

FOOTHILLS RURAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 40 ■ ISSUE 1

APRIL 2022

FRA Events Calendar

April 16

Easter Egg Hunt ■ 12:30 pm

May 9

Scholarship Applications Due

May 19: Scholarship Interviews

June 4-5

Foothills Community Yard Sale

June 23

**RootBeer Float Social
and Church BBQ**

THE EASTER EGG HUNT IS BACK

The FRA Youth Committee will hide hundreds of colorful eggs filled with all kinds of tasty treats around the Community Center grounds. Kids 11 and under are invited to race to find them all! Among them will be 5 “Golden Eggs” redeemable for special prizes! **Saturday April 16 at 12:30** is the starting time, with the little ones given a head start.

Put on your Easter best and join us for this fun-filled frolic in the spring weather.

CLEAR THE CLUTTER!

REGISTER NOW for the Foothills Community Yard Sale taking place **June 4th-5th**. Contact Marc at 509-928-6662 to join the promotional list. *Limited sale space* will be available both inside and outside the Community Center, or provide your address to Marc to be included with the promotional materials for the event. Event hours at the Community Center will be 8am-4pm each day of the sale.

BIGELOW/FORKER PROJECT UPDATE

Phase 6 of the Bigelow/Forker Corridor improvement project is scheduled to begin April 11! This latest phase is from the bottom of the recently completed Bigelow Gulch improvements near the intersection of Bigelow and Progress, running between East Valley Middle School and East Valley High School to the intersection of Wellesley and Sullivan Road. Changes, including a traffic signal, will also be made to the Sullivan/Wellesley intersection.

The project is scheduled to last 110 working days and will be done in three phases. Work will include widening and rerouting the road and constructing a pedestrian underpass between the two schools. There will be detours around the project using Progress and Evergreen Roads.

For much more information, search for Bigelow Gulch Project 6 at www.spokanecounty.org.

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:

FRA Membership Records
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Spokane, WA 99217

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FOOTHILLS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

If you are pursuing education or training, are a resident of the Foothills, and are interested in receiving some financial help, apply now for a Jess Kronquist Memorial Scholarship!

The Foothills Rural Association, with its partner the Blue Ribbon Circle, has been offering annual scholarships to Foothills residents for over two decades. This year, thousands of dollars will be distributed to worthy scholars. To learn how to apply, visit the FRA website at ruralspokane.com.

Scholarship applications are due by May 9, 2022, and scholarship interviews will be held May 19th. Scholarship award criteria are listed on our webpage, and include need and merit. Awards typical range from \$500-\$1000. Don't miss out on this chance to get support from your FRA.

“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.” —Malcolm Forbes

ETTER RANCH ADDITION TO ANTOINE PEAK CONSERVATION AREA

and the New Trentwood Trailhead, by Holly Weiler

Like many kids who grew up in the Foothills, I attended schools in the East Valley School District for my primary and secondary education. Like many kids everywhere, I perhaps spent too much time gazing out of classroom windows and daydreaming, particularly in elementary school. From the third through the fifth grade, those classroom windows were located at Skyview Elementary (now the Continuous Curriculum School), and they faced north toward Antoine Peak’s pine covered flanks. Always one to enjoy playing outside, I daydreamed of leaving school at the end of the day and walking all the way home while exploring those wooded hills.

Thanks to funding received by Spokane County Parks, that hike from the old Skyview Elementary back to the Foothills is now a real possibility, and there’s also a brand new dedicated trail system with additional trail connections already underway. This brings Antoine Peak Conservation Area to nearly 1,300 acres on the southeast side of the Foothills, with a main trailhead access point at 15501 E. Brevier Road (about a mile east of Forker/Bigelow). The new Trentwood Trailhead opened in November 2021 at 17711 E. Wellesley Avenue (about a quarter mile east of Skyview Elementary).

Foothills residents looking for an outdoor adventure will find either trailhead easy to access. The trail system is

open to non-motorized recreation year-round (hiking, trail running, mountain biking, and horseback riding). Both parking lots have good access for horse trailers. For the most direct route home for Foothills kids of any age who want to play hooky from Skyview Elementary, start at the Trentwood Trailhead and hike the Arrow Leaf Trail to where it intersects the Emerald Necklace. Then turn west on the Emerald Necklace and continue to where it intersects the Antoine’s Summit Trail. Continue west (slight left) and follow the singletrack downhill to the Brevier Road Trailhead for a thru-hike of just over 4 miles. Individual Foothills resident mileage the rest of the way home will vary, or visit with a friend who can help set up a shuttle vehicle.



A FOOTHILLS MURDER MYSTERY!

When our family bought property in the Foothills, we found on our land the remains of an old homestead, the house and barn long since collapsed and decaying. A neighbor and long-time resident of the Foothills told me that there were rumors of a murder, and perhaps even a ghost attached to the old house.

Intrigued, I found the name of the old homestead owners in a 1912 plat book that another neighbor had, and with that my family did some on-line searching and combing through newspaper archives. To my surprise, the story was more than just legend - 108 years ago a young boy was gunned down on Temple Road, and his mysterious killing remains unsolved.

This story of the death of Clarence Farquahr was pieced together from stories published in 1914 and 1915 in the Spokesman and Chronicle.

November 30, 1914, began normally for 14 year old Clarence. That late fall morning he got on his pony at his home on Temple Road to head to Sunday school at the Foothills Church. Riding down Temple Road, he met a pair of hunters, Byron Johnson and B. Coombs. They chatted for a few minutes about game in the area. After saying goodbye, Clarence rode off, but shortly after he turned the corner the hunters heard a gunshot. They hurried toward the noise, where they found Clarence in the road, dying of a gunshot wound. Despite their best attempts at helping him, Clarence soon died.

On December 3, the county coroner held an inquiry with a coroner’s jury empaneled. The hunters, the boy’s family, and others were interviewed. Finding no motive, no weapon, and no suspects, the jury concluded the shooting was likely accidental - perhaps an errant shot by a third, unknown, hunter in the area, one that a neighbor said he had seen at a distance. Coombs and Johnson were cleared because neither possessed a rifle.

Not long after, however, the investigation was reopened when the coroner received a letter from Foothills residents alleging they had “found evidence that the boy was shot by an enemy.” “Subsequent investigations convinced the authorities that the boy was the victim of a conspiracy and deliberate shot from ambush,” wrote the Spokesman on January 15, 1915. “There is no question but the boy was murdered,” declared Deputy County Prosecutor A. B. Slagle. Nothing in the contemporary newspaper accounts, however, explains or offers details as to what this evidence was, or what lead to the conclusion that it was murder.

A \$500 reward for any information leading to the shooter was unclaimed, and the trail turned cold. The boy’s killer, whether deliberate or accidental, was never found.

Heartbroken, Clarence’s mother Charlotte eventually wound up at the Eastern Washington Mental Hospital, where she died in 1955.

Clarence was buried in the Pleasant Prairie Cemetery on E. Morgan Road, where his headstone can still be found today.

As for his ghost, well, some claim they can still feel his presence, wandering the woods along Temple Road.

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS WITH A DISPLAY AD?

When you pay your annual dues of \$20, we will include your display ad in at least 1 issue per year.

MEMBERS...Please support our Foothills businesses and help to build a strong local Community.

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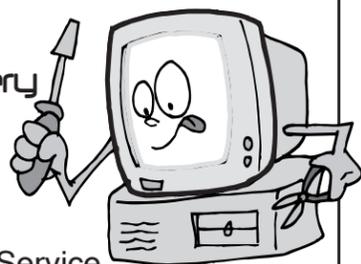
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FRA MEMBER BUSINESS LISTINGS

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Affordable Laser Engineering 922-0124
Brian and Angela Priest - bcustomartwork.com
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- Foothills Plumbing.....922-PLUM (7586)
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Mark Friendshuh

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.

**Next Meetings: Monday,
April 11th, 7:00 pm | May 9th, 7:00 pm**

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 can assist governmental agencies in better planning the use and resources of the Foothills area; and 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.

The FRA Alerts system has been established in an effort to increase awareness about crime occurring in our area. Residents are encouraged to report ALL crimes to Crime Check, 456-2233. After making a report, please contact Rich Krenkel at richkrenkel@gmail.com or 418-8693.

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 the **Community Center** call Sherrie Potter 990-2818. For the **FRA Website** www.ruralspokane.com contact Steve Keig, steve.keig@gmail.com. For **Membership** records contact Tommye Schwerin, tommie35@hotmail.com.

2021 Board Officers

President: Rich Krenkel	418-8693	richkrenkel@gmail.com
Vice President: Holly Weiler	921-8928	hmweiler@yahoo.com
Secretary: Karen Feyk	995-3003	kfeyk@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Mike Britton	922-1494	mbritton@wildblue.net

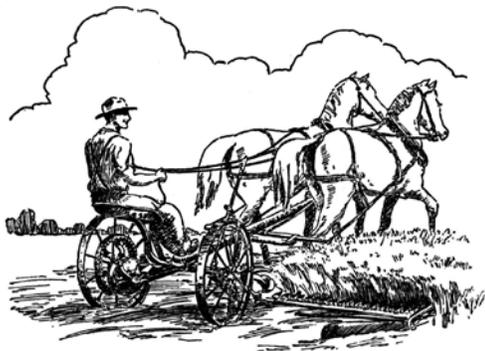
Board Members:

Roger Potter (22)	994-8591	rallenp51@gmail.com
Denise Smecko (22)		
JoAnn Davis (23)		
Mark Friendshuh(23)	216-9490	friendshug@hotmail.com
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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 now collecting 2022 dues. Please check your mailing label above - if it says "Member 2022" or higher, you have already paid. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Tommye Schwerin, membership coordinator, at 924-0226 or tommye35@hotmail.com. 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
12401 N. Peck Rd.
Spokane, WA 99217

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Interested in receiving the FRA newsletter by email? YES NO

I am/we are willing to volunteer for one event during the year _____ YES

I/We would like to be included in the business listing as: _____

Thank you for being part of the Foothills Community.