

The Cougar KITTEN

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May Taco Feed and BINGO Event



The Cougar Gulch annual community event—CINCO D BINGO—was held at the Hall on Saturday, May 9th. The event was well attended by friends and neighbors within the community. Delicious tacos with all the fixings were available to the



hungry crowd. The dinner was followed by several rousing games of BINGO—each with a different, winning format. Each game had one cash winner. As the games progressed, the cash prize for the winner increased, making for a friendly rivalry among the participants. David Foster was the BINGO master and Jason Shanley was the BINGO caller. No one went home hungry and great fun was had by everyone.



2015 Annual Membership Meeting



The annual Cougar Gulch membership meeting was held during the Taco Feed and BINGO event. This annual meeting is a requirement of our by-laws and provides an excellent time for residents to come together and nominate individuals for open board positions while getting to know those members of the board currently serving the community. The existing board members were introduced to the attending

audience and nominations were entertained for the position of Vice-President, recently vacated by Phil Cooper, and general board membership positions. Julia Mangan was elected to the position of Vice-President. No other members were nominated to the board at this time. If you are interested to serve on the board, please contact Julie Schmidt at 425-319-0915 or via email julieinez1951@gmail.com.



Thank you Mavis Tysdal



The Cougar Gulch Community Board honors Mavis Tysdal for her service. Mavis is retiring from the board after more than 2 years of dedicated, volunteer service.

During community events, Mavis could always be found behind the scenes, setting up for events, or cleaning up after them.

She could always be counted on to bring delectable desserts or delicious main dishes to every scheduled event to support the community, and many times could be found behind the Hall kitchen counter cooking or serving. We will miss Mavis and wish her well. Thank you for making our lives richer with your volunteer efforts, Mavis!

WANTED: Community Hall Rental Monitor

The board is looking for a volunteer to take over Hall Rental Monitor duties for the community.



As the Hall Rental Monitor you would talk to potential renters via phone or email, provide them rental information and keys, collect rents and send the monies to the board treasurer.

Additionally, the monitor keeps an eye on the Hall and connects with our cleaning service if the Hall should need special attention. If you are interested, please contact Julie Schmidt at 425-319-0915 or send an email to: julielinez1951@gmail.com.



Worley Highway District Summer Maintenance Notes



The summer maintenance work continues apace. Application of magnesium-chloride for stabilization of gravel roads has been completed. The spring application of roadside noxious weed control was completed this month. And now, roadside mowing begins.

The crew has been laying down hot-mix patches on sections of road in the Cougar Gulch-Meadowbrook area. These roads will be resealed next year, in 2016. This year repaving will be done in the central part of the district; e.g., Rockford Bay and Loffs Bay roads. Before laying down chips and binding oil, roads first have to be washed. With little or no rain in the forecast, we'll have a water truck doing that job. This is really hot work, even more so this summer. So if you happen upon the operation, give the crew a break, watch for flagmen and take it slow past the work site.

Clemetson Road

Due to the early start on summer maintenance, we expect to get back to Clemetson Road sooner than we anticipated. A first coat of paving oil will be laid down on the section improved last year. Then the last section of the project (up to just past Reynolds Road) will be improved. Finally, we'll go back to the first section and put down a second coat of paving oil. The only job left will then be to pave the final section constructed; that will be done in 2016. Maybe with an extended fall, we can chip away on another project. Time will tell.

New Office Building

Construction of the new office building on Sunup Road continues. Walls have been framed and it now has a roof. It's beginning to actually look like a building. The goal is to move in by end of September. The maintenance shop will remain at the Mica location.

As always, start your trip early, slow it down, and enjoy the ride.

This article is provided by Jim Mangan, Commissioner, Sub District 1, Worley Highway District. Jim can be reached at 208-660-7956.

June Pancake Feed and Community Road Clean-Up



This year's annual community road clean-up was preceded by a free pancake breakfast at the Meadowbrook Community Hall.

Volunteers descended on the Hall early on Saturday, June 27, for pancakes and sausage, coffee, juice and cocoa. The breakfast was hosted by the Cougar Gulch Board of Directors. After breakfast, volunteers and their families were provided litter bags for the clean-up event. Participants targeted different locations in the Gulch including the length of Cougar Gulch



Road and Meadowbrook Loop as well as other areas. Suzie and Mike Denny provided additional litter patrol signs to augment a caution sign at the beginning of the community compliments of the Worley Highway District. Litter collected was deposited at the Hall and hauled away by Worley Highway District personnel.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone that participated! We love your community spirit and really appreciate everyone coming out on a busy, warm weekend. Special thanks to Haley and Emma from 4-H for arriving early and helping set up for breakfast.

YOUR Volunteer Board of Trustees

Your elected community board of trustees holds monthly meetings at 6:30 pm, the first Thursday of each month, from September through June.

Julie Schmidt, President	425-319-0915
Julia Mangan, Vice President	208-661-5375
Courtney Beebe, Treasurer	208-447-8159
Karen Thurston, Secretary	208-660-1359
David Foster	Director
Jason Shanley	Director
Dawn Myers	Director
OPEN	Director
OPEN	Director
OPEN	Director

The board welcomes all community members who would like to drop in to a meeting, listen to the proceedings and provide ideas. The board also encourages anyone who would like to join the board to please contact Julie Schmidt for more information and meeting locations.

Community Hall For Rent



The Cougar Gulch Community Hall can be rented by any local neighbor or resident of the Gulch. The Hall boasts a stocked kitchen with a propane wall heater, a large entertainment room with a stage, tables and chairs for approximately 80–100 guests, a wood burning fireplace and a gas stove.

Paper products and cutlery are provided as well as firewood to heat the Hall in the colder months. Consider having your next event at the Hall. It's also a great spot for family reunions or parties too!

Please contact Julie Schmidt at 425-319-0915 or check availability on line at our website at CougarGulchCommunity.com. Paid members can rent the Hall for \$75 per day. Non-member rental fees are \$125 per day.



The Cougar Chick

Contributed by Karen Thurston - Welcome to The Cougar Chick, a column dedicated to agricultural pursuits in Cougar Gulch. Typically you'll find information about grower and livestock practices as we feature neighbors involved in farming and related activities, either for commercial sales or personal enjoyment and consumption.

As I write this article in the cooler lower story of our three-story home, the temperatures outside are a sweltering 103 degrees Fahrenheit. Summer is here with a vengeance.

The warm temperatures this year have resulted in early grass hay harvests in the Meadowbrook Loop neighborhood of Cougar Gulch. Some fields may yield a second crop if we have enough rain and continued warm weather. If you haven't driven Meadowbrook Loop lately, take some time to see the giant round bales baking in the sun. Better yet, step out of your car or plan to walk the loop to experience the smell of the newly cut grass.

The presence of harvesters and balers caused me to wonder about agricultural activities across the state of Idaho and what resources I might find at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture web site. I was pleased to find a compact 5-year strategic plan with specific goals I'd like to share with you here, starting with the mission:

Serving consumers and agriculture by safeguarding the public, plants, animals and environment through promotion, education and regulation.

The Idaho Legislature created the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) in 1919 to assist and regulate the state's fast-growing agriculture industry.

The primary purposes for establishment were to protect Idaho's crops and livestock from the introduction and spread of pests and transmittable diseases, to help provide the industry with a system for the orderly marketing of agricultural commodities, and to protect consumers from contaminated products or fraudulent marketing practices. Those purposes still drive the department today.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is now 95 years old, but it continues to be a visionary, creative and vibrant state agency.

Goal 1: Provide superior service to Idaho by fulfilling our core statutory responsibilities.

Objective: Protect the public, plants, animals and environment using regulation and education.

Strategies:

- Offer protection to the public and agriculture industry by focusing resources on animal and plant disease control and prevention.
- Devote department resources to address public concerns regarding animal care, water and air quality. • Conduct routine inspections and respond to complaints; use regulatory actions when necessary.
- Work with the agriculture industry to identify Best Management Practices and provide technical support.

- Continue to educate the agriculture industry about environmental stewardship and statutory obligations.
- Provide the public with timely and accurate information about regulatory and monitoring activities.
- Continue to monitor the implementation of the records management program.
- Build customer confidence in the food supply chain.

Desired Outcomes:

Idaho's agriculture industry will continue to be robust without adverse impacts on the public or environment. Consumers will benefit from safe and superior agricultural products.

Goal 2: Be a pro-active resource to quickly adapt to new challenges and opportunities facing Idaho.

Objective: Stand ready to address new challenges, such as invasive species, plant and animal disease trace-back capabilities and implementation of Food Safety Modernization Act.

Strategies:

- Work closely with the public, agriculture industry and other government agencies to identify emerging issues.
- Seek stable funding sources to combat noxious weeds and other aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.
- Keep legislators informed of new concerns, challenges and opportunities.
- Continue to train and educate staff in Incident Command Systems and other working groups which help prepare in the event of animal disease outbreaks.
- Encourage employee innovation, creativity and forward-thinking.
- Continue to examine the department's organizational and operational framework to find efficiencies.
- Utilize zero-based budgeting to ensure budgetary and operational efficiencies.

Desired Outcomes:

The agency will be prepared for any new opportunities and threats and will quickly respond to each.

Goal 3: Continue to support the growth and sustainability of Idaho's agriculture industry.

Objective:

Increase domestic and international sales opportunities of Idaho foods and agricultural products to foster industry growth and profitability.

Strategies:

- Promote Idaho agriculture products through trade shows, trade missions, in-store promotions, cooking shows publications and other events.
- Increase the identity, awareness and consumption of products grown and processed in Idaho through the Idaho Preferred® label.
- Increase the use of locally grown and processed products in Idaho school lunch menus and school fund-raisers.
- Increase exports through management of the Idaho Trade Office in Mexico and through partnerships with the state's trade offices in Taiwan, Korea, China and Japan.
- Work to identify and remove trade barriers that prohibit or limit the export of Idaho agriculture products.
- Educate Idaho companies and growers on new marketing techniques and opportunities.
- Assist in creating niche markets to meet demands for locally grown products.

Continued on page 6.



The Cougar Chick, continued

Continued from page 5.

Desired Outcomes:

Idaho's agriculture economy will remain sustainable and viable. Increase domestic and international sales opportunities of Idaho foods and agricultural products to foster industry growth and profitability.

Goal 4: Foster confidence in Idaho's agriculture industry and market transactions .

Objective:

Serve the public and agriculture industry by maintaining a strong commitment to those programs intended to safeguard consumer confidence.

Strategies:

- Continue to ensure the accuracy and reliability of scales and devices that are used by consumers and producers.
- Remain committed to programs that engender consumer and industry confidence, such as the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Warehouse Program and the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Lab.
- Respond quickly to concerns and issues raised by industry groups and by the public.

Desired Outcomes:

Market transactions will occur seamlessly and consumers will have a high level of confidence in the quality and accuracy of dealings.

External Factors

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will strive to meet the goals contained in this strategic plan. There are, however, factors outside the department's control that may, on occasion, affect the way the department meets the goals described in this document.

Factors include:

- Emergency plant or animal health issues
- Weather
- Noxious weed, plant pest or invasive species issues
- Federal regulatory actions or mandates
- Availability of staff
- Availability of funding

With plenty of warm weather and sunshine in the forecast, our local small farmers and bakers will be supplying us with the fruits of their labor. Judi Horton offers her home baked goodies every Saturday morning at 6863 W. Meadowbrook Loop.

Email JudithAnneHorton@gmail.com or tomandjudi@imaxmail.net or call 208-665-0871 for more info.

* * *

Karen Thurston, her husband John, and younger son Ian have lived in the Meadowbrook Loop area of Cougar Gulch for more than 10 years and have operated Thurston Family Farm since 2007.

You can reach Karen by email at Karen@ThurstonFamilyFarm.com

Kootenai County Real Estate Information



Data is provided by the Coeur d'Alene Multiple Listing Service and may not reflect all real estate activity in the market.
January through May 2015 * Site Built Homes on under 2 acres. ** All Residential property types.

The graph on the left depicts year-to-date statistics from the CDA Multiple Listing Service through the end of May for Kootenai County, compliments of Katie Bane, principle at Northwest Realty Group. Katie comments that there is currently not enough inventory to meet demand and interest rates are still hovering at or below 4%.

This means there is a significant amount of pent-up demand from folks who have been waiting to make a move, so home values continue to rise. 2013 was the first appreciation we saw in over 5 years. 2014 kept pace, and now 2015 seems to be right on track for another outstanding year in the local and national real estate markets! If you would like more specific information or a complete home analysis, please feel free to call Katie at 208-661-6753.



Cougar Gulch Business Ads

Judi's Pantry
Fresh Breads, Jams & Gift Baskets, Weekly on Saturdays & by Special Order
Judi Horton
6863 W. Meadowbrook Loop
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-665-0871
tomandjudi@imaxmail.net

Cougar Gulch
Lawn Care & Landscaping
"WHERE THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER"
TONY SMITH
(208) 659-2155
WWW.COUGARGULCHLANDSCAPING.COM
"LICENSED AND INSURED"



Accepting beginning students for classical piano approach. Lessons include reading music, music theory, ear training, and building music repertoire.

Betsy McTear, 208-665-0809

Send us your business card!

Send us your business card and we will place it in the next KITTEN and also put it online at our website, CougarGulch-Community.com.

All residents with paid memberships can advertise for free! Non-members are also welcome—\$25 for a year's worth of business card advertising.

- ◆ Would you like the KITTEN to showcase your business?
- ◆ Would you like to showcase your business on the community website?
- ◆ We would love to write an article about your business!

Contact Julie Schmidt at 425-319-0915 or by email at julielinez1951@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 9th

Ice Cream Social

Join us at the Hall from 1—3 pm for ice cream. Cones or dishes—you add the sprinkles, candies, fruit, chocolate sauce or other ooey-gooey items to make a spectacular masterpiece. This is a **free**, community appreciation event. See you there!



Saturday, September 19th

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Ladies of the Gulch, mark your calendars to attend our Summer/Fall Lunch Bunch event. The lunch will be hosted by Julia Mangan and will begin at noon. Details will be forthcoming in future community updates.



What was in the BOX?



Over the past couple of decades, there have been many wonderful people who have served on our volunteer board. Untold years ago, a past board decided to open a safe deposit box, presumably to keep important community documents safe. Unfortunately, more than ten years ago we lost track of who maintained the box and who had the key. The current board investigated this conundrum for the past several years before deciding to bite the bullet and pay the fee to the bank to bore out the lock on the box.

At our Taco Feed and Membership meeting in May, we asked people to "guess" what might be in the box. Each guess cost \$1.00 and the winning guess or guesses would share in the proceeds if they guessed correctly.

At the end of May, our board treasurer paid the fee and had the safe deposit box opened. The contents: A copy of a warranty deed, a old tissue (yep, a used, old tissue) and a certificate of deposit that had been cashed many years ago.

Board secretary Karen Thurston has the action item to research the warranty deed copy to determine the location of the legal description as it is not clear which property it describes, but we are guessing it is the upper parking lot behind the Hall. No names on the deed are familiar so stay tuned for an update! Here are the guesses that residents made during the membership meeting:

- ◆ Newspaper Article
- ◆ Title to Hall Building
- ◆ Deed for the Hall
- ◆ Deed for the Land
- ◆ A Map
- ◆ Old Coins
- ◆ Gold
- ◆ Silver Round Mine
- ◆ Original Charter

Congratulations to Jim Mangan and Mavis Tysdal for guessing correctly. The total "take" for the guessing game came to \$12. The community chest gets \$6 and the remainder will be split between Jim and Mavis!

Board Activities

Your volunteer board meets monthly from September through June. Those meetings focus on activities we are undertaking like 4-H and community events and community financials. Some of the responsibilities that your board has is to determine how to spend the money it receives from Hall rentals, membership dues, donations, and other, community events. Below are a few of the things your board has done in 2015 to keep Meadowbrook Hall viable:



- ◆ Contracting with professionals to update the front porch and steps to the Hall.
- ◆ Investing in a roof repair for a minor leak.
- ◆ Purchasing new items for the kitchen, including new coffee pots, utensils, pots and pans, griddles and bowls.
- ◆ Seeking out painting estimates and siding estimates.
- ◆ Investigating historical status of the Hall to influence how to preserve it best.
- ◆ Looking into water purification options and costs.

Additionally, the board keeps the Hall stocked with paper products, plates and cutlery along with coffee, tea, etc. The board is also responsible to keep the Hall clean on the inside and in good shape on the outside and is also responsible for renting the Hall for private or public events.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talent, there are several open board positions. We welcome all volunteers! Please contact Julie Schmidt at 425-319-0915, or email at julielinez1951@gmail.com



In an effort to make paying yearly membership dues and other optional services as easy and effortless as possible for the members of our community through our website, web master Amber Hosking and board treasurer Courtney Beebe have worked for several months behind the scenes to make PayPal a viable option. Unfortunately, if members choose this option when paying membership dues via the web, it does not record who made the payment. We are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause, but we do appreciate hearing from you via USPS "snail mail" when paying your membership dues. Yearly dues can also be given to any board member or paid during any community event. We appreciate the effort everyone makes to keep their yearly membership current! It helps keep the lights on!



Thank you for observing the posted speed limits in the Gulch!

Cougar Gulch 4-H Hilander's News



Our Cougar Gulch 4H members pride themselves in giving back to their community by providing community service. At our last 4H meeting

the Hilanders held a Community Hall cleanup day. Members and their families weeded and planted the flower beds, cleaned the Hall from



ceiling to floor and picked up trash and debris around the outside perimeter. The old world charm of the Hall is now shining through, thanks to their hard work.

Currently, members are preparing for their exhibits at the North Idaho Fair, scheduled for August 26–30. All 4H members learn to keep diligent records of animal health, expenses, income, and must also complete a public education presentation to show or demonstrate their project.

Lauren, Morgan and Cassidy will be showing their dogs at the county level on July 9th in fitting and showing, obedience and agility. They will also be completing in the AKC Good Citizenship test. When passed, their dogs will earn the good neighbor classification which rewards dogs who have good manners at home and in the community.

Lauren will be showing her horse at the county level July 9th and July 17th-19th. Alexis, Kayla and Tom will be showing their rabbits August 28th at 8 am at the Fair. Look for them in the Rabbit Barn.

Through many months of hard work, members with market animal projects learned responsibility,



knowledge, skills, and attitudes that help prepare them for the 4-H Market Stock Sale. At this sale their market animals are available for purchase and consumption. You can support these youth as well as purchase outstanding beef, pork, lamb, goat, poultry and rabbit by attending the sale. Alexis will be entering her swine in this year's market sale August on 29th. Breakfast is provided to buyers at 7am and the sale starts at 8:15. If you are unfamiliar with this process you are encouraged to go watch and learn.

Cassidy, Joshua, and Lucy will display their photography journals in the 4H barn during the fair and Emma and Sierra will be displaying their Clover Bud projects in the 4H barn.

Please look for these projects and the Cougar Gulch Highlanders when visiting this year's fair. Members and leaders are happy to answer questions and share what they have learned.



See details and schedule of events at
<http://www.northidahofair.com/fair-rodeo/>

Our next 4H meeting will be held July 12th at the Hall at 4 pm. If you are interested in joining 4H or want to meet our members, please attend our meeting as a guest.

Contributed by Dawn Myers, 4H Leader



A huge THANKS to all of the Cougar Gulch Hilanders and their families for the wonderful work they accomplished at the community Hall. The outside of the Hall is now weed free, the grass is cut and flower beds are freshened. The inside of the Hall was scoured! This included cleaning the ceiling fans, washing the floors, cleaning the bathrooms and kitchen, and polishing the surfaces. Your wonderful efforts have made a big difference. THANK YOU 4H FAMILIES!

Hidden in Plain Sight



Everyone who lives in the Gulch drives by this sign. Sometimes we get so used to something that we don't notice small changes. Have you had a chance to look at the "sign below the sign"? NO? So here is what it says in the "fine print":

Neighborhood website
CougarGulchCommunity.com

This is the new, permanent sign that provides the web address for our relatively new community website. If you haven't given it a try yet, please take some time and review the great information you can find there. Bookmark it and come back often. If you have feedback or comments on our website, please feel free to provide it!

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to board member David Foster, our community "sign master" who is responsible to ensure information is posted to this location on your behalf.

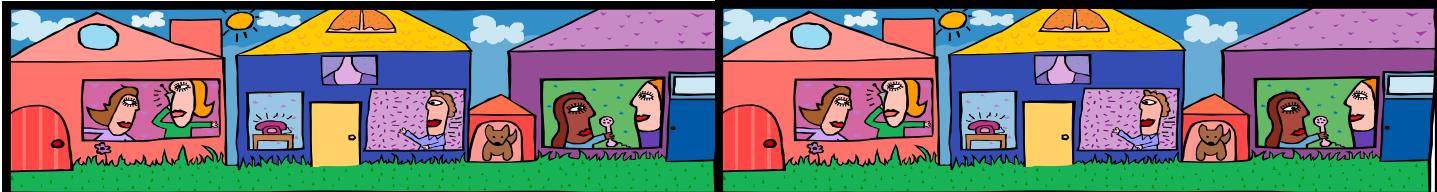
Idaho State Fun Facts

- ◆ The Idaho state flower is the Syringa. Our state tree is the Western White Pine.
- ◆ The Cataldo mission is the oldest building in the state.
- ◆ Idaho law forbids a citizens to give another citizen a box of candy that weights more than 50 pounds.
- ◆ Soda Springs boasts the largest man-made geyser in the world.
- ◆ Post Falls is known as Idaho's River City.
- ◆ Idaho ghost towns include Silver City, Yankee Fork, Gold Dredge and the Sierra Silver Mine.
- ◆ Weiser is home of the National Old Time Fiddlers Contest.



Cougar Gulch Membership Application

Annual membership is generally due the first quarter of each new year, however, we are always open to new member applications (valid through the end of each year) and donations. Your dues help maintain the Hall and provide for community events that take place all year.



2015 Cougar Gulch Community Membership Application

Tax Deductible Registration Form

Name: _____

Annual Dues: \$25. Please make check payable to SRMPA.

Phone: _____

Additional Donation: \$ _____ TOTAL donation: \$ _____

Current Email: _____

I would like to have the Cougar KITTEN sent to my personal email.

_____ YES _____ NO

Please mail this registration and your dues to:

Home Address: _____

SRMPA Treasurer

6637 W. Meadowbrook Loop Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814