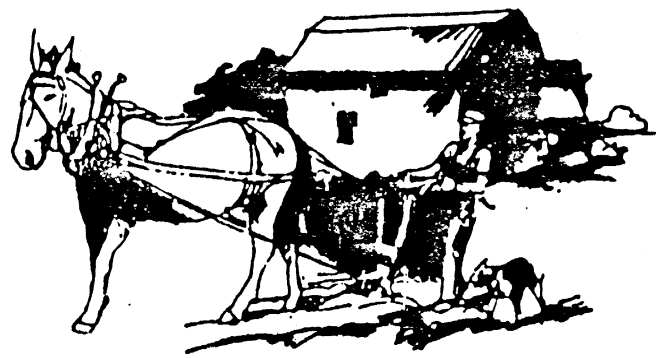




Vol . 16 No. 4
December 1998



SANTA CLAUS TO VISIT

You're Invited to Attend the...

16th ANNUAL MEETING of the Foothills Rural Association

When: Wednesday, January 20, 1999
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Community Center

The Foothills Rural Association is our community association. The officers and directors are our neighbors. They make time in their busy schedules to serve our community and keep it a wonderful place to live. The Annual Meeting offers you an important opportunity to show your appreciation for the time and commitment made by these individuals. Please mark your 1999 calendars now and plan to attend!

The Annual Meeting is a time for reflection on the past year's activities and events. More importantly, it is a time to look ahead to the coming year. This is your opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, share concerns, and perhaps accept nomination to serve as an officer or board member in 1999. We are ALL busy people with many commitments. It's easy to sit back and let someone else "carry the ball". The question is, "How important is your community to you?" Plan now to attend!

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

is the date that Santa Claus will be making his annual visit to the Foothills with the help of Fire District #9 and our volunteer firefighters from Station 6. Santa will be traveling aboard a vintage, decorated fire truck and will have treats for everyone! Plan on greeting him at the following locations:

- 6:15 - Corner of Scribner and Forker
- 6:30 - Corner of Foothills and Forker
- 6:45 - Corner of Temple and Forker
- 7:00 - Corner of Lincoln and Forker
- 7:15 - Corner of Judkins and Forker
- 7:30 - Arrives at Foothills Fire Station

Once Santa returns to the fire station, there will be hot chocolate, coffee, cookies, and donuts for all Foothills residents. Come and spend a little time with Santa and your neighbors!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

As 1999 rapidly approaches, it is time once again to renew your annual membership in the Foothills Rural Association. It is a joy to report that we once again set a new membership record in 1998 with **138 paid members!** That's eleven more than the previous year's record of 125. **Thank you for your support!**

Enclosed with this newsletter is a courtesy reply envelope to use in mailing your membership dues for 1999. Show your continuing support. Mail your renewal today!

FROM THE TREASURER

Don Tucker

It's The Simple Things That Count

It has been a good fiscal year for the Foothills Rural Association. We will end the year with a \$2,500. "surplus", largely due to having the cottage rented all year, and record number of paid memberships in the Association for 1998.

Major expenses were for exterior work completed on the community center (final facia and trim work associated with installation of vinyl siding), and the printing & mailing of the quarterly newsletter.

At year's end, we will have approximately \$19,500 in our accounts. This total includes over \$11,000 in the Jess Kronquist Endowment fund. Investment income from this fund is used for college scholarships awarded annually by the Association.

	YTD 1998	BUDGET 1998
INCOME:		
Member dues	2,800.00	2,400.00
Rent-Comm Ctr	580.00	500.00
Rent- Cottage	3,850.00	4,200.00
Fun Walk/Breakfast	660.00	600.00
Interest/Dividends	832.55	900.00
TOTAL INCOME	8,722.55	8,600.00
EXPENSES:		
Bank charges	18.00	30.00
Legal & Filing Fees	10.00	50.00
Insurance	720.00	800.00
Postage & Printing	1,141.47	1,000.00
Supplies	51.71	50.00
Electric-Center	964.50	1,000.00
Maintenance-Center	1,500.00	1,500.00
Grounds-Center	216.58	300.00
Electric-Cottage	5.27	100.00
Maintenance-Cottage	-77.64	4,000.00
Halloween Chili Feed	58.68	0.00
Founders' Day	396.70	500.00
Fun Walk/Breakfast	588.67	600.00
Yard Sale	33.00	50.00
Scholarships	750.00	500.00
Gifts	0.00	120.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,376.94	10,600.00
NET CASH FLOW	\$2,345.61	(\$2,000.00)
BALANCES:		
Horizon Share Draft	518.77	
Horizon Cash Key	7,640.19	
Kronquist CD	11,007.41	

You don't have to spend lots of money to have a meaningful family life. Children love the most simple, repetitive kinds of activities. They want to read the same stories hundreds of times and hear the same jokes long after they've heard the punch lines. These interactions with parents are often more fun than expensive toys or special events.

What grown children remember most fondly from their childhood is not the number of toys they received, regardless of how expensive or how "badly" they were wanted. Nor is it the "special events" like family vacations or trips to amusement parks or the zoo. The most meaningful activities within families are often those that are spontaneous and personal. It is the bedtime stories, the naval wars before serious scrubbing in the bathtub, wrestling matches with Dad on the living room floor with lots of tickling and laughing, meal times together as a family, helping Mom in the kitchen & Dad in the basement with household tasks done together. It's also those times when a child's help was really needed and they knew it! They had no choice but to become instantaneously responsible and responsive, to assist with the task and do it well, to do it right and to do it now. Once the dust and shouting of orders settled, a memory was made.

You can't buy your way out of parenting responsibilities. Busy and exhausted mothers and fathers will only fail in their attempts to "buy off" their deprived kids. It doesn't work. What kids want most is time spent with their parents - sharing a book, building things in the garage, biking or walking the Centennial Trail, not doing their chores alone, but completing tasks together. No toy, to be played with alone, can ever compete with the enjoyment of such moments. And those moments will be remembered for a life time.

For Christmas, begin building memories!

BIRDS OF THE FOOTHILLS

by Ron Dexter

The Corvidae Family of Birds

We have ten members of the Corvidae family of birds in Washington state. Six are found here in the Foothills. They are the Black-billed Magpie, Common Raven, American Crow, Clark's Nutcracker, Steller's Jay and Gray Jay.

All Corvidae have stout bills with a small hook at the tip, strong legs, feet and wings. They are gregarious and aggressive and have no song, only raucous calls, although the Gray Jay also has a very soft pleasant call. Corvidae are very communal and like to roost together in the woods. They like to help each other find food or fight off enemies.

From where Pat and I live, we have often seen hundreds of ravens heading for a favorite roosting site on a hill north of Scribner Road. Many times I have seen groups of Corvidae diving at, and harassing, owls that were perched in a tree trying to sleep.



Corvidae are basically scavengers who will eat almost anything, including carcasses, mice, insects, snakes, eggs and immature birds. The latter is part of the natural balance of nature to prevent too many birds of any one species from taking over specific food supplies which could lead to mass starvation.

Some store food they gather in cheek pouches, which they stash or bury to be eaten later. We have a couple platform feeding stands where we place foods to attract these birds as well as others. If you have a place about 100 feet or more from your window where you can place food items on a regular basis, you may be able to attract them to enjoy their antics.

Dog food, cracked corn, hashbrowns, eggs, bread, ripe or overripe fruits, nuts, berries, peanut butter mixed with corn meal or birdseed, cooked squash etc. Try anything. A platform of any size about five feet off the ground is ideal.

Our most common Corvidae are the ravens and magpies. Crows are found at the edges of the Foothills since the larger ravens drive them out. The jays and the Clark's Nutcrackers are found on Mt. Spokane, but occasionally come lower in the Foothills in the winter. The Steller's Jays are the only one you are apt to see down here. We have several in our woods right now.

If you would like to be assured of seeing the two jay species, go to the condominiums on Mt. Spokane. Park in the main parking lot and walk to the east side of the condos. People feed birds from their back decks. You'll also see three types of chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches there.

Clark's Nutcrackers are rare on Mt. Spokane. I have only seen them there three times in the summer. I believe they were once more numerous and in the 1970s, they were seen down here at times.

Corvidae are the most intelligent bird family and some can be taught to speak. We had a pet crow (named Mikey) for a few years that would clearly say "Hello Mikey". He would also carry on a soft conversation with himself in two different voices. We think he was mocking us! Jays can give perfect vocal imitations of Red-tailed hawks or Pygmy Owls.

Corvidae are very playful and like to tease or have mock fights with each other or other birds like Red-tailed Hawks or even dogs and cats. I have seen ravens pick up a pebble and fight over it just to have something to do, or pull each others tails, even in flight. All Corvidae like bright objects and will steal buttons, bottle caps, etc. When I first hit golf balls to my lone golf green, ravens carried off some of the balls, thinking they were eggs. I found some of them scattered throughout the woods, where they had dropped them, trying to break them. They soon learned the difference and leave them alone now.

So, the next time you see a raven or magpie, say to it, "Have a good day - Corvidae".

SUPER BOWL PARTY ANYONE?

Lester Lea, football fan extraordinaire, of Foothills Road, has an idea worth putting out for response. He thinks it might be lots of fun to rent (or borrow) a BIG SCREEN TV for the community center on SUPER BOWL Sunday and have a **PARTY!** If you think this is a GREAT IDEA, give Les a call at 892-1211. If we make it a "members only" affair, then Les & Mary might pay their 1999 dues right away!

(Psst. Call during the day and listen to Mary's original Christmas message on the answering machine!)

RESIDENTS WARY OF COUNTY PLANS

Recent newspaper articles and public meetings regarding county plans to upgrade Bigelow Gulch and Moffat Roads to handle increasing traffic loads, as well as truck traffic, has caused concern among Foothills residents who have been following discussion of these plans. While some of the plans being presented are looking 20 years ahead, it is not too soon for Foothills residents to "get involved" to insure such plans do not have a major impact on the rural lifestyle we enjoy.

It seems somewhat ironic that the county is, on one hand, discussing major "upgrading" of Bigelow Gulch Road to a 4-lane highway between Hillyard and Sullivan Road while at the same time allowing Forker Road, along with many other major county roads, to deteriorate further each year.

At the same time, with the recent passage of Referendum 49, up to \$2.4 billion (yes, that's billion) in transportation funding will soon be come available state-wide. The availability of these funds may move a number of projects beyond the "dream" stage closer to reality. Residents concerned about how these funds are spent, and protecting the rural lifestyle we sought here in the Foothills, should keep abreast of county plans. Talk with your neighbors, attend public hearings, make sure your county elected officials know how you feel. The best time, and often the only time, to influence public construction projects is in the planning stage. That time is now.

The **Foothills Rural Association** 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 protect the area from environmental depredation; to provide a forum by which the property owners and/or current residents may 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./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 **Newsletter** is published 4-6 times a year by the Foothills Rural Association. It is mailed to all known resident addresses in the Foothills. Address additions/corrections should be sent to:

Jim Wallrabenstein, Editor

16630 E. Foothills Road

Spokane, WA 99217-9433

Phone: 924-4406 FAX: 924-3665

E-Mail: jmw@ior.com

A **Community Crime Log** has been established in an effort to increase community awareness about crime occurring in our area. The crime log will be published in the newsletter. Residents are encouraged to report **all** crimes to the police. After making a police report, call:

Chelle Spaulding, Crime Log Recorder
Ph. 924-6590

The **Foothills Community Center**, located on Forker Road, 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: **Flavia Kuebler, Rental Coordinator**

Ph. 926-2919

1998 Board Directory

President	Steve Allenberg	926-4111
Vice-President	Kay Muelrath	891-8315
Secretary	Wende Barker	924-3127
Treasurer	Don Tucker	924-9105
Board	Mike Britton ('00)	922-1494
	Joyce Roskelley ('00)	928-2587
	Steve Hansen ('99)	926-6357
	Rich Krenkel ('99)	928-6610
	Dale Preedy ('98)	466-6172
	Pat Wolfe ('98)	924-1412

NEED HELP? CALL FOOTHILLS YOUTH!

Are you in need of some eager, able-bodied assistance? These Foothills youth are ready to help and waiting to hear from you!

Diana Bertholic (20), Morrison Road 922-2344

Crystal Bertholic (16)

Julie Bertholic (14)

Suzie Bertholic (12)

Babysitting, house cleaning

Stephanie Boorman (15), Madison Rd 926-1157

Stacy Boorman (13)

Babysitting - responsible, experienced!

Pet sitting, yard work

Mike Nilson (13), Moffat Road 922-1103

Snow shoveling, yard work, animal feeding

Kira Starling (16), Foothills Road 924-9012

Babysitting, elderly care

Dawn Starling (14)

Danae Starling (13)

Babysitting, yard work, pet care

Joshua Tucker (16), Foothills Road 924-9105

Computer skills & math tutoring,
algebra 1 or 2, geometry, trigonometry

Stephanie Tucker (15) 924-9105

Math tutoring, algebra 1 or 2

geometry, trigonometry; animal care

Holly Weiler (20), Adams Road 926-9144

Babysitting, **house-sitting**, tutoring

Joe Weiler (18) 926-9144

Snow shoveling, wood-cutting, odd jobs

Daniel Wood (10), Moffat Road 922-2473

Yard work, pet care, sell/trade non-hybrid
seeds, teach beginning sign language

.....
If you are a Foothills youth who would like to be listed in the next newsletter, send this information to:

Foothills Rural Association

16630 E. Foothills Road

Spokane, WA 99217-9433

Fax: 924-3665 E-mail: jmw@ior.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Type of work you're interested in doing:

"MEMBERS ONLY" CLASSIFIED ADS

Call your neighbors first. Ad space is provided FREE to members. Send ads to:

Foothills Rural Association

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Spokane, WA 99217-9433

FAX: 924-3665

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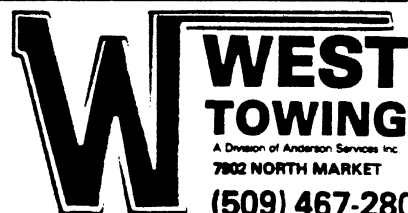
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