

FOOTHILLS RURAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 33 ■ ISSUE 3

October 2015

FRA EVENTS CALENDAR

HARVEST PARTY

Saturday, October 31
5:00 PM

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, December 4
6:00 PM

BOARD MEETINGS

November 9th
December 14th



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Foothills Rural Association

The Foothills Newsletter is published 2 - 4 times a year by the Foothills Rural Association. It is mailed to all known resident addresses in the Foothills area. Send address changes to:

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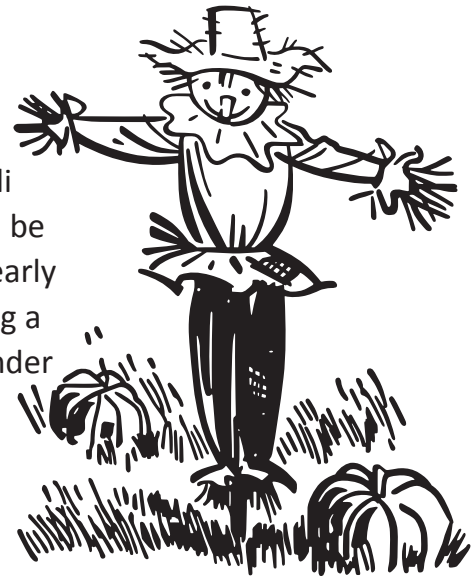
www.ruralspokane.com

FALL FOOD AND FUN!

The Annual Foothills Harvest Party

Join the FRA for its famous fall free chili feed on Saturday, October 31. Chili will be dished up beginning at 5 p.m. - come early before the line gets long! After enjoying a bowl of delicious homemade chili, wander over to the Foothills Church gym for harvest party games and activities.

Fun for the whole family!



SUMMER MEMORIES

THE FOOTHILLS ANNUAL FUN RUN had a healthy turnout, and the runners enjoyed a perfect clear, cool summer morning for a run in the beautiful rolling farmland of the Foothills. Thanks to Holly Weiler for organizing this event and for the delicious huckleberries served at the breakfast after, and thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the course and the breakfast. Thanks also to BCi Creative for their help with the new tshirt design and printing - they were very well received. *(continued on page 2)*



MORE SUMMER MEMORIES *(Continued from page 1)*

THE ICE CREAM/BBQ/OPEN HOUSE: The Foothills Rural Association volunteers poured 32 liters of soda over 12 gallons of ice cream to make hundreds of root beer (and cream soda and orange soda) floats at the summer BBQ/Show and Shine/Station 96 Open House. The event, co-hosted with the Foothills Church and Fire Station 96, drew crowds to admire the antique tractors, cars, and trucks. Everyone enjoyed the burgers and hot dogs served by the church, the kids loved climbing on and sitting in the big fire rigs, and good conversation was shared by all. Thank you to the volunteers who made this possible, and to all those who attended.

2015 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Foothills Rural Association in conjunction with the Blue Ribbon Circle has awarded a total of \$3000 in scholarships to residents of the Foothills. The Scholarship Committee interviewed the applicants at the Community Center, Thursday evening, May 21, 2015. Committee members were Mike Britton, Carol Stoll, Cindy Kaelin, Dawn Keig, John Cannon, and Faye Krenkel. Recipients of the 2015 Jess Kronquist Memorial Scholarship are:



ELAINA EDELEN - Elaina is the daughter of Maria and Richard Edelen. She graduated from East Valley High School this spring and plans to attend North Idaho college or the University of Anchorage, Alaska. She will be studying music and accounting. Elaina was awarded \$750.



J T KONRAD - J T is the son of Leisha Konrad and is a previous recipient. He currently attends WWU studying Industrial Technology - Vehicle Design and is working toward his goal to work in the Vehicle Research Institute. J T was awarded \$750.



CHEYENNE KONRAD - Cheyenne is the daughter of Leisha Konrad. She graduated from Mt Spokane High School this spring. Cheyenne will be attending Western Washington University (WWU) to study English, Art, and Spanish. Caroline was awarded \$750.

KAY POTTER - Kay is the daughter of Roger and Sherrie Potter. Active with the Foothills Rural Association this past year, she graduated East Valley High School and will be attending Eastern Washington. Kay was awarded \$750.

It is an honor to assist these individuals who exhibit the best of our community and are very worthy of financial assistance. We can be very proud of these students among us and proud, too, that we in the Foothills may assist them in achieving their goals.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AHEAD

Big changes are in store for the intersection of Forker Road and Bigelow Gulch - an intersection many of us travel through daily. As everyone who has passed through this intersection is aware, it is not terribly safe or convenient as constructed. Many vehicles entering Forker from Bigelow fail to stop and properly give way to Forker traffic. This hazard is made worse by the many people who speed down the hill on Forker. And traffic turning left from Forker on to Bigelow Gulch often has to wait for oncoming Forker traffic to clear, resulting in back-ups of northbound Forker traffic extending down the hill.

A new overpass and interchange at this intersection, planned to be constructed next summer, will allow northbound Forker traffic to turn on to Bigelow Gulch without having to cross a lane of traffic, and eastbound Bigelow Gulch traffic will no longer need to stop and yield to southbound Forker traffic. Southbound Forker traffic, however, will now need to stop and yield as they enter the intersection. To see the County's design plan, visit RuralSpokane.com.

For more information, or to offer comments, visit www.SpokaneCounty.org, or contact County Engineer Tim Schwab at 477-7658 or TSCHWAB@spokanecounty.org.



FIRE IN THE FOOTHILLS...PROCEED WITH CAUTION

One clear hot evening this August I got a text from a neighbor during dinner "Fire! South ridge!" I looked out our dining room window to see a huge column of smoke climbing into the sky about a half mile south of our home. Dinner would not be finished this evening.

The summer was so hot and dry everyone knew that any fire could be explosive. The week prior had seen several days around 100 degrees, and the humidity was below 20%. Depending on the wind, which had been blowing in the teens all day with gusts nearing 30 miles per hour, that half mile could be covered in short order. I told the kids to pack overnight bags, my wife began packing "irreplaceables" such as photos and heirlooms, and I grabbed computers and other small valuables. In minutes we had the cars packed and pointed down the driveway.

By now huge columns of flame were shooting into the air over the ridge. The flames geysered over a 100 feet as they fed on hulking old slashpiles on the ridge, crowning in the ponderosas near the slash. I dragged out hoses and set sprinklers around the house, not sure if it would help, but certain it would not hurt. I paused as we saw a single engine plane make repeated water bombing runs along the ridge.

As the sun began to set, it seemed the fire paused to catch its breath on the ridge. There was a long fire front along the ridge, but so far it had not advanced much beyond that toward our home. The wind that had been blowing all day fell away, and the temperature began to drop. We could see flashing lights of emergency vehicles climbing the road to the ridge, and the clatter of a dozer building cat line was a reassuring sound.

Initially we had thought we would head to a hotel for the night, but seeing the fire pause led us to decide to sit tight for the time being. The cars stayed packed, but after several hours watching the fire my wife and kids headed to bed while I stayed up to monitor the fire's progress. I could not keep my eyes off the spooky red-orange glow of the flames lighting the billowing smoke from below.

A few spot fires flared up during the night between the fire front and our home, but each time the hard working firefighters attacked the spots and knocked them down. By three a.m. the ridge was no longer glowing, and I finally felt safe enough to sleep.

The next day dawned calm and overcast, with cooler temps than we had seen in days. I breathed a sigh of relief, believing that the conditions would allow the crews to fully contain what could have been a disastrous fire.

Over the following days I visited with several firefighters as I surveyed the damage to our property. Those I spoke to included DNR employees, volunteers including neighbors from our own Station 96, firefighters from other stations, and among the mop-up crews a group of Washington Conservation Corps workers from western Washington. The initial attack had 21 engines, 2 dozers, 3 ten-person hand crews, a plane and a helicopter. Mop-up operations went on for weeks, and even a month after the fire DNR crews continued to monitor the burn.

I was amazed by how many people were on the fire, and from how far away. As I walked the blackened landscape I was struck by how lucky we were, and how much thanks we owed to all of those firefighters. As summer went on, and more fires sprang up across Washington, laying waste to thousands and thousands of acres, it reinforced over and over how fortunate we were to lose only a few dozen acres in the Foothills.

If you have had any doubts about the value of taking steps to create defensible space around your home, those doubts are swept away while watching a wall of flames a short distance away, with a mere garden hose in hand. Please take the time and energy to survey your home and property, and evaluate what steps you can take to protect your home and your timberlands. The Washington DNR website includes good information on steps to take to defend your home, as do www.firewise.org and www.fireadapted.org. Although cooler temperatures recently may make it seem the fire danger is over, the forests are still very dry - remember that the 1991 Firestorm took place in October.

PLEASE NOTE: As of October 15th, burn bans are still in effect. The Washington DNR has lifted some restrictions, but the ban on slash burning remains in effect, and the Spokane County burn ban remains in full force. Check www.spokanecounty.org and www.dnr.wa.gov for more information.

FRA MEMBER BUSINESS LISTINGS

2BU Youth Ranch922-1981
Healing through horse training

A Protection Home Inspection270-0812
Home inspection services

Alpine Frames922-4825
Custom framing & photography

All American Home Inspections998-5395
Home Inspections

Anderson Collision924-2748
Unibody & frame repair. Expert painting

BCi Creative465-9775
Graphic & web design, screen printing

Britton, Cheryl.....922-1494
Tole & decorative painting

Crews, Scott J. DDS & Dr. Craig Ellsworth .924-1580
Advanced cosmetic & family dentistry

Ethan's Music Services.....921-6766
Music teacher, conductor, guide

Ethan The Handyman994-4378 or
Licensed, bonded & insured 921-6766

Evergreen Powder Coating.....535-9950
Powder coating & sandblasting

Foothills Suri Alpacas 928-0299
Call for a free farm tour

Holly Lane Tree Farm928-5970
Christmas trees & wreaths

Impact Business Products.....928-8782
Office supplies & cash register supplies

Joel's Lawncare279-5508
Lawncare Services

Knecht, Allison.....921-2729
Licensed massage therapist or 475-7126

Kreider's Western Glove926-2946

Marcinda Kennels928-6662
Pet Care and Boarding

Mary Kay Consultant- Laura Foster953-0602
Skin care, Cosmetics & body care

Melaleuca Products926-1157
Sheri Boorman - The Wellness Company

PAX Academic Exchange 800-555-6211
International student exchange program

Petek Trucking.....939-2207
Gravel, soil, sand, landscape supplies delivery

Piper Farms951-4754
Blueberries, blackberries, and more!

Premium Gravel 279-9005 or 993-3130
Express delivery available

Ravenwood924-5870
Cashmere Goats, yarns & goat milk soaps

Vermillion Water Systems, Inc.....927-9744
Well drilling & pumps

Wensleydale Computer Service.....723-8250
David Fisher - Upgrades, tuning & networking

WANT MORE THAN A LINE LISTING?

Make sure your annual FRA membership dues are paid and you'll receive a FREE display ad to promote your business. The FRA looks forward to supporting area businesses who actively support the FRA.

See the form on the back of this newsletter and update your membership today. Enjoy the advantages and community benefits of being involved with the Foothill Rural Association.

Please Note: Ad space is limited in each issue. Ads run first come, first reserved.



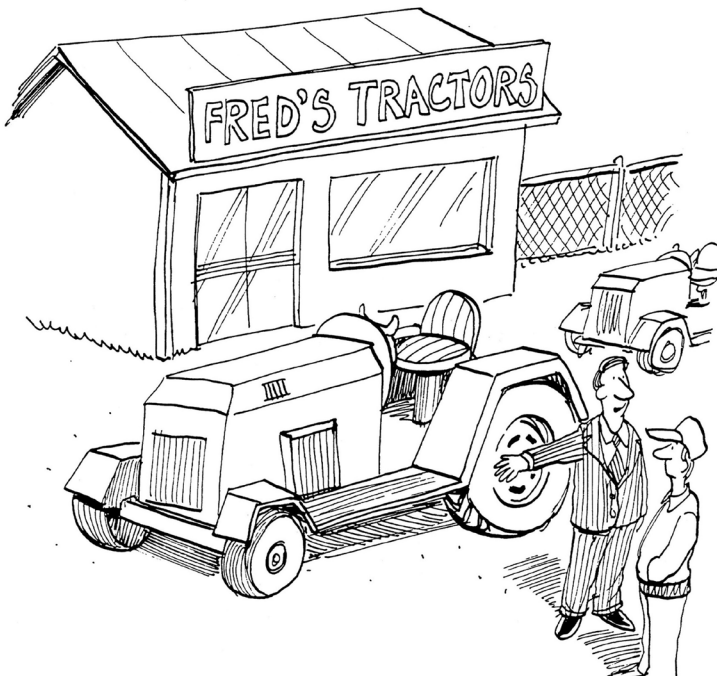
FIRE STATION REPORT

From May 1 to October 1, local fire station 96 responded to 21 calls. Five calls were for forest, brush, and grass fires, including the MacMahan fire that burned 44 acres. Five calls were for motor vehicle accidents, three of which included injuries. There were also five EMS calls that were not for vehicle accidents and one medical assist call. Three calls resulted in no incident being found. One call was for unauthorized burning, and one call was for a lock-out.

Amazingly, there were no calls reported for the entire month of September. This dry summer has reinforced how important it is to have local responders. Many thanks go out to our firefighters who have worked hard to keep us safe.

NEW FRA SIGN

You may have noticed driving by the FRA Community Center that we have a beautiful new sign out front. With the old one deteriorating, Leisha Konrad took charge of getting a new one up. It became a family project with her daughter, Cheyenne, painting and her husband, Eddie, hanging the sign. Nick Ervin of Kulture Kustom Rods also pitched in, donating his time and materials to put a professional clear coat seal on the sign that will help it last many more years. Thank you all!



**"I'm so sure you'll love this tractor
I'll throw in the first 3 repairs for free."**

FRA BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held at the Community Center building on the second Monday of the month. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and usually end just after 8 p.m. All Foothills residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

2015 Board Meetings: NOVEMBER 9 / DECEMBER 14

The Foothills Rural Association, 11000 N. Forker Road, was established as a non-profit corporation under section 502(C) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code on December 12, 1983. The purposes of the corporation are to organize the property owners and/or current residents within the boundaries of Fire District 9, Station 6: to provide a forum by which the property owners and/or current residents to assist governmental agencies in better planning the use and resources of the Foothills area: to preserve and protect the rural agricultural environment.

Voting Membership in the Association is open to any property owner or current resident within the Foothills boundaries. Membership dues are \$20 per year. Non-voting Membership is available to others through payment of dues. The Association is governed by elected volunteer officers and a board of directors. FRA Alerts system has been established in an effort to increase community awareness about crime occurring in our area. Residents are encouraged to report ALL crimes to Crime Check, 456-2233. After making a report, please email david@ruralspokane.com or rfkrenkel@ptera.net or call Faye Krenkel, 928-6610.

The Foothills Community Center, 11000 N. Forker Road, which is located adjacent to the Foothills Fire Station, exists as a result of community efforts to save and renovate the former Foothills School Building. The Center, used for many community activities, is maintained and supported by the Foothills Rural Association. It is available for use by members of the Foothills Rural Association for a nominal utilities charge and by non-members for a reasonable rental fee. The Community Center includes complete kitchen facilities. For information or to reserve a date, call: Sherrie Potter, 927-8532.

Foothills Rural Association Website: www.ruralspokane.com
Contact: David Fisher, Webmaster: davidf@ruralspokane.com

2014 Board Officers

President: Mike Britton	922-1494	mbritton@wildblue.net
Vice President: Dawn Keig	678-230-7241	dawn.keig@gmail.com
Secretary: Karen Feyk	929-0088	kfeyk@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Don Tucker	370-0731	dat@wwdb.com

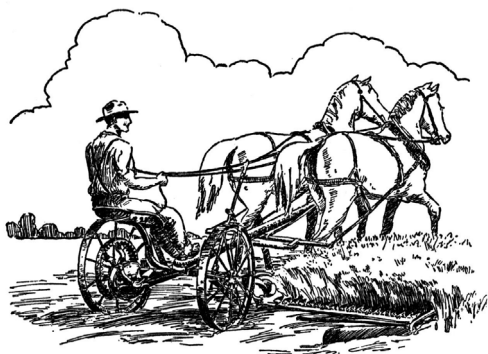
Board Members:

Mark McIntosh (16)	928-6662	thee1mac51@aol.com
Ali Knecht (16)	921-2729	aliknecht@gmail.com
Holly Weiler (17)	921-8928	hmweiler@yahoo.com
Tommye Schwerin (17)	924-0226	tommeye35@hotmail.com
Leisha Konrad (15)	927-0812	konrad5s@juno.com
John Cannon (15)	922-3454	johne@ptera.net

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MEMBERSHIP

It's easy to become a member of the Foothills Rural Association. NOW is the time to play an active role in the foothills community. Annual dues of only \$20 will help support programs, events and information for our community.

We are still collecting 2015 dues. Please check your mailing label above - if your label says "Member 2015," you have already paid. If your label does not say "Member" - please join or renew your membership. Your support is essential for this community non-profit organization. Thank you for your continued support.

Please complete the form and mail it with your annual membership dues of \$20 to:

Foothills Rural Association
16115 E. Temple Road
Spokane, WA 99217

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

Interested in receiving notices of FRA events via email? ☐ YES ☐ NO

EMAIL: _____

I am/we are willing to volunteer for one event during the year _____ YES _____ NO

Thank you for being part of the Foothills Community.