PRESIDENT LARRY’S MESSAGE

If you have moved to the foothills fairly recently, chances are you moved here to enjoy the peace and natural beauty of a rural setting, and if you have lived in the foothills a long time, chances are it is because you enjoy the peace and natural beauty of a rural setting. This particular rural setting, however, offers something more that many others may not. Years ago, the people of this community banded together to form the Foothills Rural Association, and the 100-year-old school house next to the fire station on Forker is our community center.

The primary mission of our association is to strengthen the bonds of community in our area for the benefit of all. Remember the commercial for Jiffy Lube or some such place that said, "We don't want to change the world; we just want to change your oil?" Well, we don't want to change the world either; we just want to enhance the experience of living here. We host numerous events throughout each year that celebrate holidays, our history, and each other. People of a variety of religious faiths, political views, and ages mingle with each other -- usually over food.

Did you ever live in or hear of a place where people don't know their neighbors? We think that's pretty sad, and ask you to join us in contributing to a different kind of a community -- where we all know each other and feel a bond for each other. If you are already a dues-paying member, thank you. If you are not, you will always receive this newsletter and be welcome at our gatherings, but we could use your financial support! Membership also provides other benefits, such as the right to rent out the community center for your own uses. Beyond membership, however, we really want you to join us for our events -- maybe even to get in on the planning and organizing of them!

A community’s greatest strength is its people, and whatever you put into the Foothills Rural Association, I guarantee you will get back tenfold. We hope to see you at our next meeting or gathering. Watch this newsletter for important announcements or call one of us leaders for information. If you do nothing else, help us with this: find a neighbor you don't know well or haven't chatted with in a while, and spend ten minutes with them.

Hope to see you soon!
--Larry Bernbaum
Here in the Foothills, we are blessed with amazing views and more wildlife encounters than we would sometimes care to have. However, at this time there are not many opportunities for hikers, bikers, or horseback riders to see the views and wildlife without also facing the traffic on our local roads.

Fortunately, all of that is about to change. One of the properties nominated for purchase by the Conservation Futures Program is located right here in the Foothills. Antoine Peak, a 1,100-acre property accessed from Robbins Road, was nominated for purchase through the Conservation Futures program last year.

The Conservation Futures program began in 1994, and has continued to receive support from the voters in Spokane County. County residents currently pay six cents per $1,000 of property value for the purchase of conservation land. The money generated by the program is used to purchase properties that meet criteria established by the Spokane County Parks Department. Independent conservation groups have also provided funds for the acquisition of some parcels.

The Conservation Futures program currently consists of eighteen properties in Spokane County. These properties are open to non-motorized use during daylight hours. Some properties have established hiking trails and are open to hiking, horseback riding, biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Dogs are generally permitted on conservation lands, but must be kept on a leash at all times.

Although Antoine Peak is high on the priority list for acquisition through the Conservation Futures fund, it is uncertain when the purchase may be finalized. Fortunately, two of the current eighteen conservation lands are very close to the Foothills area.

Closest is the Feryn Ranch property, which consists of eighty-one acres of prime waterfowl habitat. Formerly farmland, Feryn is at the conflux of Peone Creek and Deep Creek and has twenty-seven acres of wetlands. There are no hiking trails at Feryn, so visitors need to be prepared to do some off-trail hiking. Property boundaries are marked with white posts, and visitors should take care to avoid neighboring private property. The best access is off Peone Road. Watch for a large metal mailbox on the north side of the road marked “Feryn” as you travel west on Peone Road. Park where the old driveway begins to bend to the east and travel on foot from there. Since this property is mainly a bird refuge, dogs are better off left at home.

Also easily accessible from the Foothills is the McKenzie Conservation area. McKenzie is one of the newest additions to the Conservation Futures lands, having just been added last spring. McKenzie consists of 421 acres with 3,000 feet of lakefront property. Most of the property is treed, but there are old skid roads that serve as trails. Follow the trails to the water and you may catch a glimpse of the two permanent residents of the property – a pair of nesting bald eagles. Respect their privacy and stay behind the signs along the trail. To access McKenzie take Foothills Road to where it intersects Newman Lake Drive. Turn right and watch for the next road on the left, marked “dead end.” There is a sign on the left containing information about the McKenzie property and showing a map of the property boundaries.

Need more information? The complete listing of current conservation properties can be found at [http://www.conservationfutures.org/projects.php](http://www.conservationfutures.org/projects.php).

**FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY**
**SATURDAY APRIL 15**

Have you noticed all the litter along Forker Road? How about your road, has litter begun to surface? Over the edge of our road people have thrown bags of garbage and soda or beer cans – which with time has begun to spread out.

Let’s take time on April 15th to clean up the Foothills Area.

Either join board members at the Community Center or pick up litter along your road section.
Foothills Photos

Do you have an interesting or a great photograph of any part of the Foothills? Perhaps a view from your deck; animals in the back yard or open field or an appealing photo of a person enjoying life here.

On the FRA website there is an entire section devoted to area resident’s photos. Currently that space is mostly empty.

Let’s share pictures! Email pictures to: mailto:davidf@ruralspokane.com.

Take a look at: www.ruralspokane.com

SAVE THIS DATE!
July 8, 2006

Foothills Family Fun Fest

Sponsored by Foothills Community Church
Assisted by: FRA Board Members
For information or to suggest items to make this year’s fest better than last!
Call: 467 4233
Email: david5203@aol.com

BIGELOW GULCH/FORKER ROAD CORRIDOR PROJECT

The Corridor is planned to be constructed in six projects. The western portion is planned to be completed from Havana Street to Argonne Road by November, 2008. The eastern portion, Argonne to Wellesley Ave., will then follow with completion expected by November 2010.

For information access the Spokane County Engineers Office website at:
www.spokanecounty.org/engineer/bigelowgulchforkerconnector.asp
Included in the project information are a number of photographs of the corridor with overlays of the proposed changes. Very easy to see where or how the road will be altered.

Kronquist Memorial Scholarship

Due May 11, 2006

Applications are included in this newsletter.

The only eligibility requirement for the Jess Kronquist Memorial Scholarship is that the applicants live in the Foothills area and be enrolled in an academic program.

Awards are based on: Grade Point Average, School activities/community service, correct completion of the application, and an essay on the need and use of scholarship.

There are no age requirements.

Additional scholarships are found on the FRA website: [www.ruralspokane.net](http://www.ruralspokane.net)

Free to good homes:

Mix breeds puppies, 3 females, and 4 males.

Dad is a Lab/Blue Heeler; Mother is a Husky/Shepherd. These puppies will grow to be good sized dogs. They will be weaned and ready for new homes after April 1st. The new owners will be responsible for starting the dogs on their shot program.

Please contact Angela Priest at 922-0124 (home) or 863-3737 (cell).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

The time has come for me to pass the position as FRA newsletter editor on to someone else.

Persons interested in this position should have an active interest in the FRA and promoting its activities; attend board meetings and different FRA functions; have good computer skills.

Interested individuals please call me at 928-6610 or email rfkrenkel@icehouse.net.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT/HELP WANTED

Seeking summer employment?

List your name in the WORK WANTED section of this newsletter. Either call the newsletter editor at 928-6610 or email your information to: rfkrenkel@icehouse.net

Our youth get hired!

Have your information to me by May 20, 2006

Projects to complete?

List them in the newsletter or call on an area youth seeking employment. Contact editor by May 20th for inclusion in June newsletter.

rfkrenkel@icehouse.net
ANNUAL MEETING Jan. 17, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. Mike recapped the past year’s activities and accomplishments. Some of the highlights are as follows: The lease of the Center was renewed with the Fire Dept for another 5 years; The Foothills Family Fun Festival, hosted by Foothills Community Church, with food being provided at a reasonable cost by the FRA, was held in July. This was a renewal of a carnival type event which was held back in the ‘80s; $3000 in scholarships were given to 6 Foothills residents, $500 of this from the Blue Ribbon Circle; the electrical systems were updated in the Center & cottage; the Fire Dept. upgraded the water system, which solved problems at the cottage; a new roof was installed on the cottage porch; the 100th anniversary was celebrated in Sept. in conjunction with Founder’s Day; a Christmas party was put on by youth committee members Ashley Potter & Lee Kaelin; the Fun Run and breakfast were held as in past years; the Chili Feed on Halloween was a big success as usual, with 27 gallons of Chili fed to about 250 people. Mike pointed out that all except the breakfast and food served at the FFFF was free to all who came. This is a great deal for residents of Foothills, nearly 1/3 of whom are members. In closing, Mike asked for suggestions from members for future activities. He also made a suggestion that a petition drive be organized for DSL service in the Foothills.

The meeting was then turned over to Jim Wallrabenstein for election of officers for 2006. Before starting the election, Jim mentioned that he maintains the mailing & membership list. He reported that nearly 500 addresses receive the newsletter, as it goes out to all known residents of Foothills, whether or not they are FRA members. If anyone knows of a resident who is not receiving FRA mailings, they should tell Jim. All officers are elected for a 1 year term, board members for 3 years. Board members whose terms are expiring this year are Pat Wolfe and Lefty Lewis. Rich Krenkel and Tom Tuxford each have one more year to serve, Angela Priest and Mary Lea will serve for two more years. There being no nominating committee, the following were nominated & elected unanimously to serve for the coming year:

President – Larry Bernbaum
Vice-president – Holly Weiler
Secretary – Faye Weiler
Treasurer – Don Tucker
Three year Board positions – Mike Britton
Ashley Potter

Mike thanked all who attended and congratulated those elected. He then turned the gavel over to Larry.

The next board meeting will be the first Tuesday in February. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Faye Weiler, Secretary
Youth Work Wanted Ads
Foothills youth, ages up to 18 years, are welcome to advertise for jobs.
Or send information to:
Editor, FRA Newsletter
16115 E. Temple Road
Spokane, WA 99217

Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, age, along with the information about what type of work you are willing to do.

Too Many Chores?
We are willing to do any type of work around the house or farm.
Babysitting, yard work, dog walking, horse grooming, stall cleaning, house cleaning, window washing, watering, grocery shopping, etc.
We work hard and independently.
Have own transportation.
Shaunae, Kalie, or Ryan
465-5287

DEPENDABLE
14 Year old
Babysitting, house cleaning, making goodies
Own transportation Sonya, 924-6039

Have you tried everything to lose weight, or give up other habits that are ruining your life?
Don't give up!!
The Weigh Down Workshop has classes to help you experience God's deliverance from overeating and other painful addictions. Please call Judy Tuxford for information at 927-9608.

Animal Care Services
Pet & Livestock Sitting and Boarding
Pet Photography
"We care for your animals when you can't"
465-0602
Insured – Bonded- Member Pet Sitters

Advanced Cosmetic & Family Dentistry
Committed to Excellence
Welcoming Friends and neighbors as new patients
Scott C. Crews DDS PLLC
924-1580
Corner of Broadway and Mullan Road

Computer Repairs, Upgrades, Tuning and Networking
David Fisher (509) 892-7594
Wensleydale Computer Services
Est. 1999

HELP WANTED
Mountain Dome
Occasional need for part time worker.
Please call 928-2788