

# River Road Park



February 2023

# The BUZZ

Welcome to "*The Buzz*" ~ River Road Park's monthly newsletter designed to keep you up to date with park news and more in touch with your community.

*Blast from the past...*



"Love isn't love till you give it away."

~ Oscar Hammerstein

## AQUATICS

January we were able to train and certify seven swim instructors in an American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor course. Over the course of nine days, they completed classroom learnings, online components, and multiple practice teaching sessions. They are now officially certified through American Red Cross and will be improving the quality of swim lessons we offer! Congratulations to these seven new Water Safety Instructors!

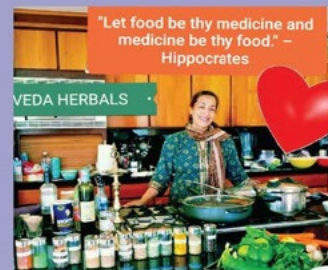


### FEED THE LOVE!

Neelam's Special Valentine's Day  
Indian Cooking Class for Couples

February 14, 2023  
5 to 8 pm

River Road Park District Kitchen  
\$140 per couple



"Let food be thy medicine and  
medicine be thy food." -  
Hippocrates

Join Neelam with your partner and celebrate love while cooking nourishing, delectable Indian food with amazing aromatic spices.

This Valentine's Day cook Pink Paneer Tikka Masala, a special dessert garnished with organic dried rose petals and heart-shaped colorful India breads, glass of sparkling wine and more....

This cooking experience will be a fun and unique twist on Valentine's day! Limited space. Only 6 lucky couples. 10% discount at Kiva when you take a class.

To register call 541-688-4052  
To speak to Neelam call 541-579-4946



# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Teacher extraordinaire, **Cindy Sittner** has been instructing here since the 1980's. Cindy has taught knitting, crocheting, stained glass, mosaics, tile painting, and amazing pottery skills that she learned at the renowned American artists' colony, Pond Farm in Guerneville, CA. Additionally, she had a jewelry shop at the original 5th Street Market where she performed much needed repairs. Her parents arrived in Eugene from Kansas in 1932. They enrolled her in 1st grade at Washington Grade School, where Ida Patterson was the principal. Her family lived on High St. and has enjoyed this area so much, she raised a son and daughter here. It's hard to believe at 97, Cindy has been inspiring park district art enthusiasts for over 40 years.



Cindy says she walks the earth being kind to others and volunteering her time to lead young ladies as a two term Girl Scout Council President where she received the 30 pin thanks badge. She loves teaching and sharing her experience with all the amazing students over the years. A quick learner, Cindy receives as much as she gives from the dedicated individuals that join her classes. If you want to meet people Cindy says, "just open your front door and enjoy those you meet. There's a whole lot you can learn from one another". It is a joy and a pleasure to teach at River Road Park she says. The pleasure is all ours!

Cindy is celebrating her 98th birthday. Happy Birthday, Cindy!!! We love you!

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Margaret McKenney** grew up in the River Road area and if you visit the pool then you, most likely, already know her. She has been a staple at the park for many years.

It all started at age seven or eight years old. Margaret came here to learn to swim. She loved it so she joined the early River Road swim club and began coming here all the time. At age 15, it made sense for her to get a job at the place she loved so became a lifeguard. The rest is history! That was 1980 so she has worked here for 43 years! Pretty amazing!

Her career has been about all things aquatic. She swam on North Eugene's high school swim team, playing water polo for both River Road swim club and North Eugene, and is currently licensed to offer snorkeling SCUBA lessons by request. She has taught SCUBA via PADI now for almost 30 years! She is also an amazing Aquatic Coordinator and loved by all who know her.

Margaret loves living in the River Road area. "Everything so close, my work, my little supermarket, my restaurants (Burrito Boy, Countryside are my favs), and well, minimal traffic jams and lights for my work commutes!" Margaret LOVES cats and currently has five of them. Is she a crazy cat lady? Um, maybe!...



# GYMNASTICS

River Road Park and Recreation's Gymnastics Northwest Optional team did a traveling meet all the way to Hawaii in January. It was an exciting international meet with gymnasts from Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. The team did exceptionally well with Kylynn Hanson, Codie Smith, and Tae Kalb each winning the Floor Exercise in their division.

Gymnastics Northwest will be doing their annual Tumble-a-thon in February. The money being raised will be used to purchase a new spring floor. The fundraiser is based on sponsoring a gymnast per skill in a 10 minute time frame, or a flat donation. All donations are welcome to support this worthy cause and all our gymnasts.



"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."  
~ Mother Teresa



# 55+ DAY TRIPS

**Mt. Angel Volksfest**  
2/3 F 9a-4p \$35

**Grub Club ~ Rye**  
New date! 2/15 W 11:30-2:30p \$30

**Mennonite Bakery & Store**  
2/24 F 10a-2p \$35

# SUP ~ Superintendent Update

Hard to believe February is already upon us. It's 2023 and we are off and running! Great news around the District as the new reader boards and new treadmill have arrived. Hopefully you are enjoying the new additions! Eight of our gymnasts just returned from an international competition in Hawaii. They represented Gymnastic Northwest, River Road Park and Recreation District and Eugene extremely well with three first place and several 2nd place finishes.

We received word that we did receive grant funding from Three Rivers Tribal Foundation to allow veteran's free access to our pool and fitness center. We also got funding to purchase kayaks and a kayak trailer. Watch for upcoming news and highlights on these two exciting programs coming to River Road Park and Recreation District! I am hoping to see many of you at the Michael DeRobertis Memorial Couples Classic on February 11th and looking forward to seeing the Valentine's Day Luv-A-Grams displayed on our new reader board – don't miss the chance to send a digital message to your loved one!

February also means the start of the College Baseball season... go Winthrop University Eagles!  
-Bob Houston-



# Valentine Luv-a-gram

Lisa,  
I love you!  
~Dan

Bob,  
Happy Valentine's day!  
Love you, Beth

Sharon,  
You light up my life!  
Love, Robert

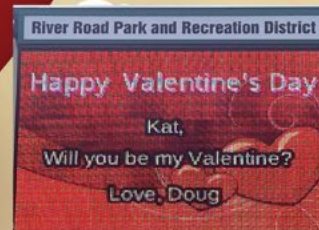
This Valentine's day,  
we invite you to  
spread the love!

It's time to have some fun with our new reader board. Share your love in a new way, a Valentine Luv-a-gram.

- You can personalize it.
- Create your own message or pick from our list.
- It's dynamic, unique, fun and easy!

See the main office to fill out the luv-a-gram form. Space is limited.

\$10 In District  
\$12 Out of District



## Michael DeRobertis Memorial Couples Classic Run or Walk

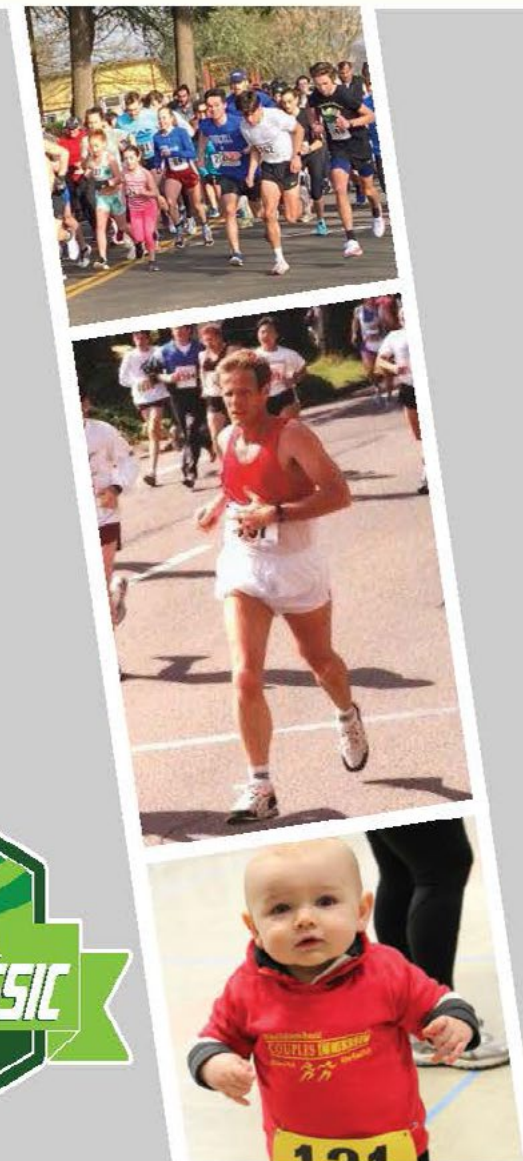
Saturday  
**February 11**  
**10a**

\* **5k Course**  
\* **Run or Walk**

\* **Adult \$28** \* **Senior \$25**  
\* **Youth (13+ yrs.) \$15**

**Valentines Youth Fun Run**

9a **Ages 5-12**  
.5 K and 1 K  
\$15



Register  
NOW!

[www.eclecticedgeracing.com/couples-classic.html](http://www.eclecticedgeracing.com/couples-classic.html)

[www.rrpark.org](http://www.rrpark.org)

# Thank you to our partners for supporting River Road Park District



## A New Salon & Style

Full Service Salon  
1021 Maxwell Road  
541-688-7155

[www.anewsalonandstyle21.com](http://www.anewsalonandstyle21.com)  
The salon is open 5 days a week 10a-5:30p. (Tu-Sa)



**River Road Community Organization**  
**Organización Comunitaria de River Road**  
Is your way to: *Es su manera de:*

- connect with your neighbors
- conectar con sus vecinos
- have a voice in local policy and planning
- tener voz en la política local y planificación
- get involved to improve your neighborhood
- involucrarse para mejorar su vecindario
- access resources • acceder recurso

Community meetings **Second Monday every month at 7 PM** (currently on zoom)  
*Reuniones comunitarias El segundo lunes de cada mes a las 7 p. m. (en zoom)*

Subscribe to the monthly e-news to get meeting information, calendar, and reports on neighborhood happenings: [bit.ly/RRCOnews](http://bit.ly/RRCOnews)  
Suscríbese a las noticias electrónicas mensuales para obtener información sobre reuniones, eventos e informes sobre nuestro vecindario.

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