

Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 25, Issue 1
January 2022



The days of winter are filled with darkness. The holiday lights on the cherry trees are a welcome sight, lighting up winter's darkness throughout the holiday season and continuing through Valentine's Day. [STAFF PHOTO]

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HAPPY
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YEAR!

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**Donations received after December 13, 2021, will be acknowledged in the February 2022 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

I believe most of us are ready—more than ready—to say goodbye to 2021. However, to be fair, there are folks who found it to be a very special year, with the arrival of a new family member, the long-awaited purchase of a new home, a successful career change, etc. But for millions of others—with the stresses and strains of dealing with COVID, job reduction or job loss, social isolation, home schooling, political division, and more—a new year couldn't be more welcome.

COVID is not over, political divide has not gone away, etc., but starting a new year is an opportunity to stop, review the previous year, reassess our priorities, and get ready to move forward in the most positive way for ourselves and others that we can muster.

May 2022 be the new year that we have each been waiting for.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

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

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: Nancy Moore, Editor, e-mail: editor@fcneighbors.org or mail to *Fall City Neighbors*, P.O. Box 1064, Fall City, WA 98024.

CALENDAR ITEMS: Andree Hurley at andree@seattlehometour.com

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Fall City Neighbors is a publication of the Fall City Community Association (www.fallcity.org) and is supported by local sponsors and donors. It is published monthly and 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, and the Roadhouse Inn, and online at <http://www.fallcity.org/neighbors.html>.

Deadline for submissions is the TENTH of each month.

Newsletter Volunteers

Layout: David Gershman, Maria Billorou
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Gardening Corner: Susan Miller
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Sno-Valley Senior Center: Kira Avery
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Community News and Notes

FALL CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Highlights of the December 2021 Meeting

2022 FCCA ELECTIONS. The current board members were elected to serve in their same positions for the 2022 membership year: Angela Donaldson, president; Simon Briant, vice president; Laurie Hauglie, treasurer; Clair Parker, corresponding secretary; and Nancy Moore, recording secretary.

THANK YOU, KATHY LAMBERT. Our thanks go to Kathy Lambert for her 20 consecutive years of service working tirelessly as District 3 Councilmember with a primarily urban council on behalf of our unincorporated rural town and the entire unincorporated King County area. Lambert's efforts included, but are not limited to, the following: assistance in getting our fire station built; introducing County Executive Dow Constantine to Fall City, which resulted in lifting 18 local businesses out of being red-tagged due to regulatory conflicts over their septic systems; creating a flood-control district, merging five districts into one, resulting in dedicated funding for constructing farm pads, flood hazard mitigation, and home elevations for the Snoqualmie Valley; and a dedicated funding source that has no sunset in the State of Washington. One of the most recent and most significant of her efforts was the creation of the Department of Local Services, giving unincorporated King County a direct line to the Executive side of County government.

COMMUNITY HOUSING DISCUSSION. A 17-home plat development currently in the construction phase in Fall City consists of large, two-story houses expected to sell for \$1.6 million each, placed very close together on the property. Six additional plats with a total of 104 homes with similar size and placement are in the permitting pipeline, all located in a relatively small footprint: 324th Ave SE to 332nd Ave SE and 44th St SE to Highway 202. Community members are asking how the housing density and cookie-cutter styling so foreign to the rest of the town could be happening in Fall City.

Background. The Washington Legislature enacted

the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1990 to guide planning for growth and development in Washington State. The GMA requires local governments in fast-growing and densely populated counties to develop and adopt comprehensive plans. King County designated areas urban and rural. Urban areas are required to take growth to take the pressure off rural areas in order to preserve its natural resources and rural lands. Fall City, Vashon, and Snoqualmie Pass were designated rural towns. In 1999, Fall City had a chance to influence the plan for our rural, unincorporated town. The residents wanting it to remain rural in character reduced the housing density from 8 houses per acre within the town limits to 4 houses per acre, which fit what was then and is now the norm. The business district needed wastewater solutions in order to thrive, but the community wanted to limit growth (no strip malls or Walmarts) and opposed a community sewer solution. By 2012, alternative waste-water plans were seen as possibilities for some septic change limited to the



The new housing development going up at the corner of 324th Street and Route 202. (STAFF PHOTO)

business district, and change is now (10 years later) on the verge of happening.

Residential development. While the new residential developments seem out of place and not in keeping with the rural town character referenced in the County's Comprehensive Plan that Fall City

(Continued on page 7)



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RAINFALL CHANGES WEST OF THE ROCKIES

USA Today tells us “If we think our area has had less rain than usual, we’re probably right!” The paper used daily precipitation data from weather stations located at 344 national climate centers to measure the change in frequency of extreme rain events across the U.S. from 1951 to 2020. East of the Rockies, more rain is falling in more intense bursts. In the West, people are waiting longer to see any rain at all. The report places the PNW at the extreme opposite rainfall pattern from East of the Rockies. Eight states—including five in the West—had at least *three record-dry years* [italics mine] in the 1951–2020 time frame. That’s double what would be expected based on historical data.

The warming planet changes conditions as rainfall weather systems cross the country, causing them to slow or stall more easily. Days that used to provide gentle rains are being replaced by downpours or even atmospheric rivers. Such deluges can cause flooding, landslides, and mudslides in our area of the West, picking up and carrying fertilizers and other toxins down major rivers into the Gulf and the Pacific.

In the West, high temperatures and lingering high-pressure systems pull moisture from the soil and plants. The increased heat and infrequent rain contributes to record wildfires. “It’s not a contradiction to have unprecedented huge floods and heat waves and droughts in the same time,” says climatologist Michael Mann of the University of Pennsylvania.

While the precipitation in the Puget Sound region has increased by only 0.8 inches in the past 30 years, the number of heavy precipitation events has increased by 24% in the same time period. How does this relate to gardening advice? Here’s an easy segue for you, Dear Reader. The UW Botanic Gardens has launched a longitudinal research project to help identify some of the best water-wise plants for our area. The findings will help nurseries and gardeners in the green trade make smart plant choices for the hotter, drier summers climate scientists predict for the years ahead.

Plant performance under 3 different irrigation regimes will be studied for selected plants, including roses, mock orange, mahonia, lagerstroemia, and other popular species. [A complete list will be provided

GARDEN CORNER

by Susan Miller

later]. The hard data will guide nurseries in choosing appropriate plants to propagate and market for western North America. One of the project’s major goals is to move away from anecdotal to more rigorous, robust data about plants’ water-use characteristics. The UW trial, in partnership with other universities in the West, is testing 15 different plants at three irrigation volumes: 80%, 50%, and 20% of “normal” watering.

Year One was the establishment phase, during which all plants received the same amount of water in the summer of 2021. Year Two is the deficit year, beginning in the spring of 2022, when the three different watering regimes commence. That’s when the rubber hits the road, and the plants will begin to grow and respond at different rates.

When I spoke by phone with the study’s academic leader, Prof. Soo-Hyung Kim, UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, he explained that he and his graduate-school colleagues back at U.C. Davis—now the home base of this study, but extended to six western universities—had made a pact to do this study ten years ago, and now it is finally a happy reality.

During the coming year, graduate students will rate the plants’ health and aesthetics in the following categories: foliage, flowering, pest tolerance/disease resistance, vigor, and overall appearance [aka, the “WOW factor”]. Those plants that thrive the best with the lowest amount of irrigation will be the “winners.” Area consultants who advised on local plant selections included the Great Plant Picks team, led by Richie Steffen, executive director of the Elisabeth S. Miller Garden in Shoreline.

Note: Please recall December’s advice from Prof. Linda Chalker-Scott: Spring is no longer our best planting season because summer dryness prevents establishment of roots. Buy and plant your trees and perennials during the winter season of January, February, and March, and give your roots more time to grow.

susanamiller@hotmail.com
Master Gardener/Master Pruner

Kevin J. Hauglie, CLF
Insurance and Financial Services Agent
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 khauglie@farmersagent.com



FALL CITY

Fall City Community Association Meeting

Every 1st Tuesday of the month
 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Fall City Fire Station

E ERIC M. HOLLIS
 Attorney at Law

M (425) 233-9011
 emhollis392@gmail.com
 erichollisattorney.com

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FCCA HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd from page 3)

residents want to protect, they do not violate any recorded codes. The current zoning code does not restrict design or address the look and feel of the current houses being built. At the time the subarea plan was developed and approved, the options were limited to individual home septic systems and large community septic systems, so there was no need to write language to cover residential group systems or the gerrymandering of lot shapes. The fact is, if it's not codified, it is merely a suggestion. The subarea plans being worked on now will cover future building. But there are concerns being expressed and they could influence the current situation.

Community members shared several concerns:

- **Housing units.** The style and positioning of the housing units do not conform to the housing placement and style of the rural town they are being constructed in.
- **Road size.** The roads serving the plats are not sufficiently wide or constructed to handle the increased traffic and size of the vehicles that will be using them.
- **Road safety.** There is insufficient room for amount and type of vehicular traffic, pedestrians, bicyclists, etc., using the roads now, and this will be exacerbated by the increased load created by an additional 121 housing units.
- **Road evacuation routes.** The roads impacted include the major evacuation routes out of town in the event of a disaster.
- **Parking.** Planned driveways are not long/wide enough to accommodate all the cars belonging to residents and their guests in the plats, which likely will push parking out onto the roads.

Short-term solutions. Make your concerns known to King County. It may be possible to get some changes that will mitigate some of the concerns you have if you make them known by sending in your comments and suggestions and showing up at any hearings scheduled.

Send those comments to the permit process manager (Kimberly Clausen), the hearing manager, and CC FCCA President Angela Donaldson, at the following e-mails: DPERwebinquiries@kingcounty.gov; Kimberly.claussen@kingcounty.

hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov; and ilovefallcity@gmail.com.

SAMPLE FORMAT FOR COMMENTS/ CONCERNS REGARDING CURRENT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN FALL CITY

To:

CC:

From: Your name, contact information, the Permit Number, and whether you would like to be a party of record, which is useful if you want to receive information.

Subject: *Comment Regarding Permit: PLAT21-0006 – Cha*

Your Comments: Your comments could be organized by the elements of the SEPA environmental checklist: Background (who, what, when, where, and why) and environmental elements negatively impacted by the development you have concerns about (i.e., earth, air, water, plants, animals, energy and natural resources, environmental health, land and shoreline use, housing, aesthetics, light and glare, recreation, historic and cultural preservation, transportation, public services, and utilities)

Long-term solutions. Each Community Service Area has detailed local land-use (subarea) plans as part of the larger King County Comprehensive Plan. These plans dictate what can and cannot be built, where and on what size lot, etc. These subarea plans are updated periodically. The current update is under way. Get involved with the subarea plan development to guide future development in Fall City.

Resources: You can begin with a review of information on the subarea planning process provided on the fallcity.org site: fallcity.org/fall-city-subarea-plan.html. To review the entire presentation and comments given at the December FCCA meeting on current housing development in Fall City, go to [Facebook.com/FallCityWA](https://www.facebook.com/FallCityWA), click on “More,” then “Videos.”

NEXT FCCA MEETING: Tuesday, January 4, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom, Facebook Live, and phone.

January Sno-Valley Senior Center Events

HOW ABOUT SOME GOOD OLE' COUNTRY MUSIC!

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1:30 p.m. In-person. Not the stuff you hear on the radio today, but some of the original country music that we were hearing while growing up. We will hear recorded music by some of the great artists who are now members of the Country Music Hall of Fame. Doyle will not only discuss the details of the various tunes but will also give more information on the artists and songwriters. There will be opportunities to ask any questions you have!

BABY BOOMER BOOTCAMP

Saturday, Jan. 29, 1:30–5:00 p.m. Do you have questions about retirement? Or where you're going to live as you age? Or how to help a loved one experiencing memory or health challenges? Join us for a complimentary Baby Boomer Bootcamp! In partnership with University House and ERA Living, we invite you to learn from retirement experts who will share best practices and guidelines to help you make the most of your next chapter. Appetizers will be served courtesy of University House Issaquah and the Sno-Valley Senior Center.

CATPALOOZA RAINBOW BINGO!

Friday, Feb. 11, 7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. It's time to PAW-ty! Join us for a delightful cat-themed Rainbow Bingo, hosted by the wonderful Sylvia O'Stayformore! You'll enjoy bingo games, prizes, Jell-O shots, and more! Register in advance (\$15/person, \$25/couple; everyone pays at the door). Thank you to our sponsor, Colleen Wardell!

HYDE SHUTTLE PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT THE SNOQUALMIE VALLEY!

If you or a loved one is looking for door-to-door transportation throughout the Snoqualmie Valley, the Hyde Shuttle is here to help! Our drivers can take you to the store, Sno-Valley Senior Center, local medical appointments or errands, and more! Who is eligible? Everyone aged 55 and older and people living with disabilities. Rides and trips are available to those living within Redmond Ridge, Duvall, Carnation, or Fall City. Call 425-333-4152 or 206-727-6262 to learn more and schedule a ride. There is no cost, but donations are accepted, and interpreter services are available.

For more information on any of the above, to order meals, or to register for classes and events, go to www.snovalleysenior.org, e-mail kiraa@soundgenerations.org, or call 425-333-4152.

Snoqualmie/Raging River Flood Alerts

The Snoqualmie and Raging Rivers are a vital part of the identity of Fall City, providing opportunities for locals and visitors to enjoy fishing, floating, boating, swimming, etc. However, farmlands, homes, and travel routes are endangered when the water levels get too swift and too high, spilling over into lowlands and across roads.

Most commonly, flooding and high water occur from November through February. Whether you are just curious or have important reasons to be aware of river activity, you can get up-to-date information by using the online King County Flood Warning System and the Floodzilla Gage Network.

The KC system provides real-time flooding information for the Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Tolt, Raging, Cedar, Green, and White rivers and Issaquah Creek. Sign up to receive flood alerts by e-mail and/or phone (voice or text messages) for the rivers that affect you. For more info: <https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/flooding/warning-system.aspx>.

The Floodzilla Gage Network consists of a network of river gages beginning at the South, Middle and North Forks of the Snoqualmie River and ending on the Snohomish River at Monroe. For more information and to sign up to get alerts, go to <https://floodzilla.com>.



FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY


P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024

historylives@fallcityhistorical.orgwww.fallcityhistorical.org

100 Years Later, and Weather Can Still Set Us Back

Yesterday I arose at three A. M. and helped a farmer down in the White River Valley pump his water and milk his cows. Today a child turned the dial on her radio and I brought her a lullaby from Radio City. Last evening I curled the tresses of a young Miss with a school girl complexion as she hummed a tune of "Moonlight and Roses."

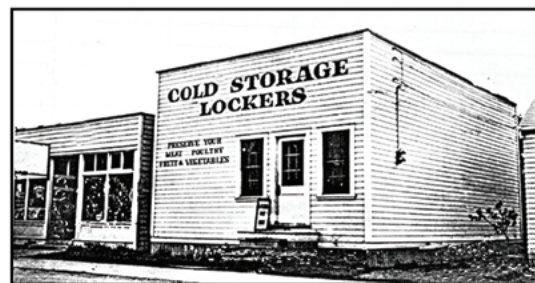
REDDY KILOWATT I also stood in a still, quiet room with a doctor and a nurse as they whispered over a life that hung in the balance.



Reddy Kilowatt Logo,
Puget Power News 1937

An electric incandescent light bulb flickered to life for the first time in Seattle (and west of the Rocky Mountains) on March 22, 1886, and in 1917, Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company cut its first log, the second all-electric lumber mill in the country. Here in Fall City, it wasn't until 1921 that Puget Sound Power & Light began to provide service to businesses, schools and homes. Fall City Brick School, built in 1915 and equipped with a gasoline generator that had to be started each morning, was one of the first to be connected to power lines in 1921.

In 1922, two businesses opened that embraced this new opportunity. Chapman's Store was the first grocery to have a refrigerated meat case, and Jesse Kelley opened Fall City Electric Shop, providing plumbing, heating and wiring service. Son Jack Kelley recalls "Mom began tending shop back in 1924, when they first began retailing electrical and plumbing goods."



Thomas Bldg., 1941 WA Archive

"Preserve Your Meat Poultry Fruit & Vegetables"

Although electric appliances were popular, in 1939 Frank Thomas built and opened his business, Cold Storage Lockers, where families could keep their frozen foods as home freezers hadn't been invented yet. As Irene Parmelee Pike remembers, "We rented a locker at the Cold Storage Lockers where we kept mostly fruits and vegetables. There were rows and rows of lockers and when we wanted something we went down, unlocked the wire-covered door, and took out what we needed. It was very handy." Expanding electric power service and its

conveniences to Fall City homes took years, and here is what some Fall City residents remember:

- ◇ Edith Emanuelson Sillery recalls "In 1928, we finally got electricity, and couple of years later, indoor plumbing."
- ◇ Janet Moore Ewing (b. 1924): "I was about five when electricity came to the farm: no more coal oil lamps or battery powered radios. The electric milking machines made doing farming much easier for my dad."
- ◇ Kay Stroming Boyle: "We always had electricity and well-water. In the mid-fifties we had a new electric stove (prior was a wood stove) for cooking, and indoor plumbing came about the same time."

Today, 100 years after electric power service began in our town, winter storms always remind us how much we appreciate having electricity and appliances in our homes and businesses!

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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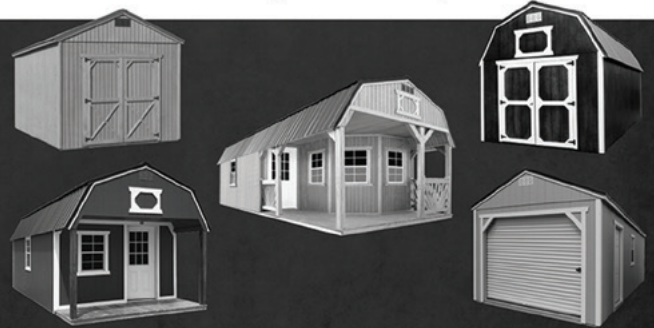
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Delightful, move-in ready Fall City gem, sold in 5 days.

4143 330th Pl SE
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3 BEDS | 2 BATHS
 1,400 SQ FT | 10,125 SQ FT LOT

LIST PRICE
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Acreage view home on Fall City's coveted Mitchell Hill, sold in 5 days.

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Location

Fall City United Methodist Church
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fallcityfoodpantry.org

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NEXT FOOD PANTRY DATES

January 5 and January 19

FALL CITY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

SO MANY ACTS OF KINDNESS—BY THE NUMBERS!

As we welcome the new year—we want to take a quick look back at the end of 2021 and the flurry of activity and acts of kindness that we witnessed around the holidays!

- 3 carloads of toys were picked up from the Fall City Library Kiwanis Giving Tree and dropped off at the Snoqualmie Valley Casino.
- 9 five-pound bags of coffee was donated one day.
- 29 gift cards were donated by Debby Moller and her students at Sculptor Fitness as part of the Fall City Elementary School food drive.
- 40 turkeys were donated for Thanksgiving and the same number of hams for Christmas from the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.
- 60 gift cards from Safeway/Albertsons were procured by Sue Terbruggen
- 63 stockings were assembled by Katie Anthony and her volunteer elves. Forty-nine were distributed to Food Pantry children ages infant to nine years old, and the remainder were donated to children in need.

And in the category of too many to count:

- Food and cash were contributed by employees from the office of AGC Technologies organized by Brianne Nelson.
- Dozens of toys for local children were donated by one very generous family
- Hundreds of donations were collected by the Snoqualmie Falls Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints youth group under the leadership of Alan Bateman.
- And a new resident of Fall City, Nic Chambers, dropped off more food than we have ever received from one person at the same time!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the holidays special for our neighbors in need.

Happy New Year!



JANUARY 2022 FALL CITY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Please send calendar items to Andree Hurley at andree@seattlehometour.com. Deadline is the 10th of each month.)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

7:00 p.m. *Fall City Community Association meeting.* Virtual meeting on Zoom and Facebook Live.

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 5 AND 19

11:00 a.m.–Noon. *Hopelink Mobile Market van* at the Fall City Library. Everything is free! We have a wide selection of fresh produce, dairy, and breads, as well as frozen foods. You can also receive a prepackaged box of food with soup, pasta, peanut butter, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, beans, tuna, and cereal. During each visit, you will be able to pick up enough food for at least 21 meals.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

7:00 p.m. *Fall City Fire District 27 Board of Commissioners meeting.* Visit king27fire.com for instructions on how to connect with the online video conference and audio-only teleconference.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

FC Metropolitan Park District meeting. For meeting time and location, visit fallcityparks.org or e-mail info@fallcityparks.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. *Best Starts for Kids Virtual Open House.* Join us to learn about some upcoming Best Starts funding opportunities. For more information, e-mail best.starts@kingcounty.gov.

JANUARY AT THE FALL CITY LEARNING GARDEN

January is planning and rest time for the gardeners at the Learning Garden. We will continue with garden cleanup as weather allows. The year 2021 was an abundant and fun one for the garden. We have donated over 700 pounds of fresh produce to area food banks! In 2022, we hope to grow and donate even more, and welcome any of you to come learn and garden along with us. We expect our regular workdays to start again in February, weather permitting.

May all your gardens bring you nourishment, pleasure, and health in 2022! Visit our website at <http://letusgarden.org> to see photos. Garden tips and ideas shared on our new MeWe page: <https://mewe.com/join/fallcitylearninggarden>. Contact us at info@letusgarden.org; Facebook: [Facebook.com/FallCityLearningGardenandPPatch](https://www.facebook.com/FallCityLearningGardenandPPatch).

JANUARY IS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations. Ultimately, mentoring connects a young person to personal growth and development, and social and economic opportunity. Our community's youth need adults more than ever. Together we can make a difference. For more information about local programs, please visit <https://empoweryouthnetwork.org>. To learn more about mentoring in Fall City, contact Heather Downing at BeAMentor@empoweryouthnetwork.org.

JANUARY WEATHER IN FALL CITY

January 2020



January 2021

