

Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 27, Issue 1
January 2024



A sign of the times: The winter season brings revitalizing rains that restore our aquifer and bring nutrients to our farmers and fields, but we could do without the damage and disruption of flooding. This month, read what King County has done to restore the floodplain just north of town; how dry summers and rainy winters affect our groundwater supply; what the FCCA has been up to in 2023; and how fermented tea makes for a delicious and healthy alternative to bottled water.

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January Highlights



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**Donations received after December 15, 2023, will be acknowledged in the February 2024 issue.*

You are invited to donate to Fall City Neighbors to help us cover expenses of the coming year. Please make your check to "FCCA/Fall City Newsletter," and mail to: Fall City Neighbors Newsletter, P.O. Box 1064, Fall City, WA 98024.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi all, it's nice to "meet" you! Allow me to introduce myself: my name is Analise. I am the new graphics editor for *Fall City Neighbors*. I am an artist at heart and in trade. Some of my past projects include a multitude of local Washington periodicals, including the *Mercer Island Island Guide*, *My City Issaquah*, *Bellingham Business Journal Visitor Guide*, *Washington Coast Magazine*, and, most recently, the complete redesign of *Washington North Coast Magazine* to *Sound & Summit*. Admittedly, I am not a local, as I currently reside in Olympia—however, I am very excited to take on the design of *Fall City Neighbors* and look forward to learning more about the unique community and people of Fall City.

—ANALISE HANNAH, graphics editor



We are so fortunate to have such an experienced professional as Analise join the Neighbors staff. Her extensive publication experience and enthusiasm will be a valuable asset as we transition our "newsletter" to a magazine that reflects the vibrancy of our community and people. Welcome to Fall City, Analise!

—JIM HUTCHINS, editor

Fall City Neighbors, since 1998: Helping to build a caring and connected community of neighbors.

Fall City Neighbors is a monthly publication of the Fall City Community Association (www.fallcity.org) and is supported by local sponsors and donors. It is distributed free of charge to the community, available at the Fall City Library, Fall City Post Office (green box in front), Farmhouse Market, The Hauglie Building, the Raging River Cafe, and Aroma Coffee.

SUBMISSIONS: We encourage submissions, story suggestions and comments from our community. We are always looking for writers, reporters,

artists, photographers and idea people interested in volunteering for this publication.

STORY IDEAS, ARTICLES, SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR TO SUBMIT/REQUEST A BUSINESS PROFILE: James Hutchins, Editor, e-mail: editor@fallcity.org or mail to *Fall City Neighbors*, P.O. Box 1064, Fall City, WA 98024.

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Deadline for submissions is the TENTH of each month.

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Read *Neighbors* online at fallcity.org/newsletters.html. Also follow us on social media.



Newsletter Volunteers

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Climate/Gardening Corner: Susan Miller

Fall City Community Food Pantry: Karen Hatch

Sno-Valley Senior Center: Carrie Harris

Printing: RRD Packaging Solutions/Cindy Parks



Community News and Notes

FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Highlights of the December 2023 Meeting



PRESIDENT'S REPORT. *President Rachel Shepard. Shout Outs and Celebrations!* Thanks to all those who contributed to the success of Fall City's Festival of Lights, including the tree lighting, garden decorating, and the Holiday Market! Anji Donaldson thanked all the sponsors, planning partners and those who attended. Anji specially thanked the Fall City Metropolitan Parks District commissioners, who are responsible for lighting the trees along the river. The lights, which require much maintenance, will stay up through Valentine's Day this year. She shared that a plan to replace older and overgrown trees is being considered and will be presented to the membership. The SR-202 Corridor Project includes a plan for a boardwalk with lighting along the cherry trees.

Anji also thanked both the Fall City Library and the elementary school, who loaned their PA systems for the event. Both the Festival of Lights and Fall City Day require a coordinated audio system, and it was recommended that we consider investing in such a system (a similar system purchased by the City of Sammamish cost \$5,000).

Rachel thanked John Taylor and the Department of Local Services (DLS) team, members of Fall City Sustainable Growth (FCSG), and all those who testified, wrote letters, or attended the King County Council meeting. The Council passed the emergency zoning package sponsored by DLS and FCSG, which includes minimum lot sizes and more generous setbacks than usually required for R4. The emergency zoning will be in effect until the new code based on our comprehensive plan is adopted.

Rachel noted that the FCCA officers approved the cost of the cherry tree trimming that happens before the lights are hung. Work continues on updates to the bylaws; drafts will be sent to members once they are available.

COMMUNITY CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY. We are looking for a volunteer to lead the recreational demand and site feasibility study for a community center. The project has already been funded. The first meeting with King County is January 16. Jeff Wilson, King County employee and Fall City resident, is working with another unincorporated area studying the feasibility of a community center and is

willing to serve as liaison to the committee and offer lessons learned, contacts, etc.

2024 BOARD MEMBERS. Members voted to re-elect the current board members, and Rachel requested that anyone interested in shadowing a position, especially treasurer and/or recording secretary, or learning more about the board, contact her at fcca@fallcity.org.

FALL CITY SEPTIC ASSOCIATION. *Jeff Wilson, King County Project Manager.* The project went out to bid on November 30. This is a major success, and Jeff thanked all those who have supported the project over the years. Bids will be received through January 9, after which the County will negotiate and select a contractor. Obviously, they are hoping bids will be within budget and that construction will begin in March or April, lasting 18-24 months.

John Taylor, director of King County Local Services, thanked and acknowledged Jeff's hard work on this "gargantuan project." His experience in project management and his experience and willingness to work through challenging situations are fundamental to the project's success. Jeff acknowledged Anji Donaldson's relationship with State Rep. Lisa Callan, which resulted in a \$1.5M contribution from the state.

FALL CITY NEIGHBORS NEWSLETTER. *Jim (Hutch) Hutchins.* Hutch shared that an experienced graphic designer is joining the *Fall City Neighbors* team. Analise Hannah has extensive experience with local newspapers and magazine design. We are looking forward to her contributions.

It appears that both print and online readership of *Fall City Neighbors* is growing. Efforts to increase readership have included regular announcements to the membership about the availability of the online version of the newsletter, as well as the establishment of pages on Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor to post mid-month news updates and article highlights.

FRIENDS OF FALL CITY ARENA. *Jim (Hutch) Hutchins.* Following up on an earlier visit, Jim shared that the horse arena in Fall City Park is considered by local equestrians to be

(Continued on p. 16)



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FALL CITY KOMBUCHA

by Sharon Brown

For fans of kombucha, it's hard to find the perfect kombucha blend. There are so many things to consider in choosing a flawless drink. Fall City Kombucha Co. is serving up recipes that are amazingly delicious and local.

Adam Grossman, owner and operator, was born and raised in San Francisco, but fell in love with the Pacific Northwest almost 20 years ago after taking his first job at Intel. He has had jobs in finance and operations across the United States, settling in Seattle in 2013. He and his wife, Kate, moved their family to the Valley in 2020.

"I went into solo contracting and consulting part-time, as well as being a part-time stay-at-home dad," says Adam. "We chose the Valley because it had everything we loved: mountains, water, and forests. We also love small towns, so when we found Fall City, we knew this was it! The chance to be part of this community in a positive way meant so much to us."

"But I still felt like a fish out of water business-wise. I spent 20 years building a resume and didn't feel I could contribute to the community when I moved out here," says Adam. "But then I met so many small-business owners that made this community successful, I began to think of how I could be an inspiration as well. For ten years I had been brewing beer for fun. I thought if I could brew beer, why not kombucha!"

Adam is the cook in the family. His role has always been to create the meals—not only nightly, but also for big family gatherings. Kombucha brewing came about organically. His culinary experience, love of food, chemical engineering interests, gifts, and talents all came together in 2022. After his last contract finished, Adam took two months off to figure out what his next move was going to be. Over the summer he worked on kombucha, discovering the intriguing science behind producing it.

Kombucha became Adam's replacement drink for sodas, second cup of coffee, and wine at dinner, while experiencing less sugar, caffeine, and alcohol, with a little more umph than soda water. Though he noticed that kombucha was broadly available, he saw an opportunity to make it with all the amazing ingredients farmed right here in the Valley.

"It was so important for me to build a business that fit into Fall City, down to the logo and design. It mattered how the agriculture of the Valley was showcased. I thought, 'What if I did start a business that came from an authentic desire to join a group of other business owners in the Valley that really cared about their town and wanted to see it prosper?' Kate told me to go for it. Thus, seasonally inspired, locally crafted Fall City Kombucha Co. was born," says Adam enthusiastically.

Adam's detached garage has now become his micro-brewery space. By next year, he plans to quadruple their capacity. Even though they are small, he has been thrilled by the support, and hopes to find enough demand to warrant and sustain a taphouse in town.

"I am deeply committed to having this business be a Fall City business. We're raising our children here. We want to help the economy here. It's important to be a part of removing the roadblocks to help our town grow authentically and organically and give other people a chance to grow businesses. I am blessed and fortunate to be at a place in my life where I have time and flexibility to launch something

(Continued on page 12)





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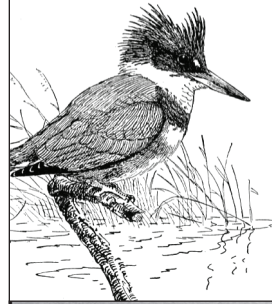


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Fall City Floodplain Project Gets Its First Big Test

by *Kate Grossman*

After nearly a decade of planning and two summers of construction, King County's Fall City Floodplain Restoration is almost complete. At 145 acres, it is the largest project focused on habitat restoration to be undertaken on the Snoqualmie River. With the goals of restoring the natural habitat of the river and improving salmon recovery, the project was also designed to reduce flood risk to 300 acres of primarily agricultural property and infrastructure downstream from Fall City.

"What we're trying to do is restore natural river processes, which is how some of the best habitat is formed, when the river is allowed to engage with the floodplain," says Andrea Mojzak, the Lower Snoqualmie Basin Steward at King County's Water and Land Resources Division. "With constructed levees and revetments throughout the valley, we've [historically] affected how the river flows, so now we're trying to create room for the river to act more naturally, and hopefully that also reduces some flood risk by giving the river some room to spread out across the floodplain, which can reduce the river's velocity during floods."

The project was actually two large-scale efforts, one on each bank of the Snoqualmie River. The portion of the project on the left bank, looking downstream from Fall City, included removal of the Barfuse Levee, reconnection of historic side channels, and construction of an earthen berm to maintain flood protection. The portion of the project on the right bank, largely constructed during this previous summer, removed the Haffner revetment (a wall of impact-resistant material designed to absorb the energy of the moving water and deter erosion), constructed a new, shorter revetment in a different location, and excavated an additional side channel for the river. Because of its proximity to the river, it also included removal of the old Neal Road and construction of a new road farther from the river. The project cost approximately \$20 million, but all funds were obtained through grants from King County and the state.



"Salmon recovery is the focus [of the project], but we have an obligation as a project to make sure we're not having a negative impact on neighbors in the valley. Not only are we required from a regulatory standpoint, but as a county, we want to try to reduce the flooding impact on our neighbors," says Mojzak.

The new earthworks on the left bank will purposely be less rigid over time compared to the former levee, but another goal of the new side channel is to give the water more room to expand in the floodplain, attempting to keep waters slower and lower during floods. A lower river velocity can have positive effects for salmon recovery, since faster waters can wash away redds (nests of salmon eggs), and slower water also removes less topsoil from local farms. David Haakenson, owner of Jubilee Farm, downstream of the project, explains, "Think of the Valley like a funnel, and every once in a while water comes in faster than it can get through the funnel. It's all about how much water comes through and how quickly."

While King County owns the land on which the Barfuse Levy had been built, the right bank land was partially owned by King County and partially owned by Fall City

(Continued on p. 8)

FLOODPLAIN (cont'd from page 7)

Farms. Fall City Farms sold use of the conservation easement to the County in a field not currently farmed. “[The project] definitely changed the landscape out here, but there’s water where it’s supposed to be and not where it’s not supposed to be. It will be interesting to see how that plays out with larger floods down the road,” says Madeline Banashak, events and operations manager at Fall City Farms. She adds, “The County was awesome to work with. They were very accommodating and very communicative.”

Other farmers in the area are cautiously optimistic about the project. Ryan Lichttenegger of Steel Wheel Farm has a large field behind the old levee. “Because of our location in the valley, the water is always moving. One field will drain out slowly, but everywhere else the water is moving. And any soil that you’ve worked or if you can’t get cover crop in time, you’re going to lose the soil, not to mention anything you’ve planted.” Haakenson adds, “The County is trying their best [with restoration projects], and it’s a tough thing to navigate. Any adjustment of the river in one area is going to affect the whole river,” which in turn affects agricultural land in the valley around it. For a farm like Jubilee, in a low point of the valley, “even when it’s ‘dry,’ it’s still not dry. There can be unintended consequences.”

Two additional local river restoration projects are being explored: one is near Snoqualmie River Farm and the Blue Heron Golf Course; the other is upriver of downtown Fall City on SE Fish Hatchery Road where the bridge was removed. While still in the earliest stages of feasibility studies, these projects are much smaller in scale than the floodplain restoration. The County is also working with the Flood Control District on the Lower Frew Levee setback project on the Tolt River in Carnation.

While the construction portion of the Fall City Floodplain project is done, Mojzak was quick to assure attendees at the November Fall City Community Association meeting that the County is not walking away from the project. There is a planned ribbon cutting and celebratory opening for Earth Day in 2024, and the County is talking with the Fall City Parks District about how best to utilize the left bank area for “quality public access.” Additionally, river managers and fish biologists are already checking habitat gains and counting fish. “This is a really big milestone for us,” says Mojzak, “and so far we’ve been really happy with what we’re seeing at the project site. We understand it’s a dynamic landscape, so we’ll be watching closely over the next five years.”





FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024 historylives@fallcityhistorical.org www.fallcityhistorical.org

Thank You!

With deep appreciation and gratitude, we want to thank **Nancy Marshall** for being our dedicated volunteer treasurer these past 3 years. And we are thrilled to welcome **Bill Graham, R/W Graham & Associates**, also with much appreciation for taking up the reins as our volunteer bookkeeper. *You are both priceless!*

Family History & Fall City History

Whether you are researching your family history or that of Fall City, as part of our collections we have over 700 obituaries available for your endeavors. This collection spans from the early 1900s to current years, but the life stories reach much farther back, and some tell of the journeys of the early homesteading arrivals to the Valley. Featured here is one example, the partial 1959 obituary for Elmer Gochnour, written by Fall City's own local historian Elva Polley. Elmer was born in 1880 in Pennsylvania, and he and some of his brothers moved West in 1902, where he eventually settled in Fall City, the beginning of their family's long legacy here. On our website, you can now find the Index to our obituary collection on the Home page, below the image of the calendar. You can also find it on our Research/Resource webpage, Reference Documents tab with more information, and how to make an appointment.

Fall City Loses a Senior Resident
 By Elva Polley 1959
 Death claimed a senior resident of Fall City on Saturday April 4, with the passing of Elmer Gochnour.
 Mr. Gochnour was stricken at about noon and died at 4 p.m. Cause of death was angina pectoris.
 Full Masonic service was given him the afternoon of April 7, in the Masonic Temple at Fall City. Interment was in the Fall City Cemetery under the supervision of Purdy, Kerr, and Van Horn.
 Honorary pall bearers were Lewis Prescott, W. R. Johnson and Clifford Johnson.
 Harvey Elmer Gochnour was born on June 30, 1880 in Kirks County, Pennsylvania, near Bedford. He was one of the seven sons and two daughters of Moses and Margaret Weyandt Gochnour.
 He early became interested in boxing and wrestling, participating as an amateur for sometime. He always remained his favorite sports.
Heading West
 In 1902 Elmer with two of his brothers started west. One brother stopped in North Dakota for a short time then later joined the other two who had come to Sunn



"A Snood of Snow" Reports One Newspaper



In the early hours of Jan 12, 1950, temperatures began to drop rapidly across the State, from Seattle to Spokane, and by morning it was snowing in Seattle. With winds over 40mph, and almost a foot of snow in Seattle, the blizzard was underway. South of Seattle saw more than 20 inches of snow, and Bellingham area



A Snood of Snow It wasn't so much the snow on U.S. 10 as the overhead that made one motorist decide to get out and mush. Down the road a piece is North Bend, and the slope of old Mount Si is visible in the center background. Some might call this a winter wonderland---and it is. ---Photo By Salter

The Snoqualmie Valley Jan. 19, 1950. "Snoqualmie" sign behind the car, on (then) US 10 towards North Bend

experienced winds over 60mph. Eastern Washington saw winds so strong snow blew through keyholes on front doors. In the 24 days between January 12 and February 4, 1950, Seattle recorded nine days with low temperatures below 10 degrees. During this time here in the Valley, Snoqualmie Falls froze into 'giant light-green icicles; a thin ribbon of water replaced the normal cascading rush of the falls.' [HistoryLink 8079] Snowfall records were broken with over 60 inches of snow, and a new all-time temperature low of 3 degrees below zero on Feb 1, 1950.

Support for our work from King County Heritage 4Culture is gratefully acknowledged.





Fall City Metropolitan Park District
 PO Box 1180 Fall City, WA 98024
 email: info@fallcityparks.org
 website: www.fallcityparks.org

Attend one of our regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
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2023 Reflections: The Work of Community Is Continuous

by Rachel Shepard, President, Fall City Community Association

As we say goodbye to another year, I'm grateful for the dedication and spirit of our community. We have pulled off epic events like Fall City Days and the Holiday Tree Lighting, attested at County Council hearings, shown up for town-hall meetings, written passionate articles and heartfelt letters—the list of accomplishments and hard work is too long for this short piece.

At our last Fall City Community Association meeting, someone was speaking about those volunteers in our community who are “superhero volunteers.” I asked if there was a working definition or criteria to qualify for this special title, and we had a bit of a laugh, but after the meeting I was thinking about this idea and without a doubt knew exactly the type of person they were speaking of.

For the majority of my adult life I have volunteered quietly behind the scenes, doing small things here and there for the community as my work and home life would allow. Some years I would plant bulbs, some years I would help make a flyer or make a small donation, but it wasn't until recently that I have really made a point to give back more consistently. What I have discovered is that there is a crew of people in Fall City who are truly the definition of a “superhero volunteer”—working year after year, behind the scenes, to bring our community together.

There's Carrie Lee Gagnon who plans events and calls King County Roads to help with pedestrian safety. Terri Divers has pulled off another sparkling Holiday Market. Our water commissioners, parks district, and FCCA board members volunteer their time to make sure you have safe water and are planning for the future of Fall City. Angela Donaldson, although retired from the FCCA board, is still a force behind the scenes planning our biggest town events. Judy Dix, Laurie Hauglie—the list of superhero volunteers in town is long, and I hesitate to even try to list them for fear of missing someone.

This year I also met a new generation of Fall City superhero volunteers. Folks like Mike Suelzle and Megan



Brocco from Fall City Sustainable Growth. Emil Cakiryran, who stepped in to help with town cleanup. Jim Hutchins has taken the helm of this newsletter, looking for articles and contributors daily and finding a new graphic designer. Scott and Krimsey, the dynamic duo (now trio!) behind Fall City Arts. Brand new board members who took a leap (Sarah Kieffer from Studio 202, I'm talking about you!) and tireless fundraisers like Susan Wong and

Kristin Haustveit. Our list of newly minted superhero volunteers is growing!

Yet, we also find ourselves at a crossroads. Many of our long-standing community members, who have given so much of their time and energy, are seeking a well-deserved respite. We are immensely grateful for their tireless efforts over the years. However, the torch must be passed to a new generation of volunteers. Especially as we move into more digital forms of engagement, Fall City is looking for skillsets like database management, social media outreach, website development, grant writing, and coordination. Many of these things are small commitments that can be done at anytime of day—just reach out to fcca@fallcity.org when you are ready!

Even if you feel that a significant time commitment is beyond your current capacity, please know that there are numerous ways to contribute. All are welcome to join us at our monthly FCCA meetings on the first Tuesday of the month; your presence alone makes a difference. For those who prefer to participate from home, becoming an FCCA member for \$30 means you get a private Zoom link each month. And if time is your scarcest asset, even a small donation can go a long way in supporting our community initiatives. Deep gratitude to our behind-the-scenes donors of 2023—we appreciate and depend on your contributions.

Northwest poet and activist Gary Snyder once said, “The real work of community is continuous. It's a circle. You have to keep it moving.” Let's heed his wisdom and keep the circle of community strong and unbroken into 2024!

KOMBUCHA (cont'd from page 5)

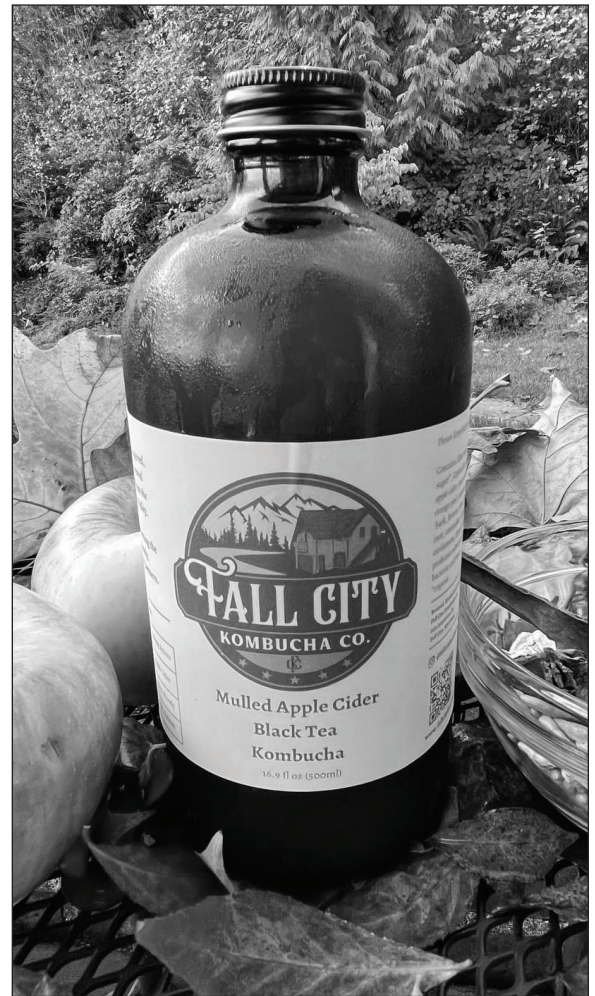
new, dealing with all the challenges and hurdles. Hopefully we can make the way easier for those that come after us. We can utilize our blessing to be a part of helping our community,” says Adam.

Fall City Kombucha Co. offers so many interesting and nutritional options. As Adam contemplates putting fruits, vegetables, botanicals, herbs, and spices together, he thinks through questions of “How can I get the stuff that’s good for me, such as ginger, mint, lemon balm, beets, turmeric, etc., into my diet?” He is committed to discovering what is available in the Valley. “If I can’t source it here,” says Adam, “then I try to find something I can.”

He is talking with local farmers out in the fields, which has been fun and interesting. Being a part of sourcing and using creative ways to incorporate the local produce has been so exciting for Adam.

When asked what makes his kombucha different from others, Adam replies, “It’s seasonally inspired and locally crafted. In the fall, look for mulled apple cider. In the winter find spiced vanilla pear. Both are on top of base teas served year-round on tap. January–March, look for botanicals and herbal bases. April–September feature traditional fruit bases using seasonal strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries, again along with botanicals and herbals added.”

Fall City Kombucha can be found at Aroma Coffee in Fall City, Arete Coffee Shop in North Bend, and Jubilee Farms in Carnation, as well as being open for private bottles and growlers by appointment. More information about their products and availability is available at fallcitykombucha.com.



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AQUIFERS—NATURE’S DEEPEST GIFT— ARE RUNNING OUT

The *New York Times* has researched America’s use of groundwater by asking detailed questions in all 50 states about how their waters are tracked when drilling wells, pumping water, or illicit users of water are punished. Some of our rivers that are fueled by snowpacks, springs, and underground aquifers have had their waters run dry, either seasonally or for longer periods. One hundred *New York Times* reporters have been interviewing and researching such issues and have produced eight long articles collectively entitled “Uncharted Waters.”

“As Groundwater Dwindles, Powerful Players Block Change” is one of the articles relevant to western states. Deep western aquifers are also covered in “America is Using Up Its Ground Water Like There’s No Tomorrow.” Surely, 100 years ago, the public would have given little thought to the need to regulate water resources that were often out of sight and taken for granted in all, even our most arid, areas.

States let underground water be regulated by parties who have and/or had vested interests in water use, like commercial agriculture, real estate development, and, more recently, major electronic enterprises like computer cooling centers.

The famous Ogallala Aquifer stretching under parts of seven western states (NM, TX, OK, CO, NE, SD, and KS) is sharply depleted from drought and simply overused. Ogallala Water District 3 in Kansas is controlled by the largest landowners in Kansas and pumping hasn’t slowed down, as water is running out fast. Meanwhile, a quarter-million ordinary water consumers served by Water District 3 will likely face greatly diminished land values if the water accessed below this land is not assured.

And the Ozark Aquifer under Missouri, where their well data indicate 85% of the state is experiencing drought, is being pumped out without oversight. The Missouri website admits it has some of the loosest water laws in the country.

States vary hugely in their water usage regulations, from an intentional hands-off approach to a tentative, hands-on legislative process in a few states, with uneven track records of enforcement by appointed staff. The biggest gold mine in the U.S., located in Nebraska, uses lots of Nebraska water resources and would not allow their CEO to interview with *New York Times* reporters.

CLIMATE AND GARDEN CORNER

by Susan Miller

The flash floods and “atmospheric river” rains we might hope to refill aquifers do not stay on the ground long enough to penetrate. Surface water races away quickly to rivers or oceans. Many aquifers that consist of layers of water-soaked dirt and rock are being rapidly depleted and permanently damaged by having surface land settle. This leaves less space to refill because surface cracks often split and collapse.

Parts of the U.S. will run out of drinking water that originally came from surface waters like rivers, lakes, and shallow wells. Today, upward of two-thirds of our drinking water now uses deeper groundwater and aquifers.

Corn, cotton, and alfalfa are water-intensive crops that the Ogallala Aquifer has grown. If Kansas’s aquifer can no longer produce enough water to yield the standard number of bushels/acre/corn for sale abroad, our collective reputation has been tarnished. What will we face in Washington State when our wet regions dry out and our forests increasingly burn despite continued episodic flooding and hard rains?

In the next months, we’ll research the Snoqualmie River’s existing data points and interview professionals and native tribal members who monitor our rivers.

Planters, now my attention is turned to you. May Christmas have brought you a plant or two or even a battery-powered mower. It’s less noisy than gas, as the average gas-powered is 90 decibels, the average battery-powered is 80 decibels, and the lowest is 74. Your ears will appreciate your kindness mixed with attention to safety, as lower decibel levels allow normal street conversations to be heard while mowing.

My 90 bulbs were found in an unopened box in the barn addressed to me. Plant them when you find yours but be sure the ground is above 32°F and not frozen or roots won’t grow and below 50°F or bulb leaves will grow. Also, our manure bins are slowly rising and some of this aged mulch needs to be on your garden beds and/or in your bulb holes. Bring your plastic buckets and take it away. It’s yours.

Susan Miller
Master Gardener/Master Pruner
susanamiller@hotmail.com

January Sno-Valley Senior Center Events

DOMINOS

Friday, January 5, 1:00 p.m. Have fun and make new friends! Come and play dominos. Grab a friend and join us at the center every Friday.

DRUMS ALIVE

Monday, January 8, 1:00–2:00 p.m. This class will incorporate the fun of music and exercise. Either sitting or standing, you will find that drumming will help you regain and maintain muscle strength, increase brain activity, improve your mood, and transform your emotions. You can drum as fast or slow as you want and still have fun. Even beat to your own drum. No experience necessary. Class is \$12 per person, limited spots available. Registration required.

REIKI TREATMENT SESSIONS

Tuesday, January 16, 12:30–3:30 p.m. Reiki, “Universal Life Force Energy,” is an alternative medicine developed by Japanese Buddhist Mikao Usui. Practitioners place their hands lightly on or just above the person, with the goal of directing energy to help facilitate their own healing response. The sessions are FREE. Call to schedule your appointment.

VIOLIN CLASSES

Wednesday, January 17, 2:30 p.m. Beginning violin group lessons. Free 10-week session. All skill levels and ages welcome. Taught by Maya Stchur, accomplished violinist for over 50 years. Bring your own instrument or rent to buy in class.

BIRTHDAY LUNCH CELEBRATION

Friday, January 19, Noon–1:00 p.m. Come celebrate your birthday with us. See if your table can win Jeopardy and a prize! Reservation required.

QUILTING GROUP

Tuesday, January 30, 11:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Bring your sewing machine and a project to work on. If you have a power strip and extension cord, please bring them. No need to pre-register, just drop in.

For more information or to register for classes and events, go to www.snovalleyseior.org or call 425-333-4152.



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Gift Matching

Gift matching is available through Boeing and Microsoft

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Please call 425-269-8098 if you are interested in volunteering – more hands are always welcome!

Dates

1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month

Time

12 - 1:30 P.M. & 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Location

Fall City United Methodist Church
 4326 337th Place SE
 fallcityfoodpantry.org

Like us on Facebook!

NEXT FOOD PANTRY DATES

January 3 and January 17

FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

**COMMUNITY SPIRIT SHINES IN FALL CITY:
 FCES FILLS THE PANTRY SHELVES!**

The Fall City Elementary School (FCES) food drive delivered an amazing bounty of items to the Food Pantry as a result of their annual event and we at the Food Pantry are so grateful!

In mid-November, the local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, parents and others carried in box after box filled to the brim with the donations from FCES, transferred everything into crates and took them upstairs — all in record time. Lisette Johnson did a great job organizing everything from start to finish.

It takes many individuals to work together to pull off a successful food drive. From the families who donated items, to the students who brought them to their classrooms, to those who



diligently checked dates, marked off bar codes and packed them, to those who distributed the empty boxes and collected them when they were full, to the teachers who inspired the students to help those who are less fortunate, to the leaders who involved their Scouts in the process and made the eye-catching

collection boxes, to Fall City Fire Commissioner Dan Meredith and parents who delivered everything to the Food Pantry — everyone made a difference.

Thanks to all of you, at least 300 Food Pantry recipients will benefit in the coming weeks and kick off a happy new year!



JANUARY 2024 FALL CITY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Not-for-profit organizations and elected/appointed government groups may submit calendar items to editor@fallcity.org. Deadline is the **10th** of the month before the event.)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

7:00–8:30 p.m. *Fall City Community Association Meeting.* Fall City Firehouse Community Room or on Facebook: FallCityWA.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

7:00 p.m. *Fire District Commissioners Meeting.* Fall City Fire Station, 4301 334th Pl SE.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

5:30 p.m. *Beginner Improv.* Back by popular demand. Are you curious about improv, but have been scared to try? You can do it—it's fun! Join us for a friendly, low-pressure intro at the Fall City Library. Ages 15+; **FREE!** No registration required. All skill levels welcome. Sponsored by Fall City Arts, 4Culture, and the Fall City Library.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

3:00 p.m. *Winter Friendship Gardens.* Come for a read-aloud story and a kids craft with Fall City Arts at the Fall City Library! Find more details at fallcityarts.org/events. Best suited for ages 5–10; **FREE!** No registration required. Sponsored by Fall City Arts, 4Culture, and the Fall City Library.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

5:30–7:30 p.m. *New Year Collaging.* Kick off 2024 with a little vision boarding, crafting some homemade cards, or just drop in for some open collaging time at the Fall City Library. All materials are provided. Come and go as you please. Ages 12+; no registration required. Sponsored by Fall City Arts and the Fall City Library.

7:00 p.m. *Fall City Water District Commissioners Meeting.* Water District Office, 33015 SE 43rd Pl.

FCCA HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd from page 3)

unsafe due to a poorly maintained surface. A meeting was held with King County Parks to determine what needs to be accomplished to resolve the maintenance concerns. Feedback was sought from the horse community, and it became clear there was interest in forming a new non-profit, Friends of Fall City Arena, to work with the County. Friends of Fall City Arena will purchase a new piece of equipment to groom the arena, as well as raise funds for a consultant to provide the scope and costs of the renovation. An agreement between the County and Friends of Fall City Arena is being drawn up to enable volunteers to do some of the ongoing maintenance. The group is currently looking for board members to guide the organization's efforts. Interested individuals can write fcarenafriends@gmail.com.

FALL CITY LIBRARY. Michelle Drov Dahl, regional manager, has retired. In November, fewer people came through the doors, but there were more digital checkouts and renewals. The library continues to sponsor events with Fall City Arts, like the luminaria workshop that 21 people attended. See the *Neighbors* Community Calendar for January events.

FALL CITY DAY 2024. *Anji Donaldson.* Save the date: Saturday, June 8. The festival will celebrate children's art and those who inspire creativity of Fall City youth. In 2024, the Party in the Park event and Fall City Day will be combined. The Fall City Day committee is looking for

people to work on the associated Fun Run. Carrie Lee will be the new parade lead.

NEXT FCCA MEETING: Tuesday, February 5, 2024, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom, Facebook Live, and phone.

YOUR TOWN NEEDS YOU!

JOIN US AT THE NEXT FCCA MEETING,
1ST TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH, 7:00 PM
AT THE FIRE STATION AND ONLINE.

JOIN, DONATE OR VOLUNTEER
TODAY AT WWW.FALLCITY.ORG

