



Jesse Thorstad (Back Row Center) stands with a few of his crew that forms the Fergus Falls Mowing Club that he founded this spring. Sarah Huffman/Provided

Fergus Falls Mowing Club cuts lawns, provides joy



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Published 3:52 pm Sunday, July 22, 2018

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By Sarah Huffman

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The Fergus Falls Mowing Club is a new and growing group that is spreading joy through the community by just being neighborly. The club, which is more of a volunteer group, takes on one lawn at a time to serve others in the community who may be in a situation that does not allow for them to care for their own lawns free of charge.

The person behind the Fergus Falls Mowing Club is Jesse Thorstad who had the idea for the group this past spring. He was driving past a particular block in Fergus Falls, when he noticed that many of the lawns

were badly overgrown and clearly neglected. Thorstad admits that his first thought was of how lazy these homeowners must be to not take care of their lawns, which was making the town look bad and unkempt.

“Immediately after that thought, I caught myself and I thought maybe there was a story behind each of these lawns that nobody just passing by knows about. What if this homeowner was going through a family crisis or was financially unable to take care of their lawn?” Thorstad said.

After having this thought, he then posted the question on Facebook asking his friends if anyone thought it would be fun to put together a group of volunteers to help others with their lawns, and he instantly got a lot of positive responses back. Many people thought that this would be a great way to serve others in need and with a large enough group of them, it wouldn't be very difficult to do.

Thorstad then began a separate Facebook page to spread the word of this group called the Fergus Falls Mowing Club. Soon his friends were sharing the page with others who began sharing it with their friends and so on. The group now includes 60 volunteers and is still continuing to grow. Since its recent start, has already helped multiple families in the community.

The process works, people contacting the Fergus Falls Mowing Club through their website ffmowingclub.com then they fill out a form to have either their own lawn or someone else's referred. Once the club receives the referral to have a lawn done, Jesse Thorstad sends out a text to all of the volunteers to see who is available on a certain night and time, and puts together a group. Available volunteers then bring all the equipment they can and then begin working. “We mow, rake up the lawn clippings, bag up the clippings and haul them to the dump. We do absolutely everything with no questions asked and afterward, if the homeowner is willing, we get a picture with them to post on the website,” Thorstad said.

Another goal that Thorstad said he had, was to be able to provide homeowners who couldn't afford to get or fix their own lawn mowers with a brand new one, along with a full can of gas in their yard after completing their lawn service. The idea took off, since then they have been able to donate three and have received enough money donations to give away three more.

“One really cool thing is that as we have been committing to help certain lawns for longer amounts of time, neighbors of these homeowners have been stepping up to take care of those lawns themselves...It has been like a ripple effect where neighbors just begin to swoop in and handle it, which has been really cool to see,” Thorstad said.

Thorstad also mentioned that by being a part of this group he has been able to make new friends that he otherwise would not have had the chance to meet, all while working on their mission: ‘To serve our community by beautifying yards in need, for families in need. Also, to mentor young people in the joys of serving others.’



(<https://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/0723.MowingClub.>

The Fergus Falls Mowing Club serves others through voluntary lawn care and hopes to spread the spirit of being neighborly. Sarah Huffman/Provided

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