

Fall City NEIGHBORS

Volume 20, Issue 8
August 2017



Welcome to Baxter Barn, where a mixture of live animals and whimsical creatures greet visitors at the entrance to the farm. See pages 12 and 13 for details. (STAFF PHOTO)

IN THIS ISSUE

Sponsors	2, 4, 6, 10, 14	Baxter Barn	12
Editor's Note	2	Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater	13
Fall City Community Association	3	Raging River Cons. Group Update	13
Tolt All-School Reunion	3	Sno-Valley Senior Center Events	14
Garden Corner	5	Fall City Community Food Pantry	15
King County Fire District 27	7	Community Calendar.....	16
Fall City Historical Society	8-9	Shakespeare in the Park.....	16
Fall City Day 2017	11		

August Highlights



Wildfires: Know
Your Risks—page 7



History Volunteers
Needed—page 9

BAXTER BARN

by Sharon Brown

Baxter Barn is one of those well-kept secrets in Fall City. It is a family-owned-and-operated farm and feed store. Valley consumers, look no further: we have everything we need in our own backyard!

The Barn was built in 1875 by the Baxter family, who were among the first settlers in Fall City. As Missy Huskinson diligently worked her mail delivery in 2007, she came across the then unattended, run-down property and proposed buying it to her husband, Cory. It was a major fixer-upper, and Cory was not too keen on taking on the project. But Missy was convinced she needed a place for her horse, so they took the plunge and bought the property.

Cory started doing tours for schools, which led to an interest in farm animals and supplies. He also

began doing research on how to cut down all the blackberries and bring in native plants that would help restore the salmon creek, which he accomplished through the participation of some of his neighbors. The creek is now running with salmon once again!

During the school field trips, people began asking to purchase baby chicks. Thus the “farm” was birthed. As chicks were sold and customers began to purchase their supplies from other feed stores, they were coming back unsatisfied with their equipment and were not getting the proper education needed, so Cory decided to open his own feed store. While researching retail feeds, Cory discovered the products were not offering optimal benefit to the animals, so he created his own chicken and horse food using better minerals and vitamins that are more easily absorbed.

Cory next brought in pet food made by small, family-owned companies to provide a natural alternative to overpriced, poorly made pet prescription food. The positive results in the animals have been significant, so all are happy!

Wandering around the Baxter Barn property, one will see a menagerie of animals—from horses, miniature donkeys, and goats, to pheasants, quail, chukars, rabbits, and a wide variety of chickens at all stages of growth. Most of the animals are farm residents, but the chickens are always up for sale: baby chicks are available all year around.

Cory has been progressively building his offerings. He now includes vaccines, medication, shampoos, a wide range of animal supplies, feed, and some garden supplies. Check out the galvanized horse troughs in all sizes. They make great planters as well!

For over 10 years, Cory and Missy have been restoring the historic Baxter Barn. They have collected local history connected to the farm and the Baxter family and put them on display inside the barn. They have gained much-deserved recognition from several organizations for their effort, and a wonderful letter written to them from one of the Baxter daughters can be seen on their website.

In 2014, Cory hired Brandon Michaelis as a full-time employee for the farm. They met at a Fall City Days meeting while Brandon was volunteering with friends and family. The job was a perfect fit for him, because growing up he always had a great connection to animals and has loved the knowledge and experience that is involved in taking care of them.



In October 2016, Cory had a major stroke that left him unable to work for a few months. While he was recovering, Missy and Brandon stepped up to run the business that many people were counting on. This was a difficult time for all. Cory shares, “It has been so rewarding to develop Baxter Barn. But when I had the stroke, I lost all movement on my right side. My customer base in the community offered to help. People kept inquiring about my health, keeping abreast of my progress. They showed me how much I had offered to them and how grateful they were to be a part of my recovery. Their encouragement has meant so much to me. I have regained a lot of my movement, but I still suffer with side effects that cause me to become

overwhelmed with multi-tasking and relating with customers. I am thankful for Brandon, who has stepped in, learned a lot about the business, and filled in many gaps for me. As time goes on, I hope for continued healing.”

The Barn is a great place to take your family to see the animals (tours are \$5 per person). It also begs for an outing in October to go pick out your fall pumpkins!

I came away with a dozen beautiful fresh eggs, which I hope to be purchasing (\$5 a dozen) on a regular basis.

Baxter Barn is truly a place of knowledge and caring. For all their offerings, please go to their website, baxterbarn.org.

Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater’s 52nd Season

If you thought you knew the story of “The Princess and the Pea,” you may be in for a walloping surprise! Come and laugh with us as you watch the hilariously funny musical, *Once Upon a Mattress* under a canopy of trees in our open-air amphitheater, surrounded by SFFT’s 95 undeveloped acres of woods, meadows, and streams. Also enjoy signature BBQ dinners cooked by professional chefs over an enormous fire pit. Chances are you’ll never look at fairy tales quite the same way again. Music by Mary Rodgers, lyrics by Marshall Barer, and book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller, and Marshall Barer. Directed by Andrew Coopman.

Performances will run weekends through August 13, with shows on Saturdays at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. Dinner is served between shows on Saturdays and after shows on Sundays. Prices range from \$10 to \$20, with free admission for children under the age of 4. Dinners range from \$14 to \$18, with \$5 child hot dogs.

For more information, visit www.foresttheater.org or e-mail info@foresttheater.org.

RAGING RIVER CONSERVATION GROUP UPDATE

The quarry is currently regulated under a very old set of rules based on the initial mining permit for that property. A Periodic Review process was initiated in 2016 (due mainly to the large volume of complaints), which allows the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (DPER) to update rules to today’s more stringent environmental and public health ordinances wherever possible.

In a recent meeting, the DPER disclosed to RRCG that they were not even clear that the operating conditions for the quarry sent to the public two years ago are actually enforceable! Following that meeting, a list of current (valid) operating ordinances was to be sent to RRCG directors, followed by the Periodic Review document with updated operating conditions. We still don’t have either.

If you are concerned about DPER’s lack of progress, please consider writing Councilperson Kathy Lambert, DPER Manager Randy Sandin, and DPER Director John Starbard. Tell them you are concerned that there has been a lack of respect for our community in that the Periodic Review is *still* not available, and the quarry is operating without updated standards.

We will post any updates from DPER on our website: www.RagingRiverCG.org