



# FLSRV Newsletter

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## Valley Clean-Up 2023

Michael Kennedy

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley will hold their annual clean-up day for the valley on Saturday, April 22, 2023. We will apply for our permit to use Moose Park in Gleneden again. Also Saturday is Earth Day, so come help Mother Earth. 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.

Please mark your calendar for this year's clean-up at 9:30 AM. We need your time and continued support to help to keep our valley clean. This is also a good way to get to know your neighbors. Remember we are meeting at Moose Park this year. Remember you can always clean up a little around your area throughout the year.

After the clean-up, we are planning a chili feed that will be held at Dave and Merry Maccini's home for those who help out. Thanks to all who give time with both clean-up and the cooking!

***We appreciate your support and help in keeping our valley clean!***



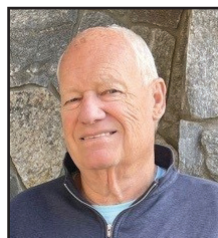
## In Memoriam Dick Vandervert

Ty Brown

When Dick Vandervert passed away earlier this year, the Little Spokane River Valley lost one of its most valued residents. Over the years he made many monetary contributions to the Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley, which helped foster its vision of creating a place where people can enjoy its beauty, feel secure, and experience a sense of community. He also recently granted an easement on some of his property, allowing the FLSRV trail project to stay off Little Spokane Drive and continue north of Midway Road.

One of Dick's biggest impacts in the valley was the development of the Little Spokane River Estates subdivision off of Golden Road. This 124-acre property met some protest from area residents when it was proposed in 1978, but in the end, a compromise was reached to change the size of the lots abutting the river in order to reduce the impact on the wildlife and the land. Dick and his wife Bonnie constructed a home in the development and enjoyed many years living along the Little Spokane River.

Dick made a name for himself with many quality development projects in the Spokane area, often spending extra time and money on landscaping. After his passing, the family established a memorial fund in his name, which will provide grants to non-profits to provide landscaping and beautification in the local area. These projects may include walkways, park benches, planting trees, and improving wildlife habitat.



## Auction And Annual Meeting

David Maccini

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley held our annual meeting, auction, and dinner on February 17th at Wandermere Golf Course for the first time since 2020. We had 76 attendees and enjoyed a delicious Italian dinner catered by Ferraro's Italian restaurant. Ben Peterson from Spokane Conservation District gave an excellent presentation on the Firewise Program.

There were numerous fun silent auction items leading to spirited bidding! We raised \$2000 to further our ongoing mission. Our president, Martha Schaefer, served as Master of Ceremonies and conducted a wonderful evening. Longtime board member, Tina Wynecoop, recently resigned from our board of directors and will move to emeritus status. We welcome Ty Brown to our board. Since we had not had an election in 3 years, all nine board members were elected by unanimous vote! We look forward to next year's February meeting.

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

## FLSRV Newsletter

is a publication of:

**Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.**

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Spokane, WA 99228

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For article suggestions or comments  
contact Harla Jean Bieber

### Board of Directors

- Martha Schaefer, President
- Dave Maccini, Vice President
- Lindell Haggin, Secretary
- Harla Jean Bieber, Treasurer
- Mark Case, Director
- Michael Kennedy, Director
- Kirk Neumann, Director
- Ty Brown, Director
- Lance Pounder, Director
- Jack Bury, Director Emeritus
- Tina Wynecoop, Director Emeritus

# THE MEAD AIRPORT

Kirk Neumann

Occasionally while spending time outdoors in the Little Spokane River Valley, one might see a low flying airplane overhead. There is a good chance that it has just taken off, or is returning to the Mead Airport. This airfield has been a part of our community for decades. The following article gives a brief history of this one-of-a-kind property.

- Article by: Doug Kelly -

The Mead Flying Service (AKA The Mead Airport) was founded and developed starting in 1927 by my great grandfather, Walt Erickson. He bought two 40 acre pastures from his father-in-law during the Depression. The first buildings were a pilot's lounge and 5 single plane hangars, built in 1935-36.

During Prohibition a local group known as the "Rumrunners" flew whiskey down from Canada. The Rumrunners flew Eagle Rock biplanes with OX-5 water cooled V-8 engines and land on the 40-acre pasture that would later become part of the 200- acre airport. The contraband would be transferred to the waiting cars of the Spokane area bootleggers. If law enforcement was laying in wait in the nearby woods and bushes, a white sheet would be placed on a car and the pilot would divert.

During World War II, General Wallace and the US Army leased the Mead Flying Service for training and to establish a civilian pilot training program. Flight training was conducted in WACO UPF-7's and Fairchild PT-19's. Those who completed the program became pilots in the US Army Air Corps. After the war, Walt conducted a flight training program until 1951 under the GI Bill.

In 1974, my grandfather Bud Erickson (Walt's son) and his family took over the management duties, but Walt continued to live and work out at the airport until 1982. The runway was paved in 1977. My great grandfather passed away in 1986 and Bud became the owner of the current Mead Airport, and the surrounding land was sold by other family members. By 1991, the Mead Flying Service was reduced from its glory days of 200 acres, 30 hangars, 50 + planes, mechanical service and gas to just 50 acres and 13 hangars. Due to the selling of some of the land, the diagonal airstrip was no longer able to be used during a crosswind. In 1995, the hangars were moved to their current location and a new pilot's lounge was built.

My grandfather Bud passed away in 2005 and his wife Pat (my grandmother), ran the

Mead Airport until the spring of 2013. Today the fourth and fifth generation is running the Mead Airport. Bud's grandson, Walt's great-grandson, Doug Kelly and his family now manage the airport. Like the Grandfathers before him, Doug has always been fascinated by planes. He plans to keep the Mead Airport going as long as he can. Providing an affordable outlet, as Bud once said; for "just average folks" who fly for recreation.

## TINA WYNECOOP

The Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley board would like to recognize Tina Wynecoop for her 15 years of service as a board member. Prior to that she was on the trails committee for 10 years. Her love for the trails has not abated. She regularly participates in work parties for the expansion of our trail system. She has been instrumental in keeping communication flowing between neighborhoods located in our River Valley area. She helped connect FLSRV to the Fairwood Neighborhood Assn. to help work on the protection of the Waikiki Springs area. She worked closely with the Austin Rd. neighborhood about a land use designation that would have increased mining in the area. She has constantly networked with various governmental and community groups to share information and actions that will benefit everyone in the beautiful and sensitive watershed of the Little Spokane River.

Tina keeps connectivity going. She has created displays about the Friends of the Little Spokane for our local county library, and has placed notices of our groups' activities on the Nextdoor neighborhood app. as well as the Spokesman Review. Tina has made our newsletters more interesting by regularly contributing expertly written articles that widen our knowledge of both the historical and cultural richness of our area.

We appreciate the fact that she will continue to do this even though she has stepped off the board.

*Thanks, Tina, for keeping our group front and center!*



## Thinking Like a Watershed

Tina Wynecoop

Former FLSRV Board Member

In January of this new year the exhibit case at the North Spokane County Library was filled with books, memorabilia, and display items featuring Friends of the Little Spokane Valley information focusing on its watershed. A sparkly wide blue ribbon tied each shelf together representing the waterways flowing from the mountain clouds to the ocean. The exhibit generated interest and nice comments. In addition, it was my farewell gift to a group which has done so much good in our region.



In February I retired as a board member of the Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley, our local non-profit ([www.flsv.org](http://www.flsv.org)). I have participated in this wonderful organization since the 1990's. My membership in it has held my heart and attention for a good third of my life. Although I have lived at the same address since 1976, I don't think I would have had such intimate knowledge of the landscape, the original inhabitants, the LSR and its tributaries, its governmental status and support, and knowing the current residents who people this area if I

- Continued on page 5 -

## US 2 – Colbert Road Intersection Revision

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project will improve the safety at the US 2 and Colbert Road intersection in North Spokane County by installing J-Turns. With increasing collisions, WSDOT was able to secure funding to improve safety by adding J-Turns also known as RCUT's (Restricted Crossing U-Turn Intersection) to reduce the number of conflict points at the open median intersection and increase safety. The J-turns being installed will be similar to those that were constructed on US 195 at Thorpe Rd. in 2019.

### TIMELINE

April 2023 - July 2023

### PROJECT STATUS

Pre-construction

### FUNDING

\$2.4 Million

### PROJECT HOTLINE

509-324-6015

### WHAT TO EXPECT

This project will construct J-Turns at the US 2 and Colbert Road intersection. During construction, drivers will encounter lane closures, a median closure, and other potential restrictions at the intersection during construction. This project is currently in the early stages of the design phase. Once the J-turns are constructed and complete, drivers will no longer be able to cross US 2 east or west on Colbert Road. Instead, drivers coming from either direction on Colbert Road will make a right turn onto US 2. Once the driver completes the right turn onto US 2, drivers may then merge safely into the left lane proceed into a dedicated turn lane to then make a

U-turn once the roadway is clear, and travel the opposite direction on US 2. Drivers can then either continue on US 2 in the desired direction of travel or make a right turn onto Colbert Road to continue heading either east or west.

Those traveling either north or south on US 2 who want to make a left turn onto Colbert Road will still have the option via a dedicated lefthand turn lane at the existing median.



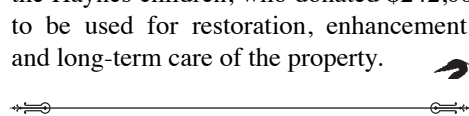
## The Creation of the Haynes Conservation

*Ty Brown*

Around 1950, Edward and Eloise Haynes purchased nearly 90 acres of land along the Little Spokane River. The property was situated between Shady Slope Road and Pine River Park. Although they lived in Spokane, they built a small shed on the banks of the river with the intention of eventually moving to the acreage. In 1961, the couple's son, Don Haynes acquired a portion of the land and soon built a home on the property. The younger Haynes raised his own family on the property until his children grew up and moved away. Their home was located up the hill from the river. All that remains of the home is an old wagon that adorned the circular driveway and the well house, as it was torn down by the County soon after becoming a conservation area.

In the mid-1970s, Edward and Eloise passed away, and around this time Don Haynes constructed a home on the site of the original shed on the banks of the river. This home (still standing) was built by Haynes in an unusual "Spanish" style. Soon after the construction was complete, he rented out the home. He also rented out his family home further in the woods of the sprawling property. By the mid-1980s, Haynes had the idea to develop the land in order to afford the property taxes that were mounting on such a large piece of property. He platted out what would be known as the Haynes Estates housing development. This caused an uproar with the surrounding neighbors over plans to develop near the Little Spokane River. With the help of the Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley and the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, the property was purchased in 2001 by Spokane County through the Conservation Futures Program in order to avoid development.

Don Haynes passed away in 1999 before he was able to see this land turned into a natural area to be enjoyed by thousands of people. The Spanish-style home was rented out by the County for several years but now stands vacant. Plans may be in the works to turn it into an outdoor- educational learning center. His children helped make this all possible, along with nearby landowners that sold adjacent properties in order to keep these nearly 100 acres a habitat for wildlife and recreation. Spokane County maintains the land through an endowment set up by the Haynes children, who donated \$242,000 to be used for restoration, enhancement, and long-term care of the property.



## Trail Update

*Dave Maccini*

Over the years, Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley has had a part in developing over 10 miles of trails in our valley. Our latest working section stretches along Little Spokane Dr. from Midway Rd, to Colbert Rd. Two short sections have been completed from Colbert Rd. heading south. We have received an easement from the landowner on the corner of Midway and Little Spokane Dr. which will allow the trail to use an old logging trail and avoid cutting down trees.

We hope to begin working on that end of the trail this Spring. We had hoped to obtain a couple additional easements along the way to keep the trail further from the road, but those landowners are not agreeable to having folks on their property. We will be forced to keep the trail in the county right of way, and closer to the road. We will be obtaining a bid for constructing the next south bound section of the trail. We need additional funding to make it all happen and continue to explore various funding options.

**If you'd like to help with trail  
building, you can contact me at:**

[dmaccini@comcast.net](mailto:dmaccini@comcast.net)

**If you'd like to make a significant  
donation, head to our website"**

[flsrv.org](http://flsrv.org)



# Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

## 2023 Association Membership Form

### Goals of the organization:

- ⇒ Preserve and sustain the unique character of the Little Spokane River Valley, including its open space and natural setting, maintaining lower density zoning.
- ⇒ Protect the area's ecosystem including water quality, wetlands, priority habitat and wildlife, and dwindling native vegetation.
- ⇒ Encourage the development of area parks.
- ⇒ Educate public officials of FLSRV concerns, being pro-active when major issues are at the forefront.

Property owners in the area *3/4 mile either side of the Little Spokane River from Chattaroy to Dartford, then 1/2 mile either side of the Little Spokane River from Dartford to the Fish Hatchery* are invited to become members. Each membership may include two members of one family. Individuals who live outside the designated area, or any organization, may join as an Associate (non-voting) member.

**Being in agreement with the goals, I wish to join FLSRV. Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Name (or Organization): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone : \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail : \_\_\_\_\_

What are your special concerns about the valley?

What issues or topics would you like discussed at meetings?

<p><b>Check if you are interested in helping with:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trails Committee                      <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parks Committee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter (writing &amp;/or publishing)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sign Design or construction</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Board member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Administrative help</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2023 FLSRV Membership Dues:</b></p> <p>Otter - Annual Family Membership                      \$25.00 (2 membership votes within area)</p> <p>Deer - Annual Family "Plus" Support (\$60/year)                      \$ _____</p> <p>Heron - Annual Family Plus Monthly Donation (\$10/mo)                      \$ _____</p> <p>Associate Member \$15.00                      \$ _____</p> <p>Welcome Sign (Future)                      \$ _____</p> <p>Trail Fund Contribution                      \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL PAID</b>                      \$ _____</p>
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Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc. is an IRS Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation (a charity). Dues and donations are tax exempt to the full extent of the law. You should check with your tax consultant to be sure this applies to you.

Make checks payable to: **Friends of Little Spokane River Valley**  
Mail to: **Harla Jean Bieber, 2220 E. Colbert Rd., Colbert, WA 99005**

Please detach form below, indicate how many people are in your party and complete the rest of the registration form.  
Send it, along with a check made out to FLSRV with your payment of \$25.00 per person by April 30, 2023.

**MAIL TO: FLSRV. P. O. Box 18191, Spokane WA 99228**

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### FRIENDS OF THE LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER ANNUAL HIKE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 PER PERSON      CHECK ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

hadn't been involved with the Friends of the Little Spokane Valley. Just like the watershed our organization has endeavored to protect and appreciate, it has also defined/enriched my place in the world.

A watershed is a natural drainage basin where streams "follow the lead of a landscape's geological history and the features which shape and pattern the flow of water of particular place." The multiple Ice Age Flood events, the aquifer, the nearby Selkirk Mountain range, the people who were here before (and are still here) -- each have a story to tell about this home ground.

I give land acknowledgement to the Spokane Indians, whose ancestral territory ranges from Mt. Spokane to Steptoe Butte to Cayuse Mountain. This is a river-defined landscape which provided sustenance for a people who lived by, and depended upon, the streams that flowed to and joined the "Big River" -- the Columbia. In recent centuries this vast territory became a small reservation set in the mountains. Still, place names reflect the Indigenous presence: the city of Spokane, Spokane county, the Spokane River, and of course, the Little Spokane River -- and even a baseball team wearing the tribe's name on its uniforms, are reminders that the tribe was not named after these, but before they ever existed. (Our FLSRV newsletters which can be viewed on our website contain histories that resound with the specialness of this watershed and its inhabitants).

The organization I'm leaving is as strong, vibrant, and influential as in its beginnings. Among its many protective and building achievements are protecting the Little Spokane River and building the pedestrian trails --the dual 'necklaces' which link this geographical and historical landscape/watershed into a real community. I am grateful for to the vision and zeal of a small group of thoughtful residents who saw the need.

Decades ahead of other communities, this organization influenced our county planners and commissioners to include

a mandate for sidewalks and trails in future building projects within the requirements of its Comprehensive Plan. Although we missed the opportunity to convert the abandoned railroad line that runs along the Little Spokane River into a wonderful non-motorized trail, still, we made up for it with many miles of walkable trails. The colorful, downloadable map of these trails may be viewed on our website.

A recent Seattle Times article reprinted in the Spokesman Review describes the consequences of building without planning, especially for infrastructure, and the necessary safety requirements that include moving safely next to busy roads: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/where-wa-schoolchildren-walk-next-to-busy-traffic/>. The report makes me appreciate how many pedestrian trails and pathways have been created by FLSRV.

Change is pending within FLSRV's boundaries. A recent Spokesman Review article projects that developers will build more than 2,700 homes in the Little Spokane River watershed by 2038: <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2023/mar/07/a-watershed-moment-spokane-county-buying-water-rig/>.

In addition, significant changes and revisions to the Growth Management Act which will impact our valley are on the table this year.

As I leave the board a new member is stepping in and bringing fresh energy, ideas, a deep caring for this place, including a historical perspective that continues to enrich this community. I am so glad Ty Brown has joined my amazing teammates on the board of trustees!

I'd like to gift you with some observations about walking that seem so connected to our organization's mission/vision/purpose:

Writer, Robert Walser, in his short story, "The Walk" says:

*"With the utmost love and attention the person who walks must study and observe every smallest living thing, be it a child, a dog, a fly, a butterfly, a sparrow, a worm, a flower, a house, a tree, a snail, a mouse, a cloud, a hill, a leaf, or no more than a poor discarded scrap of paper on which, perhaps, a dear good child at school has*

*written his first clumsy letters."*

He describes my own adventures walking to and from school in my early days. The outdoors was my teacher -- about weather, and clouds, insects, birds, friendly dogs, native plants -- about being observant and aware in my outdoor surroundings.

And this: *"Where does it start? Muscles tense. One leg a pillar, holding the body upright between the earth and sky. The other a pendulum, swinging from behind. Heel touches down. The whole weight of the body rolls forward onto the ball of the foot. The big toe pushes off, and the delicately balanced weight of the body shifts again. The legs reverse position. It starts with a step and then another step and then another that add up like taps on a drum to a rhythm, the rhythm of walking."* By Rebecca Solnit, who describes walking, its cultural history, and its spiritual rewards so beautifully in her 2000 masterpiece, *Wanderlust: A History of Walking* [Spokane County Library has copies]. I've always loved one of our organization's mottos: *"Wonderful things are afoot."*

From the clouds in the mountains to the little streams like Deadman and Little Deep Creeks joining the Little Spokane River, all flowing into the Spokane River and beyond to the Columbia River traveling to join the Pacific Ocean -- our watershed! Our community! Our home. Thank you, we are still here.





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



**Friends Of The Little Spokane  
River Annual Hike**  
**Jack Nisbet**  
*THE QUARRY*

The Spokane Conservation District has moved their headquarters to the former quarry and yard of Spokane Concrete, a 50-acre haven just east of the junction of Carnahan Road and 8th Avenue in the Spokane Valley. The area contains heavily worked basalt quarries and tailings piles; it is surrounded by established neighborhoods and new apartment construction.

The fifty acres also contain significant wetland habitat, columnar basalt cliffs, and significant geological features from the volcanic Miocene Epoch and the most recent Ice Age Floods. Birds, native

wildflowers, and mammals of all kinds flourish in this landscape.

The District is in the process of constructing trails and interpretation throughout their complex, and Conservation officers Garth Davis and Matt Nelson have offered to lead our group around the new trails. While we explore the area, we can discuss the history of the facility as well future management plans with Garth and Matt.

**TIME**

We will meet at the gate to the Quarry at 1:00 pm on Sunday, April 30th .

**CONDITIONS**

The trail is moderately steep and can be muddy at times. Depending on water seepage, we will be out for around two hours and cover a mile and a half or so. Bring good hiking boots, snacks, and sunscreen.

**DIRECTIONS**

The Quarry is located at 4422 East 8th Avenue in the Spokane Valley.

**TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE  
COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION  
FORM AT THE BOTTOM OF THE 2023  
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

