

Spirit Lake Community News

The Parking Lot

Where the meeting ends and the real conversations begin



May 2026

Join us May 19 for a Community Heart & Soul Open House

What makes Spirit Lake special?

That's the question the Community Heart & Soul initiative has been asking—and the answers are starting to come in. Now it's time to bring it all together.

Join us for the Community Heart & Soul Open House and be part of shaping the future of our community.

- ✦ See what your neighbors are saying matters most
- ✦ Share your ideas and priorities
- ✦ Connect with community members and local leaders

Provide input on the **Kootenai County Comprehensive Plan**

Stop by anytime—whether for a few minutes or the whole evening. Your voice matters.

Community Heart & Soul
YOU'RE INVITED! OPEN HOUSE!
Come to see what your community tells us is *important to them.*
Share what is important to you?

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 19TH
TIME: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
LOCATION: TIMBERLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

FREE TACO BAR catered by Mi Pueblo

Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community.

Spirit Lake Community Market Returns May 7

Thursdays | 4–7 PM | The Big Park

There's something special about Thursday nights in Spirit Lake—and it's back starting **May 7.**

The **Spirit Lake Community Market**, hosted by the Spirit Lake Community Coalition, returns for the season with fresh food, local vendors, and a welcoming place to gather. Running every Thursday from 4–7 PM through September 3, the market brings neighbors together in a way that feels uniquely "Spirit Lake."

Check out the family friendly market. You'll find a mix of fresh produce, handmade goods, local artisans, and food vendors—along with space for kids to play and families to relax.

Whether you stop by for a quick visit or stay the whole evening, the market is designed to be a place where connections happen naturally. More than just shopping, it reflects what our community values most: strong relationships, support for local businesses, and opportunities for families and neighbors to spend time together.

So grab a friend, bring the kids, and make it part of your weekly routine. Shop local. Support community. See you at the market.



Apply to the Market Today



Follow the Market for weekly updates!



Open House May 19th More Details!



Support Our Life Skills Track Meet

Our community has a meaningful opportunity to support local students. Rebecca Koziol, Life Skills teacher, has organized this event for the last several years and it is growing!

The upcoming Life Skills Track Meet gives students a chance to build confidence, develop teamwork skills, and experience the joy of participation in a fun and supportive environment. Events like this create lasting memories and help students feel encouraged, included, and celebrated.

To help make this event possible, we are seeking \$200 sponsors to cover remaining expenses. Every dollar goes directly toward creating a successful and memorable day for these students.

This event has been led and supported for several years by Rebecca and with more schools participating than ever, this year's meet will be the biggest yet. Let's come together to help make it a success for these young athletes.

Donations can be made directly to Timberlake High School, through Spirit Lake Community Coalition, or the Seattle Seahawks Fan Club.

Thank you for supporting our youth and helping build a stronger, more connected community.



Rah-Rah-Sis-Boom-Bah!



It's hard to find anyone who loves Spirit Lake more than Scotty Allin. Many know Scotty as the driving force behind the Spirit Lake Seahawk Fan Club, a nonprofit that brings energy, excitement, and community spirit to football season. What started with just 20 people has grown to crowds of 100 or more. Join them at the next game at the Linger Longer!

It is about more than cheering—along the way, the group supports local needs, from holiday food baskets and helping stock the Summer Lunch Shack. Scotty and Seahawks also put on your local fireworks show. It is a big one this year with the 250 year celebration!

They are half way to their goal this year. You can donate by dropping by the First Interstate Bank or reaching out to Scotty directly.

He is also the voice behind the Spirit Lake Info Channel (SLIC), sharing local happenings and keeping the community connected. His vision? One day welcoming visitors through his own radio station, inviting them to experience everything that makes Spirit Lake Special!

While he's known for his big voice and bigger enthusiasm, Scotty is humble at heart—constantly giving back and bringing people together. Whether he's on the mic at events, leading cheers, or organizing support for others, his goal is simple: build connection and community.

As we head into a busy season of events, keep an eye out—you'll likely find Scotty right in the middle of it all. As a board member of SLCC and the Senior Center, he is at most events. A highlight this summer will be the Fourth of July celebration, where he once again leads the fireworks display.

Thank you, Scotty, for your energy, generosity, and spirit. You help make Spirit Lake the best small town around.

🌿 Look What's Coming - Just for You! ✨ Friendship Park at The Commons!

The Spirit Lake Community Coalition (SLCC) and SLCC CommunityHeart & Soul teams have collected over 600 feedback cards from residents sharing what they love—and what they hope for—in our special town of Spirit Lake.

One of the most common requests? More welcoming downtown spaces for families and community connection.

We heard you.

This cozy, inviting park is located right in the heart of downtown, next to Erin's Flower Shop – a perfect place for families, friends, and visitors to gather, relax, and enjoy.

The space already features a beautiful wrought-iron fence and two blossoming trees. With the help of dedicated SLCC volunteers, we've:

- Smoothed and prepared the gravel
- Installed a charming gazebo for gatherings and entertainment
- Created a stepping-stone arched entrance
- Added barked garden areas
- Placed inviting signage, tables, and a small lending library

The vision is a vibrant, welcoming space to visit, play, eat, and simply enjoy being together. Whether you're meeting friends, taking a break downtown, or enjoying a community event, Friendship Park will be a place for everyone.

And we're not done yet! Plans include:

- Smoothed and prepared the gravel
- Installed a charming gazebo for gatherings and entertainment
- Created a stepping-stone arched entrance
- Added barked garden areas
- Placed inviting signage, tables, and a small lending library

Imagine music under the gazebo and community gatherings that bring downtown to life.

👉 How You Can Help

We would love your help bringing Friendship Park to life!

If you have a quality garden item to donate – such as planters, benches, or décor – please reach out to SLCC on Facebook and we'll connect with you.

Financial contributions are also welcome and will help fund:

- Gazebo cover
- Flowers and landscaping
- Solar lighting & finishing touches

💛 Built by Community, for Community

SLCC is committed to turning your ideas into action—creating spaces that reflect what matters most to Spirit Lake.

Keep an eye out for more “pop-up” community projects like this throughout the spring and summer.

Together, we can continue to build a downtown full of connection, beauty, and Spirit Lake pride.



Friendship Park Maine St.

Stop by and Check it out!

Now you can pay your Water bill online



Sign up for alerts when you have a new bill Set up auto payments to never miss a due date See your usage and history It's fast, easy and secure



7 City Council Updates April 2026

1. Proposed Ordinance #643 – Mobile Vending- Tabled, No Vote
2. Resolution 2026-04-14A – Fee Resolution- Tabled, No Vote
3. Resolution 2026-04-14B – Comprehensive Plan Related to SB 1403-Passed
4. Well #6 Phase II Award for the Pump and Pumphouse - Passed
5. Appointment and Approval of Susan Weeks with James Vernon and Weeks as City Attorney- Passed
6. Big Back In- June 21, 2026 - Passed
7. FY 26/27 Budget Hearing Date- Passed



Rooted in Tradition. Growing in Community.

Join us for our inaugural festival June 19-20, in Spirit Lake! Two days of learning, gathering, and growing.

The North Idaho Herbal Festival is an exciting and new two-day community event in our picturesque town of Spirit Lake. This gathering is dedicated to our theme: 'Rooted in Tradition, Growing in Community.' Together, we'll explore how to cultivate a deeper connection with the natural world through herbal education, a holistic approach to physical and mental health, and include art for the soul through a vibrant nature-based marketplace.

We've created a unique space for local instructors and artisans to share their passions with you. Whether you're here to explore herbalism, discover alternative wellness options, or learn new skills to integrate into your life, there is truly something for everyone! See our Class Schedule, Class List, Instructor Bios and Vendor List on our website. <https://northidahoherbalfestival.com>.

Your choice of TWENTY **health and art** focused classes are ticket entry only. Vendors in Spirit Lake City Park are open to the public. There will also be Free Music Friday night in the Park.

Join us June 19 & 20



Spotlight on Spirit Lake History – The Big Back-In

Back in the day, Spirit Lake was a popular weekend destination for bikers. As motorcycles rolled into town, riders would back their bikes into parking spaces all along Maine Street, filling the downtown with chrome, engines, and activity.

As the story goes, one evening a group of local residents started talking about their hometown and decided it was time to make a statement of their own – a playful reminder that Maine Street belonged to the community, too.

So on Father's Day morning, local men climbed onto their lawnmowers, drove them downtown, and backed them into the parking spaces along Maine Street in a lighthearted "local takeover." What began as a fun act of hometown pride quickly became a memorable tradition that celebrated community spirit, small-town roots, and the people who call Spirit Lake home.

Today, the Big Back In continues to honor that story – bringing neighbors together with laughter, tradition, and a whole lot of hometown pride.



Join us this year (June 21) for a packed weekend of fun. Sunday starts with VFW serving Breakfast in Friendship Park on Maine Street.

Breakfast starts at 7:30!
Race trials start at 11 am

VENDORS WANTED – Spirit Lake Community Market and The Big Back-In

Scan to Apply
Spirit Lake Community Market Vendor Application

Join the Spirit Lake Community Market and the Big Back-In this season!

Scan to Apply
Big Back In Market Vendor Application



Market: Thursdays @ 4 pm - 7 pm | May 7 – September 3

Big Back In – special event vendor spots available - June 21 @ 10 am - 3 pm

We still need food vendors!



We are committed to providing fun Family Events.
Let's get our community together



Community Heart & Soul

**YOU'RE INVITED!
OPEN HOUSE!**

Come to see what your community tells us is *important to them.*
Share what is important to you?

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 19TH
TIME: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
LOCATION: TIMBERLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community.



Upcoming Community Events

May

Community Market* (May - Sept)
Community Heart & Soul Open House

June

Big Back -n - Lawnmower Races
VFW Pancake Feed
Inaugural North Idaho Annual Herbal Festival

July

4th Parade,* Vendors, & Games
4th of July Fireworks

September

VFW Car Show
Games & Vendors in the Park*
Heritage Days

October

Homecoming Parade
Homecoming Tailgate Party*
Trunk or Treat

November

Thanksgiving Food Boxes*
Holiday Swags Fundraiser*

December

Christmas Food Boxes*
Downtown Lighting & Christmas Parade*

Cocoa Crawl & Santa*
**SLCC Sponsored Events*

FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND

North Idaho Herbal Festival

NORTH IDAHO HERBAL FESTIVAL

+ BIG BACK-IN

HERBAL FESTIVAL • LAWN MOWER STREET DRAGS

JUNE 19-21, 2026

★ SPIRIT LAKE, IDAHO ★

A JOINT WEEKEND EVENT FOR THE **WHOLE FAMILY**



July 4th parade and Fireworks is just around the corner!

Have Your Say!

Kootenai County Comprehensive Plan Update + Parks & Waterways Plan

Kootenai County is updating its long-range Comprehensive Plan and Parks & Waterways Plan – and we want to hear from you! This is your chance to help set priorities, protect what makes this place special, and guide how services and infrastructure keep up with change in the unincorporated county.

Jump In: Ways to Participate

- Take the community survey via the QR code or url to the right.
- Stop by an open house or pop-up booth at community events and share what you want to see and what you don't.
- Get email updates (and don't miss the next chance to weigh in) at www.keepingkootenai.com
- Follow @KeepingKootenai on Facebook and Instagram for reminders, dates, and highlights.

Tell Us What Matters Most

- Where growth should (and should not) happen
- Housing needs and affordability priorities
- Transportation and safety improvements
- Parks, trails, waterways, and recreation access
- Natural hazard and resource protection priorities



KEEPING KOOTENAI

TAKE THE SURVEY!

by scanning the QR Code or using the below link

Help identify
priorities, define
recreation areas,
and identify
service gaps!



www.keepingkootenai.com/comp-plan

Questions? Want to connect?



**Kootenai County
Community Development**

451 N. Government Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814



208-446-1070



kkootenai@kcgov.us

CULPEPPER & MERRIWEATHER

CIRCUS

★ is coming to ★★

SPIRIT LAKE!



RAISING
THE BIG TOP!

JUNE 11 • 10 AM

PUBLIC IS INVITED
TO WATCH!

ONE DAY ONLY!
THURSDAY
JUNE 11

5:00 PM
AND
7:30 PM

★★★

★ VOLUNTEER PARK ★

ON 10TH STREET • SPIRIT LAKE, ID

BUY TICKETS AT:

The Linger Longer

Mi Pueblo

Stellas Stogies

Blanchard Bean

SUPPORT
LOCAL
AND KEEP
THE
CIRCUS
ALIVE!

Spirit Lake Senior
Center!

First Interstate Bank

SLCC

Spirit Lake Community Market



FUN FOR ALL AGES!

AMAZING ACTS!

MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME!

Thank you for supporting our community!

FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND

North
Idaho
Herbal
Festival

NORTH IDAHO HERBAL FESTIVAL

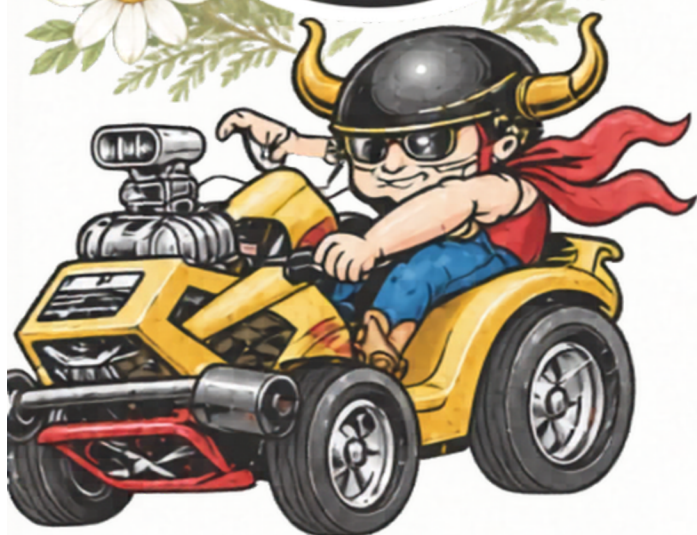
BIG BACK-IN

HERBAL FESTIVAL • LAWN MOWER STREET DRAGS

JUNE 19-21, 2026

SPIRIT LAKE, IDAHO

A JOINT WEEKEND EVENT
FOR THE **WHOLE FAMILY**




THURSDAY • JUNE 18

4PM-7PM
• SPIRIT LAKE COMMUNITY
MARKET




FRIDAY • JUNE 19


 9AM-5PM
• NORTH IDAHO HERBAL
FESTIVAL
• CLASS OF ALL DAY
• PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH & ERIN'S
FLOWERS

1 1/2 HOUR BREAK
FOR LUNCH
DOWNTOWN

 9AM-5PM
• VENDORS IN THE BIG
PARK


 4PM
• BRAD SONDAHL
AND FREE SPIRITZ


SATURDAY • JUNE 20

 9AM-5PM
• NORTH IDAHO HERBAL
FESTIVAL
• CLASS OF ALL DAY
• PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH &
ERIN'S FLOWERS

1 1/2 HOUR BREAK FOR
LUNCH DOWNTOWN

 9AM-5PM
• VENDORS IN THE BIG PARK

 PM-7PM
STREETDANCE BEGINS WITH
LINE DANCING ON MAINE ST

 4PM-7PM
• FUN KIDS IN FRIENDSHIP
PARK

 6PM-9PM
LIVE MUSIC ON MAINE ST

SUNDAY • JUNE 21 • FATHER'S DAY

7:30AM-10AM
• VFW FUNDRAISING
BREAKFAST



10AM-3PM
• VENDORS ON 4TH ST.



 11AM
• LAWNMOWER RACES

 3PM
• LIVE MUSIC AT
LINGER LONGER

CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY IN SPIRIT LAKE!

Spirit Lake Community Calendar *MAY*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				14		16
10	11	12	13		15	
				21		
17	18	19	20		22	23
			27	28	29	30
24	25	26				

FOR FULL EVENT DETAILS, SEE NEXT PAGE

Community Meals
 Senior Center Mondays & Wednesdays 4:30 pm
 Senior Center Fridays 7:30 am
 Cup of Grace Tuesdays 4:30 pm

Spirit Lake Community Calendar

2026 MAY & JUNE

May 7, 14, 21 & 28 · 4 PM – Spirit Lake Community Market, Big Park

May 10 · Mother's Day

May 12 · 6:30 PM – City Council Meeting

May 13 · 3:30 PM – Afterschool Adventures, Spirit Lake Library

May 13 · 6 PM – Comedy Night, Sedlmayer's

May 14 · 11 AM – Homeschool Libratory, Spirit Lake Library

May 14 & June 18 · 3 PM – Memory Caretakers, Spirit Lake Library

May 16 & June 20 · 11 AM – Cookbook Club, Spirit Lake Library

May 16 · 1 PM – Buzzing with Bees, Spirit Lake Library

May 16, 23, 30 & June 6, 13, 20, 21, 27 · Live Music – Linger Longer, Big Park & Maine St

May 18 · 6:30 PM – Historical Preservation Committee, City Hall

May 19 · Teen Hangout, Spirit Lake Library

May 19 · 5 PM – Community Heart & Soul Open House & Free Tacos, Timberlake Middle School

May 20 & June 18 · 4 PM – Historical Society Meeting, Spirit Lake Museum

May 20 · 2:30 PM – Life Skills Track Timberlake Invitational, Timberlake High School

May 21 · 10 AM – Kindergarten Bootcamp, Spirit Lake Library

May 23 · 1 PM – Spirit Lake Museum Opens

May 27 · 6:30 PM – SLCC Committee Meeting, Spirit Lake Senior Center

June 5 · 10 AM – VFW Breakfast & Meeting, VFW Hall

June 11 · 5 PM & 7:30 PM – Culpepper & Merriweather Circus

June 19–20 · 9 AM – North Idaho Herbal Festival & Vendors

June 19 · 4 PM – Brad & Free Spiritz, Big Park

June 20 · 4 PM – Line Dancing, Maine St

June 20 · 6 PM – Live Music & Dancing, Maine St

June 21 · 7:30 AM – VFW Breakfast, Friendship Park

June 21 · 11 AM – The Big Back-In, Maine St, Live Music



Thursdays 4 - 7 pm

Submit
YOUR calendar dates
at
www.spiritlakecc.org



Spirit Lake Community Coalition (SLCC)

Visit our **Facebook** page & **join us** at a monthly meeting, the **fourth Wednesday of every month** at the Spirit Lake Senior Center.



Spirit Lake Senior Center

Tuesday & Thursday · 8:30 am - Fit & Fall Proof
Thursday · 1 pm - Bingo



COMMUNITY MEALS

Mondays – Dinner · Senior Center · 4:30 – 6 PM

Tuesdays – Dinner · Cup of Grace · 4:30 – 6 PM

Wednesdays – Dinner · Senior Center · 4:30 – 6 PM

Fridays – Breakfast · Senior Center · 7:30 – 10 AM



Spirit Lake Food Bank 32154 N 4th Ave

OPEN Wednesdays – 12:00 pm-3:00 pm



Spirit Valley Food Bank 55 Walden Lane

OPEN Thursdays - 10:00 am-3:00 pm



COMMUNITY MEETINGS

1st Wednesday – SLCC Events

3rd Wednesday – Historical Society

4th Wednesday – SLCC



CITY HALL MEETINGS

1st Tuesday – Planning & Zoning

2nd Monday – Urban Renewal

2nd Tuesday – City Council

3rd Monday – Historical Preservation



VFW EVENTS

1st **FRIDAY** of each month:

10 AM – Veterans Breakfast · All welcome

11:30 AM – Monthly VFW Members Meeting