

FLSRV Newsletter



Spring
2015

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Annual Meeting

Many of us enjoyed our Annual Meeting on February 27th at Wandermere Golf Course Club House. We had a presentation by a representative from the Sheriff's Department on safety for our community. Board members Harla Jean Bieber, Michael Kennedy, Lance Pounder, and Martha Schaefer were re-elected for another 2 year term. Dave Maccini was elected as a new member of the board.

After the meeting we enjoyed a buffet dinner and conversation with friends and neighbors.

A huge "thank you" to the following folks and businesses who donated items for one of the best auctions in our history. The items were outstanding and we made nearly \$2000.

Dr. Yarbro, DDS
O'Doherty's Irish Pub
Kizuri Fair Trade
Judge Wynecoop
Wynecoop Chickens
Susan Holen
Petite Chat Village Bakery
Kay Ringo Family
Lance Pounder Excavation
Rick and Sue Kellogg
Kirk Neumann
Emporium
Jack Bury
PostNet
Oil Can Henry
Chatteroy Cheese Company
Bart & Lindell Haggin
Car Wash Plaza
Fred Meyer
Wandermere Starbucks
Little Spokane Garden Club
Pounder's Jewelry
Yuppy Puppy
Harla Jean Bieber
Jack Nisbet
Lori Neumann

In Memoriam

Dr. "DENNY" FREUEN

"He walks on."

*A true friend of the
Little Spokane River Valley*

New Benches for the Haynes Estate Trails Area

Kirk Neumann

The bad news is... After many years of trusty service, the bench overlooking the Little Spokane River at the Haynes Estate has succumb to deterioration and vandalism.

The good news is... Two new benches are planned to be installed this summer.

The Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley Board of Directors have recently authorized the purchase of two new benches to be installed at the Haynes Estate Area. The new benches will be installed near the area of the original bench. These two benches will allow a pleasant rest while walking along the trail and provide an elevated view of the river valley to observe wildlife. The Haynes Estate can be accessed from either the Pine River Park neighborhood or from Leona Drive. The new benches will be made of composite (plastic) seats and backs with a heavy duty steel frame. The steel support frames will be cemented to the ground to secure the benches for many years of service. The steel supports will be green and the composite benches will be brown. This color scheme should blend in with the natural environment.

The benches will be installed as an "Eagle Scout Project" by Lukas Craze who is a member of Troop 218. This project will utilize volunteer workers from the Boy Scout Troop. As part of the project the shingles on the kiosk roofs at the entrance to Haynes Estate will also be replaced. We are all looking forward to the successful completion of this project.

Pine River Park Neighborhood Entrance Will Be Getting a New Look

Pine River Park has received a \$5000.00 Grant from the Spokane County Parks Department to rejuvenate the entryway to the area. They will be working with Gary Sander, our neighbor from Nelson Landscaping, who has volunteered his expertise. Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley have offered to match up to \$500.00 of the amount Pine River Park residents contribute to the project.

If you want to participate make your check to FLSRV and mail to:

Karen Dashiell
14503 N. Hamilton
Spokane WA 99208

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

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P.O. Box 18191
Spokane, WA 99228
Phone: 509-466-2823

For article suggestions or comments,
contact Harla Jean Bieber

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Woverine Walkabout = Wolverine Wanderlust

Tina Wynecoop

The prime habitat in Spokane County for the elusive wolverine is the old growth forest atop Mt. Spokane. Imagine Little Spokane Valley residents, Mike and Jen Childress' surprise when they spotted a wolverine last Thanksgiving near Perry Road and Little Spokane Drive! Jen Childress describes this remarkable sighting, which she prefaces with "while we are pretty sure the animal had to have been a wolverine, that was not our immediate assumption – we just knew it was something out of the ordinary. We definitely knew right away what it *wasn't*, but we only determined what it had to be after looking in the guidebooks and on YouTube." Here is her report to the Wolverine Foundation which tracks wolverine sightings:

"Yesterday as we drove out to the folks' for the Thanksgiving holiday, it was daylight and both my husband and I got a pretty good look at this odd creature. My husband spotted it and thought at first it was a wild cat because it leaped from a tree at some wild turkeys on the ground. We were so surprised, we quickly pulled over to get a better look. The sound of our car startled the creature, which then ran up a small rise into the forest. As it ran up the hill we got a fairly good look at it in the sunlight. I thought at first it might have been a fox because of its tail, but it was too dark and heavy for a fox and it didn't run like a dog. It seemed (in comparison to the turkeys) to be about as big as a badger, but taller; chocolate brown with golden undercoat and more gold on its head; small ears, big bushy dark brown tail and loped in a strange way. We waited quietly in the car for about 5-10 minutes to see if it would sneak back (for the turkeys which were still nearby), but it didn't.

As wolverines are extremely rare (to my understanding) I thought perhaps it could have been a pine marten (which I've never seen either, but have heard they are around here), but when I looked at videos on *YouTube* and photos & guidebook descriptions, a marten is too small and much more weasel-like than this animal was. By a process of elimination, it seems the only animal that comes close to what we both saw is a wolverine and the description of its appearance and behavior actually seemed dead-on. So odd since the area is rural, but well-populated--not really "wilderness" anymore. There are lots of varied wildlife big and small in the area, but if this was truly a wolverine, it would be a very rare sighting, wouldn't it? We thought it quite strange and amazing!

After looking up videos on wolverines, and feeling more convinced, we went back to the spot today to look for tracks, but the ground was too grassy and needle-



covered. I didn't poke around too much because I was trespassing on people's private property and there seemed no one home from whom to ask to ask permission. Although we have no proof in photos or tracks, we thought we should at least mention the *possible* sighting in case it is important, you are interested in following up, or maybe perhaps you've even had other reports from this area."

Later Jen and I (Tina) revisited the property and found the owners at home. They were intrigued by the

account of the possible sighting and gave us permission to explore further for any evidence of the mysterious animal. We found scat and fur samples and a wild animal's 'latrine' at the base of a tree situated alongside a little spring-fed stream. Nearby were the remains of a wild turkey carcass. We gathered what we could find for DNA testing (if anyone were to ask for it) and took photos. Well, the Childress' sighting and report certainly piqued the interest of scientists, naturalists, biologists, and writers! The Wolverine Foundation's biologist responded to her emailed description with these comments:

"It would be a bit odd to find a wolverine in a heavily populated area, but it has happened before, particularly

if the area is fairly close to what we might consider wolverine habitat. We know that wolverines are present in the Selkirks of northern Idaho and I've always wondered about the Colville country to the north of you. Young wolverines reach maturity in their second year and can sometimes get the wanderlust, which can take them into very unusual places. They are not particularly wary of humans and will sometimes simply follow their noses

- Wolverine / Continued on page 3 -

into places that are not often the best places for them to be. So, I certainly could not discount the possibility that what you saw was a wolverine. If it was, hopefully he (she) made their way back into the mountains where they belong. If it was, I wouldn't be surprised to get more reports of sightings, so if I do, I will let you know."

www.WolverineFoundation.org

Author Jack Nisbet came out to the site a few weeks later. He knew of a radio collared wolverine which had migrated from Glacier National Park to Calispel Lake near Usk, Washington, in the 1980s. He was inspired to write his March 2015

from local residents about wolverine sightings, but had no way of confirming their truth. Neither was shocked to hear of the Thanksgiving Day report, and pointed out the way functional wildlife corridors stretch from Mount Spokane and the Little Spokane drainage east clear to Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. That is where the most extensive scientific observations, done on viable wolverine populations over the past few decades, have revealed complex behaviors and life histories. Collared wolverine males have been shown to defend astonishingly large territories (up to a quarter of a million acres), and walkabouts by juveniles can stretch for hundreds of miles."

Our local library has an informative book about this elusive mammal:



North Columbia Monthly essay, titled "A Shadow in the Sunlight" about the Little Spokane River sighting:

"Many biologists consider the wolverine the least studied and least understood large mammal on our continent." Jack wrote. Wildlife biologists, Steve Zender of Chewelah, and Howard Ferguson of WDFW, Spokane region told him, "that over the years they received occasional calls

The Wolverine Way by Douglas Chadwick. The author writes:

"If an air of obsolescence seems to hover around these creatures today, it isn't due to shortcomings on their part. They got through the Ice Ages and the post-Pleistocene period alike in vigorous shape. Granted, their chances of making it through the Industrial Exhaust Age in good shape don't appear to be nearly as high. But then neither do ours."

Canadian writer Eileen Delehanty

Pearkes also featured the Thanksgiving Day sighting in her January 2015 *North Columbia Monthly* essay and titled it, "The Art of Noticing."

Things have quieted down. Perhaps the young wolverine is back in wilder territory and he/she has found a mate. Wanderlust has many trails. Practice "the art of noticing" dear readers, for the Little Spokane River Valley is still rich in untold mysteries and wonders.

Proposed New Housing Development *Jennifer Mudge*

There is currently a plan to build apartments on the 17.6 acres between Wandermere Road and Highway 395. This crescent shaped property consists of 3 parcels all owned by the same developer. There are parcels (6.2 and 6.9 acres respectively) zoned high density and a 4.5 acres parcel in the middle zoned low density. Regarding this property, there are currently two actions under review with the county. One is a rezone application for the 4.5 acre parcel of land changing to high density. If this is approved, the developer plans to build 354 apartments over the 3 parcels. This request is still under review. The County Commissioners have asked the developer to submit a developer agreement for review and traffic study documentation to be discussed at the County Commissioner hearing on June 16 at 5:30 pm. The hearing is open for public testimony. All interested should plan to attend and speak as to the effects on our neighborhoods.

The second issue is an apartment permit application to develop 123 apartments on the northern 6.2 acres; the land where the trees were removed. The Friends of Wandermere filed an appeal against

Saltese Upland Hike

Tina Wynecoop

Once again author and naturalist Jack Nisbet showcased a new world for a troop of eager followers of the Friends-of-the-Little-Spokane 'tribe'. This year he led about 25 of us to another local valley's unique landform in our Spokane River drainage - property which Spokane County Conservation Futures monies purchased in 2011: a 552 acre rise of land west of Liberty Lake near the Washington/Idaho border.

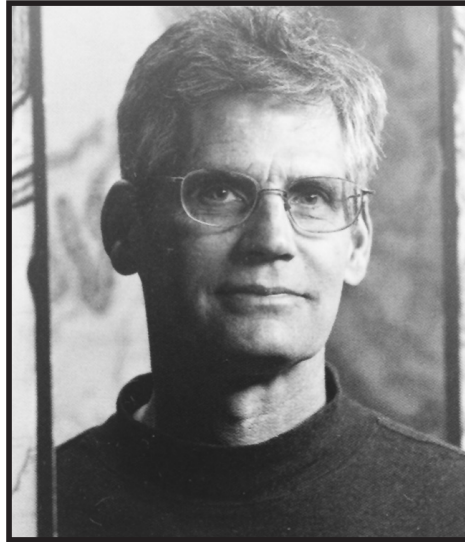


The Saltese Uplands property hovers over what was formerly an extensive shallow lake (it had been ditched and drained over the years for agricultural use.) Its namesake, Cd'A tribal chief Andrew Saltese/Seltice (Below; Idahoans spell his



name Seltice), who was married to

a Spokane Indian woman, and their family, once lived on Saltese Lake's eastern shore. Nestled between Mica Peak (Washington) and Mica Peak (Idaho) this homeland his family inhabited had rich natural resources to sustain them.



With his characteristic familiarity of the land, coming from years of immersion in the history of the region, Jack drew our attention to the native plants, the geology of the Ice Age floods, and the view sheds. On a gentle path, shared alike by hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers, we ascended to the crest of the uplands where Liberty Lake came into view. Off in the distance loomed Mt. Spokane to the north, Signal Point to the east, and 20+ miles to the west two buttes within our view jutted out of the wheat fields north of Reardan. It was a soul-satisfying three-hour hike capped by a communal lunch atop a rocky outcrop.

Meanwhile, until next spring when another Nisbet-led hike sponsored by FLSRV will be offered, the reader may immerse themselves in the historical landscape of his most recent book: *Ancient Places: People and Landscape in the Emerging Northwest* (May, 2015).

We extend special thanks to the friendly hikers, to the children who learned new things along with the

adults and had just as much fun, to Jack and to Harla Jean who organized and promoted the wonderful excursion.

Unique Trail Users

Tina Wynecoop

Earlier this spring a group of teens were riding the FLSRV trail on Hatch Road. One of the buddies wore a leg cast and was navigating his skateboard by using crutches to propel himself. I asked if I could take his photo and he agreed:



Valley Cleanup

Michael Kennedy

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley held their annual cleanup day for the valley on Saturday, April 18, 2015. Again this year we had a below normal turnout of only around 20 people, and we did not have enough volunteers to cover all the routes. Thanks to everyone who did show up! Our goal each year is to clean up most of the major roads in the valley from Wandermere to Perry; Shady Slope to the top of the hill; Dartford to Hazard Road; Hatch Road to the pool; and Golden Road, Midway, and Colbert Road including some new area along US 395.

I would also like to thank the Camp Fire USA group, "Club Running Deer", with the help of Mylene and Fred Warren who answered our call for help to refurbish our clean up signs. With a fresh coat of paint and new lettering, the signs look great and should last a number of more seasons. Thanks again!

We collected a lot of paper trash, miscellaneous wood, carpet, bottles, etc. Estimated total trash was 20 to 30 bags with some tires and metals. Good job!!

After the cleanup, an annual chili feed was held at Bart and Lindell Hagen's house for those who helped out. A big thank you to those responsible for a great meal: Lindell Haggin for the chili, Roberta Ellis for the cornbread, Kirk Neumann for condiments, and Harla Jean Biever for the cookies. Thanks to all who helped with both cleanup and the cooking!

As part of FLSRV annual spring litter pick-up day there are neighbors on our beautiful valley's periphery doing the same: special thanks to Hatch Road's Russell English and Jim Cooke; to Dr. Yarbrow and children for looking after Dartford Road; and to Judge Wynecoop for litter patrol on the N/S Freeway's "Children of the

Sun Trail."

Please mark your calendars for next year's cleanup scheduled in April, 2016. We need your time and your continued support to help to keep our valley clean. This is also a good way to get to know your neighbors!

Be Coyote-Wise

WA Department of Fish & Wildlife

It's good to be wise about wildlife year round to avoid problems, but it's especially important at this time of year to be "coyote wise".

Coyotes, which are abundant throughout Washington's rural and urban areas, are paring up and breeding now in late winter to produce pups in April and early May. And coyotes that were born eight or nine months ago are striking out on their own at this time. That means there's lots of coyotes moving about and making noise, yipping and howling to communicate with each other.

Like most wildlife, coyotes usually avoid people and don't cause trouble. But coyotes are extremely opportunistic and adaptable to our ways and will take advantage of easy access to food sources. As a canine species, they also view domestic dogs as competitors. These two factors can lead to problems with coyotes now and through summer as young are reared.

Finding food is critical for all wildlife. But mature animals that are reproducing, and young animals that are learning independence, are really driven to feed.

Coyotes are actually omnivores - they'll eat everything from fruit to large animals. Hungry coyotes will try almost anything.

NEVER intentionally feed coyotes. And think about how you might be unintentionally providing access to food, like unsecured garbage, uncovered compost

piles, spilled seed from backyard bird feeders, pet food left outdoors, or even small pets like cats or toy breed dogs left to roam, especially from dusk to dawn.

Don't feed feral cats (domestic cats gone wild). Coyotes prey on these cats as well as any feed you leave out for the feral cats.

If a coyote finds an easy food source close to people, it can easily become habituated, or so accustomed to people that it becomes abnormally bold. Coyote attacks on humans are extremely rare. Only two such attacks have been documented in Washington - in 2006 a habituated coyote bit two young children in Bellevue and was later euthanized.

Finding mates and producing and rearing young can make adult coyotes more territorial and less tolerant of free-running domestic dogs. Learning how to make a living in the world, independent of a family unit, can make juvenile non-breeding coyotes more competitive with free-ranging dogs.

Avoid running dogs off-leash in areas where you have heard or seen coyotes, especially now through May. Coyotes might aggressively confront dogs running through their denning area, and some dogs are just as likely to curiously sniff out coyotes and end up in nasty

encounters.

Coyotes carry parasites and canine diseases, like distemper and parvovirus, that are rarely a risk to humans but could be deadly for domestic dogs. Be sure to keep dogs current on vaccinations and consult your veterinarian if you know of or even suspect a coyote encounter.

More information on becoming "coyote wise" is available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/coyotes.html>.



Wandermere

Dan Webster

Courtesy of Spokesman Review

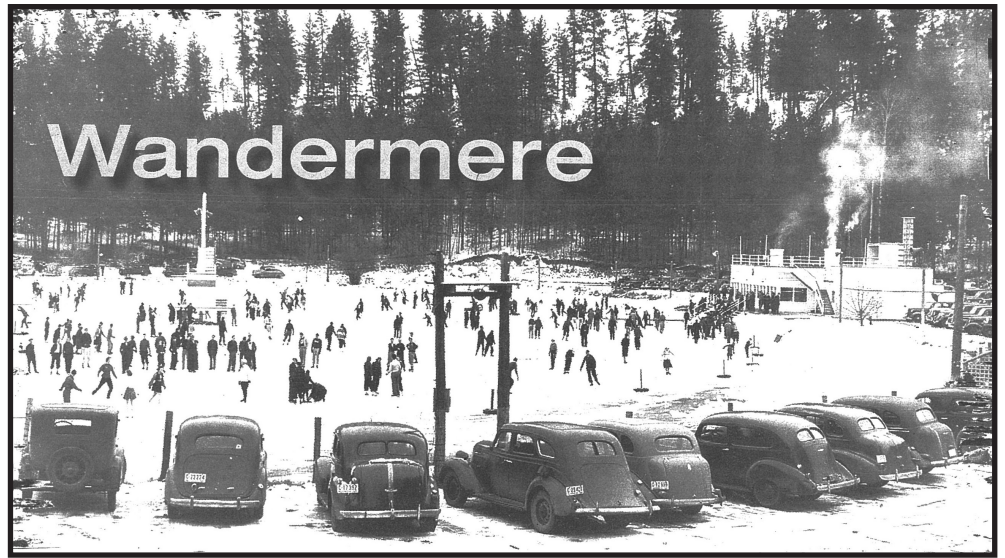
The Spokane Indians that lived for generations in and around the Little Spokane River Valley had little in common with the residents of today's modern housing developments. That much is obvious.

But both cultures do share one important quality: a sense of community.

To the Spokanes, kinship was key. Life revolved around the nuclear family, which extended to immediate cousins. To those who live in suburban neighborhoods such as Blackhawk, which sits in North Spokane east of U.S. Route 395 and just north of Wandermere Golf Course, that kind of kinship is more loosely defined.

To residents such as Crissy White, though, it is no less meaningful.

"Blackhawk is a pretty strong community," says White, who has lived in the subdivision for a dozen years with her husband Todd and their



exact same time." White, who works in sales and marketing for an area title company, was happy to have Blackhawk included in our roundup of Spokane area neighborhoods worth celebrating.

The area is one small part of the overall development of North Spokane that began in earnest during the early 1980s; with the more recent improvements to U.S. 395 involving the North Spokane Corridor, that growth remains ongoing.

To White, neighborly action is what happened recently when one of her neighbors incurred a traumatic brain injury.

"While buttoning up her boat at Diamond Lake, she was hit by a tree," White says. "And our neighborhood has rallied. It's pretty priceless. It's a story all by itself."

This is not the first time the Blackhawk subdivision has been singled out.

In February 2007, a group of neighbors nominated resident Paul Patrick and his wife Doris as part of the Spokesman-Review's Good Neighbor series. Patrick's nomination cited everything from his willingness to help remove downed trees and contribute to other cleanup activities to his wife sharing her homemade pies.

"Paul embodies the neighborhood spirit," one of Patrick's fellow Blackhawk residents said. "He and Doris go above and beyond what normal neighbors would do."

As with the tribes who historically populated the valley, one of the main aspects of a neighborly spirit involves family. And it was a sense of family that appealed particularly to White, whose section of Blackhawk has more than its share of big households.

"So there are a lot of kiddos," White says. "Our cul-de-sac had, at one point, 28 kids."

Those children all had to be

- Wandermere / Continued on page 7 -



two children. "We're very close."

White cites one major reason for that closeness.

"I think like many of the newer-constructed neighborhoods, we were all built at pretty much the same time,"

White says. "And we all had children who were young at the

Above: Spokesman-Review file photo. The pond at Wandermere was frozen solid enough for ice skaters in January, 1940.

Despite the area's changing face, though, some things remain the same. The definition of the term "neighborly," for example.

educated. And according to longtime Spokane realtor John Orr, no area school district is better than those available to students living in the Wandermere area.

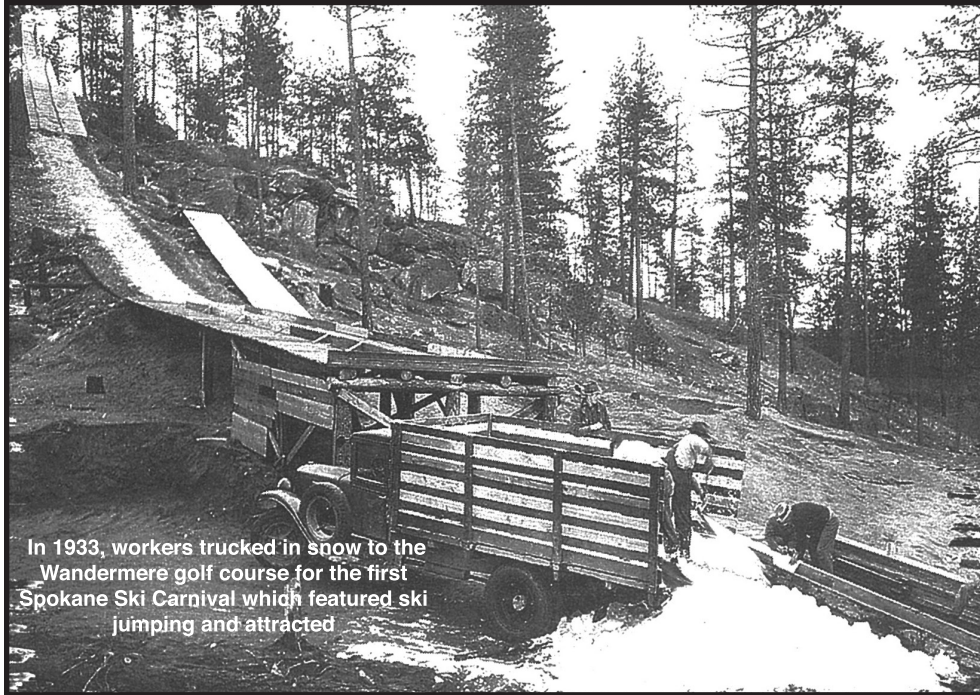
The Mead School District boasts eight elementary schools, two middle schools and two well-regarded high schools: Mead and Mt. Spokane.

"When you talk about Wandermere, and that area, the first thing that comes to mind - and I think this would be true

the nonprofit group Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley for incorporation into the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan. And aside from the Little Spokane itself, nearby 14-acre Pine River County Park offers a sandy beach, BBQ facilities and a playground.

Yet for all that natural feel, essential services from stores to restaurants to a 14-screen movie theater, are situated in shopping centers less than five minutes away by car. The golf course, which has been open since 1929,

the Environmental Decision of "No Impact" to the area. Besides the obvious safety issues, some known impacts we as a community will experience will be related to noise, traffic, even more school overcrowding. The Friends of Wandermere are attempting to work with the developer on an amicable agreement to limit the impact on our communities but have been unsuccessful to this point. To learn more about the details, how this impacts you, and how you can get involved, please contact Jen Mudge at jenmudge@comcast.net. ➤



of most of the Realtors in town - is the school district," Orr says. "The Mead School District has such a positive reputation."

"We've had people come to town and say, 'Well, I've talked to my girlfriend, and she said I should live in the Mead School District,'" Orr adds. "That's the central feature."

But hardly the only one. Yes, Blackhawk is a standard neighborhood, with paved side-walks, driveways and cui-desacs such as White's. And as she points out, her house doesn't "sit on an oversized, acre-wide lot." Yet the area does have a feel of nature.

"It's right off the Little Spokane, it's near Wandermere Golf Course and there are tons of pine trees," White says. In fact, the area is surrounded by trails designed and developed by

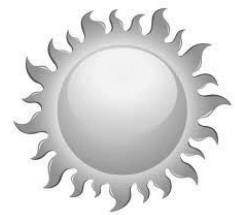
is even closer.

"We're close to Twigs (Bistro and Martini Bar}, Fred Meyer, Albertson's and all that," White says. Ultimately, though, the sense of comfort she feels comes down to the sense of community that living in Blackhawk provides, of being near people she considers more than mere neighbors.

"The biggest base of our friends is in that neighborhood," White says. "It's a very big social area. We knew the families that our kids were friends with."

That familiarity is a throwback to the kind of life that past generations likely would have taken for granted.

"I never set up play dates for my kids," White says. "They figured it out. The community, it's right there." ➤





Friends of
Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.
P.O. Box 18191
Spokane, WA 99228



2015 Fairwood District Farmers Market

*Located in the parking lot
at 319 W Hastings Road
3:00pm - 7:00pm (Tuesdays)*

June 2

July 7

August 4, 11, 18, 25

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

October 6

Hosted by
Allen Family Properties

Sponsored by
Postnet

Warning to Pet Owners

Erin Kennedy, DVM

There are local coyotes in the area killing domestic cats. Over the last month, several cats have been reported missing in the Upper and Lower Gleneden neighborhoods as well as on Juneberry Lane and Little Spokane Drive. A trail camera was placed in the land off of Juneberry Lane on May 22nd and a coyote was visualized at 12am and 3am. A cat was taken and



killed that night from the yard on Little Spokane Dr. The body later was recovered in the upper part of Pounders Field.

Please keep a close eye on your pets and be sure to lock them safely indoors at night!



FLSRV Website

Have you visited our web site? We are continually updating information in which you might be interested. Take a look at flsrv.org.