

# NEIGHBORS

FAUNTLEROY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



JUNE 2014



## IMPROVED COMMUNICATION, MONITORING, ENFORCEMENT ON POLICE AGENDA HERE

Actions announced at FCA's May business meeting aim to improve communication between Fauntleroy and the Seattle Police Department, monitor key areas this summer, and enhance law enforcement in the area.

The new Southwest Precinct captain, Steve Wilske, or his commander committed to attend every FCA business meeting of the year. This action will enable precinct leaders to answer questions and discuss public-safety issues as they arise with neighborhood residents and board members.

The department has proposed increased coverage of areas that have historically been the focus of problems during the summer. If funded, officers will begin using mountain bikes to patrol Lincoln Park, as well as Roxhill Park/Westwood Village.

FCA has been in discussion with precinct staff for several months about noise from motorcycles exiting the ferry. Officers are now spot testing on Fauntleroy arterials for motorcycle and car noise exceeding the city limit of 90 decibels.

Also, officers have ramped up ticketing for speeding and reckless driving on 35th Ave. SW, both identified as causes for increased accidents there, especially involving pedestrians.

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## COALITION TAKES ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES IN WEST SEATTLE

By Marty Westerman

Upwards of 100,000 people live in West Seattle, South Park, and White Center neighborhoods and, on any given day, thousands of us are on the move. Last September, 30 concerned residents met to explore what could be done to strengthen the area's voice on mobility issues, especially cuts pending to Metro bus service.

That meeting marked the birth of the West Seattle Transportation Coalition (WSTC). Volunteers created an interim board and committees to examine issues, cultivate broad-based support, and speak as one in the public arena. In FCA's 2013 public survey, our community listed traffic as a top priority, so connecting with WSTC focus on transportation was a logical tie-in for FCA.

WSTC soon had several important concerns on its plate: cuts to Metro Transit, emergency service if/when our bridges are disabled,

improved traffic flow, light rail, and circulator service.

### Metro service

In the perfect storm, West Seattle could take a substantial hit to Metro bus service. In early May, Metro Transit announced plans to cut citywide bus service by 17 percent starting in September. Added to that cut could be an additional 10 percent reduction for West Seattle if extra transit funding associated with SR99 tunnel construction is not extended.

WSTC has interviewed elected and agency officials at state, county, and local levels and urged them to implement improvements to maintain and enhance mobility for West Seattle residents.

The state has assured us that tunnel mitigation funds will continue until construction is done, which with Bertha's down time could extend well beyond 2015. (continue p. 2)



## TRANSPORTATION *(continued from p. 1)*

After the Legislature failed to fund transportation and King County Proposition 1 failed at the polls, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray proposed to keep Metro Transit moving in the city through a \$60 car tab and \$0.01 sales tax for city residents. An earlier proposal called for a property tax.

In mid May, three City Council members proposed increasing the tax on commercial parking and adding a per-employee tax on businesses to fill the gap.

To help sort out these and other ideas for funding bus service in Seattle, WSTC conducted an on-line straw poll in mid May. Respondents could vote for one option only or a mixture of options. A tax on commercial parking, a tax on gasoline, and a tax on property each garnered 17 - 18 percent of the votes. Just over 15 percent would pay for all or part of the service through a fee on car tabs and only 9 percent favored getting all or part of the revenue through a sales tax.

WSTC has forwarded poll results to the City Council, along with an idea still under discussion: Apartment developers not required by the city to include on-site parking would instead pay \$20,000-\$30,000 per unit toward bus service.

### Emergency services

Another concern of FCA and WSTC is how to get critical medical resources to West Seattle if a disaster seriously damages our bridges and isolates the peninsula. WSTC is urging the city to create an emergency-response plan that includes evacuation routes and contingency entry routes for inbound relief vehicles. Similarly, major accidents this spring shut down the West Seattle high bridge twice, blocking traffic off the

peninsula. WSTC has asked the city to devise a rapid emergency-response plan for such situations so that accidents are quickly cleared, enabling speedy restoration of traffic out of West Seattle.

### Improved flow

The designs of our main northern access roads and highways present a basic challenge. WSTC has called on the Seattle Department of Transportation to present plans for widening the exit loop from the West Seattle Bridge to northbound SR99, enabling the bus way to extend continuously from West Seattle to SR99.

WSTC has also asked for two commitments from the city. One is to construct southbound bus ways (already studied) from Fourth Ave. or Sixth Ave. to the westbound lane of the Spokane Street viaduct. The other is to construct the Lander Street overpass (already designed) which will provide clear access over railroad tracks between First Ave. and Fourth Ave. and eliminate significant traffic delays. It is now 20 percent funded but needs another \$120 million to break ground.

### Light rail, circulator

In May, Sound Transit published its preliminary study of light rail routes linking downtown, West Seattle, White Center, and Burien. Ideally, the study says, trains would be ready for passengers by 2020.

Meanwhile, WSTC is brainstorming how to employ vans and mini-buses already on the street to create a West Seattle circulator or "jitney" service for local commuting, shopping, errands, and linking to Metro routes.

WSTC meets monthly at High Point Neighborhood House and new board and committee members are welcome. Learn more at [www.westseattleetc.org](http://www.westseattleetc.org).

## FCA LEADERSHIP

Mike Dey, president  
206-661-0673; [msdey50@aol.com](mailto:msdey50@aol.com)

Phil Sweetland, treasurer  
206-938-4203; [phil\\_sweetland@msn.com](mailto:phil_sweetland@msn.com)

David Haggerty, vice president  
Kathleen Dellplain, acting secretary

Gary Dawson, chairman  
Ferry Advisory Committee  
206-937-7163; [garyann@quidnunc.net](mailto:garyann@quidnunc.net)

Vicki Schmitz-Block	Bruce Butterfield
Susan Lantz-Dey	Debbie Kerns
Trileigh Tucker	Vlad Oustimovitch
Martin Westerman	Gordon Wiehler

Judy Pickens, editor, [judy\\_pickens@msn.com](mailto:judy_pickens@msn.com)

Irene Stewart, webmaster/Facebook  
[FCAcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:FCAcommunications@gmail.com)

## DINERS GIVE BIG FOR FALL FESTIVAL

Planning for the 2014 edition of the Fauntleroy Fall Festival got a jump start on May 6 when diners at Endolyne Joe's generated \$1,872 to help keep the event free.

The restaurant gave \$1,068 as its percent-of-sales donation. Area businesses and organizations provided a wide variety of items to make up the many raffle baskets that went home with diners, bringing in another \$804.

The festival is set for Sunday afternoon, Oct. 19.



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# SEATTLE NATURE ALLIANCE EXPANDS BEYOND FAUNTLEROY

Just over a year ago, this newsletter announced formation of an advocacy group to promote and protect the natural areas in Lincoln Park. The group sprang up after park lovers learned that the city was exploring allowing a commercial zip line in the park to help meet expenses. With FCA's help, that idea quickly died.

Cass Nevada, Trileigh Tucker, and Denise Dahn heard the brouhaha over the zip line as a wake-up call to the potential loss of natural areas unless advocates were informed, organized, and persistent. The group they formed (the Alliance for Lincoln Park Nature) began to attract others willing to put their shoulders to the task of protecting and preserving the city's urban wild for all to enjoy.

Since then, Denise, Trileigh, and Mark Ahlness have emerged as ongoing leaders, it has grown in membership, and it has increased its online presence. The name also changed, to the Seattle Nature Alliance, to reflect a citywide reach.

This month, the alliance will be donating two interpretive signs that celebrate forest habitat in Schmitz Park. According to Denise, "The signs will help people connect with the sensitive life on the forest floor of West Seattle's prized old-growth forest."

If you might be interested in joining the alliance or simply want to know more, visit its new website at [www.seattlenaturealliance.org](http://www.seattlenaturealliance.org). On Facebook, the address is [www.facebook.com/SeattleNatureAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/SeattleNatureAlliance).

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Salon Fauntleroy  
Sheppard Bookkeeping Services  
The Kenney Retirement Community  
Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering  
West Seattle & Fauntleroy YMCA  
West Seattle Blog

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## THE FOREST FLOOR IS ALIVE

Please help it stay that way.

Please keep pets on leash.

Please stay on the trail  
to protect sensitive  
wildlife and plants.

Friends  
of Schmitz  
Preserve



The forest floor is a delicate,  
essential part of the forest.  
Learn more about plants  
and animals in the forest.



Seattle Parks and Recreation, Friends of Schmitz Preserve, and Seattle Nature Alliance.

## FliP FOCUSED ON LINCOLN'S FOREST

Friends of Lincoln Park (FliP) continues to focus the energy of park lovers on the huge task of stewarding the park's urban forest. FliP's First Saturday and third Sunday work parties engage regular, occasional, and one-time volunteers in removing invasive plants and revegetating with beneficial natives.

Read more at [www.FriendsOfLincolnPark.org](http://www.FriendsOfLincolnPark.org) and see the list of upcoming events on p. 7 for specifics about work parties this summer.

## SOLAR SAVINGS COMING TO TOWN

If you're interested in exploring solar energy for your home, you will soon have the services of a Solarize West Seattle campaign to draw on.

The campaign organized by Solarize Seattle as part of a statewide effort (Solarize Washington) to use public education and group discounts to simplify and cut the cost of investing in a solar electric system.

Locally, Solarize Seattle is managed and funded by Seattle City Light in partnership with Northwest SEED (Sustainable Energy for Economic Development), an environmental non-profit.

The Solarize West Seattle campaign got under way in late April by orienting volunteers to solar energy technology, costs, and outreach techniques. They are currently interviewing installation contractors and starting to reach out to homeowners through community meetings, festivals, and word of mouth.

Installation costs through the program are expected to be \$5,000 - \$7,000 per kilowatt (4 - 5 panels) after a 30-percent federal tax credit and a group discount from selected contractors of 10 - 15 percent are factored in.

Solarize West Seattle is the eighth local campaign organized by Northwest SEED. Previous campaigns have resulted in nearly 500 installations.

For more information and payback details, visit <http://solarizewa.org>.

# CONSTRUCTION OF THREE AREA PROJECTS ON OR HEAD OF TARGET

After many months of reading about these three water-related projects in Fauntleroy, you might think they will be with us forever. Not so. Each is headed toward completion no later than its target date.



Youngsters at the Fauntleroy Children's Center helped plant the rain garden. Photo courtesy Denise Wallace

## RAIN, RAIN, COME TO STAY

In May, the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center completed installation of a rain garden on the front lawn that will drain stormwater off 1,833 SF of roof for slow penetration into the groundwater.

Done in conjunction with efforts to keep more stormwater in the Fauntleroy area out of the combined-sewer system, the project qualified for a \$6,300 rebate from the city/county RainWise program.

Expect to learn more about the project during the Fauntleroy Fall Festival when representatives of King County's Environmental Water Treatment Division, RainWise, and Wenger Design & Landscape will be on hand to answer questions.

The schoolhouse rain garden was one of 38 RainWise installations in the Fauntleroy area through late May. The target is to complete another 50 installations by the end of the year.

Express your interest at <https://rainwise.seattle.gov> or contact [kristine.cramer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kristine.cramer@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-5415. Better yet, gather interest from several neighbors and a representative from RainWise will come talk with everyone at once.

## Murray CSO control

Work at Lowman Beach for Murray basin CSO control has advanced to construction of the outer wall of the facility's underground storage tank.

Crews have started a four-month process to replace the dirt in 80 ft.-deep holes with concrete cylinders called "secant" piles. Once the piles are locked together, they will form a watertight ring to keep water out of the tank area during excavation. The ring will also protect nearby utilities, roadways, and private properties from settlement.

For the latest information about this project, search "Murray tank" at [www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov) or call the 24-hour project information line: 206-205-9186.

## Barton CSO control

Construction is in full swing in the Sunrise Heights and Westwood neighborhoods to retain more stormwater where it falls.

The wells that will take stormwater deep underground are now installed on all 15 streets that are to have bioretention swales (roadside rain gardens). Crews were to complete the first set of swales (along 34th Ave. SW between SW Othello and SW Holden) by the end of May, with the two blocks to the south soon to follow. Go check them out!

For the latest on this project or to learn about local construction impacts, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/BartonCSO-GSI](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/BartonCSO-GSI). Or feel free to speak directly with Kristine Cramer at 206-477-5415.

## Barton Pump Station expansion

Construction of the expanded Barton Pump Station adjacent to the ferry terminal continues ahead of schedule, with completion expected late fall.

Crews are installing underground equipment and getting all the new equipment connected to the wastewater conveyance system. As underground work reaches completion, surface restoration will get under way this summer.



Brian McLoughlin (left) assisted artist Tom Jay (right) with casting the hands of Fauntleroy residents that will be part of the aluminum gate to the transformer at Cove Park. Tom and his wife, Sara Mall Johani (background), have

been working for months on all the salmon-related art that will grace the park around and atop the expanded pump station. Photo courtesy Gary Dawson



**Bruce Butterfield**

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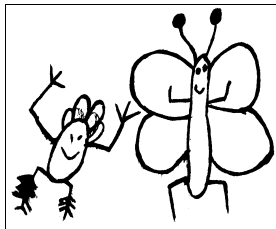
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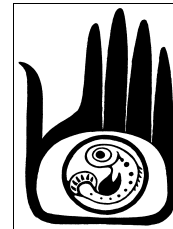
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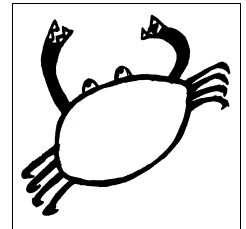
FOREST



FOREST



COVE



BEACH

# WATERSHED OFFERS PLAYFUL SUMMERTIME EXPLORATION

*This is the first installment of an occasional column exploring opportunities for children to play in Fauntleroy. If you have a favorite place or activity to suggest, contact judy\_pickens@msn.com or 206-938-4203.*

## By Judy Pickens

Several years ago, six area schools helped the Fauntleroy Watershed Council develop a set of six stone markers to identify water-related habitats. Those markers would make great "destinations" for a summer outing with elementary-age children.

Each group of students learned about a water-related habitat in the watershed, then suggested activities related to the habitat that youngsters their own age would find inviting and informative. They also suggested art and text for the markers.

One of the markers (beach) will be out of service until Cove Park reopens. The other five, though, are waiting to be discovered.

To begin your adventure, find "Link by Link" in the education section at [www.fauntleroywatershed.org](http://www.fauntleroywatershed.org). Worksheets there feature clues for finding each stone marker - two in Fauntleroy Park, one in Fenton Glen off the church parking lot, one at the fish-ladder viewpoint, and one in Captain's Park overlooking the cove.

If using the worksheets feels a little too much like school, then just go exploring and see how many of the markers you come across.

## SINCE YOU ASKED ...

*Respondents to FCA's 2013 community survey raised a number of questions of broad interest. FCA Director Gary Dawson takes on a key one about traffic: What's being done about the impact of vehicles moving to and from the ferry terminal onto neighborhood streets, especially Fauntleroy Way SW?*

This traffic problem is evident during peak morning and afternoon commute periods, when ferry traffic tries to mix with through local traffic and buses on Fauntleroy Way.

The most significant detriment to traffic flow and safety has been the disappearance of a uniformed officer to direct traffic to and from the dock. Apparently because of budget constraints, the Legislature cut funding for that service *only at Fauntleroy* and efforts by Washington State Ferries to obtain other monies for traffic management here have failed.

This subject often comes up when the Fauntleroy Ferry Advisory Committee meets with ferry officials and our counterparts on Vashon and at Southworth. They tend to approach the subject from the angle of traffic congestion and load/unload times.

The lack of traffic management will become more evident later this year when the ferry system increases capacity at Fauntleroy by bringing in another Issaquah-class boat to replace a smaller vessel. The additional cars will be maneuvering on and off the dock without traffic management, further congesting Fauntleroy Way and the ferry system's schedule.

Restoring traffic management here doesn't seem likely without action by a Legislature that has so far taken a pass on transportation funding. If and when it does act, the Fauntleroy Ferry Advisory Committee's position is that ferry *and* local traffic be allowed to flow safely and efficiently on Fauntleroy Way.

## CHILDREN AT PLAY IN FAUNTLEROY



9131 California Ave. SW, Suite 3A  
Seattle, WA 98136

amie.edmondson@prospectmtg.com  
[www.myprospectmortgage.com/aedmondson](http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/aedmondson)

206.355.4380



**Amie Edmondson**  
Senior Loan Officer

203K Renovation Specialist  
MNLS#284692; Branch#907363

Lifetime West Seattle Resident



# GROUP SEEKS TO PRESERVE SUBSTATIONS FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

Seattle City Light has for more than a year been in the process of deciding the fate of nine surplus substations in southwest Seattle. Six of them are in West Seattle/White Center and one of those is in Fauntleroy, at 46th Ave. SW and Brace Point Drive SW. (see map).

The FCA Board is supporting an effort by the West Seattle Green Spaces Coalition to retain these properties in the public domain as pocket parks or mini-botanical gardens.

As requested by the City Council, City Light studied 35 surplus parcels, most of which had been out of service for 20 years or longer. After seven community meetings and two public hearings, the agency last fall winnowed the list to the current group of nine citywide.

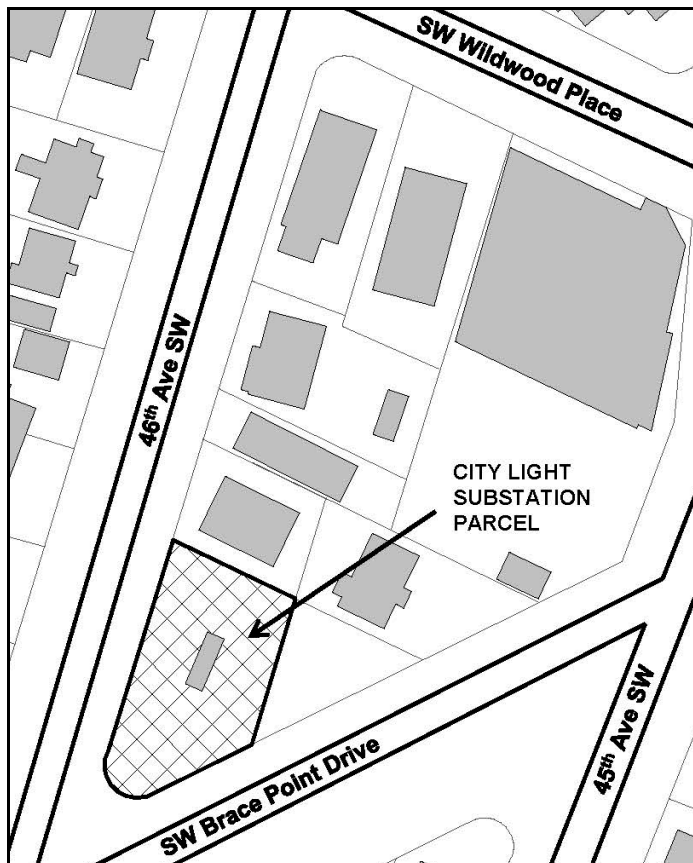
West Seattle residents and other environmental activists formed the coalition just over a year ago, shortly after City Light announced its intention to sell the properties unless neighborhoods presented solid preservation plans for each of them. In late February, the coalition asked the City Council to protect the parcels from sale or harm until a comprehensive plan could be developed and agreed to by all affected neighborhoods.

The coalition is seeking Fauntleroy residents interested in helping assemble a fund-raising and stewardship plan for the 6,800+ sq. ft. substation property here.

At its May meeting, the FCA Board authorized sending a letter to the City Council supportive of the coalition's position. In it, FCA President Mike Dey noted that the parcel is publicly owned by utility ratepayers and should stay in public hands, where it can continue to contribute to the city's green infrastructure.

"Public land is finite, and once it is sold, it is practically impossible to recover," he wrote. "We should cherish these resources, not sell them for development."

Long-term, the coalition wants to use its experience preserving the substation parcels to preserve other surplus properties citywide for the common good. To learn more about the coalition and explore getting involved, visit <http://westseattlegreenspaces.org>.



Map courtesy Phil Sweetland

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# SUMMERTIME GOINGS ON

The Hall at Fauntleroy will rock on **Friday evening, June 13**, when the West Seattle Big Band hosts the **First Annual Fauntleroy Swing Dance**. Tickets are \$15/person, available in the Fauntleroy Church office or through [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) ("Fauntleroy Swing").

Proceeds will benefit music programs at area public schools. Sponsors are the band, Fauntleroy Church, West Seattle and Fauntleroy YMCA, the Fauntleroy Community Association, and Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering. Dance lessons at **6:30 pm**; dancing (or just listening) at **7:00 pm**. Food and drink concessions on site. Request free child care at the church/Y by emailing [jackie@fauntleroyucc.org](mailto:jackie@fauntleroyucc.org).



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## SUMMER ON THE BEACH

A beach naturalist with the Seattle Aquarium will be at Lincoln Park for a free guided exploration at low tide on these dates:

June 11, 9:30am-1pm	July 11, 9:30am-1:30pm
June 12, 9:30am-1:30pm	July 12, 10am-2pm
June 13, 9:30am-1:30pm	July 13, 10am-2pm
June 14, 10:30am-2:30pm	July 14, 10:30am-2:30pm
June 15, 11:30am-3:30pm	July 26, 10:30am-1pm
June 27, 10am-1:30pm	July 27, 11am-1:30pm
June 28, 10:30am-1:30pm	August 9, 9:30am-12:30pm
June 29, 12pm-2:30pm	August 10, 10:30am-1:30pm
July 10, 9:30am-12:30pm	August 11, 10:30am-1:30pm

**FLIP ON THE JOB:** Show your love of the park's urban forest by joining **Friends of Lincoln Park** for work parties on the first Saturday (**June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6**) and/or third Sunday (**June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21**). Muster at the kiosk in the north parking lot at **9 am** with sturdy shoes, long pants, work gloves, and water. Contact: Sharon Baker at 206-464-1068 or [sabaker41@gmail.com](mailto:sabaker41@gmail.com).

**COMMUNITY BUSINESS:** The FCA Board invites residents to its monthly business meeting on second Tuesdays (**June 10, July 8, Sept. 9**) at **7 pm** in the



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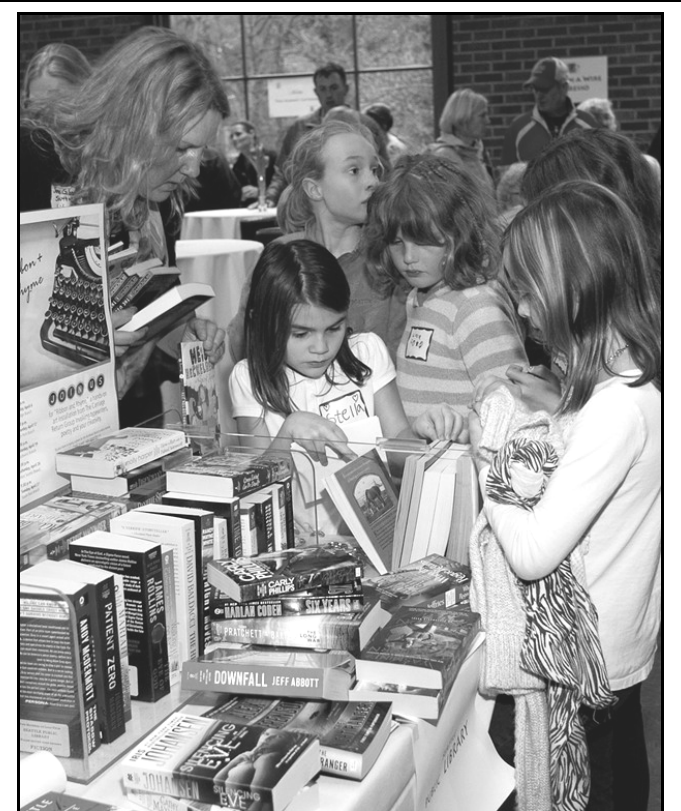
boardroom at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center. Contact FCA President Mike Dey about the agenda at [msdey50@aol.com](mailto:msdey50@aol.com) or 206-661-0673.



**SEATTLE NIGHT OUT:** This year's "Night Out Against Crime," sponsored by the Seattle Police Department, will be **Tuesday, August 5**. Get your street closed for a "Night Out" block party by registering at [www.seattle.gov/police/nightout](http://www.seattle.gov/police/nightout).

**WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP:** The **Fauntleroy Watershed Council** takes the summer off but will resume its bi-monthly meetings on **Thursday, Sept. 11**, at **7 pm** at Fauntleroy Church. Any watershed resident is welcome to participate in stewarding the community's natural areas. Information at [judy\\_pickens@msn.com](mailto:judy_pickens@msn.com) or 206-938-4203.

**BIG SALE:** The **20th Annual 2nd Time Sale** hosted by Fauntleroy Church will be **Saturday, Sept. 13** (9 am-3 pm) and **Sunday, Sept. 14** (11 am-1 pm) in and around Fellowship Hall. Watch for details at [www.fauntleroyucc.org](http://www.fauntleroyucc.org).



## BOOKWORMS FOUND AT FOOD FEST

Jane Gibson, librarian at Seattle Public Library's Southwest Branch, helped several book lovers find interesting titles at the **March 18 Fauntleroy Food Fest and Annual Membership Meeting** hosted by FCA. An estimated **200** area residents of all ages reconnected with neighbors and sampled information tables and food from local eateries. Photo courtesy Gail Ann Photography

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

# NEW, CONTINUING ISSUES SET FAST PACE FOR FCA

**By Mike Dey**

A lot has been happening since I became your community association president in March. Surely someone should have warned me that the pace would be this fast!

We've had important new issues to understand and take a position on. We've had issues from last year that continue to require our attention. And we've been keeping our ear to the ground so that our focus as a board accurately reflects your concerns.

Among the new issues we're digging into are micro-housing and low-rise housing as recently seen along California Ave. SW. Inadequate parking and lack of adequate review have prompted concerns about what similar development could mean if it's allowed to spread into our community.

The future of surplus City Light substations has also cropped up, requiring a better understanding of what the options are and what communities – including ours - want to become of the sites.

Continuing issues include a resolution to the loud motorcycle and automobile traffic to which many resi-

dents have been subjected, particularly associated with ferries. We have documented that the volume exceeds the 90 dB limit allowed by city ordinance. Seattle police have begun working with us to determine the best strategies for enforcement.

Another ongoing concern based on our survey last year is traffic in general. A community meeting later this year will involve all parties so that, together with you, we might make headway.

Also expect later this year to receive another survey asking for your input. The last one was so helpful in focusing our agenda that we'll do it again.

Finally, we are always looking for new board members, both people who have lived in Fauntleroy a long time and those that are newcomers. Let me or any current board member know if you might be interested in serving.

I'm looking forward to another productive year and I hope you are, too!

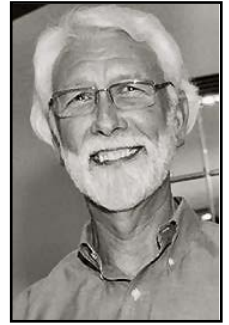


Photo courtesy Gail Ann Photography

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