



# FIRST HILL

## IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## First Hill Community News Vol. 117



### Hofius / Connolly House Update

Last year, there was much concern from First Hill neighbors about news that the [new Archbishop Paul Etienne said that he would not live in the Hofius/Connolly House](#). Archbishop Etienne also signaled that there were discussions about selling the historic building.

We are happy to announce that the Archdiocese of Seattle plans to preserve the house and use it for Archdiocesan purposes. While long term uses of the building are undetermined, the building appears to be safe in the short-term. We are thrilled about this news and we are grateful to [Historic Seattle](#) for tracking this closely.



## Attend Two of Trinity Parish Church's Online Christmas Events

Trinity Parish Church invites you to a virtual live reading of Dylan Thomas' beloved story, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. The video will premiere on Wednesday, December 23rd at 6:30pm at [www.trinityseattle.org](http://www.trinityseattle.org).

The story tells the tale of the adventures of a small boy and his friends on a Christmas morning in the 1920s and the family feast that follows. Suitable for all ages, this classic tale shares a warm and joyful look at Christmas fun in times past.

"Allegra" from the Seattle Girls Choir under the direction of Sarra Sharif Doyle and the Byrd Ensemble will broadcast their annual performance of *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* popularized by the King's College Chapel. The program consists of nine readings, each followed by a traditional carol performed by the choir, and another sung by the audience. The program is co-hosted by Trinity Parish Church and will air on Wednesday, December 23rd at 7:30pm at [www.ByrdEnsemble.com](http://www.ByrdEnsemble.com) or [www.trinityseattle.org](http://www.trinityseattle.org).

You can support Byrd Ensemble, directed by Trinity's own Choirmaster & Director of Communications & Social Media, Markdavin Obenza, by purchasing a virtual ticket: <https://byrdensemble.ticketleap.com/lessons-and-carols-2020/>



## St. James Cathedral is Constructing a Prayer Garden

No, there are not structural issues to St. James Cathedral! There have been many questions about what is going on at St. James Cathedral's Marion Street frontage. The retaining wall near Marion Street has been removed to make room for a new plaza, landscaping, and eventually a columbarium. We're looking forward to the finished product!



## Take Note of a Continued Sidewalk Closure at 9th & Seneca

The Seattle Department of Transportation is in the process of installing new curb ramps on Virginia Mason's campus. If you frequently walk nearby the Seneca Street or 9th Avenue intersection, take note and plan an alternate walking route or be extra cautious.



## Think First Hill First!

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak, many of our neighborhood businesses remain open, with some operating at reduced schedules. Indoor dining is currently not allowed, but take-out is. In previous community newsletters, we have provided a list. Our website now provides a list that is updated weekly with the latest information about open businesses in the neighborhood. You can find that list on our website [here](#).



## Support Our Work

First Hill Improvement Association (FHIA) is committed to working alongside residents, businesses, organizations, and institutions to address the needs and concerns of the community. Over the years FHIA has been dedicated to addressing issues of housing affordability, high-rise development, construction impacts, insufficient public space, accessibility, homelessness, and a growing residential population.

FHIA is dedicated to serving the First Hill neighborhood and we need your support now, more than ever, to continue this work. Please [join FHIA today!](#)