



MARCH, 2015 COMMUNITY UPDATE

Cougar Gulch Community Monthly News Update

Spring Ladies Luncheon—Saturday, March 21st, noon



The Spring Ladies Lunch Event will be hosted by Julie Schmidt on Saturday, March 21st. The festivities begin at noon. This gathering will be a wonderful way to celebrate the beginning of spring while connecting with old friends and making new acquaintances. If you have never been to a Ladies Luncheon, please mark your calendar to attend. The atmosphere is casual and friendly and everyone is welcome—long time Gulch residents, new residents and all of those in-between. And,

if you are a faithful attendee of these events, we look forward to seeing you again! For the first time in many years, this event is being held on a Saturday to allow for a larger group to attend. Bring your friends, your granddaughters, your mother, your neighbors or your sister.

- WHAT:** Spring Ladies Luncheon
WHEN: Noon, Saturday, March 21st
WHERE: Julie Schmidt Residence—5255 W. Crazy Creek Road (just off of Meadowbrook)
BRING: A main dish, a salad or a dessert

Drinks will be provided. An RSVP (julielinez1951@gmail.com) would be great! Please call 425-319-0915 if you need more detailed directions or if you have any questions. We are very excited to see a great turnout. Cross your fingers for sunny weather!

Annual Community Membership Drive Continues

The 2015 annual Cougar Gulch Membership Drive is still in full swing. Membership per family is only \$25 a year. Your dues go to keeping Meadowbrook Hall in good shape, and this means everything from the roof to the foundation. It helps pay for the heating and electrical costs and is a lifeline for major improvements such as redoing the front entry stairs and porch, renovating a safe handicapped entrance, installing a propane heater in the kitchen and keeping the hall stocked for rental and community use. Your membership dues are tax deductible and again this year, we are holding an “early-bird” contest. At our regular April board meeting we will select—at random—a community neighbor who has renewed or signed up for the first time to pay their yearly dues by March 31, 2015. One lucky winner will be the recipient of a \$50 VISA gift card. So hurry and send in your membership form today (see page 2). If you have already done so, **THANK YOU!** You are in the drawing!



Bluebirds Arriving Soon— Nest Boxes Available From IDFG



Two species of bluebirds live in Idaho - the western bluebird and the mountain bluebird. The mountain bluebird is the Idaho state bird. Mountain bluebirds are larger than western bluebirds and both species are slightly smaller than robins.

Bluebirds live throughout Idaho in high desert juniper and mahogany, in forest meadows, and in valleys and on ridges in more mountainous regions of the state. They are most common at elevations of 4,000 feet and higher.

Bluebirds are ground feeders with grasshoppers being a favorite food. They also consume beetles, ants, wasps, caterpillars, crickets and even some berries. The bluebird's bill is not suited for creating nest cavities, so they make their nests in existing cavities excavated by woodpeckers or other animals. Nests are lined with grass, fine strips of bark and pine needles.

Bluebirds return to Idaho from their wintering grounds in the south-western U.S. by late February or early March. Upon returning, they seek tree cavities for nesting. Since many trees with suitable nesting holes have been cut for firewood, cleared to make way for development or have been occupied by non-native starlings or house sparrows, some bluebirds do not nest because they cannot find suitable homes.

Man-made nest boxes help to fill the shortage of natural nest sites. Many Idahoans have already discovered the fun and satisfaction of building, placing and monitoring bluebird nest boxes.

The Panhandle Region office of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has long been involved in coordinating the construction and distribution of bluebird nest boxes. Volunteers and IDFG have worked together to build boxes for people interested in providing our state bird with a place to nest and raise young.

IDFG Volunteers recently built bluebird nest boxes which are now available at the Idaho Fish and Game office, 2885 W Kathleen Ave. in Coeur d'Alene. The cedar materials needed to build all of the boxes was donated by Gary Finney and Luke Finney, owners of Finney Logging. IDFG is asking for a donation of \$5 per bluebird box to cover the cost of hardware and tools to cut and assemble the boxes.

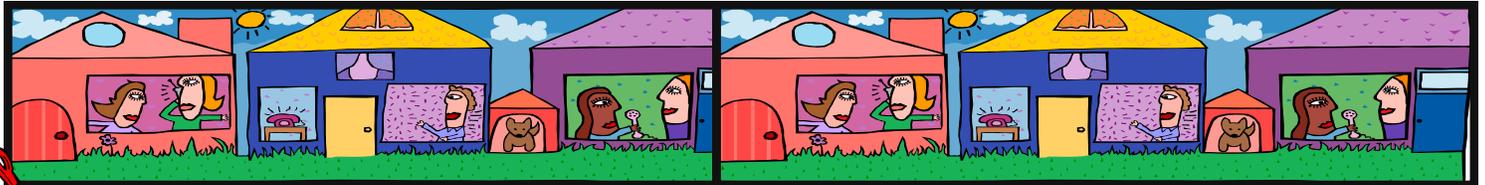
We also have a pamphlet called "Building Homes for Idaho's Bluebirds" available free of charge at the office. This contains plans for constructing boxes if you choose to make your own. There is also important information about how and where to place boxes so they are most likely to successfully produce bluebirds. You can pick one up at the IDFG office when you get your boxes, or call us and we can email it to you.

If you already have bluebird boxes installed on your property, it is important to clean them out now in preparation for the nesting season. The brochure includes information on how to monitor and maintain boxes. Boxes have the greatest likelihood of being used the first year if placed by late-March.

If you are planning to build your own boxes, you are encouraged to pick up this publication as soon as possible. Bluebirds could move into boxes as late as mid-May, so placement by then would allow boxes to still be used this year by those late nesters.

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: _____

Phone: _____

Current Email: _____

Home Address: _____

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

Additional Donation: \$ _____

TOTAL donation: \$ _____

I would like to have the Cougar KITTEN sent to my personal email. YES NO

Please mail this registration and your dues to:

SRMPA Treasurer

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