

FLSRV Newsletter



Fall
2019



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Valley Cleanup 2019

Michael Kennedy

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley held their annual cleanup day for the valley on Saturday, April 27, 2019. This year again we had one outside group to volunteer for the cleanup, Boy Scout Troop 218 with Richard Parish Scout Master. They did a great job covering from Ace Hardware to Hatch Road along Wandermere Road. Thanks again!

It turned out to be another big cleanup day with around 30 to 35 people, and we had 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.

We collected a lot of paper trash, miscellaneous wood, carpet, bottles, etc. Estimated total trash again was one of



the largest hauls we have had in years. We had to move to Moose Park in Gleneden due to Shady Slope construction. We will most likely use Moose Park again next year. We will notify everybody in the Spring of our location.

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: Dave Maccini and Lindell Haggin for the chili; Martha Schaefer and Roberta Ellis for the cornbread; and Harla Jean Biever for the cookies. Thanks to all who helped with both cleanup and the cooking!

Please mark your calendars for next year's cleanup scheduled in April, 2020. We will set the exact date this winter. We need your time and your continued support to help to keep our valley roadways clean. This is also a good way to get to know your neighbors!

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

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Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

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Bidwell Park

Tina Wynecoop

Boom! Scrape! Pile! Dig! Drill! Dynamite!



Big changes are happening/coming to the North Side Aquatic Center and adjoining park.

In late July enough heavy equipment was brought in to build a city, let alone a twenty acre regional park bounded by and situated within 130+ single homes and duplexes called "Estates."


Construction of ball fields, roads, parking lots, trails, play areas, and modification of the pool site are happening full bore. The map and letter provided by Spokane County Parks are provided in this newsletter update to help our community

comprehend what is happening alongside the FLSRV trail on N. Hatch Road.

Community meetings were held last year. One gets the sense that there has been much progress in listening, design and planning since the first stage of park design in the early 2000's. Community input appears to be taken into account. One hopes Mt. Spokane will still be visible over the many new rooftops, that the sledding will be enhanced, that play areas will not be overshadowed by organized sports, that the community will enjoy walking the trails with their dogs on leash (and the poop responsibly dealt with).

Right now the south end of vast Half Moon Prairie is undergoing irreversible alteration. Its open space once provided habitation for bands of Indians who camped and hunted near its several springs and wetlands. Homesteaders arrived in the 1880's and grew amazing fruit crops. Their descendants logged, plowed the clay soil and tended wheat crops into early 2020. Homes, sewer, water, roads and a growing population have transformed the lovely landscape - landscape that has been an integral part of a wildlife corridor - till now.

Take a walk, wander by, examine the ongoing construction. Man's ingenuity knows no bounds! Silence. Birds. Wind. Vistas. Play. More play. Quiet. Starry nights. Clouds.

O, Bring us a park that is a blessing for all! 

2019 Annual Meeting and Dinner/Auction

Our annual meeting was a huge success. Nearly 100 people attended and the dinner was outstanding. We thank the following Auction donors for their generosity in providing items the this event.

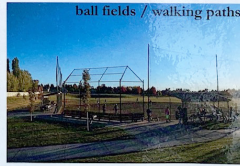
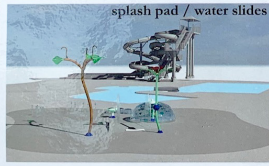
- Mrs. Cavanaugh's Chocolates - Wandermere
- Spokane Indians Baseball Club
- Fred Meyer - Wandermere
- Valvoline Oil Change
- John Holen
- Lance Pounder Excavation
- YogaJoy North
- Pounder's Jewelry
- Kirk and Lori Neumann
- Wandermere Golf Course
- The Man Shop
- UPS Store - Wandermere
- Alana Livingstone/WanderSpokane -
- UrbanTours
- Little Spokane River Garden Club
- Harla Jean Bieber
- Roger and Corliss Slack
- Skip Magnuson
- Dr. Richard Yabro, DDS
- Yuppy Puppy
- Wynecoop Hens
- Wandermere Plaza Car Wash
- Birdy's
- Natural Grocers
- Huckleberry Chief and Son
- Spokane Audubon
- Rancho Chico Mexican Restaurant
- Kizuri
- A Taste of Thai
- Ace Hardware – Wandermere
- PostNet- Wandermere
- Starbucks – Wandermere
- Sandy Mullis
- Grease Monkey
- Ty Brown
- Peggy Ostness
- Jack Nisbet
- Susan Holen
- De Leons Taco and Bar
- Irene Byrd

Construction Beginning Soon!!

After many years of planning and preparation, construction of Bidwell Park is set to begin July 22nd!

Throughout the remainder of 2019 and 2020, contractors will be working to install...

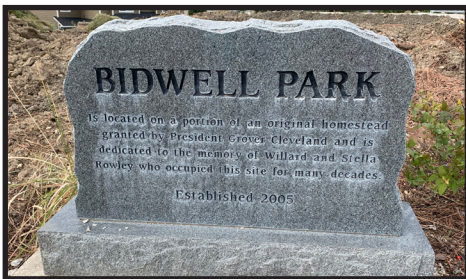
A New Splash Pad (with heated water); Two New Gigantic Waterslides; Ball Fields; Pickleball Courts; Walking Paths; Playgrounds; Picnic Shelters; Restrooms; Basketball Court; Sand Volleyball Courts; Natural Area; And More!



Spokane County
PARKS, RECREATION AND GOLF

Questions About the Project??

Contact Kris Krohn at (509) 477-6395 or kkrohn@spokanecounty.org



Trails Committee Update

Mark Case

Progress is slow, last spring we got verbal approval from Spokane County to proceed with the new section of trail upon approval of a detailed design (what ever happened to designing on a napkin?), so we enlisted a surveyor to survey the west side of Little Spokane Drive from Midway Road to Colbert Road.

Meanwhile I got bids to complete the remaining 220 feet of trail at the west end of Colbert Road connecting to Little Spokane Drive, bids were high \$9500 and \$8500 - too rich for my blood - so some of the board members have pulled together to do the work ourselves, we expect to have that completed before the snow flies.

The next portion of Little Spokane Drive trail will get designed with more detail and submitted to the County for approval and construction in the spring. The length of completion will depend on donations we receive by that time. Hope you are getting out there and enjoying the trails we have completed so far!

Jack Nisbet Guided FLSRV's 7th Annual Walking Tour April 2019

Tina Wynecoop

As most of you know Walking Tours one through six were outstanding.

At each site attendees gained closer connections to our Interior Plateau landscape, its geology, native plants, indigenous peoples, and history: Antoine Peak, Nine Mile to Seven Mile, Audubon Lakes, Saltese Uplands, Deep Creek and Hangman/Latah Creek were visited in these hikes.

Tour #7 included a large group of us who traveled thirteen miles west of Davenport on Highway 2 in order to walk with Jack among the earliest plants springing forth – plants of such sustenance and importance to tribal people – wildflowers that not only fed the eye with their beauty, also feeding the body following a long season of quiet beneath the scrubby soils of the shrub-steppe. Even the soil, shallow and rocky, yet productive, revealed its own storied connectivity to the Ice Age floods, as we hiked among its hummocks and shallows.

Was that a long-billed curlew flying overhead? We were watching for it since it had been reported in a not far-off vernal pond. The red-tails were soaring overhead hunting for newly emerged small mammals. The only reminder that we were still in the twenty-first century was the sight of multiple contrails lining the sky along the flight path of planes heading to Geiger Field; an area west of Spokane that once looked much like the landscape we were admiring at BLM's Telford Recreation Area.

The number "7" represents perfection in some cultures. I'd say we always experience perfection with every hike Jack leads. The education, the camaraderie, the beauty of land and sky, the leadership, and the outdoor adventure: PERFECTION!

Where will Jack lead us in 2020? The location hasn't been announced yet. One thing is for sure, though - and you can count on it: the next hike will be perfectly wonderful.



Photo: Hiking with Jake Nisbet
(More images continue on next page)



Membership Update

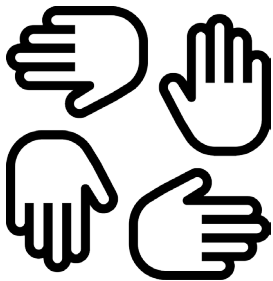
Dave Maccini

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley had a busy summer attempting to increase membership. We have updated our website (flsrv.org) and made it mobile device friendly to view. We have made it possible to join and/or donate on the website if you have a Paypal account.

QR codes have been added to several of our FLSRV signs along the trail. When scanned with a QR reader app, it takes you to our new website. Check it out!

You may have also noticed the signs along the trail system that encouraged users of the trail to go to our website and join FLSRV to help us in our goal to build more trails.

We are looking for an individual who is interested in helping us to develop and maintain a social media presence with Facebook and other sites. Please contact us at: friendsoflittlespokaneriver@gmail.com



Volunteers Wanted

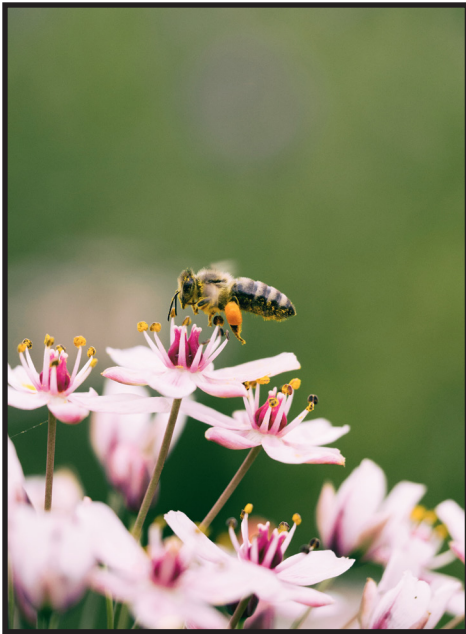
Kirk Neumann

The Spokane County Conservation District is looking for volunteers living along the Little Spokane River to perform water quality testing. If you are interested please contact Dan Ross.

Office: (509) 535-7274 Ext. 229
Email: dan-ross@sccd.org

Photos: *Hiking with Jake Nisbet (continued)*





Pollinating Superheroes

Kirk Neumann

The Orchard Mason bee is a gentle insect, native to this area, and pollinates fruit trees, berries, and other crops. It is slightly smaller than a honeybee, with a shiny dark blue color. Mason bees are solitary which means that they do not live in hives. The term, "Busy as a Bee" must have been coined from the Mason bee. Just 2 or 3 females can pollinate a mature fruit tree. This means that only about 250 females can pollinate an acre of fruit trees. They will fly 100 to 200 yards in search of pollen.

You can help cultivate the Mason bee population in your yard and therefore increase the pollination of your trees and plants. Please consider installing a bee house on your property. These can be purchased from a nursery or feed store with a series of cardboard tubes placed together inside the "House". Or you can build your own by simply drilling holes in any kind of wood. These holes need to be approximately 1/4" to 3/8" in diameter and at least 3" deep.

An ideal material would be a 4 X 4 post. The best place to install a bee house would be on the side of a house or shed which is protected from direct sun and rain. The east side under a roof is best. The bees will avoid nesting if the bee house is placed in the open.

The bees do not live together as in a swarm or a hive. They mate soon after hatching and live a solitary life. The females lay their eggs in the tubes or holes and then cap the end of the tube with mud. In the spring the bees emerge from the tubes and the cycle begins again.

Bee houses should be replaced every few years to prevent the spread of parasites and pathogens.

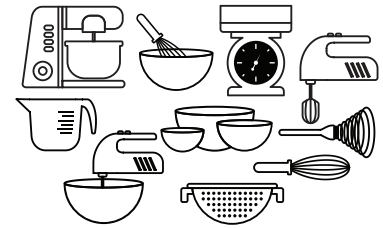
Visit the Washington State University-Spokane County Extension for more information.

<https://extension.wsu.edu/spokane/>



Farmer's Market

The Livingston kids and the walking Blue heron statue helped promote the Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley on July 9th at the gracious invitation of founder Rob Allen with the Farmer's Market. Many attendees learned about our non-profit community organization for the first time.



Tangy Lemon Squares

Harla Jean Biever,

from my friend Betty Cox

At one of our board meetings we shared a treat that everyone liked so much that they wanted our FLSRV members and friends to enjoy. Here is the recipe:

Cream together:

1 cup butter

1/2 cup powdered sugar

1/3 cup flour

Spread in bottom of greased 9 X13" pan

Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes

Beat 4 eggs until light and foamy

Gradually add 2 cups sugar

Add 1/2 cup lemon juice

1 tsp baking powder

2 cups flour

Pour over baked crust and continue baking for 20 minutes at 350 degrees or until set and golden brown.

Cool.

Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Cut into squares when very cool .





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



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We have produced a new brochure about our beautiful valley. If you would like some brochures to give to friends and neighbors, call Harla Jean at 951-2084 and arrange to obtain them.

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