

SEPTEMBER 2016

MANY HANDS AT WORK ON FALL FESTIVAL '16

Do you ever wonder how our free, wildly popular Fauntleroy Fall Festival comes together - who books the activities, secures funding, and assigns performers?

The short answer is volunteers, sponsors, and other supporters. Here's a look at how their many hands are working to stage the 2016 edition of the festival on Sunday, Oct. 23.

This year, Deb Kerns and Denise Wallace are co-chairing the festival. Deb

coordinated the first one, in 2002, and has led several since. Denise is property manager for the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center, a major festival venue.

As financial sponsors, the Fauntleroy Community Association, Fauntleroy Church, West Seattle and Fauntleroy YMCA, DSquared, and Little Pilgrim School have representatives on the festival steering committee. (FCA increased its donation this year to \$2,000.) Nucor Steel provides a generous grant and Endolyne Joe's hosts the annual fund-raiser; its percent-of-sales for the whole day in May added nearly \$2,800 to the kitty.

By September, committee members have been on the job for months, evaluating last year's festival, booking participants,



Photos courtesy Cindy Hegland, Ben Ackers

ordering supplies (including hundreds of pounds of pumpkins!), and beginning to recruit 80-plus volunteers for festival day.

Every year the committee weighs doing some things differently to make the festival experience better for all ages. As Deb explained, feedback continues to point toward tweaking around the edges, not to wholesale change. *(continued p. 5)*

CITY MOVES TOWARD EXPANDING COVE PARK

Many questions remain to be answered about the future of the white bungalow at 8923 Fauntleroy Way SW. What is known is that Seattle Parks and Recreation has set in motion a process that could lead to the property's becoming an extension of Cove Park.

In mid July, Seattle Parks recommended that King County move forward with requesting that the city vacate SW Barton right-of-way under its Barton Wastewater Pump Station. This would be the first step in a land swap that would result in the city's owning 8923 Fauntleroy Way SW and the county's renting the land under its facility at a reduced rate.

If the city gains ownership, Seattle Parks would redevelop the property as park land. This action would be in line with a city priority to secure more public access to shoreline as such opportunities arise.

King County bought the 68-year-old beachfront bungalow next to Cove Park and its 14,000-square-foot lot (including tidelands) for \$950,000 in 2008 and used it as a construction office during the three-year pump-station project. The county's stated intention back then was to return the property to single-family use.

Some 70 area residents attended a public meeting in May to learn more about possibilities for the property and to comment. As reported on the *West Seattle Blog*, *(continued p. 5)*

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FESTIVAL GOING WIRELESS

Instead of trying to read a paper map to find your way around the festival, you'll be able to use your smartphone. Posters with a large QR code will be positioned around the festival area. A quick scan will pull up the map showing the location and time of every activity.

If you don't have a smartphone, you'll find that directional signage will still be in place.

CREEK CULVERT UNDER 45TH IN PIPELINE FOR REPLACEMENT

By Judy Pickens

Heavy rainfall last fall increased the flow of water in Fautleroy Creek. Nothing unusual there.

What was unusual was a blockage of the culvert that conveys the water under 45th Ave. SW. Initially creek flow was slow to get through, causing modest backups. Then in early November, the blockage increased, creating a pond in the west end of the Kilbourne ravine that killed most of the plants recently installed there during the ongoing restoration project.

A crew from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) spent several days removing wood and concrete rubble from the pipe while directing much of the creek flow through a hose across the roadway. Then a video inspection of much of the 220 ft.-long clay culvert showed that it is in poor structural condition, with cracks and off-set joints.

That's when the division of SPU responsible for managing the city's drainage and wastewater system prioritized the culvert for replacement. The first phase of SPU's process for such capital-improvement projects is "options analysis" during which a project team will document existing conditions and evaluate options for culvert replacement.

Because of the culvert's poor structural condition, repair is not an option and, when such culverts are replaced, state law requires that barriers to fish passage be eliminated. The existing culvert (thought to have been built between 1915 and 1936) was designed such that it blocked salmon spawners from reaching habitat as far upstream as the middle reach of the creek.

Over the summer, SPU built temporary stairs into the west end of the ravine, leading to the culvert inlet, so crews have safe access. A locked gate will provide entry to city workers, consultants, and contractors, not to the general public.

This fall, SPU plans to complete a thorough video of the pipe, a survey of the area, and possibly a geotech assessment. Options analysis is scheduled to start in early 2017 once a consultant is hired.



"This phase is expected to take about a year and will include an opportunity for the public to provide input on proposed alternatives," said Betsy Lyons, senior capital project coordinator at SPU. "Options may include a box culvert, other culvert designs, or a bridge."

Designing, permitting, bidding, and negotiating contracts will also take time, Lyons emphasized. The entire process will extend for several years.

"If all goes well," she said, "construction could start as early as 2020, pending availability of construction funding in the millions of dollars."

SPU is working with the Fautleroy Watershed Council to determine how and where to compensate for the loss of plants caused by last fall's flooding.

"Since the culvert will eventually be replaced," Lyons said, "replanting at the culvert inlet may not make sense so we're looking at other locations in the ravine where planting or invasive-species control would be beneficial."

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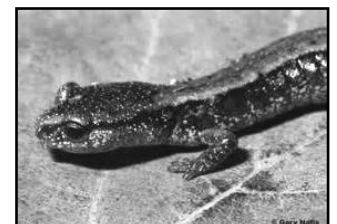
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SALAMANDER FOUND IN RAVINE

Year 3 of the six-year Kilbourne ravine restoration project has been all about checking survival of new plants and keeping the pressure on invasives such as blackberry and wild clematis. What the EarthCorps crew didn't expect to find while working in the ravine in July was a western redback salamander making good use of the increasingly healthy habitat.

Plethodon vehiculum is black with a reddish stripe from head to tail and can measure up to four inches long. It prefers to live under rocks or rotting logs near springs or small streams.

Although common in western Washington, this is the first documentation of it along the Fautleroy Creek corridor.



LEON HARMAN

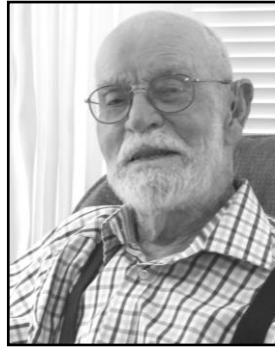
LETTER WRITING LAUNCHED LONG CAREER HELPING IMPROVE COMMUNITY

By Judy Pickens

Search "Leon Harman" on the *West Seattle Blog* and you'll get "no results found." That's not because Leon has no results to his name but rather because putting his name on them has never been his style.

Leon is best known in Fauntleroy as a member of the founding team for what became Cove Park. He was there in 1997 at the first meeting to talk about creating the street-end park next to the ferry terminal and he was there at every work party through 2013, when King County closed the park to expand its wastewater pump station at that site, then opened the rebuilt park in 2015.

But Leon's contributions to the neighborhood, city, and state go much further back, primarily because the 93-year-old retired Seattle City Light engineer has been very good at writing letters.



Take Blake Island Marine State Park.

After World War II, he and his older brother, Elmer, were among boaters who enjoyed picnics on the beach there. The state maintained timberland on the south end for public schools but the rest belonged to a wealthy family, then to an investment company.

When word spread in the late 1950s about a possible luxury resort, Leon and Elmer wrote to the state, suggesting it preserve the entire island. Other boaters and the state lands commissioner had the same idea and in 1959 the island became a state park.

Boating also introduced Leon to what became Cove Park. He and Elmer used to launch their small sailboat at the foot of SW Barton.

"At one point the city wanted to reinforce the shoreline there with broken concrete and we wrote a convincing letter asking that a low bulkhead and skiff launch be installed instead," he recalled. Eventually, the city recognized the value of such shoreline street ends and removed even those modest structures to restore the natural beach.

Leon's love for tennis (and for his wife, Elaine, whom he met at the court in Lowman Beach Park) led him to write another successful letter.

"When our two children were young, they could never get on the two courts in Lincoln Park," he said. "I wrote to the Parks people and they agreed with me that we needed more courts."

Plans were announced in 1964 for six courts at the Lincoln Park Annex, since renamed Solstice Park. Fifty years later, fellow tennis players contributed toward a bench at the courts in recognition of Leon's dedication to improving the tennis scene in West Seattle.

Leon has retired from playing tennis but he still follows with interest the project to cover the courts adjacent to the Southwest Community Center. "I have an idea for a fundraiser that might work there," he offered.

As a career city employee, Leon knew that civic improvements start with someone's seeing a need. While living in his family's first home, on SW Willow, he noticed that the alley was always a mess from grass clippings that residents dumped there. He checked with the city, learned of a citywide project, and the alley was soon on the list for paving.

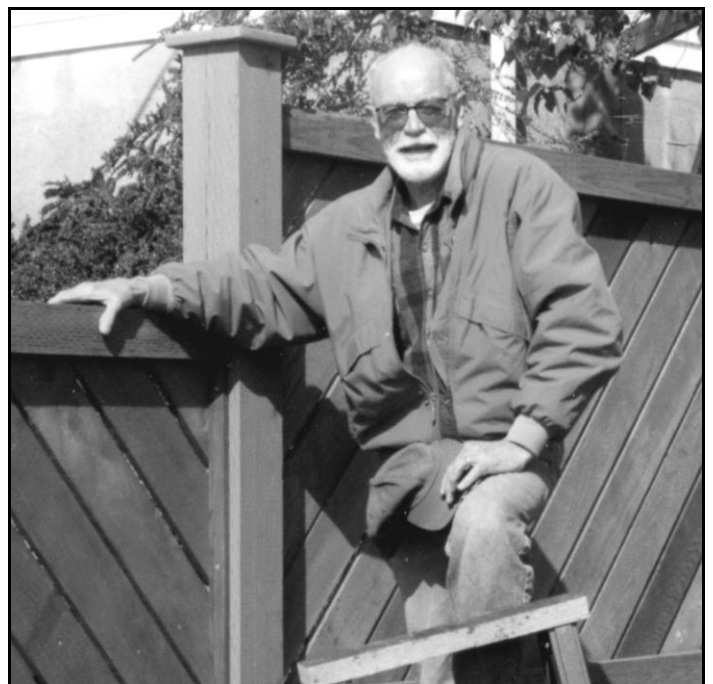
In 2013, Leon's sixth application for \$39,000 in sidewalk repairs at SW Cloverdale between Fauntleroy Place SW and 46th Ave. SW won city funding.

"I persisted because I knew I'd be using a cane before long and wouldn't be able to get through there unless the sidewalk was fixed," he said. By the time the city completed the work, he and Elaine had moved to Bridge Park in the High Point neighborhood.

While Leon clearly enjoys knowing he has a bench at the tennis courts and his fingerprints all over Cove Park, his approach to community involvement has been that of a sergeant, not a general: "It's always been about 'we,' he emphasized, "not 'I.'"

Leon honed his stone-seating and fence-building skills as a member of the volunteer team that developed and maintained Cove Park, starting in 1997.

Photos courtesy
Ware Lantz and
Judy Pickens



RESIDENT PARKING BY PERMIT ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE

By Judy Pickens

In 1979 when the City of Seattle instituted restricted parking zones, this neighborhood was among the first to win approval, primarily because of commuters who parked on residential streets weeknight and weekends in order to walk on the ferry.

The annual permit sticker cost \$8 and the 10-block zone did its job, restricting overnight parking to residents with permits. Now an annual sticker costs \$65 and the supply of parking spaces for Fauntleroy residents and their guests appears to have dwindled.

In April, Norm Schwab, a block watch captain on 47th Ave. SW, brought the need to revisit RPZ Zone 3 parking in the immediate vicinity of the ferry terminal to the FCA Board. The board appointed him to lead a committee to examine use of street parking by non-residents and recommend what action the board should take. Gary Dawson, Alexis Zolner, and Catherine Bailey are also on the committee.

In July, they hit the streets at 4:00 am and tallied 70 vehicles with RPZ stickers south and east of the ferry terminal. At 2:00 pm, they found that only 39 of the 93 parked vehicles had stickers. To trigger an official study, the Seattle Department of Transportation requires that street parking be at least 75 percent full and that at least 35 percent of those vehicles be non-resident.

The committee will repeat its study in mid September, when parking returns to more usual patterns after Vashon schools are in session again and summer vacations for ferry workers and commuters are over.

Norm noted several factors that are putting increased pressure on neighborhood street parking:

- Few ferry workers are not using the parking reserved for them at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center.
- The ferry system's first shift now starts at 5:00 am instead of 6:00 am. Workers find a parking space on the street by about 4:30 am and take the chance that they won't be ticketed before restricted parking ends a half hour later. Norm noted that ferry workers will often pick up workers from the prior shift, deliver them to their cars, and then take the open parking space.
- Ferry shifts are extending worker street parking to as late as 10:30 pm - well after residents could have used those parking spaces for guests or their own cars.

- Bus commuters are doing "hide and ride" during the day, stashing cars on Fauntleroy streets in order to catch the Rapid Ride C line.

- Seattle residents who attend Vashon High School are parking here during the day to walk on the ferry.


- Increased ferry prices are prompting more people to park on this side, walk on the boat, and be picked up on the other side.

- Recreational bikers are also parking here, then walking their bikes onto the ferry.

"You add and add," Norm said, "which leads to a lot of our street parking being taken most of the day." He expects the committee's fall survey to meet the city's 75 percent/35 percent thresholds to warrant a full study. Once the FCA Board requests it, the study could take SDOT up to a year to complete.



Gordon Wiehler was at the grill on Aug. 2 when he and Sheila Weaver hosted neighbors along 46th/47 Ave. SW for Seattle Night Out, encouraged annually by the Seattle Police Department. Gatherings throughout Fauntleroy were both social *and* a crime deterrent. Photo courtesy Martha Callard



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COVE PARK (CONTINUED)

most comments favored retaining it as a single-family home. Concerns about expanding the park centered on the city's ability to ensure public safety, adequately maintain the park over time, and prevent any expansion of the ferry terminal.

The meeting surfaced several questions that the FCA Board is pursuing with city staff. In late July, Chip Nevins, acquisition planner with Seattle Parks, responded to three, emphasizing that answers to others will come from different city departments as the process moves forward.

Would using the property to expand Cove Park provide a buffer in perpetuity against enlargement of the ferry terminal? It's no guarantee but it would make expansion much more difficult than if the property stayed as it is now.

(Note: Technically, if the Seattle Department of Transportation allows use of the property as park land but retains title, SDOT could ask for it back at anytime.)

How dutifully and diligently would Seattle Parks maintain the expanded Cove Park? Very, Nevins said, and the department would work with neighbors to reduce any illegal activity occurring there.

(Note: If SDOT retains title, Seattle Parks' rules, such as no dogs on the beach, may not apply.)

How might getting a "free" slice of shoreline pencil out for the city and would money be diverted from other projects to meet redevelopment or maintenance costs? Redevelopment costs won't be known until later in the process and will have to be allocated. Capital-improvement funding earmarked for other West Seattle projects would not be affected. Seattle Parks would need to request sufficient operation-and-maintenance funding to cover ongoing care of the park.

The next step is for the county to request that SDOT vacate the street end. That request would need to go to City Council and would be subject to public comment.

BUSINESS NOTE

While the grand opening of the Wildwood Market is still in future tense, a lot of tearing out, cleaning, and planning have been going on at 45th Ave. SW and SW Wildwood Place. Owners Lonjina Verdugo and Blaine Fielding are posting updates at www.facebook.com/wildwoodmarket. Also, they've launched a crowd-funding campaign. Find out more at [#makewildwoodhappen](https://twitter.com/makewildwoodhappen).



Cove Park on the left and King County's bungalow on the right. Photo courtesy *West Seattle Blog*

FALL FESTIVAL (CONTINUED)

"We keep an eye on attendance at the various activities to know what should stay on the list," she said. "And kids say they look forward to the familiar and to aging into the more challenging activities that we have every year."

Topping the list of festival supporters are the church, Y, Fauntleroy Children's Center, Dance! West Seattle, and DSquared, which open their facilities for everything from performances to bounce toys, restrooms to the cake walk. West Seattle Nursery has been a faithful in-kind supporter for many years, loaning plants to give a fall feel to activities in the church parking lot.

Add to the list the organizations and individuals that participate for free every year, including the Fauntleroy Watershed Council (salmon hats), the Seattle Fire Department (truck tours), and Gail Ann Photography (straw-bale portraits).

If you'd like to get in on the fun of Fauntleroy Fall Festival 2016, come on Oct. 23, 2 - 5 pm, and invite a neighbor to join you.

Or if you'd *really* like to experience the festival, give a hand as a volunteer by calling or stopping by the Fauntleroy Church office (206-932-5600) to select an assignment.

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FALL BRINGS EVENT WINDFALL

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL: Residents wanting to steward natural areas are welcome **Thursday, Sept. 8,** and **Nov. 10** at **7 pm** at Fauntleroy Church. Contact judy_pickens@msn.com or 206-938-4203.

FCA BUSINESS: Regular monthly meetings will be **Tuesday, Sept. 13, Oct. 11,** and **Nov. 8** at **7 pm** in the conference room at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center. For agenda details, contact FCA President Mike Dey at msdey50@aol.com or 206-661-0673.

2ND TIME SALE: Come to browse and take home a treasure **Sept. 17 - 18** at Fauntleroy Church. Bargain pricing on almost anything you could want, all clean, culled, and organized. **Sat. 9 am - 4 pm; Sun. 11:30 am - 2 pm.** Bake sale on Saturday. Cash or check only.

LINCOLN PARK: The Friends of Lincoln Park group hosts twice-monthly work parties to restore and maintain natural areas. Upcoming dates: third Sundays (**Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20**) and first Saturdays (**Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3**). Muster at **9 am** at the kiosk in the north parking lot with sturdy shoes, long pants, work gloves, water, and layers suited to the weather. Contact: Sharon Baker at sabaker41@gmail.com or 206-464-1068.

RECYCLE ROUNDUP: The green committee at Fauntleroy Church and 1 Green Planet will host the fall roundup on **Sunday, Sept. 25, 9 am - 3 pm** in the church parking lot. See the long list of what to bring and the short list of what not to bring at www.fauntleroyucc.org or on the *West Seattle Blog*. Free; donation optional.

ARTIST DEADLINE: West Seattle artists and artistic crafters must apply by **Sept. 30** for the chance to be in the ninth annual **Fauntleroy Fine Art & Holiday Gift Show** (Nov. 11-13). For details, visit www.fauntleroyucc.org or call the church office at 206-932-5600.

CROP WALK: The annual Crop Walk to raise awareness about hunger and fund local and international relief will be **Sunday, Oct. 9,** starting at **1 pm** at Alki United Church of Christ, 6115 SW Hinds. To ask about walking or donating, email info@fauntleroyucc.org or call 206-932-5600.

CELEBRATE 94 YEARS OF YMCA

Fauntleroy history will be center stage on **Thursday, Sept. 22,** when the Southwest Seattle Historical Society helps the YMCA celebrate 94 years serving West Seattle.

"HiSTORY, HerSTORY, OurSTORY, YourSTORY" will feature a panel of local residents - Larry Pierce, Ann Adkins, Bruce Davis, and Ruthie Waid - sharing memories of the West Seattle and Fauntleroy Y, from swim lessons to Camp Colman and the Bean Feed.

This free, interactive event is for ages 6 to 96, so bring stories and memorabilia to share, **5:30-7:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall at Fauntleroy Church. RSVP by **Sept. 15** to mgroen@seattleyymca.org or 206-935-6000. Indicate if you'd like free childcare (4 wks.-12 yrs.).



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: The annual blessing of furry, feathered, or scaly friends will be **Sunday, Oct. 16,** at **2 pm** in the sanctuary at Fauntleroy Church. A reception for all will follow. Free.

Pat Gedney's Chinese pug, Rocky, received a blessing at the 2015 service. Photo courtesy Klem Clements

FAUNTLEROY FALL FESTIVAL: Don't miss this annual fun-for-all event on **Sunday, Oct. 23,** in the church/YMCA/schoolhouse triangle. **2 - 5 pm** with free activities for everyone, plus food vendors.

SALMON DRUMMING: Come to the fish-ladder viewpoint (upper Fauntleroy Way SW and SW Director) on **Sunday, Oct. 30, 5 pm** with whatever you consider a drum for drumming, singing, and silliness to call in the coho spawners to Fauntleroy Creek. All-ages; free.

NINTH ANNUAL FAUNTLEROY FINE ART & HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW: At least a dozen selected West Seattle artists and creative crafters will show, sell, and discuss their work **Nov. 11 - 13** in Fellowship Hall at Fauntleroy Church. **Fri. 5 - 8 pm, Sat. 10 am - 4 pm, Sun. 11 am - 2 pm.** Free; watch www.fauntleroyucc.org for details.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING: Planning is under way for Fauntleroy Church to host an alternative gift fair for the community on **Sat., Dec. 10, 10 am - 2 pm.** It will offer an easy way to make a difference with your Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and/or solstice gifts by donating to charities and nonprofits working here and around the world. Watch www.fauntleroyucc.org for details.

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PLANTER BOXES TO COMPLETE SAFETY CHANGES AT TRIANGLE

Traffic-safety improvements at the Endolyne triangle, long sought by residents and FCA, are almost finished.

The Seattle Department of Transportation painted areas during the heat of August to make a portion of SW Brace Point Drive one way, add angle parking there, restrict parking along the curve linking California Ave. SW and SW Wildwood Place, and extend the safety island at that intersection. SDOT also added in-street bicycle parking in front of Endolyne Joe's to eliminate a blind spot.

The nearly \$33,000 project will culminate this fall with installation of 12 self-irrigating planter boxes to separate pedestrian areas from traffic flow. The FCA Board expects to have a role in selecting drought-tolerant flowers and shrubs for the boxes and has agreed to support their long-term maintenance.

The improvements in Fauntleroy's business district are part of the city's "Vision Zero" plan to achieve zero traffic

deaths and serious injuries by 2030. Smarter street design is a major component of the plan, as are targeted enforcement and public education.

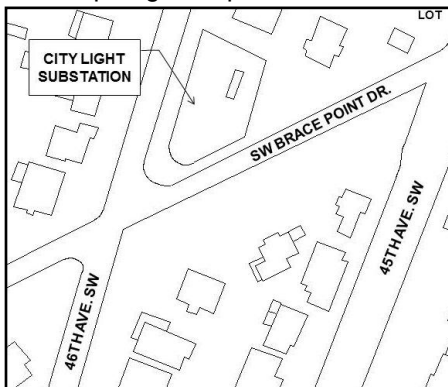
VISION ZERO YARD SIGNS

SDOT has four styles of brightly colored Vision Zero yard signs available for the asking: "20 is plenty," "Look out for one another," "Keep kids safe," and "Stop for pedestrians." If putting one of these messages at a nearby traffic circle or in your planting strip could make your street safer, get your sign at the city's Southwest Customer Service Center (28th SW and SW Thistle). Preview the signs at <http://sdotblog.seattle.gov/2016/06/01/yard-signs-get-your-vision-zero-yard->

CITY GRANT INCHES SUBSTATION CLOSER TO BECOMING GREENSPACE

FCA has just finalized a \$4,000 matching grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to advance community-based nonprofit ownership of the Seattle City Light property at 4520 SW Brace Point Dr.

In 2009, the utility began a lengthy process of disposing of nine substations it no longer needed, including the corner property in Fauntleroy that had been a City Light facility for more than 60 years. Several area residents approached the FCA Board with their interest in seeing it become a landscaped greenspace.



After reviewing the site's potential as a public park, Seattle Parks and Recreation determined that the 6,848 sf parcel is too small for a public park and it's not in an area underserved by the parks system.

In September 2015, the city authorized the sale of most of the properties but held off on the Fauntleroy one in order to give FCA until the end of this year to raise the \$245,000 asking price.

"The \$4,000 grant is for creation of a landscape design to help with fundraising," explained board member and project lead Shannon Ninburg. "The sketch is aimed at making the case to donors both large and small who are able to contribute towards preserving the site. If our goal to acquire the site is not met, donations will be refunded."

Parties interested in contributing to this neighborhood project should contact Shannon at 206-851-1457 or shannonninburg@yahoo.com.

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- Endolyne Joe's Restaurant
- Fauntleroy Children's Center
- Fauntleroy Church, United Church of Christ
- Fauntleroy Community Service Agency
- Pilates At Fauntleroy
- Sheppard Bookkeeping Services
- Stuffed Cakes
- Synergy HomeCare
- The Kenney Retirement Community
- West Seattle and Fauntleroy YMCA
- West Seattle Blog

Worshiping and learning together, caring for ourselves and others, and working to preserve justice, peace, and the sanctity of God's world.



10 AM Sunday worship
206-932-5600
www.fauntleroyucc.org
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DYING HUMPBACK PROMPTED OUTPOURING THAT DREW COMMUNITY CLOSER

By FCA President Mike Dey

That warm Sunday morning, I glanced up from my morning coffee and thought I saw an especially big log in Fautleroy Cove. I couldn't recall that the tide was to be so high as to wash such a log so near beach.

Then I saw the "log" move. Then I saw three people with their eyes glued to what was obviously a whale!

Now I was in a dilemma: Should I wake our house guests so they could see this remarkable creature or let them sleep? I wandered down in my bathrobe to watch the whale swimming north towards the ferry dock. As it came closer, I went back in to wake Susan. She had a look and promptly woke our niece and all the commotion woke everyone else. What a sight!

We've had the pleasure of seeing whales up north but never a humpback whale in Puget Sound, much less Fautleroy Cove. As we watched her, a few more people took notice, then Seal Sitters arrived to set up a wide perimeter around her and whale researchers appeared. Next came the media, then police to control the growing crowd with "Police Line Do Not Cross" tape.

Throughout the day, a crowd constantly lined the rail along the dock's pedestrian walkway - passengers and drivers waiting for the ferry, people coming off the boat, folks from the community. By the end of the day, an



estimated thousand neighbors, friends, and passersby had come to see the whale.

At least three news media reported from the scene. Much to Seafair's disappointment, I suspect, the whale appeared to get at least as much coverage as the hydros and Blue Angels.

Alongside the sorrow of witnessing such an enormous, remarkable creature die right in front of us was the thrill of seeing the community come out. Youngsters and elders, individuals and families were all touched by one of those rare events that leave a permanent mark on a people and a place.

The chatter on the beach was wonderful! What kind of whale is she? What's wrong with her? Is she alive or dead? Did she wash up or swim up? How big is she? What's going to happen to her? Why did she die?

Even the next day after she was moved off the beach, people came back, quietly pausing to contemplate what they had witnessed the day before.

It was by far the most exciting community event I have experienced. While I was sad to see her die, we can celebrate that we got to see her at all. She proved that the humpback population has sufficiently recovered from over hunting to return to Puget Sound.

Although she arrived weak and at the point of death, she prompted a tremendous outpouring of interest and concern that drew our community a little bit closer.

KEEP UP TO DATE ON FAUTLEROY EVENTS ON FACEBOOK
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