Fauntleroy Y.

"I'm not sure if I would have pursued clowning without George's encouragement," Bob said. "He was one of the most influential people in my life."

Steve Cameron also gives George a lot of credit. He learned about Camp Colman through the West Seattle Y and loved the experience of going there every summer.

"I looked up to George and wanted to be a leader at camp when I grew up," he said. As a Junior Leader through high school, he acquired skills essential to coaching youth sports, which he continued to do as a volunteer for 35 years.

"In Y programs, I learned how to be a leader, to work as part of a team, to speak in public. And I learned the value of volunteering in my community," Steve said. "George was a great mentor and helped shape who I became as an adult."

Like so many other Y alumni, Steve has stayed in touch for decades with George and other Y friends.

"The friends I made at the Fauntleroy Y and Camp Colman are the best friends I have, and the activities we participated in at the Y are the best memories of my youth," he recalled. "I wanted my children to have some of the same experiences so I have volunteered for fundraising, work parties, and facilities planning for Camp Colman.

"It's amazing how much the Fauntleroy Y, the camp, the community, and George influenced me and my family," he said. "I hope I've repaid a little of that over the years."

### Still more opportunities

Such relationships kept George coming to work every day. He ventured away only once - in 1970 when he went to Kobe, Japan, on a Y staff exchange. He taught fitness and English there, organized programs, and ran a ski camp and hiking program. He also fleshed out the exchange program that over several years brought students and teachers from Tokai University to Camp Colman for two weeks, followed by a short stay with host families in Fauntleroy.

Late in his career, George accepted assignments that strengthened the YMCA of Greater Seattle's camping programs going forward. In 1997, he led the merger of Camp Orkila and Camp Colman into YMCA Camping Services and served for 12 years as executive responsible for all overnight camping. In 2000, he was instrumental in the transfer of the Camp Colman property to the Y.

George retired in 2002 but keeps his Fauntleroy Y ties strong from his home in Oregon, whether that's by reminiscing with the high-school kids he got to the top of Mt. Rainier, for instance, or braving a foot of snow to get to Bob Washburn's retirement party.

"I was lucky enough to work alongside George when I started at the Y," Josh aptly concluded. "His impact on West Seattle youth has been immeasurable."

**Sources:** George Nichols, Josh Sutton, Bob Washburn, Mike Winston, Steve Cameron, Shad Commeree, Fauntleroy Church archives, Southwest Seattle Historical Society

# DEADLINE NEAR FOR COMMENTING ON CITY'S PLAN FOR PARKS, OPEN SPACES

Seattle Parks and Recreation will be accepting public comments until March 9 on its draft Parks and Open Space Plan.

The draft reflects community input toward updating the plan, which is done every six years in order for the city to retain its eligibility for state grants.

The plan will guide where the city invests in park development, improvements, and maintenance, plus how the city prioritizes acquisition of more open space. This update proposes a standardized method, based on walkability, for identifying where future recreation facilities should be located.

Find details at *Seattle Parks and Recreation Releases Draft 2024 Parks and Open Space Plan - Parkways* and email your input to [kevin.bergsrud@seattle.gov](mailto:kevin.bergsrud@seattle.gov).

## FCA LEADERSHIP

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## ON THE CALENDAR

**CULVERT REPLACEMENT:** Seattle Public Utilities will host a pop-up information table at 45th Ave. SW and SW Wildwood Pl. on **Saturday, March 9, 10 am-1 pm** to preview and answer questions about plans for replacing the creek culvert under 45th.

**SUNDAY BLISS:** On **Sunday, March 10**, the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse will host a Yin yoga class (**6-7 pm**) and sound bath (**7:15-8 pm**). Text 206-790-7126 for details.

**FCA BUSINESS MEETINGS:** Residents are welcome to attend business meetings on **Tuesday, March 12, April 9, and May 14**, starting at **6 pm** in person at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse or on Zoom. Email FCA President Mike Dey ([msdey50@aol.com](mailto:msdey50@aol.com)) for the link or if you will have an agenda item to propose.

**FCA ANNUAL MEETING AND FOOD FEST:** The Emerald Room at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse will be alive with activity on **Tuesday, March 19**. Doors will open at **6 pm** to renew/pay your FCA membership, sample the best that local eateries have to offer, browse a variety of information tables, and visit with neighbors. The meeting portion will start about **7 pm**.

**KINDIE WEST:** This lively music series for kids 5 and under will get under way on **Sunday, March 24**, with a performance by Brian Vogan and his Good Buddies. Doors will open at **10 am** at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse for the 10:30 show. Get details and purchase tickets at [brownpapertickets.com/](http://brownpapertickets.com/). The series will close on June 16.

**RECYCLE ROUNDUP:** The spring roundup will be **Saturday, April 27, 9 am - 3 pm** in the Fauntleroy Church parking lot. Watch the *West Seattle Blog* for an updated list of what you may bring for free, responsible recycling.

**CHOIR CONCERT:** The Boeing Employees Choir will give a free concert at Fauntleroy Church on **Sunday, May 5, 3 pm** in the sanctuary. Comprised primarily of Boeing employees, retirees, and family members, this premier choir is planning a tour in Greece this coming fall.

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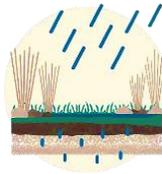
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# RAINWISE CONTINUES TO REWARD ON-SITE RETENTION OF RAINWATER

The city's RainWise program to manage rainwater where it falls is continuing, now with higher rebates to account for inflation.

Since it started in 2010, this program has helped scores of Fauntleroy-area property owners keep pollution-laden rainwater out of Puget Sound and relieve the load on pump stations.



Rebates are based on how much roof area a rain garden or above-ground cistern captures; cisterns have a lower rebate because their holding capacity is finite.

To find out if you are eligible and get specifics, visit [rainwise.seattle.gov](http://rainwise.seattle.gov). This program is ongoing.

## WATERSHED ANNUAL REPORT ON LINE

The Fauntleroy Watershed Council recently issued its 2023 annual report summarizing another productive year. Achievements included adopting an updated watershed plan, creating a tree walk in Fauntleroy Park, and hosting area schools for one of the largest salmon-release seasons since they started in 1990. Find it at [fauntleroywatershed.org/index.php/reports/annual-reports/](http://fauntleroywatershed.org/index.php/reports/annual-reports/).



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## HOW TO RENEW YOUR FCA MEMBERSHIP

FCA membership dues are for the calendar year. If you have not set up automatic annual renewal, payment for 2024 is due.

You may pay at the Fauntleroy Food Fest and Annual Meeting on March 19 or mail a check to P.O. Box 46343, Seattle 98146. You may also pay online through PayPal at [fauntleroy.net/membership](http://fauntleroy.net/membership).

If you're already signed up for automatic annual renewal, you don't need to do anything. If not, you may sign up at that website.



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## Easter Season Services

**Palm Sunday**  
March 24, 10 am\*

**Holy Friday**  
March 29, 7 pm

**Easter**  
March 31, 6:30 am  
Alki Beach near 59th  
9 am\* & 11 am



206-932-5600  
[www.fauntleroyucc.org](http://www.fauntleroyucc.org)

\*sanctuary & live-streamed at [youtube.com/FauntleroyChurchUCC](http://youtube.com/FauntleroyChurchUCC)

# FCA BOARD WEIGHS WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE IN LINCOLN PARK

By Mike Dey, president

As we approach spring, your community leaders have been dealing with several issues, both easy and challenging.

In the easy column, the winter planting party in the Endolyne business area is starting to pay off. Daffodils are adding color in all the planter boxes, with tulips soon to follow. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped, especially Kim Frost Immel for organizing the event.

Also, children will soon enjoy our annual egg hunt and we'll all have the pleasure of getting together at the Fautleroy Food Fest and FCA Annual Meeting.

Now for two issues in the more-challenging column: an off-leash dog area and pickleball courts in Lincoln Park. The FCA Board unanimously voted to oppose both.

Enforcement was our main concern about the off-leash area. Without the city's providing dedicated routine monitoring of the off-leash area and vicinity, we had real concerns that off-leash dogs would venture outside the set-aside area and exacerbate an already common complaint we hear about off-leash dogs in Lincoln Park.

Seattle Parks has identified an alternative area adjacent to the West Seattle golf course that is larger, has better ADA access, and offers owners who bring their dogs by electric car the benefit of charging stations, none of which Lincoln Park offers.

Pickleball was another contentious discussion. The idea floated by Seattle Parks was to repurpose former



tennis courts in the middle of the park for this increasingly popular sport.

The FCA Board's conclusion was based on discussions with Seattle Parks and people opposed to locating the courts in Lincoln Park. (We tried without success to meet with proponents of having pickleball in that location.)

According to data from Seattle Parks, most park visitors are there for the serenity and enjoyment of nature. With current equipment, pickleball can be a noisy sport, and lack of nearby parking would make ADA access to the courts difficult.

Alternative locations in the area (Nino Cantu Southwest Athletic Complex on SW Thistle and maybe the Fautleroy Y) would offer convenient parking, plus courts at the Y facility could be year-round.

In personal discussions with several people, the primary reason they favored adding pickleball courts in Lincoln Park was to avoid having the courts in Solstice Park striped for both tennis and pickleball. Further, they were not opposed to locating pickleball at other sites.

Seattle Parks is planning a survey before making final decisions on both off-leash and pickleball issues.

If Seattle Parks decides against developing pickleball courts in Lincoln Park, the .25 acre site there formerly used for tennis courts would be available for something else the community wants. If you have an idea for how to use it, let me know at [msdey50@aol.com](mailto:msdey50@aol.com).

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