



# NEIGHBORS

FAUNTLEROY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



WINTER 2011

## MARCH 15 FOOD FEST SURE TO PLEASE

As in past years, a full house is expected at **The Hall at Fauntleroy** on **Tuesday, March 15**, for FCA's annual Fauntleroy Food Fest and Membership Meeting. The doors will open at **6 PM** to sample food from six local eateries, learn about local issues and programs, chat with neighbors, and pay to start or renew FCA membership. Election of FCA officers and directors will happen toward the end of the evening.



**ENJOY A SAMPLE FROM EACH OF THESE LOCAL EATERIES!**



**TUXEDOS AND TENNIS SHOES CATERING**



## KENNEY PROPOSING SCALED-BACK PLAN TO EXPAND CAMPUS

The Kenney's quest for an expansion plan that works for the community and for current and future residents, plus pencils out financially, may be nearing an end.

In late January, The Kenney announced a scaled-back plan from the initial one that the Southwest Design Review Board and the community rejected as too much mass in a residential neighborhood. The new proposal

- eliminates the 64 new assisted-living units originally planned for a six-story building on the south side of the campus, where multi-family homes are to be demolished.

- reduces the number of new independent-living apartments from 160 to 75 and reduces their square footage. They would be built on the south side.

- extensively remodels rather than demolishes the Sunrise building.

- extensively remodels the landmark Seaview building and leaves it where it is.

- the current nursing/rehab center and Garden Court will become a memory-support area.

- 20 private rooms for skilled nursing *(continued on page 2)*

## REROOFING SCHOOLHOUSE A HUGE PROJECT

In June, the Fauntleroy Community Service Agency (FCSA) cut the ribbon on the Fauntleroy schoolhouse as a neighborhood-owned property. After the party was over, volunteers and consultants went quietly back to work to plan next steps and how to pay for them. They now have news to report.

According to Fauntleroy Children's Center Director Kim Sheridan, FCSA's building advisory committee has been busy devising an approach to a total rebuild of the very large roof. At the same time, a seismic engineer will be recommending upgrades that could be done while the old roof is off. Bids have been received for that work and a decision will be made soon.

Development of a strategic plan for the next big step - raising the money - is also under way. "It will be a huge and complicated task," she said. "According to our contract for city funds, we still have time before renovations need to start, so we are moving along the timeline appropriately."

In related news, the agency will soon be interviewing for a new property manager to replace Kat Jones, who moved to California. Long-time building caretakers, Kathy and Dave Bauman, will be vacating their cozy quarters in the spring to spread out in a new house.

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## CHURCH OFFERS 'INCUBATOR' SPACE

Recent remodeling of Fauntleroy Church created new and different spaces that could go beyond congregation use to benefit the community. They include conference rooms of different sizes, a new event space, and the kitchen, all linked now by elevator.

"Our thought is that we could provide 'incubator' space to get fledgling groups off the ground," said the Rev. David Kratz, senior pastor. "Say you want to see if others are interested in learning conversational Italian. We could provide free, easy-to-find space for the first couple of meetings, perhaps help publicizing those meetings, to see if the group takes off."

The church doesn't yet have a formal policy for using its space in this way, he said, just an interest in seeing rooms be used to foster a sense of community in the neighborhood.

If you think the concept of "incubator" space here has merit or you want to float an idea, call David know at 932-5600.

## THE KENNEY (cont'd)

(location on campus pending).

While this new plan works its way through final review and permitting, The Kenney is taking the first step toward having a memory-support area. The Denny section of Garden Court is being converted into 14 assisted living for residents requiring memory support. They are expected to open late summer/early fall.

President and CEO R. Kevin McFeely said he hopes to have financing resolved by the end of March. He will have the revised campus layout and other details to share with the community once financing is assured.

## COUNTY CHOOSES GREEN OPTION TO REDUCE POLLUTION OF COVE

King County Wastewater met a Dec. 31 deadline by submitting a plan to the State Department of Ecology that proposed a "green infrastructure" approach to reducing combined sewer overflows into Fauntleroy Cove. The choice avoided one option that threatened the viability of a Fauntleroy-based business and another that had riled the community.

If approved and funded, the green infrastructure project for what the county calls the "Barton basin" will consist of rain gardens in city-owned right of way in the Sunrise Heights/Westwood neighborhoods, due south of High Point along the top of the ridge.

These planted areas will capture and absorb rainwater that would otherwise sheet off the streets into the sewer system. During heavy rains, the volume of rainwater can overwhelm the system's capacity, resulting in discharge of untreated storm- and wastewater into the cove.

The county itemized three

strong advantages of this option:

- Unlike options that would have stored stormwater in underground tanks, it will use Mother Nature's natural process to keep rainwater where it falls.
- It can add significantly to street aesthetics.
- It conserves energy, is sustainable, and requires no operating facilities.

An option that initially gained traction was to put a large underground storage tank under the former playground at the Fauntleroy schoolhouse. It fell out of favor, though, when Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering pointed out that loss of parking during construction and other factors would likely doom The Hall at Fauntleroy. Also, among all the CSO basins in which it was working, the Barton basin offered the county a unique opportunity to implement a green-infrastructure system to reduce CSO flows.

In what officials described as a difficult decision, the county has proposed to reduce CSO's from



**Rain gardens such as this along residential streets up the hill could retain water where it falls.** Photo courtesy King County

the "Murray basin" above Lowman Beach Park using underground storage under private property. A citizens advisory group suggested putting underground storage under the south parking lot at Lincoln Park, an idea that Fauntleroy residents resoundingly opposed at a contentious public meeting.

State environmental review of the county's proposals will start in the spring, which will include a formal comment period. Construction is slated to begin by December 2013.

# NEIGHBORHOOD'S PERSONALITY SHAPED BY THOSE WE'VE LOST

By FCA President Bruce Butterfield

Fauntleroy loses wonderful people almost every day - people who got up every morning and did what had to be done. Those nearest and dearest mourn their loss and, eventually, resume their lives.

This newsletter typically doesn't pay tribute, probably for fear we would forget someone. Seldom, though, does Fauntleroy lose two people within days of one another who quietly contributed much to the neighborhood.

On Feb. 7, Ron Richardson succumbed to brain cancer. If you didn't have the privilege of knowing Ron, you missed the type of retired history teacher whom we imagine wearing comfortable shoes and an old sweater frayed at the cuff. But have him knock on your door and say, "I want to ask you something," and you would soon be doing what he wanted.

Ron's passion for making history come alive extended beyond his middle-school classroom to include Fauntleroy and all of West Seattle. Shortly after Ron and Sherry moved here, he became active in the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

One of the outgrowths was a group of large story boards about the history of Fauntleroy. Ron spent countless hours researching the facts, digging out photos, and laying out the boards. Once their initial use was over, Ron saw that they were where people in the community could enjoy them, especially patrons of the bakery.



I am aware of one of Ron's projects yet to come: the Feet First kiosks. They will encourage people to walk Fauntleroy, as he so often did. Ron's contribution to each is a snapshot of pertinent history. I'll remember Ron each time I walk by one of the three to be installed here.

And on Feb. 12, Ann Curtz left us. She and Cal moved to Fauntleroy decades ago, first next to Lincoln Park, then into the cluster of homes at the Brace Point street end. I can't speak to every project that Ann took on for our common good but I can certainly testify to the many hours she gave to development of Cove Park.

Ann signed on with Mardi Clements, Ruth Lantz, and others to raise the money, hire a landscape designer, and engage artist Tom Jay to turn the trash-strewn street end next to the ferry terminal into a pocket park that residents and visitors enjoy every day. In retrospect, it sounds so easy but I know it was not. The meetings were interminable, as were the fires to be put out.

Ann would be the first to say that she wasn't in charge, that she was *only* helping. But every neighborhood project needs at least one Ann Curtz, someone who doesn't expect recognition but rather a product that improves the community and makes people proud to live here.

Project by project, neighbor by neighbor, we thank all those who have added personality to Fauntleroy with their ideas and labor, but most important of all, with their spirit.

## FCA LEADERSHIP

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## FALL FESTIVAL DRAWS RECORD CROWD

Volunteer Diana Hartwell was a very busy crosswalk guard during Fauntleroy Fall Festival 2010. Co-sponsored by FCA, the annual event on Oct. 17 drew a record crowd estimated by security at 2,000 people. Photo courtesy Phil Sweetland

# FOREST STEWARDS SIGN ON TO CARE FOR PARK, ENLIST OTHERS

"So many parks; so little time" is a lament heard citywide these days as funding to maintain public spaces is at an historic low. Citizen enthusiasm for parks remains high, though, and a program of the Green Seattle Partnership is tapping that resource to help fill the gap between needs and budget.

An alliance of the Cascade Land Conservancy and the City of Seattle, the partnership is supporting volunteer forest stewards as caretakers of local parks. Forest stewards agree to monitor conditions, plan restoration, recruit volunteers for work parties, and encourage responsible enjoyment of "their" park.

Fauntleroy Park is fortunate to have not one but *three* forest stewards: Steve Hodson, Peggy Cummings, and Annabelle Lota. The three share a love of the park and a desire that future generations also be able to enjoy it as a unique natural space in the city.

Steve has been a regular in the park for years and says being a daily presence there has power beyond the work he gets done.

"By being visible each day and showing people what I'm doing, I'm planting a seed," he said. "Those people are then more likely to give back to the environment when we present the opportunity."

Annabelle brings a passion for native plants to the steward team. She works in West Seattle and was particularly drawn to Fauntleroy Park because it is an entirely natural area.

"I like being able to motivate and educate people around forest restoration, from teaching volunteers about native and invasive species to planting seedlings in areas that we've cleared together," she said. "Most important, I want to instill a great love of nature in children and adolescents."

Peggy has lived near the park many years and been a daily or weekly visitor (with canine friends) for a decade. She thinks of the park as a "rare treasure."

Like the hum of daily life outside its borders, making it a peaceful place to walk or just relax," she said. "As a steward, I hope to encourage more people to enjoy the park and care about it."

To ask questions about something they see in the park, report a downed tree or other maintenance concern, or provide feedback after participating in a work party, e-mail the forest stewards at [fpark.steward@gmail.com](mailto:fpark.steward@gmail.com).



Fauntleroy Park forest stewards Annabelle Lota, Steve Hodson, and Peggy Cummings with junior steward Georgia Hodson. Photo courtesy Judy Pickens



One day in the fall, a Fauntleroy Park forest steward heard chainsaws and went to investigate. A tree-cutting crew was at work, and one of the workers told the steward that they were cutting trees on residential property.

The steward felt the trees in question were in the park and immediately called Carol Baker, Seattle Parks maintenance chief for West Seattle. When she got to the site, a half dozen trees and lots of debris were on the ground, which was stippled with orange flags marking new plants.

"Initially, we thought the trees were on private property but the branches had been tossed into an areas of the park recently cleared of invasives and restored with new plantings," she said. "That in itself would have done harm, something many people don't realize."

A re-survey of the property line, however, showed that marker stakes had been moved at some point and that the trees belonged to the park. The homeowner had had them cut without asking.

"We're in the process of working with the homeowner on restoration of the site," said Mark Mead, chief arborist for Seattle Parks, who followed up on the case. Given the size of the trees that were cut, the area won't look the same for many years.

"Anyone who is not absolutely sure about a property line should consult with the adjacent neighbor before removing a tree," he said. "That's the proper thing to do, whether the neighbor is a city park or a private residence."

The number to call to confirm park boundaries in West Seattle is 684-7457. And don't call at the last minute; Carol said boundary questions can sometimes take several days to answer.

# NEIGHBORHOOD COULD FEEL ILL EFFECTS OF FERRY SERVICE CUTS

By Gary Dawson

The Governor's proposed budget for the 2011-2013 biannual projects drastic cuts in many divisions of the Washington Department of Transportation, including Washington State Ferries. WSF has not had a stable source of funding since 1995.

The vehicle license fees eliminated then by Initiative 695 provided significant funding for WSF's operational and capital expenses. When that source was eliminated, higher ferry fares and service cuts on most routes resulted.

This latest budget proposal, if approved by the Legislature, will require even more service reductions, including on the Vashon/Southworth/Fauntleroy route. The list includes reducing the number of weekend sailings and also vehicle capacity by replacing the largest vessel with one with smaller deck space.

Although a number of local residents use ferry service occasionally or even frequently, Fauntleroy isn't a ferry-dependant community. Consequently, our neighborhood might be affected in two ways if these changes occur.

One could be a longer queue north past Lincoln Park during afternoon commutes and weekend events. The other could be increased use of our streets for overnight commuter parking to avoid the queue and higher fares.

Or in response, ferry users might reduce their

discretionary trips, change to carpools or van pools, or use the bus. Might.

Either way, Fauntleroy will continue to experience the affects of being a marine transportation destination, at the same time that relief by having Southworth traffic go directly downtown is pushed even further into the future. That eventuality, still proposed by WSF, will require a substantial increase in funding, not the opposite that is sure to be the case over the next two years.

## UPCOMING FAUNTLEROY EVENTS

**March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14: FCA business meeting.** 7 PM in the schoolhouse conference room. To suggest a topic for the agenda, contact President Bruce Butterfield at [brucebutterfield@pnwrealty.com](mailto:brucebutterfield@pnwrealty.com) or 932-2400.

**March 10, May 12: Fauntleroy Watershed Council.** 7 PM at Fauntleroy Church; open to all residents interested in this piece of the natural world. Contact Judy Pickens at [judy\\_pickens@msn.com](mailto:judy_pickens@msn.com) or 938-4203 for details.

**Sat., March 26: 24th annual auction and dinner** to benefit the Fauntleroy Children's Center. 5:30 PM at The Hall at Fauntleroy. Bob Watt will be back as auctioneer, complemented by emcees Jim Dever and former mayor Greg Nickels. \$60/ person. Reservations at 932-9590 or [fauntleroychildrenscenter@yahoo.com](mailto:fauntleroychildrenscenter@yahoo.com).

## WHEN IN DOUBT, REPORT IT

According to Seattle Police, most property crimes are opportunistic and occur when the thief believes no one is watching. Some people call 9-1-1 when they see suspicious behaviors; some do not.

The police advise that you run the risk of feeling paranoid and make the call to report such activity as

- a slow moving vehicle that circles the block or an unfamiliar vehicle parked on your street, especially if someone remains in the car for a long period of time.

- an unfamiliar person loitering on your block.
- unusual noise, screams, gunshots, breaking glass, or dogs that suddenly take up barking.
- someone going door to door checking porches, looking in windows, or trying doors.
- someone looking into mailboxes or cars.

When you call 9-1-1, have the address in hand, state what you saw clearly, and let the dispatcher take control of the call by asking questions.



## 500 APPLAUD DUO'S CREATIVITY

Fauntleroy Church Music Director Bronwyn Edwards Cryer (left) and area resident Yvonne Belshaw had reason to be all smiles after the world premiere of their "Age Only Matters If You're Cheese" musical in early February. Reminiscent of community theater in Fauntleroy's founding years, the three performances entertained 500 people. A DVD is forthcoming, available in the church office. Photo courtesy Ben Ackers

# METRO RESPONDS TO FCA'S IDEAS FOR RAPID RIDE STOPS

A few months ago when Metro Transit agreed to modify its proposed design of RapidRide bus stops at the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal to avoid blocking the arterial, several FCA proposals and ideas remained on the table. Most have now been resolved:

**Calming device** - FCA asked about installing a traffic circle or other calming device to slow traffic on 45th

Ave. SW that results when frustrated drivers detour to avoid congestion on Fauntleroy Way at the ferry terminal. Referred to the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT).

**Flex lane** - FCA asked Metro to consider making the one lane to stay open to traffic a "flex" lane so that cars or emergency vehicles could pass a stopped bus in either direction. Metro's concern is the potential for head-on accidents but the idea has been referred to SDOT for any additional input.

**Vanpool parking** - If street parking is needed for vanpool slots lost to RapidRide construction, FCA suggested possible locations. In the short term,

Metro will establish a vanpool space on the east side of Fauntleroy Way, due south of the northbound bus stop bulb. Other spaces are to be determined later.

**Loading zone** - FCA urged Metro to retain the heavily used loading zone on the west side of Fauntleroy Way south of the ferry terminal entrance and consider expanding it.

**Bike accommodation** - FCA asked Metro to consider a storage locker for bicycles to encourage more bike commuting. The potential for vandalism and the fact that available space would limit locked storage to only two bikes nixed that idea. Metro got the point, however, and penciled in bike racks.

**Shelter art** - FCA had asked that the children's artwork on the current bus shelters (created at the 2009 Fauntleroy Fall Festival) be incorporated in the new shelters. It will be attached to the concrete retaining wall at the northbound stop.

Metro will be at the Fauntleroy Food Fest on March 15 to answer questions about anything to do with RapidRide.

## RAPIDRIDE

If you're a member of Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and then to Fauntleroy Community Association.

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