



FLSRV Newsletter

Inside This Issue

Amazon SmilePage 1	Membership.....Page 1	Won't You Be My Neighbor.....Page 3	Murder at Greenleaf Farm.....Page 6
2019 Annual Meeting.....Page 1	How to be a Hero.....Page 2	Waikiki Springs Changes.....Page 4	Back to School.....Page 8
In Memorium.....Page 1	Fairwood Farmer's Market.....Page 2	Membership FormPage 5	
The Dreamer & the DoctorPage 1	Sewer Extension Project.....Page 2	Wandermere.....Page 6	

Holiday Shopping at Amazon Smile

Go to: smile.amazon.com and search for: Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley

Get your 12 days of Christmas gifts on Amazon, but within smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com, and 0.5% of the purchase price will be donated to FLSRV on all eligible products!

No additional costs to you!

Mark Your Calendar

2019 Annual Meeting And Dinner/Auction

Friday, February 22, 2019
Wandermere Golf Club



In Memoriam

Merle Moberly, MD

“He loved the clouds..
the breath of morning,
the twilight, the wind,
the winding stream.”

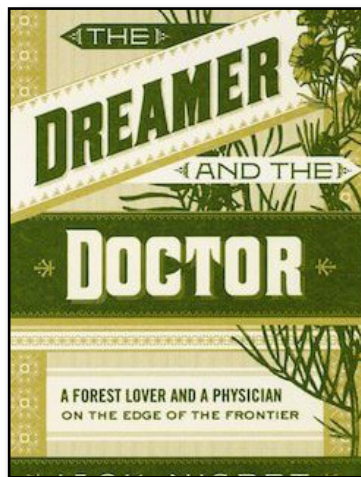
~ Robert Ingersoll

The Dreamer and the Doctor by author Jack Nisbet

John Leiberg was a prospector and plant lover who came to the Inland Northwest with the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1884. His wife Carrie worked as a family physician and raised a difficult child while they carved out a homestead on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille. Their saga, loaded with unlikely turns, reflects an American West on the ragged edge between frontier and modern times.

On November 1 Jack will do a reading from his new book at:

Aunties Bookstore
downtown Spokane
7:00 pm



Membership

We have 110 member families for our organization, this is tops for the last few years. Among other things, membership dues are used for mailings of newsletters and we are expanding that coverage so more areas of our river valley can be aware of our activities.

Included in this newsletter is the MEMBERSHIP form for 2019. Please consider completing it and sending it along with \$25.00 for next year.

Your elected board members meet each month giving time and talent for the advancement of our projects. Please give them your support by renewing your membership.

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

FLSRV Newsletter

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Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

P.O. Box 18191
Spokane, WA 99228
Phone: 509-951-2084

For article suggestions or comments
contact Harla Jean Biever

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How to Be a Hero Along The Middle of The Little Spokane

Rob Allen

Fairwood Farmers Market Director

Heroes are needed to help preserve public access to the Middle of the Little Spokane behind Bozarth Retreat Center near Mill Road and Fairwood Drive. You can be a trails hero by joining a trails maintenance project there Saturday October 20 at 9 a.m.

About 120 acres along the Little Spokane there are currently owned and managed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The department, which basically develops fish hatcheries and wildlife habitat, has expressed a willingness to transfer management to Washington State Parks Department. Parks has agreed, with a proviso. Subject to the surrounding North Spokane neighborhoods participating in active management of the WDFW property, they are adding the WDFW land to their long-term plan for Riverside State Park. Now we must prove our commitment to the area.

WDFW Access Manager Daniel Dziekan will be our guide on Saturday the 20th, laying out the most current work to be accomplished. He'll be assembling teams at the trailhead, rain or shine, who will (1) transplant new native plants along the trail; (2) spread new bark mulch at designated spots along the trail; (3) help move dead tree parts into place across volunteer trails that have sprung up. Many of those trails

lead to severe erosion problems; and (4) pick up garbage for litter patrols. A lot of the work centers on the historic Switchback Trails that lead down to the river.

A "Save our Switchbacks" campaign has been initiated by the Fairwood Farmers Market as a community service endeavor, searching for volunteer hours and resources to maintain and acquire the WDFW parcels and surrounding land for long term preservation of an active wildlife corridor and for regional recreation purposes.

As you can see from the work Daniel Dziekan has outlined, there is something every level of trail user can do to help during the work party. At each event like this, Dziekan keeps a log of all those who volunteer and uses his records to demonstrate support from the local community. He suggests you bring shovels, wheelbarrows and wagons. This spring, the work party lasted about 2 hours.



Spokane County Little Spokane Drive Sewer Extension Project

Michael Kennedy

You may be wondering why the signs on Little Spokane Drive. The road will be closed from October 1 through the month of November for sewer installation and full width repaving.

However, local and emergency access will be maintained.

The purpose of this sewer pipeline is to convey wastewater from the densely-developed Mead-Mt. Spokane area to the County's existing sewer system in Little Spokane Drive. Though this new segment of sewer will be constructed on Little Spokane Drive, it will not be available for connection to the adjacent properties because these properties are located outside of the Urban Growth Area (UGA).

If you are interested in receiving updates on this project, email: MarshallS@HalmeConstruction.com to request to be added to the email distribution list.

For construction related questions, you can also call Wendy Iris, Spokane County Construction Manager, 509-477-7441 Call Kristen Armstrong or Gene Repp at 509-477-3604 with the Spokane County Environmental Services for sewer related questions.



Fairwood Farmer's Market

Merry Maccini

I love going to the Fairwood Farmer's Market in the summer. Most years I plant a small vegetable garden, but due to travels this summer I did not. The Farmer's Market became my garden. There are several organic farms which offer fresh produce and eggs. The selection is better than anything I could have grown myself!

I enjoy samples of fresh baked bread and heirloom apples. Local honey is available, and the aroma of roasted nuts, kettle corn, flowers, soaps, and spices is intoxicating. There are homemade caramels for my sweet tooth, beer from a local brewery, hard cider, and mead (honey wine) from the local meadery.



Most Tuesdays I go home with a selection of locally produced food to make a delicious dinner. There are protein offerings including grass fed beef and other fresh

meats. A variety of herbs are offered by vendors as well as delicious salsas and homemade chips to accompany dinner. If I don't feel like cooking, I can pick up a prepared lasagna or sauce. Or, I can just visit one of the food trucks and have dinner at the market while listening to the entertainment.

The Fairwood Farmer's Market is held throughout the growing season on Tuesdays between 3 and 7 p.m. I will be sad when the last market day is held on October 9th, however, I will look forward to the spring opening the third week of May.



“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” Please, Won’t You...

Tina Wynecoop

Last month a hundred and more neighbors met at Gleneden’s Covenant United Method Church after work to come up with solutions regarding the ongoing and unrelenting issue of transient/homeless camps popping up in our Little Spokane River area with its many neighborhoods. How did the call-to-meeting attract so many attendees? Thanks to Nextdoor.com it was easy to spread the invitation.

First, let me report that a sheriff deputy, as well as the CEO of Spokane County, and Commissioner Josh Kerns came to this meeting. Although the main concern was not satisfactorily addressed by them and many of us left dissatisfied, the men did get to listen to a lot of impassioned and plaintive requests for solutions – requests from people directly impacted. The attendees could have heard many more than time allowed. (We have had two transient camps next to our easement.) What each neighbor reported left little doubt that the squatters, their camps, and garbage, their bullying, their fires (during fire season), their attacks with weapons, their break-ins...and on and on, are not to be tolerated.

With thanks to Jill who organized the recent meeting, and the Nextdoor.com website/desktop and phone app, the meeting came together without the usual effort. Utilizing the social network, Nextdoor.com, has blessed local neighborhoods in ways not thought possible a few years ago. I joined the “North Hatch Developments” neighborhood two years ago. I selected thirteen other close-by neighborhoods and I am able to send and receive messages pertinent to our community (including the Friends of the Little Spokane River organization’s newsletters).

If you are not already a member here is some information I pulled from the Nextdoor website:

Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It’s the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it’s free.

Thousands of neighborhoods are already using Nextdoor to build better and safer places to call home.

People are using Nextdoor to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike

Nextdoor’s mission is to provide a trusted platform where subscribers can ask for and receive recommendations; learn what is for sale/free; find out about upcoming local events/meetings; receive crime and safety reports; post lost and found items/pets; general information; and documents; and photos can be attached.

- The Nextdoor.com manifesto -

*We are for neighbors
For neighborhood barbecues. For multi-family garage sales. For trick-or-treating
We’re for slowing down, children at play.
We’re for sharing a common hedge and an awesome babysitter.
We’re for neighborhood watch. Emergency response. And for just keeping an eye out for a lost cat.*

We believe waving hello to the new neighbor says, “Welcome” better than any doormat.

We believe technology is a powerful tool for making neighborhoods stronger, safer places to call home.

We’re all about online chats that lead to more clothesline chats.

We believe fences are sometimes necessary, but online privacy is always necessary.

We believe strong neighborhoods not only improve our property value, they improve each one of our lives.

We believe that amazing things can happen by just talking with the people next door.

We are Nextdoor. We are simply you and your neighbors, together.

- Privacy -

Fences are sometimes necessary. But online privacy is always necessary. Nextdoor makes it safe to share online the kinds of things you’d be okay sharing with your neighbors in person.

Here’s how:

Every neighbor must verify their address.

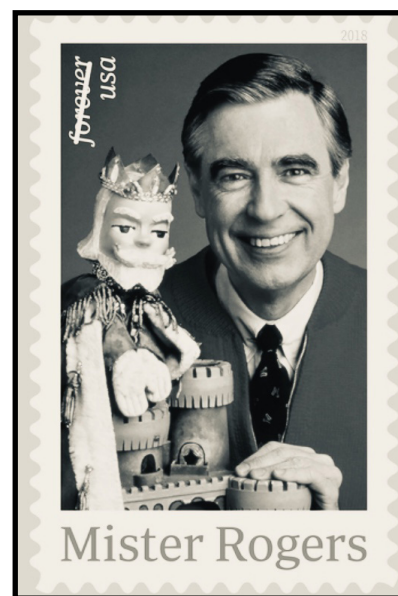
Each neighbor signs in with their real name. Just like in person.

You choose where your information is shared.

Your website is securely encrypted using the HTTPS Internet protocol.

Nextdoor never shares your personal information with third-party advertisers [there are a few advertisements though-TW].”

So, my neighbors – Welcome to the neighborhood!



Changes May Be Coming to WDFW Waikiki Springs Property

Landon Eaton Crecelius

Changes may be coming to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Waikiki Springs property below the Fairwood neighborhood, often referred to as the “switchbacks.” This 115-plus acre property has long been popular with the north Spokane community for walking, jogging, bicycling, wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, and other activity along the old switchback road down to the Little Spokane River.

In the last few years WDFW staff have met with neighbors, county officials, and Washington State Parks managers about future management of the property. State Parks has been reviewing properties near Riverside State Park with an eye to increasing land stewardship and public recreational opportunities, including connecting the “switchbacks” property to the park.

This July the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission adopted a long-term boundary for Riverside State Park that includes the Waikiki Springs property. The intent of parks including this property is in recognition of the impacts and opportunities the management of these types of neighboring properties have on current State Parks properties. In some cases, Parks may seek to own or manage these lands in conjunction with their recreational objectives in mind. In other cases, management and or ownership may not be the route pursued by Parks, but

rather a partnership or shared management strategy with the property owner or manager is the best outcome in preserving, enhancing, and managing recreational opportunities for the long term.



When funding is available and a master plan is developed, State Parks would consider additional property acquisitions from willing sellers within



the long-term boundary. Such acquisitions might be made through the Spokane County Conservation Fu-

tures program, land exchanges, conservation easements, or other purchase agreements.

More information about the Parks planning process is at <http://parks.state.wa.us/916/Riverside-State-Park-planning-project>.

Last year FLSRV and the Fairwood I Home Owners Association (HOA) and Fairwood II HOA teamed up with the Fairwood Farmer’s Market to hire Nicoterra Trails to conduct a scoping study about the potential for preserving and enhancing the property and the wildlife that live there. Through this study the name “Middle of the Little” was born to describe the area along the Little Spokane River.

The scoping study recommended, and Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley (FLSRV) spokesperson Harla Jean Beaver encouraged, development of a parks master plan.

Meanwhile, WDFW is applying for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant funds to help control switchback trail erosion and protect wildlife habitat and the aquifer springs.

With State Parks long-term boundary plan including the Waikiki Springs property, local interested parties are working to find funding for other improvements and to help achieve the local long term planning efforts of Parks and DFW.

Saturday volunteer parties have cleaned up trash, worked on trail erosion problems, and planted native vegetation along the trail. The next trail clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, starting at 9 a.m. at the top of the switchbacks.

For more information about the HOA/FLSRV team action, contact little Spokane conservation@gmail.com.

For more information about WDFW Waikiki Springs property management, contact:

WDFW Eastern Region Lands agent, Jan Lawson at: Jan.lawson@dfw.wa.gov.



Wandermere Golf Course: *Legacy on the Little Spokane River*

Wandermere involves much of Spokane's early history -- from its humble beginnings as a dairy farm, to a wilderness escape for the "city folk" of Spokane, to the year-round playground, and eventually to the golf course that it is today.

The vision of this book project is to tell the story of this beautiful place and to keep in mind the memories of all the loyal customers, family, friends, and employees that have made it a such a legacy on the Little Spokane River.

If you or someone you know has memories and/or photos of Wandermere, please share these with Ty Brown at:
tybrown768@hotmail.com

Murder at Greenleaf Farm: The Tragic Downfall of Theodore Cushing and His Ties to Francis H. Cook and Wandermere Golf Course

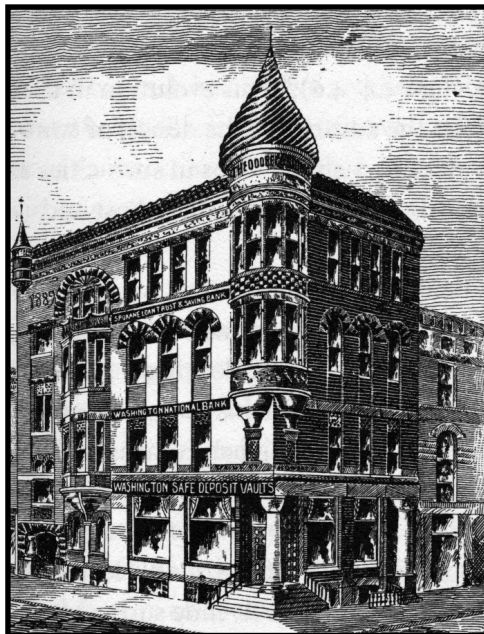
Ty Brown

Theodore Cushing arrived on the west coast from Chicago and made his home in Portland, Oregon, in the summer of 1883. While a resident of Portland, he invested in real estate in Spokane Falls and made a small fortune in the rise in values there. Cushing's brother, William, was already well established in the area and operated a large mercantile store, Cushing and Bryan, in the town of Mead, just north of the city. Theodore moved to Spokane in 1888 and erected a flamboyant building which was known as the Cushing block on the northwest corner of Howard and Sprague. This building was the first commercial building designed by famed architect, Kirtland Cutter. Cushing was the director of the Washington National Bank and the Washington Savings Bank of Spokane Falls located in his new building.

During the Panic of 1893, Cushing lost the block to foreclosure and it later become known as the Spokane and Eastern Trust Company. This space is currently occupied by the Bank of

America tower, constructed in 1980.

Following the financial downturn, Cushing took up residence at a farm owned by his father-in-law, Thomas Hampton, on the Little Spokane River (site of the



The first commercial building designed by Kirtland Cutter was the Theodore Cushing Building on the northwest corner of Sprague and Howard. Started before the Great Fire of 1889 and completed afterward. This exotic onion domed structure was the home of the Washington National Bank, led by Cushing, and later demolished.

(Spokane Falls Illustrated)

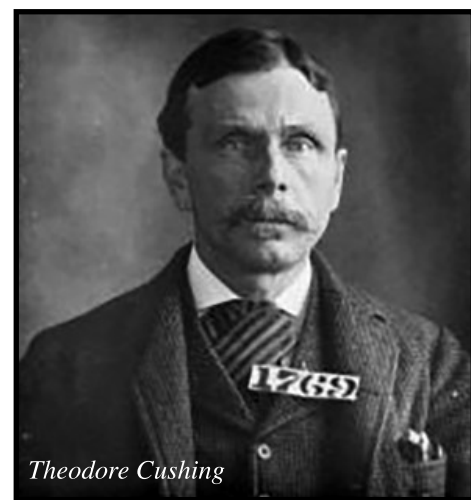
present-day Pine River Park housing development). United States General Land Office Records indicate that Hampton acquired the 80 acres of land in 1894. The farm became known as Greenleaf and, like other properties in the area, it specialized in dairy farming. Cushing took a keen interest in the operations and lived in the large farmhouse with his wife, Blanche, and two small children, along with his mother- and father-in-law, the Hamptons. At one point, Cushing and his father-in-law owned 320 acres of land on both sides of the river.

This seemingly successful life would change forever with the events of May 14, 1895. According to the Spokane Chronicle, "yesterday it (the farm) was a place of happiness, today gloom hangs like a pall over the beautiful home of Theodore Cushing and all is mourning over the fatal tragedy that has at least temporarily robbed a home of a husband and father."

Newspapers from around the region ran headlines telling of a farm owner and

prominent business man who killed his hired hand. According to trial testimony, Cushing and Thomas King, a man hired to do odd jobs on the property, got into an altercation over wages. King felt that Cushing owed him wages for work he had performed, but Cushing wanted to pay him later, after a trip to town to get the money.

A trail of blood was found leading from the front porch of the house to the rear where the dying man was found. According to the paper, an inspection of the wounds indicated that King had been shot from behind with both barrels of a shotgun and his body was riddled with over twenty buckshot wounds that passed clean through. In addition, there was a triangular wound an inch or two long that penetrated to the skull on the left side of his head. This appeared to have been inflicted with a blunt instrument, probably the shotgun, because the barrel was found to be bent. King bled to death in the yard of the farmhouse while Cushing went for help. Mrs. Cushing and her parents were at the home at the time, but did not witness the shooting. Cushing claimed he shot King in self-defense, because he feared for his life after being threatened by King. When interviewed by a reporter at the Spokane County Jail, Cushing went on to say "I am not a desperado. Those who know me ought to realize that I would not commit an act of this kind without ample justification. This man had worked for me for a few months. It was done solely in self-defense. I deemed that my life was in imminent peril."



Theodore Cushing

After a long trial, it was determined that King did not charge at Cushing with

- Greenleaf Farm / Continued on page 7 -

a club or weapon of any sort and that Cushing shot King in cold blood. Cushing had been charged with first degree murder, but was convicted of murder in the second degree and sentenced to ten years in the state penitentiary. Upon appeal, the charge was reduced to manslaughter and Cushing's sentence was reduced to seven years.

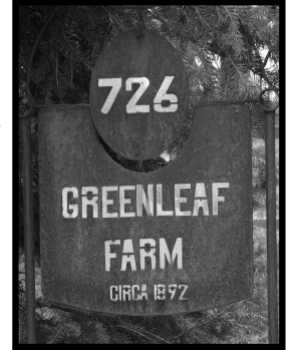
The 1900 Census lists Cushing as a 52-year-old prisoner at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla. Thomas Hampton, his father-in-law, died shortly after the murder on March 30, 1896, at the farm, according to Washington State Death Records. All indications are that his wife, Blanche, left for Portland with the children when Cushing went to jail and after her father died. The 1905 Portland City Directory lists her residing in the Rose City at 386

ing get his sentence reduced from murder to manslaughter.

Francis H. Cook is known as a founding father of Spokane. He is credited with printing Spokane's first newspaper, The Spokan Times (Cook intentionally left the e off the title) and establishing the first motorized train line in the city. This Spokane-Montrose Line ran south from downtown to the area now known as Manito Park. Cook farmed 640 acres of the South Hill and established what became Cook's Addition and Manito Park. Like Cushing, Cook and his family moved to their property on the Little Spokane River, just south of Greenleaf Farm, after the financial collapse of 1893. Soon after Cushing's conviction and Hampton's death, the Cook family rented the Greenleaf farmhouse and lived there for approximately ten years while they developed their property, which would ultimately become Wandermere Golf Course.

ing family, which eventually included eleven children. The youngest child, Ralph Cook, was born in the farmhouse in 1900.

In 1917, the property was sold to James Hansen, whose daughter, Lillie, would marry Ralph Cook on December 9, 1918. Ralph and Lillie met while Cook was working as the ranch foreman for the former Francis H. Cook property, subsequently owned by John D. Porter and known as the Porter Ranch. Lillie Cook often told people that her husband was born in her bedroom.



Through the years, Greenleaf Farm was productive as a hay and dairy facility, but, by the 1950s, most of the farmland was sold to developers. It was platted as Greenleaf Addition and eventually became the housing development known as Pine River Park. The original farmhouse still stands on one and a quarter acres and the current owners, Chuck and Joni Titus along with Sadie, their dog, have enjoyed the property since 1984. Many additions have been made to the structure and most of the surrounding land is now swallowed up by suburban sprawl, but Greenleaf Farm has a storied history that lives on.



Ralph Cook plowing, 1944. Ralph Cook was the youngest of the eleven Cook children and was born in the Greenleaf farmhouse. He would later go on to have his own farm north of Deer Park and raise his daughter, Doris Jean, with his wife Lillie. (Photo Courtesy of Cook Family)

Ross Street. She died in Portland in 1910 at the young age of 46.

Cushing served his sentence removed back to Spokane. According to the 1903 Spokane City Directory, he lived at East 218 Nora and worked as the manager of the Spokane branch of the D.B. Scully Syrup Company, based in Chicago. He was trying to get back on his feet, after jail, when he unexpectedly died on a business trip to San Francisco at the age of 57. He is buried at Greenwood Memorial Terrace in Spokane.

During Cushing's appeal, his lawyer, Blake and Post, called Francis H. Cook as a character witness for the defense. Cook was a close friend and neighbor of Cushing and believed that Cushing was an innocent man. Oral histories of the Cook children reveal that Cook was an eloquent speaker who helped Cush-

The tragic event at Greenleaf Farm changed the lives of many. For the Cooks it meant the opportunity to live in a larger house that met the needs of their grow-



Greenleaf Farm has experienced many changes over the years and has been the center of several families lives. Since 1984, Chuck and Joni Titus have enjoyed this property just off the banks of the Little Spokane River. (Photo by Ty Brown)



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



Back to School

Kirk Neumann

This September, approximately 640 kindergarten through 6th grade students returned to a newly transformed Midway Elementary School.

As part of the Mead School District's construction bond which passed in 2015, Midway has undergone a \$16.75 million remodel. The school has been nearly totally upgraded from floor to ceiling with several new classrooms being added. Money saving features have been incorporated into the new design such as LED lights with occupancy sensors which turn the lights off when no one is in the room. The carpet has been replaced with tile

in the halls, and the sinks have been moved outside the bathrooms.

These changes are designed to cut maintenance and cleaning costs. The gym has been totally remodeled, complete with a new wood floor and a large door that connects it to the cafeteria. This allows for a larger audience during the school's very popular Christmas programs.

One of the major challenges during the 15 month project was to perform much of the work while students were still attending classes. This was achieved by rotating classes around and having 8 classrooms in portable buildings behind the school. Now that all the dust and noise are gone, students will be able to enjoy a newly remodeled school for years to come.



FLSRV Website

Have you visited our web site? We are continually updating information in which you might be interested. Take a look at flsrv.org.