



WINTER 2007

## MEET THE MAYOR

### A forum on transportation and other community issues in Fauntleroy

Thursday, March 1st at 6:30 – At the Hall at Fauntleroy

Send your questions to:  
News@Fauntleroy.net

**By Bruce Butterfield**

How often do you get a chance to ask the Mayor about life here in Fauntleroy? Away from sound bites and newspaper headlines for all of Seattle, this evening will focus on our neighborhood, your commute, and your ability to get emergency care..."stat!"

The Fauntleroy Community Association welcomes Mayor Greg Nickels to a neighborhood meeting Thursday, March 1st. Transportation will be the main focus of the night--the issue that tops the list of concerns when we ask residents what their "hot button issues" are.



- How concerned are you about speed enforcement?
- Do you wonder where you can cross the street safely?
- What are your concerns about parking?
- How will we cope with 3 years of viaduct-less construction?
- What about the Spokane Street Viaduct project we've heard about for years?
- What are the plans to handle medical emergencies and access to care during viaduct construction?
- Why should Fauntleroy and West Seattle need to be a driveway for Kitsap County?

The ferry system wants to provide Southworth-South Kitsap commuters access to where they want to go--downtown Seattle. While the new Colman Dock is being rebuilt on Seattle's waterfront, this is our ONLY

chance in the next several decades to address the issue. A fourth ferry slip will be required to get auto ferries straight to downtown from Southworth, which would mean less cars per day through Fauntleroy, over the bridge and merging with I-5 or highway 99.

And that viaduct! While I'm sure the topic will come up, this will *not* be a discussion of the merits of a tunnel vs. an elevated structure or a vote for either. Instead, we want to address the challenges and solutions anticipated for whatever kind of construction is coming and how we'll cope during those years.

*Learn about options. We've invited information and visual displays from;*

- Washington State Ferries and their Long Range Plan for handling population growth
- SDOT's plans for the Spokane Street and Alaskan Way Viaducts
- The West Seattle Mosquito with Water Taxi plans for the future
- Metro Transit's TRANSIT NOW solutions
- SNAP, (Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare) to display their emergency preparedness tips and strategies so you're ready the next time your house gets dark and cold unexpectedly.

We had a warning in December about what life without power, water and other services for several days can be. This is your chance to be prepared for the next surprise.

We'd like you to spread the word. Ask neighbors about their concerns in Fauntleroy. Bring neighbors and friends to the forum on March 1st--let the mayor know what's on your mind. Send your questions to us, we'll collect them before and during the meeting and group them into categories to ask the mayor.

**Let your voice be heard.**

**Send your questions for the Mayor to News@Fauntleroy.net**

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SALMON?

By Judy Pickens

Salmon watchers on Fauntleroy Creek this fall had their biggest disappointment in more than a decade when no salmon returned. Volunteers began watching the cove in mid September and monitoring the creek from late October through November. They never saw a fish.

The 2006 coho return was sparse to nonexistent throughout the city. Chum, which have slightly different timing, came in strong to Piper's Creek in north Seattle.

Reasons for the scarcity of coho spawners are speculative but indicators suggest that two factors were at play. The major one seems to have been an area of warm water off the Oregon-Washington coast that killed many coho during their ocean phase. The

few that survived to return to Puget Sound faced the second factor: especially aggressive commercial fishing. Tribal gillnetters and purse seiners worked the waters hard this fall, including between Fauntleroy Cove and Alki when any coho would have been heading in.

This will be the second spring without a "home hatch" in the lower creek. Torrential rains washed out redds last winter and would likely have done so again this winter, had we had any redds.

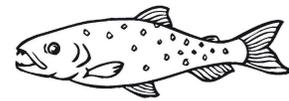
Thanks to all the stalwart volunteers who stood watch. We'll soon start smolt trapping to record what leaves the creek and schools will again release fry in the spring.

# STUDENT SCIENTISTS STUDY CREEK HABITAT

By Judy Pickens

For the sixth year in a row, students from Arbor Heights Elementary School collected data in upper Fauntleroy Creek in October to gauge habitat health. The research project teaches fourth and fifth graders about elements of a healthy watershed, demonstrates ways to be stewards of the local watershed, and contributes to a growing body of knowledge about aquatic insects in the creek.

Working in teams led by teacher Lynn Barnicle, the 25 students used simplified scientific protocol to examine samples from the creek, identified riparian plants, collected garbage, and documented the field trip in photos. They also took readings to determine water chemistry and temperature.



Findings show that, over the years, the channel at Fenton Glen has widened and the water has gotten warmer. The number and variety of aquatic insects (a prime food source for juvenile salmon) have dropped. These findings suggest deteriorating instream conditions at the study site. The amount of garbage counted and collected in the past three years has significantly decreased, however, suggesting better stewardship by park users.

Class representatives reported their research to the Fauntleroy Watershed Council in November. Their findings were relayed to habitat specialists at Seattle Public Utilities and are being factored into planning for spot restoration of the creek channel.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NOTEPAD

By Bruce Butterfield, President

The FCA is much more than a community organization because it is made up of people, people who are our neighbors and friends. Busy lifestyles often make meeting neighbors and getting to know other Fauntleroy residents a challenge. With that in mind, the FCA board members thought that it might make some sense to introduce board members, and in the future, other active neighbors in this newsletter through a series of profiles.

By including these profiles of diverse, interesting and hard working community leaders and volunteers in each issue of *Neighbors* will provide some



personal history and demonstrate each person's connection to the neighborhood that we share.

Many of you know our first subject, Gary Dawson. He is a long-time board member and past president. Gary is a community advocate and has played a lead role in forging our excellent working relationship with the Washington State Ferry System.

We hope you will join us at one of our monthly business meetings – and meet Gary and other board members in person. Meetings are open to the public, held at the Fauntleroy Children's Center, the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. Please join us.

# GATEWOOD ELEMENTARY'S OPERATION IMAGINATION

## Building a Neighborhood Legacy

By Lisa Conley

Last year, Gatewood Elementary received Department of Neighborhood Small and Simple funding to launch *Operation Imagination*, an initiative to involve neighbors of all ages, local businesses, and the school community in transforming the school grounds into a space that promotes community and learning. Over the course of the year, Gatewood neighbors, families, staff and businesses worked together with Karen Kiest, a landscape architect, to develop and ratify a master design plan for the school's grounds.

With the endorsement of the neighborhood, Gatewood school community and the Seattle Public School District, *Operation Imagination* is moving forward to raise over \$200,000 to make the improvements recommended by the master plan, bringing the imagined into reality.

With the grounds improvements, *Operation Imagination* will create places for kids, families and elders to learn through play, exploration, nature and community gatherings. The design takes advantage of the beauty of the grand, historic school building as well as a fantastic setting featuring towering firs and views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains.



Highlights include:

- An amphitheater for outdoor assemblies and neighborhood events
- New plantings, featuring native species
- 30 new trees.
- An improved play field for active outdoor pursuits.
- A new play structure for upper elementary school-aged kids and upgrades and improvements to the existing play structure.
- Resurfaced and redefined hardscape areas, supporting broadened games and recreational activities and physical education.

The enhanced school grounds will include the Inter-generational Learning Gardens, supporting curriculum based learning and providing a place where students and elders from the neighborhood and the Kenney Home can gather and share knowledge of nature, horticulture, ecology, and the environment.

Construction and landscaping are slated to begin in the fall and are anticipated to be completed by late 2008.

For nearly 100 years (Gatewood will celebrate its centennial in 2008), Gatewood Elementary School has been a hub of West Seattle's Morgan-Gatewood-Fauntleroy neighborhoods. It is currently the educational home of 275 kindergarten to fifth grade students and is recognized for its innovative educational approach.

For more information about *Operation Imagination*, please contact Lisa Conley at (206) 938-1947.

## IB PROCESS CONTINUES AT SEALTH

By Molly Seaverns

Chief Sealth High School is in its second year of a two year accreditation process required to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, which is a prestigious college prep course of study for Junior and Senior high school students. When accredited, CSHS will become the 14<sup>th</sup> Washington high school to offer students this globally focused and highly rigorous integrated curriculum.

IB Accreditation Team visited Chief Sealth in late October and met with staff, students and community members. Their evaluation of the school facilities, curriculum preparation, and student involvement went extremely well and the team was particularly impressed with the level of dedication of the school staff and the commitment to international education

by the community. Results from the IB accreditation evaluation are due later this spring.

The IB Advisory Board of distinguished community members met in December to offer guidance to help realize the vision of a highly inclusive program. Chief Sealth has a goal of involving up to 70% of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the program.

Students throughout the community can participate in a new Chinese course offered at Chief Sealth High School. The hope is to eventually expand language offerings as part of the IB program in the future.

To learn how you can support Sealth's IB program, go to – <http://home.comcast.net/~west-seattleib/WestSeattleIB.html> on the Web or send e-mail to [westseattleib@comcast.net](mailto:westseattleib@comcast.net).

# STORM STORY

By Gary Dawson

Like many residents in West Seattle, we didn't sleep much the night of 14-15 December owing to the big wind storm sweeping through the Northwest.



Lincoln Park lost many old trees

Late afternoon on the 14<sup>th</sup>, an unprecedented and unpredicted torrential rain hit us just as the wind was picking up. Water cascading down streets carrying leaves and debris soon plugged storm drains



One of many houses decorated by nature

in many streets and the lower areas of Fauntleroy Way. The blockage allowed a lake to form on Fauntleroy Way that was soon two blocks long and over a foot deep in places. Clearing drains as the

rain eased a bit drained the lake but weeks later mud and debris remain even neighbors gathered to clean the streets after the storm.

The main reason for being sleepless in Seattle that night was the continuous din from the wind and flying objects striking the house.

Also adding to the anxiety is a row of very large fir trees across the street from our block, the only barrier between us and the open waters of Puget Sound. They remain standing, although thinned out a bit by the wind as they launched limbs and branches all night long. Many struck roof tops and house walls, and in our case, caused some punctures in the siding. One of them just inches from the bedroom window.

But we were luckier than some. All we lost is electrical power for a while and some sleep. Both were restored by the next night.



Several landslides threatened the Maplewood neighborhood

# WELCOME BAG BRIGADE CONTINUES ITS WORK

By Ann Dunbar

Welcome bags are a hit! Along with the help of neighbors Lisa Olson, Kim Petram and Leon Harmon, we delivered about 30 bags to Fauntleroy households this last summer and fall. We had positive experiences chatting with folks, sharing info about the neighborhood and inviting them to join the FCA. The welcome bags contain info about FCA, area businesses, the Fauntleroy Stream, and local public transportation. It also includes a home made gift, such as note cards, jars of jam/honey, or soap which are made by FCA members.

One new Fauntleroy family that we welcomed was the Bruchals. Kurt and Liisa Bruchal moved into their home on 47th Ave SW last spring with their two children, Tukr and Silia. Liisa had grown up in the West Seattle area, so she and Kurt knew that it was a great place to raise their family. They also wanted to be in the Fauntleroy community because of the great small businesses it offers, and the proximity to Lincoln Park. Both children attend West Seattle schools. Liisa told me that they have been quite happy in their new home, and have felt warmly welcomed by their neighbors. Welcome to the

Bruchals!

I've received several e-mails/phone calls asking for bags to deliver to more new neighbors. Thanks for this support! My contact info again is: Ann Dunbar, 933-5575 or [dunbar@zipcon.net](mailto:dunbar@zipcon.net). If you want to deliver the bag yourself, I'm happy to drop a bag by your home. I really encourage this as an opportunity to visit with a new neighbor before you need to meet them after a storm or other emergency! It is also a way to build your immediate community. If you would like for me to set up a delivery, please provide me with an address and a time that your neighbors should be home.



I'm also looking for volunteers to make simple home-made items to go inside the bags to give them a personal touch. Small jars of jam, note cards, and candles are just a few ideas. Please let me know if you have anything you would like to share.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS HAS MOVED . . .

Please visit [www.fautleroy.net](http://www.fautleroy.net) for all calendar postings of upcoming events and meetings or email [webmaster@fautleroy.net](mailto:webmaster@fautleroy.net) to be added to our email alerts

Please continue submit your calendar items to [webmaster@fautleroy.net](mailto:webmaster@fautleroy.net) to have your event added

### PRESERVING FAUTLEROY CHILDREN'S CENTER

PROMPTS DISCUSSION ABOUT BUYING SCHOOLHOUSE

By Judy Pickens

The future of the Fautleroy schoolhouse and its largest tenant, the Fautleroy Children's Center, is now on the table. FCA has initiated a community discussion about buying the property from the Seattle School District, and residents will have their first chance to join in at an **"Open House at the Schoolhouse" on Sunday, April 29, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

In mid January, the FCA Board hosted an exploratory meeting involving a dozen people from neighborhood, tenant, school district, and community-organizing perspectives. The group laid out what is known about the property, how urgent community action could be needed, and what that action might be.

The five-acre property has been leased for more than 25 years by the Fautleroy Community Service Agency, a nonprofit established in 1977 to oversee operation of the Fautleroy Children's Center (then housed at Fautleroy Church). When the school district closed the elementary school, FCSA leased the building and moved the children's center there in 1981. Various small businesses sublease space and pay market-rate rents, a portion of which subsidizes the children's center to keep quality high and fees competitive.

Under pressure to realize more income from this and other "mothballed" properties, the school district is considering withdrawing or reducing its support for nonprofit tenants – like the children's center – that provide early childhood education or family services. If so, rent for the center could double or triple, forcing a substantial increase in fees and/or relocation.

"FCSA board members and concerned parents have been lobbying the school district hard to protect the children's center," said FCA President Bruce Butterfield. "That situation, coupled with the deteriorating condition of the building and its

importance to Fautleroy, prompted us to see if we can get the property into community hands. In the process, we could retain the children's center as a community asset."

Other neighborhoods have taken or are taking similar steps. Old Cooper School in Delridge (featuring the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center) is owned and operated by the community. Grant and private fund raising is well under way to secure University Heights School (including its child care and farmers market) and Allen School (home of the Phinney Neighborhood Center).

The open house in April will be an opportunity to "test the waters" to determine community sentiment.



Alumni and newer residents alike can see what's going on inside the schoolhouse, learn more about its history and current issues, and express what they would like the future of the property to look like.

"You'll also have an opportunity at the open house and through the FCA website to choose from a 'cafeteria' of ways to get involved," said Bruce. "If we go forward with purchase, we'll need a lot of volunteer 'time and talent' to pull it off."

Watch for details about the open house, including how you can volunteer to make it happen. To volunteer without having to be asked, contact Judy Pickens at 938-4203 or [Judy\\_Pickens@msn.com](mailto:Judy_Pickens@msn.com).

In anticipation of the open house at the schoolhouse on April 29, neighborhood historian Ron Richardson invites residents to loan photos or mementoes from their school days at Fautleroy for a display. Contact him at 935-8981 or [Ron.Richardson@comcast.net](mailto:Ron.Richardson@comcast.net).

# FAUNTLEROY FERRY UPDATE

by Gary Dawson

The Legislature Joint Transportation Committee Task Force appointed by the Governor to study and provide the JTC strategies for providing passenger-only ferry (POF) service reliably and cost effectively, met nine times from August 29 through November 29. Sub-committee meetings were held as well.



Presentations to the committee have included information and data from Washington State Ferries, (WSF), King County METRO Transit, Kitsap Transit, representatives of private operators, The Washington State Utilities Transportation Commission, and

others representing their specific interests regarding passenger-only ferry service.

Throughout the entire process, it became apparent that acquiring consensus among 19 members is a difficult objective. (Ref: Seattle P.I. archives on-line, opinion, December 22, guest columnist Rep. Joe McDermott, a member of the Task Force).

Regardless, at the beginning of the 2006 Legislative session, the Task Force must make a recommendation to the JTC or dissolve as unsuccessful. The consequences of lack of consensus could be the unavailability of increased POF from Southworth and Vashon to downtown requiring that commuters continue bringing vehicles through Fauntleroy.

During the public comment period of the November 29 meeting, a representative of Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) commented about the WSF long-range plan for future auto ferry service from Southworth to downtown. SDOT had previously informed WSF that the plan will not be supported by SDOT. Oral comments added that, as the Fauntleroy terminal is not operating at capacity, WSF should manage future Kitsap County growth through Fauntleroy.

I responded by letter to the Director of SDOT that their strategy is in error in that the Fauntleroy terminal capacity is determined by vessel unload and load turn-around time and not number of vehicles. By these criteria Fauntleroy operates at capacity every day. In addition, SDOT did not include future growth at Vashon that will also add to the total volume of traffic.

Copies of the letter were forwarded to Mayor Nickels, WSF Director Anderson, Councilman Conlin, and 34th District Representatives. We have not received a response to our letter as yet.

In another event, WSF performed previously scheduled maintenance that included pile-driving at the Fauntleroy dock. This occurred in October as returning salmon were schooling near the dock before entering Fauntleroy Creek. Some studies indicate that pile-driving is disturbing to schooling salmon and WSF had previously agreed to inform the FCA when this type of work is scheduled.

A dialogue by letter with Director Anderson concluded with a satisfactory agreement to work closer together in the future.

## WHO'S WHO ON THE FCA BOARD

Bruce Butterfield, **President** 932-2400

BruceButterfield@PNWrealty.com

Kim Petram, **VP/Secretary** 938-6903

Kim@Petram.org

Phil Sweetland, **Treasurer** 938-4203

Phil\_Sweetland@msn.com

### At Large

Martha Callard, **Newsletter Editor**

News@Fauntleroy.net

Gary Dawson, **Ferry Advisory Committee**

Garyann@quidnunc.net

Mardi Clements   Mardiclements@hotmail.com

Kathleen Dellplain

Kathleen.dellplain@earthlink.net

Vlad Oustimovitch   vlad@voka.com

Chuck Sawyer   Cecsawyer@earthlink.net

Vicki Schmitz-Block   V.schmitz@comcast.net

Martin Westerman

**Consultant:** Lynn Olson 935-9738

Lynn.Olson@juno.com

**Webmaster:** Chris Nack   Cnack@seanet.com

**E-mail Outreach:** Kirk Hopkins

neighborhoodnews@fauntleroy.net

The FCA Board meets on the **second Tuesday** of the month (except August and December) at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse starting at **7 p.m.**

Neighbors are welcome to attend. FCA's mailing address is: **P.O. Box 46343, Seattle, WA 98146-6343.** Web address is **www.fauntleroy.net.**

Contact **Neighbors** Editor, Martha Callard by email at

**News@fauntleroy.net**

# FCA PERSONALITY PROFILE – Gary Dawson, Board Member

By Vicki Schmitz-Block

Gary Dawson and his wife Ann have lived in Fauntleroy since 1988, when they bought their home on upper Fauntleroy Way from Ed and Jeanne Hansen. Ed was the president of the FCA at that time. Their goal was to make this dream home their last home - a wise choice they've decided. Gary recalls the Hansens introducing them to neighbors over coffee and more than 100 folks showed up!

Growing up on a prairie farm in west-central Minnesota in the Red River Valley, Gary went to school in a two-room schoolhouse through eighth grade with only eight children in his class.



Gary and Ann Dawson

In 1951, when Gary was 13 and his brothers were 11 and 3, his family moved to Seattle, settling in Youngstown, near the steel mill. He recalls the address to this day - 2840 S. W. Dakota Street, and the house is still there. Gary attended the old Cooper School and Madison Jr. High School, and then graduated from Highline High School in 1956 after his family moved to the Sunnysdale area near Burien.

At the age of 17, Gary's first job was with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Agency, now known as NOAA. He was flown to Valdez, Alaska and boarded a wooden hulled survey ship to work in the engine room along with 34 other crew members. After returning to Seattle, he joined the Boeing Company, working at Plant 2 where the B-52s were staged at that time. His work took him to 40 countries for Boeing in his customer service role for grounded Boeing aircraft for a variety of reasons. He recalls flying up the Amazon River in South America to fix

the broken landing gear on a 727. When the King of Morocco's 727 aircraft came under attack by Moroccan Air Force fighter jets in an attempted coup, the plane was able to land but sustained heavy damage from the gunfire. The coup failed, the King remained, and Gary and team were flown in to repair the jet. Gary took an early retirement in 1994 after an amazing 37-year career.

During Gary's eight-year term as FCA president, the FCA authored a resolution passed by the Seattle City Council that states that the Fauntleroy Ferry Dock can never be expanded. Most of the credit for this commitment belongs to Gary and his work on behalf of our community. Seattle Mayors Rice, Schell and Nickels have affirmed this resolution. Gary continues to serve us on the State Ferry Advisory Board, working on our goal to direct ferry service from Southworth to downtown Seattle. This service change would lessen the traffic impacts in our neighborhood and provide better service for Kitsap County residents.

Nearly 28 years ago, Gary met his wife Ann in Albuquerque, NM while on assignment with Boeing. He tells us it was "...love at first sight." Their marriage was the second for both of them.

Ann is a CPA who has had her own accounting practice and taught at Seattle University. She currently manages the scheduling and volunteers to maintain Cove Park. Gary's son, Mike, lives in Rhode Island with his wife, Chris, and their two sons and a daughter. Sons Blake and Joe live in Sequim.

Gary and Ann love the Fauntleroy neighborhood and have both worked hard to preserve and protect the quality of life in what they call "the best neighborhood in Seattle."

## YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

by Bob Callard

We welcome all those members who have recently joined our community association. The Association is a working body for the community and it cannot keep the community updated without your continued involvement. The Mayor's briefing is just one example of how the association keeps the community apprised of events that impact our neighborhood.

As many of you know, the board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Hall at Fauntleroy. Everyone is invited to attend, ask questions of your officers, volunteer, and discuss items that impact the community. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting — and — please bring your friends and neighbors.

# MEET THE MAYOR

A forum on transportation and other community issues in Fautleroy

Thursday, March 1 at 6:30 PM at the Hall at Fautleroy

All Fautleroy neighbors are invited to attend this important question and answer session with Mayor Nickels addressing some "hot button" issues that affect our neighborhood. Your concerns and questions will form the basis of our discussion with the mayor. Please let your friends and neighbors know about this opportunity to address the mayor. All neighbors are invited to submit their questions by email to **News@Fautleroy.net** or write your questions below and mail to Meet the Mayor, Fautleroy Community Association, P. O. Box 46343, Seattle, WA 98146-6343.

My question(s) for the Mayor Nickels concern(s) . . . . .  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Submitted by (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

All questions will be sorted by category to make the most of our time with the mayor.



Fautleroy Community Association  
Post Office Box 46343  
Seattle, WA 98146-6343

Address Service Requested

## How you can help . . .

- Pass this Newsletter along to your neighbors
- Attend a Board Meeting
- Let us know what is on your mind
- Visit our website [www.fautleroy.net](http://www.fautleroy.net)