

DECEMBER 2025

CITY COUNCIL OKAYS RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO 'NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER'

By Catherine Bailey, vice president

Mayor Bruce Harrell's proposed One Seattle Comprehensive Plan, which changes zoning rules for neighborhoods across the city, recently cleared a major hurdle when the City Council reviewed and voted on hundreds of proposed amendments.

We are pleased to report that the council approved the three changes related to lower Fauntleroy that FCA and residents advocated for, specifically

- moving the western boundary from Fauntleroy Way SW to 46th Ave. SW.
- removing the Seattle Public Schools' property west of the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse.

District 1 Councilmember Rob Saka introduced the amendments, which included minor boundary changes to the proposed "Endolyne Neighborhood Center" map and

changing the area's name in city documents to "Fauntleroy Neighborhood Center."

These decisions by the City Council concluded Phase 1 of the process to update the comprehensive plan. Early in the new year, Phase 2 will consider boundary adjustments within the nine neighborhood centers, five urban centers, and one regional center as now defined.

The need to update Seattle's comprehensive plan stems from the Legislature's adoption of House Bill 1110 (the "Middle Housing" bill), which requires additional housing development in all residential areas of the state. Changes in local zoning laws are intended to address the ongoing housing-affordability crisis by increasing housing density over the next 10-20 years.



TRAFFIC CHANGES AHEAD DURING 2-YEAR CULVERT CONSTRUCTION

By Jonathan Brown, Seattle Public Utilities

Replacement of the Fauntleroy Creek culvert under 45th Ave SW is scheduled to start in the new year once final design, permits, and contract signatures are in place. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) expects completion approximately two years later.

This work will replace the deteriorating culvert with one that meets current standards so coho spawners will be able to access the middle reach of the creek, in the Kilbourne ravine.

During construction, 45th will be closed to non-resident traffic between SW Wildwood Pl. and SW Director St. To reduce the impact on local traffic for such a protracted period, the project team is working with the Seattle Department of Transportation to temporarily open SW Director along the north side of the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse to two-way traffic between 45th and the crest of the hill at California Ave. SW.



To provide safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians at that intersection at California, the city will install temporary stop signs to create a four-way stop (as shown on the map) where California, Director, SW Barton, and 42nd Ave. SW meet. When construction is over, the intersection will return to its current configuration (one way heading uphill on Director at the schoolhouse).

Sign up at seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/fauntleroy-creek-culverts to receive updates about this and the following related project.

Planning is also under way to replace the uppermost creek culvert (California/church parking lot) to eliminate all barriers to spawner passage between Fauntleroy Cove and headwaters in Fauntleroy Park.

The city signed contract documents in November to continue planning, which is expected to take about 27 months. During this phase, a proposed design for the replacement culvert will be shared with the community and permit requirements will be finalized so that the project can go out to bid.

SPU recently completed an emergency project to insert a liner the full length of the deteriorated culvert, thus keeping it functional until it can be replaced.

Again, sign up at the website to stay up to date on this project.

IN THIS ISSUE

Spawning season	2
Ferry terminal planning	3
From Past to Present: Five o'clock chimes	4
Upcoming events.....	5
From the president	6



Recent modifications to a float near the mouth of Fauntleroy Creek deprived harbor seals of an ongoing place to lounge between spawner meals. Photo courtesy Tom Trulin

DOZENS OF VOLUNTEERS TURN OUT TO DOCUMENT SPAWNING SEASON

By Judy Pickens

On Oct. 26, 130 people kicked off Salmon Watch 2025 on Fauntleroy Creek with the annual drumming to call in coho spawners, and sightings of dozens of them schooling in the cove portended a strong season.

Harbor seals and other predators, however, picked them off and, though rainfall flushed the creek of impurities from the summer, water level at the mouth was often lower than spawners needed to jump into the creek.

Nearly three dozen volunteers kept spawners' route along the beach open, checked the spawning reach daily, and hosted a public open creek. Their reward was slim, however: nine vigorous spawners and one redd.

"High tides, ample rainfall, and low predation all have to align for spawners coming into small urban creeks - and some years they simply don't," said veteran volunteer Dennis Hinton. Since the first pair arrived here in 1994, the count has fluctuated from zero to 347.

"Most of that record number last year came in a surprise second wave," he said. "Hoping that might be the case again, we kept watching until almost Thanksgiving but no second wave arrived."

With only one redd, fewer "home hatch" fry than usual will be foraging in the lower creek, which will leave more food for the higher number of fry to be released there the next two years.

To replace the creek culvert under 45th Ave. SW, the contractor will need to dewater the site by pumping creek flow into a bypass pipe, which fish heading to saltwater from the upper creek would not survive. Consequently, spring school releases will not happen in Fauntleroy Park in 2026 and 2027.

West Seattle elementary schools that typically release in the park will divert to Longfellow Creek. The Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association will direct four of those field trips and Fauntleroy Creek volunteers will direct the rest. Fry released by preschool, high-school, and special-education students will share habitat with home hatch in lower Fauntleroy Creek.

Before the bypass goes in, volunteers will trap smolts leaving Fauntleroy Park and safely transport them to the lower creek to continue their journey. Any smolts that venture into the middle reach of the creek above 45th will be able to keep migrating toward the cove.

DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW NEXT STEP IN TERMINAL PLANNING

By Washington State Ferries

In mid October, Washington State Ferries (WSF) convened a final meeting of the Fauntleroy terminal replacement project's community advisory group. Representatives of all three destinations on the triangle route had been meeting periodically since 2021.

Two topics were on the agenda, starting with summaries of how project team members were finalizing the planning and environmental linkages study that will lead into a detailed environmental review.

Throughout the process, the team evaluated a variety of design options, starting with possible other locations for the terminal. Feedback from the advisory group led to WSF's decision to move forward at the existing location.

After detailed deliberation, a trestle that will hold 124 to 155 vehicles (compared to 80 today) rose to the top. It would extend farther into the cove, minimize impacts on nearshore habitat, avoid impacting Cove Park, and improve operational efficiency.

The team also provided an update on upcoming improvements for neighborhood traffic, buses, and ferry traffic where the terminal intersects Fauntleroy Way SW.

Signals and signage aim to improve safety for people driving, walking, biking, and rolling to and from the bus stops, terminal, and other destinations along the arterial and beyond. The team recently completed design and is moving toward construction as early as spring 2026.

The final meeting of the community advisory group does not end WSF's commitment to engaging residents on environmental topics as well as other project elements, including the look and feel of the new terminal and impacts during construction.

To stay up to date or to watch the recording of the final community advisory group's meeting, visit wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-160-fauntleroy-terminal-trestle-transfer-span-replacement.

Jamison A Johnson
PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST
Portraits. Headshots. Art
JAMISONAJOHNSON.COM
JAMISONPHOTOARTIST@GMAIL.COM
206.909.3657

treo
organic
salon

9251 45th Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98136

206.556.2159

www.treoorganicsalon.com
info@treoorganicsalon.com

FROM PAST TO PRESENT

'FIVE O'CLOCK CHIMES' ONCE RANG OUT AT CHRISTMAS AND ALL YEAR

By Judy Pickens

When a reader suggests a topic from neighborhood history to explore, finding enough details can take a while. This one provides a rearview-mirror glimpse of the holiday season in Fauntleroy during the baby-boom years:

Residents who grew up here may remember the “five o'clock chimes” that Fauntleroy Church broadcast on weekdays (possibly also on Saturdays) throughout the neighborhood in the 1950s.

“They played different carols and hymns each day, beginning about 4:30 and ending promptly at 5:00,” Craig Pedersen recalled. “Then a chime would ring five times and I would know it was time to come home for dinner.”

The ringing of church bells goes back centuries, whether to call people to worship, mark special occasions, or signal fire or other emergency. In the 50s, the congregation drew the vast majority of its members from the neighborhood, so few likely considered the broadcasting of chimes to be an intrusion.

Though only two church annual reports in the mid 1950s mention the chimes, church archivist Pam Goldfine dug deeper to unearth a few details and online searches resulted in more.

Plans for the current sanctuary wing included a pipe organ but, until the congregation could afford one, the much-anticipated new sanctuary opened in the spring of

1952 with a 50 Wurlitzer electric organ. A committee recommended the purchase with the understanding that, within three years, it would be sold to help finance a pipe organ. Fundraising was slower than hoped but a Balcom and Vaughn pipe organ was finally in place for the 1959 Christmas season.

“Mighty” theater organs with lots of bells and whistles made a name for Wurlitzer during the silent-movie era. The company continued to grow until the early 1940s, when it shifted its production line to aid the war effort. In 1952, it began selling small electric consoles suited to homes and chapels.

At about that time, the Maas Organ Company came out with a portable electric carillon, one of which the church received as a memorial gift. Equipped with a small keyboard (up to two octaves), its emulated the resonant tones of church bells.

The subsequent gift of a vacuum-tube amplifier enabled recorded programs to be greatly amplified for broadcast through a speaker in the bell tower over a distance of about three miles.

Like Craig and other baby-boom children in the neighborhood, Bobbie Reeves also used the “five o'clock chimes” to know when to head home for dinner. Though the church had several volunteer organists to make recordings, she imagined that someone was playing each program live.

The archives do not note when the chimes went silent but it was likely when the pipe organ displaced the Wurlitzer and chimes in 1959. The speaker, however, stayed in the bell tower until it was discovered in 2018 when the worse-for-wear structure was rebuilt.

The closest thing to daily chimes in this century was during the congregation's centennial celebration, in 2008. Residents got ample notice that the bell would toll every day at noon for 100 days.

After much weighing of pros and cons, church leaders recently decided to retire the pipe organ. Skilled organists had become a rarity and a recently donated Steinway grand piano had become the go-to instrument.



The speaker for broadcasting “the five o'clock chimes” sat above the bell for more than 66 years until rebuilding the tower became essential. Photo courtesy Fauntleroy Church

 THE BIRDHOUSE	<p>ONLINE ORDERING AVAILABLE NOW!</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>
<p>3507 SW HENDERSON ST SEATTLE, WA 98126 206-466-2739</p>	<p>COFFEE * PASTRIES * GOOD EATS WWW.THEBIRDHOUSEWS.COM</p>



NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS NEWS

TREO HAIR PRODUCTS AVAILABLE AT DISCOUNT

Sarah Griffiths' line of Treo Organics hair products is now available at her salon in the Endolyne business area and at treoorganicsalon.com.

As announced in the March 2025 issue of this newsletter, she worked with a chemist and lab to create the line in response to customer interest in unscented, sustainably packaged, organic products that really work.



Sarah is offering a 15% discount through Dec. 31 to local residents on either hydrating or volumizing shampoo and conditioner. The online code is FAUNT15.

WILDWOOD MARKET HOSTING FOOD DRIVE

Knowing that area food banks have been running full tilt to serve *many* neighbors in need, the youngest staff members at Wildwood Market are leading a food drive through Dec. 31.



Next time you're in, bring a non-perishable food item or buy something extra on site to put in the donation bin (at a 15% discount!). Your kindness will be a boost for West Seattle Food

Bank clients now and into the new year.

FCA PARTNERS

Bruce Butterfield, Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate

Crissey Behavioral Consulting

Daily Hayley Fitness and Nutrition Coaching

Dance! West Seattle

Designer Portraits by Jamison A. Johnson

DSquared Hospitality Company

Endolyne Joe's Restaurant

Fauntleroy Church, United Church of Christ

Fauntleroy Community Service Agency &
Fauntleroy Children's Center

Garden Coaching Solutions

Pilates at Fauntleroy

Seattle Nature Alliance

South Tacoma Way, LLC

The Birdhouse

The Unsweetened Tooth

Treo Organic Salon LLC

West Seattle Blog

Wildwood Bed & Breakfast

Wildwood Market



Seattle Parks improved visitor safety by upgrading the wire mesh on 150 feet of boardwalk in Fauntleroy Park. Photo courtesy Tom Trulin

Seattle Parks and the Fauntleroy Watershed Council are cooperating to make several improvements in Fauntleroy Park. Here's what has been happening in addition to upgrading wire mesh on boardwalks:

- A local maintenance crew is cutting back vegetation so that arterial trails will be wide open when growth resumes in the spring.
- Both staff and volunteer effort is going into upgrading kiosks at SW Barton and at 97th Ave. SW entrances, including replacing locks, removing outdated postings, and refreshing or replacing damaged Plexiglas.
- Trail staff will modify the two viewing platforms that attracted illegal encampments this past summer so that they will no longer support tents.
- Specialists are assessing how to resolve continuing water problems at the SW Cambridge St. entrance.

If you see anything that needs attention in the park, report it through the city's Find It Fix It smartphone app or email info@fauntleroywatershed.org.

DANCE! WEST SEATTLE

POISE! GRACE! SELF CONFIDENCE!
WALK IN & DANCE OUT!

9131 California Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136 ■ 206.938.3062
www.dancewestseattle.com

Christmas Eve Services



10 am Sunday worship
in person & on YouTube

206-932-5600 / info@fauntleroyucc.org / fauntleroyucc.org

4:00 pm
especially for children

7:00 pm*
candlelight & carols

11:00 pm
candlelight & communion
(*on YouTube)

PROGRESS BEING MADE TO INCREASE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT SW ROSE ST.

Improving pedestrian safety has been a high priority for FCA for many years, especially where SW Rose St. intersects with Fauntleroy Way SW at Lincoln Park's north parking lot. The goal is to improve the chances that pedestrians crossing the arterial to get to and from bus stops there can do so safely.

Now progress is being made. A Seattle Department of Transportation representative attended the board's October business meeting to preview what the city has in mind, collect feedback, and answer questions.

SDOT is proposing to install a pedestrian-controlled crossing signal, a marked crosswalk, and a raised safety median between the ferry-queue lane and north- and southbound traffic lanes. This configuration would narrow traffic lanes and reduce street parking in order to provide required sight lines for drivers and pedestrians.

The Board is awaiting SDOT's responses to questions and will press on toward a workable plan and timetable. If you have an interest this topic, you're welcome at any upcoming FCA business meeting (see dates on p. 5).



**FULL SERVICE & TNT TO-GO
DROP-OFF CATERING**
part of West Seattle's community since 1986



MUSE
AT BENARDY HALL



**INDOOR/OUTDOOR WEDDING
& COMMUNITY EVENT SPACE**
inside the historic Fauntleroy Schoolhouse



**DAVIDS
& Co**

206 932 1059 | info@dsquaredcompany.com

Ready to Eat



**Wildwood
MARKET**



9214 45th Ave SW
wildwoodwestseattle.com

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET & KITCHEN



**WHAT IF YOU COULD HAVE
THE GARDEN OF YOUR DREAMS?**

From the Novice to the Enthusiast Gardener, I can help...

- ◆ Sketch out a plan to include appropriate plants
- ◆ Shop for plants and advise on installation
- ◆ Provide personalized instruction including pruning, fertilizing, planning raised beds or container gardening

CONTACT ...
JENNY MANDT, OWNER, 206-915-058

For the first step in building the garden you have always wanted!

jenny@gardencoachingsolutions.com ~ www.gardencoachingsolutions.com

ON THE CALENDAR

FESTIVAL OF TREES: View 16 creatively decorated trees in Fellowship Hall at Fauntleroy Church **now through Jan. 8, 9 am-noon Monday-Thursday** and also **Saturday, Dec. 20, 6-7 pm**, and after the 4 pm concert on **Sunday, Dec. 21**. Support local food banks by bringing non-perishable food items to vote for your favorites.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC: Music Director Zachary Fitzgerald will lead handbells, choirs, brass and vocal ensembles, and instrumentalists (plus singalongs!) during free holiday concerts at Fauntleroy Church on **Saturday, Dec. 20, at 7 pm** and **Sunday, Dec. 21, at 4 pm**. Pre-reception at 6 pm on Saturday and after the concert on Sunday.

BALLET WINTER SHOW: Dance! West Seattle students will perform at **1:30 pm on Sunday, Dec. 21**, at the Highline Performing Arts Center, with Nutcracker Suites as the centerpiece. Tickets at dancwestseattle.com.

FCA BUSINESS MEETINGS: Any resident is welcome to attend FCA business meetings on **Tuesday, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, and March 10 at 6 pm** at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse or online (no December meeting). Email President Frank Immel at frankimmel62@gmail.com to propose a topic or get the Zoom link at fauntleroy.net/meetings.



206-935-0252 / theunsweetenedtooth.com



Bruce Butterfield
REALTOR®

Experience Matters



Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
Northwest Real Estate
206-932-2400
BruceButterfield.com



8 am - 9 pm daily

menu & more @
endolynejoes.com

206-937-5637
9261 45th Ave. SW

2025 SUCCESSES SHOW HOW MANY HELPING HANDS IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY

By Frank Immel, president

However you plan to observe this festive season, happy holidays to you all!

As I look back on 2025, I realize how busy your FCA Board has been. Our annual report in March will summarize the year but I'll offer a few highlights:

- We effectively joined with others in the neighborhood to respond to illegal encampments in both Cove Park and Fauntleroy Park. While feeling for those living unhoused, we are committed to making sure that safe access to public spaces is maintained and that the surrounding environment is not harmed.

- We continued to participate in and monitor planning to rebuild the ferry terminal. As described on p. 2, Washington State Ferries is about to begin a detailed environmental review of a proposed design. Many more public-involvement opportunities are ahead, so be alert for meeting notices and other ways to stay involved.

- We had a wonderful FCA Annual Meeting and Food Fest, with many residents reconnecting, enjoying treats from area eateries, and checking in on area activities and projects.

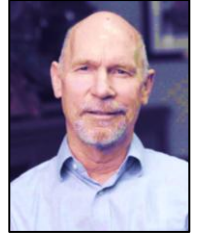
- Thanks to the hardworking committee that mounted another great Fauntleroy Fall Festival! Despite uncertain weather, it drew an all-ages crowd to the schoolhouse, church, and Y.

- More youngsters participated in our spring egg hunt and fall pumpkin hunt this year and each sported a happy face. Thanks to Candace Blue, Scott Wiesemann, and the other volunteers who made these events happen.

In the new year, responsible management of the

funds you entrust to us when you pay your dues is a high priority for your FCA Board. Our goal in 2026 is to hold dues steady while maintaining the advocacy, activities, and amenities you value.

To do so, we could use more help. If you have the interest and time, we can match you with an activity that fits, whether it's helping with an event, providing behind-the-scenes support, or serving on the board. Please be in touch and we'll find a rewarding and enjoyable way for you to give back to this community.



FCA LEADERSHIP

Frank Immel, president; 206-661-0673

Catherine Bailey, vice president

Kris Ilgenfritz, secretary

Alan Grainger, treasurer

Meredith Sciarrio, residential membership

Amber Heinemann, business membership

Bill Wellington, webmaster

Bruce Butterfield ■ Susan Lantz-Dey ■ David Follis

David Haggerty ■ Reed Haggerty

Judy Pickens, writer/editor

fcacommunications@gmail.com

**P.O. Box 46343, Seattle, WA 98146; *fauntleroy.net/*
*facebook.com/FauntleroyCommunityAssociation***

KEEP UP TO DATE ON FAUNTLEROY EVENTS ON FACEBOOK
If you're a member of Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/FauntleroyCommunityAssociation.

WWW.FAUNTLEROY.NET

P.O. BOX 46343
SEATTLE, WA 98146

