

Skyline Ridge Runner

January 2009

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

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A Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

Farm to Table: The Orlando Farm on Skyline

By Laura Foster

When John and Renee Orlando bought their 18 acres in 2006 at 12735 NW Skyline Boulevard they were not farmers. They had moved from Forest Heights, where they'd lived for 10 years with their three children and were just looking to move to a rural setting with more room and beauty. The property had a 1920s-era house on it, and until the early 2000s, a barn, once the site of community dances, and according to some local folks, a still. The land had been leased for years to a Helvetia farmer who grew various crops on it, including wheat, clover, and grass, and it had good soil. But John says, "We had no plans to farm it, or any farming experience. We thought about maybe growing blueberries or peonies."

A few years earlier, the Orlandos had bought the old L'Auberge restaurant building at 2601 NW Vaughn Street with a partner. After extensive renovations and the addition of a garden eating area, they reopened the restaurant in 2003 as Meriwether's. The name honors Captain Meriwether Lewis of the 1803-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition. The building was built in the late 1920s on the site of what had been, two decades earlier, the grand entrance to Portland's



John and Renee Orlando's farm on Skyline produces fresh vegetables for their Meriwether's restaurant. (Photo: Laura Foster)

World's Fair, the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition.

The Skyline farm was born when one of Meriwether's employees started tending a 30 x 30 foot plot there, with the produce intended for his own and John and Renee's personal use. One thing led to another, and it seemed natural to expand the garden into a full-fledged farm, providing produce for the restaurant. Today the farm is 4.5 fenced acres with 1 acre under cultivation this year, with plans to plant the entire fenced area next year. It is managed by Josh Volk, a mechanical engineer and organic farming expert who spent seven years at Sauvie Island Organics and whose slowhandfarm.com offers information for the small farmer.

The Orlando's farm is an inspiration for any would-be small farmer, with good drainage and soil, elk fencing, and irrigation. It's not certified organic but John says, "We employ organic inputs and practices." As for varmints like gophers, the scourge of many Skyline neighborhood gardens, John says, "We trap them." In 2008, the farm supplied some of the restaurant's produce needs; John expects that it will supply them all in 2009. When that happens, John says, "I'll have to stop hauling produce into

Orlando's Farm, p. 2 ➤

Going Solar on Skyline: Workshop February 18

Want to live more sustainably? Solar is the next big step a household can take to lessening its environmental footprint and cutting energy costs over the long run.

Learn the "Basics of Going Solar" at Skyline Ridge Neighbors' next neighborhood meeting, Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the Skyline Grange. Presenting will be Lizzie Rubado, Residential Solar Program Coordinator at Energy Trust of Oregon.

Even in western Oregon, we have plenty of sun to make solar cost effective, especially with Energy Trust incentives and state and federal tax credits that can cover up to 75% of the cost of a solar electric system. Energy Trust itself offers

cash incentives for residential solar electric systems up to \$10,000.

Rubado will discuss the basics of why solar is a smart choice in Oregon and discuss available technologies, financial incentives, and how to choose a contractor.

Prior to the presentation, there will be a short business meeting for SRN members and area residents. The proposed budget for 2009 will be presented, discussed and then voted on by the members.

For more information on residential solar in Oregon, visit SolarNowOregon.org or energytrust.org. □

Skyline Ridge Runner

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Skyline Ridge Neighbors Inc.

Skyline Ridge Neighbors is a nonprofit organization serving rural northwestern Multnomah County through educational, environmental and social programs that inform residents on relevant issues and events. SRN endeavors to better our community, encourage volunteer efforts and openly communicate with residents and outside organizations.

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Skyline Rural Watch Newslines

Subscribe to SRN's weekly email newsletter of local events and news by sending your email address to newslines@skylineridgeneighbors.org. Contact the Editor, Rich Edwards, at the same email address or at 503.289.7169 to submit items for publication.

SRN Website

Visit www.skylineridgeneighbors.org for more news, photos and information about our community. Contact the Webmaster, Agnes Kwan, at webmaster@skylineridgeneighbors.org.

SRN News & Events

Treasurer's Report

By Laurel Erhardt, SRN Treasurer

The treasurer report is fairly routine with expenses and income within our projected budget. A special thanks to those who took a moment to write a donation check to SRN: Jerralynn Ness and Kent Thurber, Jay Kravitz, Reed Gleason, Lawrence Zivin. Thank you so much to you, and to all whose continuous contribution of time make Skyline Ridge Neighbors such a nice neighborhood to live in.

SRN Income and Expense 10/28/08 through 1/7/09

Income

Ridge Runner Advertising	760
Donations	325
Interest Inc	129
Total Income	\$1214

Expenses

Weed Control	186
Ridge Runner Postage and Printing	832
Total Expenses	\$1,018

Net Cash Flow

\$196

As usual, I welcome all comments and suggestions and your fiscally conservative board will continue to use your donations wisely. So, don't hesitate to send \$30 bucks to demonstrate your continued support of Skyline Ridge Neighbors.

Since SRN is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, your donations are tax-deductible. Donations can be sent to "SRN", c/o Laurel Erhardt, 14416 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR 97231. □

► Orlando's Farm (continued from p. 1)

town in my Suburban." In October 2008, Meriwether's chef was preserving the harvest for use throughout winter, making pickles, sauces, and ravioli fillings.

The Orlandos invite you to visit their farm. They offer complimentary Wine and Cheese Tours of the land; the first tours are May 12 and May 23 at 4 p.m.; see meriwethersnw.com/farm for more dates. Also scheduled are three summertime Farm Wine Dinners, where the farm's produce is paired with offerings from local vineyards to make for a classic Portland evening. Dates are Sundays, July 12, August 9, and September 13. Call Meriwether's Restaurant, 503.228.1250 for reservations and prices for these events. □

Evil is as Evil Does

By Kim Johnson

They say food is scarce as a hen's tooth going into winter for wild animals. That certainly spelled true for the raccoon that had visited my hen house three nights in a row looking for an easy meal. A common misconception among people is to view the raccoon as a cute, furry, "masked bandit" that is clever with latches. A more accurate description would be "serial killer of chickens" or "spawn of Satan." What other animal could look you in eye as it calmly disemboweled the family hen?



"Ted" still at large! (Flickr)

Our masked bit of evil began poking around the hen house late in the fall. I affectionately named him Ted Bundy. Several nights I came out too late only to find Ted dining on my birds. I resolved to remove him from the earth and considered my options.

My husband, in a great display of romanticism, had given me a semi-automatic rifle for mother's day. He had excitedly showed me how to use it, indicating several times the safety feature, suggesting it be constantly engaged due to my short attention span and inability to follow directions. It would come in handy on the farm, he said. This seemed the exact type of handiness that I needed.

I observed the raccoon for several nights. Through a display of immense acrobatics he was squeezing himself through a tiny hole in the fence and accessing the "hen door," a small cut-out the chickens use to come and go. Once inside the hen house it was easy pickings for him as chickens, essentially defenseless animals are night-blind after dusk.

I discussed strategy with my husband. We agreed that I would sit inside the hen house with my rifle and wait for the raccoon to come in the hen door.

When he appeared I would simply wound him fatally with my mother's day gift. My husband indicated several times that I should keep the safety engaged until I was ready. I shouldered my weapon and traipsed off to the hen house fifteen minutes before dusk.

I settled myself on the floor and waited. The chickens eventually made their way in to roost and their contented noises coupled with the late evening whine of bugs and birds was like a warm cup of Trader Joe's sleepy time tea. My head nodded several times.

The peacefulness vanished immediately when Ted Bundy showed his bright eyes and moist nose in the doorway. He tentatively sniffed the air. I wondered if he would be afraid of me and not venture in. I knew raccoons to be bold denizens of the animal kingdom and rarely show fear. Perhaps he would be afraid of my mother's day gift. I foolishly released that thought as it seemed unlikely he shopped at "Sportsman's Warehouse" or knew what a gun was.

I shouldered my gift and took aim, happy to be ridding myself of this minion of evil. I pulled the trigger and realized the safety mechanism was still on. Although Ted Bundy didn't seem to be afraid of my gun he did respond to the string of profanities that now hovered between us.

He took two steps out of my view. I panicked thinking I had missed my opportunity. I released the safety. Ted Bundy appeared in the doorway again and I unloaded the full complement of my semi automatic rifle. I lost count of the shots and sat breathing the acrid smell of gunpowder.

Ted Bundy poked his head back through the door unscathed and unworried to gaze quizzically at me. If this animal had a thought bubble, it would have read, "What the hell?"

My husband wandered out to inspect the damage. After a few minutes of C.S.I type measurements and calculations he determined that I had shot everything that was not the raccoon. He tried to cheer me up, suggesting that the holes in the hen house might serve as extra ventilation. I sighed, Ted Bundy would be back. ☐

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New website opens on Skyline

By Miles Merwin

Skyline Online is a new website for residents of rural western Multnomah County and surrounding areas. It's designed to facilitate person-to-person trading via classified ads, and discussion on topics relevant to country life. Once you register on Skyline Online, you can post free classified ads to buy, sell, trade or give-away goods or services. In the Forum section, you can ask questions, offer answers and carry on conversations with others who use the site.

The site is operated locally by volunteers to fill a need for two-way interaction and conversation. It is not meant to compete with the Skyline Newslines, which provides timely news (and humor) to area residents, or the SRN website. It's an independent venture not affiliated with SRN.

Conversing on Skyline Online should be familiar to anyone who has participated in online forums. To get started, click on the **Forum** tab at the top and then the **FAQ and Legal Forum**. Then click on the **Quick Start Guide** which has details on how to navigate around the site, reply to messages, start a new topic, etc.

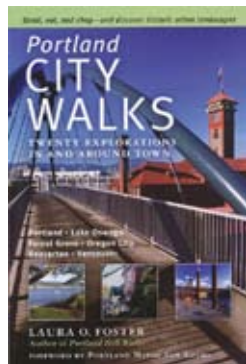
The more people who join and use Skyline Online, the more lively and useful it will be. You are welcome to join the conversation at www.skylineonline.org.

New book by Skyline author

By Patrick Ahern

McNamee Road resident Laura Foster gave me a copy of her new book, *Portland City Walks*, to review knowing I was an avid hiker and walker. I don't know if she also knew that I am a lover of history, especially that of Portland. If she did, she would know that she won't be getting this book back. I also need to mention here that this book is not just focused on Portland, but also includes Beaverton, Vancouver, Lake Oswego, Forest Grove, and Oregon City.

What a wonderful combination of learning and exercise this book offers, as Laura's extensive research offers much more than just a pleasant afternoon's exploration. Follow me as I wander through my childhood neighborhood between Mason and Alberta streets, recognizing the Rexall drugstore at 24th, where I used to go for the special treat of a grilled cheese sandwich, vanilla milkshake, and a warm smile from the prettiest girl I'd ever seen. The smile alone was worth the 50 cents. The movie theatre on 30th Avenue was Mecca for a boy filled with imagination and fancy dreams with its 25 cent Saturday features and rollicking cartoons. Both are still here!



My childhood coincided with the end of World War II and the Vanport flood, the death knell for some neighborhoods, soon to be consumed by apathy, racism, and lack of resources. The recent changes in affluence there now are almost breathtaking, and Laura has preserved the fascinating history of the area to illustrate its importance to the life story of Portland.

A bum knee has kept me from walking, but not reading, and I'm finding myself picking up this book again and again just to hear the old stories of my home town, and to marvel at the old photographs of Portland in its yesteryear. What a wonderful adventure.

Portland City Walks, published by Timber Press, is available at all local bookstores and online booksellers.

Skyline Grange News

By Sen Speroff

Skyline Grange is planning three community events this spring at 11275 NW Skyline Boulevard (0.1 miles west of Newberry Road or 1.6 miles east of Cornelius Pass Road). All proceeds go to the building's Maintenance and Improvement Fund. Donations to the Grange are tax deductible to the extent of the law. You do not have to be a Grange member to participate, volunteer or to attend these events. As the dates approach, more details will be announced on SRN's Newslines and at SRN's website.

Winter Casserole Night Feb. 28

The Fall Soup Supper for the community was such a success that attendees requested more opportunities. Skyline Grange now invites you to another evening of real home-cooked food on Saturday, February 28, Comfort Casseroles! Expect the full range of casserole choices from your childhood tuna noodle casserole (from a Campbell's Mushroom Soup label), to contemporary, healthier concoctions. The supper includes homemade casseroles, homemade breads, fresh salads, and homemade desserts. We suggest a donation of \$5/adult or \$12/family. If you would be interested in bringing a generous food dish (homemade casserole, homemade breads, salad or dessert), please contact in advance either Tracy Waters (bluwaters@pcez.com or 503-285-3530) or Sen Speroff (503-621-3331 or sensperoff@hotmail.com). If you have a heating tray that we could borrow for keeping casserole dishes warm, please contact us.

Spring Garage Sale March 13-14

The annual spring Garage Sale will be on Friday-Saturday, March 13-14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is not a typical garage sale. Our sales have a uniquely Skyline favor to them with a blend of practical, modern items to equipment useful for our semi-rural needs. If you would like to

Continued ➤

Massage Therapy on Skyline

By Laura Foster

Masseuse and Rock Creek Road resident Nora Schreiber opened Skyline Massage and Reflexology at Brooks Hill Church in September 2008. Upstairs in the renovated church, Nora works in a wonderful space: a light-filled room with a massage table, an industrial-size heater, a CD-player and inviting furnishings. Rice paper at the many windows offers privacy but lets in the clear northern light that lends serenity to the space.



Nora, a licensed massage therapist since 1994, worked for a decade at Portland Center Spa. When she's not providing massages on the hill, she works at Skin Deep and Beyond in Tualatin and provides 15-minute "office massages" for employees of Beyond Words Publishing in Hillsboro. Her work is tailored to her client's needs. Client Libby Merwin says, "Just before the election in

November, I developed a severe stress-related neck and shoulder ache, which was also contributing to headaches. After an excellent and relaxing massage by Nora, the pain was completely gone, and I felt better than I had in weeks! We're very lucky to have Nora in the neighborhood."

Nora also works with people who have sustained injuries, noting, "I've done quite a bit of injury recovery massage, where you're working to break up scar tissue." This type of massage, often done in a short 15-minute session, is useful if you've torn a muscle or ligament. Another type of massage she uses is deep Swedish massage in which, Nora says, "You go deep, using the forearm, and not just your hands." Before a client's first appointment, Nora visits with him or her in the waiting room and says, "We talk about what they are looking for, about problems, and areas of stress," and she tailors the massage to the client's needs. Often, clients come to her just to relax. And with a drive of just minutes after a Skyline massage, rather than a 30 minute trip from a city masseuse, the relaxation can follow you all the way home.

Skyline Massage is open by appointment; call Nora at 503.645.3119 or email her at noraschreiberlmt@yahoo.com. Rates are \$1/minute, with sessions from 15 to 90 minutes in length. □

► Skyline Grange News, continued

donate to this sale or volunteer to help, contact Sen at 503-621-3331 or Sharon Barthmaier at 503-286-1261. Donations must be clean and in working condition. Household items, furniture, gardening items, books, and funky stuff are particularly desired. Unfortunately, large exercise equipment, computers, televisions, and audio tapes are not accepted. If you are a garage sale enthusiast or want to contribute to your community, consider volunteering to help with this sale.

Tree and Native Plant Sale May 8-9

Are you lusting over the recent arrivals of garden catalogs? Are you longing to dig in the soil? Don't let these dark,

rainy January days get to you. Spring will come and so will Skyline Grange's annual Tree and Native Plant Sale. This year it is tentatively scheduled for Friday-Saturday, May 8-9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Sale includes a wonderful variety of native plants for shade, sunny and wetland environments from Bosky-Dell Natives in West Linn. In addition there will be a wide variety of healthy bareroot ornamental trees and shrubs, and fruit-bearing trees. The prices and quality are excellent! So sharpen your shovels and start planning.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the sale or inquiring about specific plants, contact Vickie Coghill (503-621-3507 catawho03@msn.com) or Sen Speroff (503-621-3331 or sensperoff@hotmail.com). □

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Increasing Income from Small Woodlands

By Kammy Kern-Korot, WMSWCD

Owners of woodlots learned how to generate more income from their properties in a recent workshop, "Diverse Income Opportunities on Small Woodlands," sponsored by West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD). The event drew more than 75 participants, including approximately 55 landowners from Multnomah, Washington and Columbia counties, who came away with innovative ideas to capture more economic value from their woodlands.

Northwest Certified Forestry Director Ian Hanna explained sustainable forest certification programs, which open a range of new market opportunities for "green" wood. Mike Gaudern, of the newly formed Woodlands Carbon Company, talked about carbon markets, noting that annual growth on 110 acres of woodland on the west side of the Cascades, for example, could generate from \$600 to \$2,800 per year in carbon sequestration credits (based on market values at the Chicago Climate Exchange last year). Gaudern's group pools carbon credits for small woodland owners to sell as carbon offsets to polluters or carbon consumers. Carbon consumers may range from large energy facilities to individuals and companies looking to offset their carbon footprint from commuting or other travel, for example.



Mike Gaudern, of Oregon Woodlands Carbon Co., speaks to workshop participants about carbon credits. (Photo:WMSWCD)

Landowner Incentive Programs

A series of speakers provided an overview of incentive programs and other assistance available to forest landowners. Mike Bondi, OSU Extension Forester, explained that OSU partners with groups such as the Oregon Small Woodlands Association or WMSWCD to host workshops and train landowners to be master woodland managers or master gardeners, for example. See www.cof.orst.edu/cof/extended/extserv/ for more information.

The Oregon Department of Forestry's Jim Cathcart explained the Underproductive Forestland Conversion Tax Credit and the Forest Resource Trust. The first program provides a state tax credit of up to 50% of eligible costs for voluntary establishment of 5 acres or more of forest in existing pasture or brush stands. The second program pays all up-front costs to establish new forest, including costs of a professional forester. The landowner pays back the "loan" only when there is a profitable timber cut. (See www.privateforests.oregon.gov for more information.)

Steve Fedje of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service reviewed federal Farm Bill cost-share programs that support forestry. Both the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the new Forest Reserve Program (FRP) will share costs with landowners to restore forestland or keep working woodlands forested.

The latter program will launch in Southern Oregon with a focus on spotted owl habitat; it is hoped FRP will expand to include Multnomah County.

Kammy Kern-Korot, Rural Resource Specialist with the WMSWCD, explained the agency's free technical assistance to forest and other rural landowners, and access to incentive and grant programs, including WMSWCD's FISH and CARE grants, monies available to improve wildlife habitat and implement conservation plans, including those on forest lands.

CARE could help a landowner pay a consulting forester or engineer, for example. For information, contact

Kern-Korot or Scott Gall at 503-238-4775 or visit www.westmultconserv.org.

Wood Products Markets

How to tap new markets for wood products was the topic led by Peter Hayes of Hyla Woods; he explained how he developed on-site processing of wood products, in the form of a solar kiln, and finding niche markets. Hayes is on the Oregon Board of Forestry and is a voice for small woodland owners at the statewide policy level.

Chad Davis of Sustainable Northwest and Tom Nygren of Oregon Woodlands Cooperative talked of building niche markets, a local distribution warehouse, and higher revenues for high-value wood from small woodlands. Pilot projects involving cultivation of mushrooms and production of medicinal extracts are underway. Both can add value to woodlands.

By the end of the daylong workshop, participants and presenters were energized and excited to explore opportunities for collaboration, and to create or renew a forest management plan. There was a robust discussion regarding the potential for shared ownership of processing facilities such as a kiln or small mill in West Multnomah County or neighboring counties and/or collective timber harvest and cooperative forest management.

One idea is for WMSWCD to work with local landowners, woodlands cooperatives, and ODF to develop a landscape-level forest management plan and processing infrastructure and high-value market outlets. □

Cornelius Pass Safety Audit Released

By Miles Merwin

Results of last summer's road safety audit on Cornelius Pass Road were presented to the Cornelius Pass Road Work Group at a public meeting December 9. About 50 people attended the meeting, along with approximately a dozen stakeholders. The audit was precipitated by the death of Taija Belwood on the road last winter.

Nicholas Fortey, safety engineer with the Federal Highway Administration, described the report as an independent and comprehensive assessment of safety issues on the road.

The report prioritized 18 different safety issues, with the highest potential danger from hazards such as vehicles crossing the centerline, and inadequate guardrails and barriers. The full report is available on the Taija Belwood Foundation website at www.taija-belwood.com/audit.html.

The report suggested recommended treatments to fix problems, which Multnomah County will need to find money to implement. The work group's co-chair, State Senator Betsy Johnson, emphasized the fiscal reality of limited state funds, but encouraged the county to develop a list of "shovel-ready" improvement projects for the legislature to consider in the upcoming session.

A proposed federal transportation program, if approved, is the most promising source of funding for Cornelius Pass improvements, she said.

Multnomah County representatives promised to respond to the safety audit within 60 days. They will prioritize the recommended fixes in the report, to quantify the costs involved, and to develop project timelines. Senator Johnson said the Work Group will reconvene in the spring to hear the County's proposals, with time for public comment.

County and State Announce Cornelius Pass Road Projects

By Jim Smith, The Taija Belwood Foundation

Multnomah County roads planners announced that they have a \$250,000 project put together that will address some basic first incremental steps to include ice-sensing signs, rumble-strip lane markings and guardrail maintenance. The package may also include photo-radar speed advisory signs. The project is pending funding from various sources that should be available at the first of the year. The County will accept advisory suggestions from members of the task force as to which improvements should happen first.

The project did not include any new runs of guardrails which was the most severe of safety concerns in the RSA from Federal Highways. Nor did it address enforcement and education which we hope can be a critical first step. This project could be described as 'shovel ready' and as such qualifies for immediate funding from the economic stimulus package.

ODOT rep. David Kim announced that they have a multi-million dollar plan to address the Hwy. 30 intersection with Cornelius Pass road. This plan would provide a left and right turn lane, updated signals and a programmable message board. This would help alleviate staging times which lead to poor driver decisions and ultimately crashes.

The panel also credited the foundation for their efforts to raise the awareness of safety concerns on Cornelius Pass road as evidenced by the 16 year low result of only 7 reported crashes on CPR in '08 with no fatalities and 1 injury. We are delighted to think that our efforts have affected driver behavior and hope that our continued diligence will eradicate ALL serious crashes and deaths on this road. □

2009 Garlic Mustard Project

By Sen Speroff

For the past two springs local residents have dedicated many hours to control the invasion of garlic mustard plants. They pulled and destroyed a total of 11,440 pounds of these plants that threaten to out-compete our woodland native plants. Unfortunately garlic mustard tolerates cold weather just fine, so do not expect a winter kill-off by our recent record low temperatures.

Also garlic mustard loves disturbed soil, so expect to see plenty of plants from the spread of seeds along our roadsides from the diligent & appreciated work of snowplows.

This spring SRN, Forest Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) and Skyline Grange will team up again to encourage residents to become a part of the local

effort to control the spread of garlic mustard. The Project starts about mid April when the plants emerge and ends about mid June when their seed pods are about to burst.

We will provide directions on how to identify garlic mustard and to correctly pull and dispose of it. These steps are easy. This would be a good cause for students needing community services hours.

Control of the spread of this plant is a formidable task since a single plant can produce a thousand seeds that can live in the soil ready to sprout for about five years. Yikes, we need your help.

If you would like more information, think you might have garlic mustard on your property, or would like to volunteer to help, contact either Sen Speroff (503-621-3331 or sensperoff@hotmail.com) for SRN-area residents or Karen Smith (503-285-0207 or karen9248@comcast.net) for those in FPNA. □

Newberry Road Dairy Sold To Metro, now Protected as Natural Area

Adapted from "Thomas Dairy: A Key Link to Forest Park" (www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=28991)

"I remember the morel mushrooms that grew under the pear trees," recalls Ella Thomas, 95, hiking to the edge of the woods. In 1915 when she was two, her parents Reinhold and Rosalie Bieberdorf bought property on Newberry Road and established a dairy. In 2008, she scans the landscape, with its meadows, woods and buildings. "Lots of memories," she says.

With funds from a 2006 natural areas bond measure, Metro bought the 58-acre Thomas Dairy on Newberry Road as an important link between Forest Park and 280 acres to the north that Metro earlier purchased along Ennis Creek. Now mainly a mixed coniferous and deciduous forest, the land provides a corridor for wildlife and a potential extension of the Wildwood Trail. Two streams cross the landscape, habitat for bald eagles, coyotes and myriad bird species. A herd of 40 to 50 elk frequent the site, their trails visible in two remnant meadows.

As a child, Ella Thomas worried that her schoolmates would discover she lived without running water or electricity. Back then, her parents' tended about 40 cows as well as pear, walnut, plum, cherry, filbert and apple trees. Goats helped clear the land. She remembers, "Horses did all the work. There was Jack the mule and Buster the one-eyed horse. Before the Saint Johns Bridge, Pa took the horse and buggy and crossed the river on the ferry." A ledger lists 14 boxes of Bartlett pears sold to Joe's in Linnton for a dollar each.

The family collected rainwater in a cistern and hauled drinking water from the springs. A 1952 newspaper article shows a photograph of Ella's father tapping maple trees and making maple syrup. She remarks, "It was not the place to do it if you want to make money out of it."

Ella walked 6.3 miles to school; coming up Newberry Road alone, she recalls thinking, "There'd be bears. I was scared." Her dad bought leather and re-soled her shoes. She and her four older siblings picked raspberries and wild strawberries to sell. During the Depression they peeled bark and sold it for a few pennies.

At 17, Ella married Delbert Thomas, moved to Idaho, had three children, and over the years, added thirteen foster children. Around 1950, Ella and Delbert moved back to the farm and it became the Thomas Dairy. Delbert bought a tractor and had a well drilled, reaching water at 300 feet. Their children built hideouts and rode horse trails through Forest Park. In the 70s they sold the property to the Margolis family who planted more fir trees and raised cattle organically. The Margolises put the land up for sale in 2006. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) optioned the property in anticipation of the measure's passage. After it did, in 2007 Metro purchased the land from the TPL.

Buildings that remain tell stories: a modern house is an expanded, remodeled version of the 1923 one-room farmhouse that was rolled downhill to be closer to the electric hookup. "My brother rolled the house down. It wasn't supposed to get so close to the road," Ella recalls.

Ella is pleased the property will be preserved as a natural area. "I'm glad someone will take care of this. It joins Forest Park. It's a good thing to do. People should be enjoying it. I think it's wonderful."

Rep. Greenlick Reports

On January 10, Representative Mitch Greenlick (Democratic, Northwest Portland and Northern Washington County) held two town hall meetings with constituents.

Greenlick is Chair of the House Committee on Health Care and will serve as a member of the Ways and Means Sub-committee on Human Services. Greenlick says, "As usual, much of my effort will be devoted to guiding health care bills through the House. Health care system reform is going to be one of two big ticket items this session, the other being transportation. In the 2007 session we passed SB 329 which created the Oregon Health Fund Board, charging it with developing a plan for moving Oregon towards universal access to health care and reforming the health care system."

"I am working, with my health care consultant Tom Burns, on a bill that would create the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), bringing all of the state government health care functions into the OHA. The bill proposes a Medicaid expansion, funded by provider taxes, designed to bring 100,000 children and 100,000 adults into the Oregon Health Plan. And it proposes a revitalization of Oregon's public health infrastructure, funded by a modest increase in tobacco taxes."

Greenlick, a survivor of lymphoma, will also lead the formation of a new Oregon chapter of the Lymphoma Research Foundation.

Greenlick also serves on the House Committee on Land Use. The task force charged with taking a "big look" at Oregon's land use laws will recommend significant changes to our land use planning system.

Email Rep. Greenlick to discuss issues of importance to you at mitchgreenlick@msn.com. For an appointment with him, contact Harriet Greenlick, his office manager at 303.297.2416. For information on legislative matters, contact Tom Powers, Greenlick's legislative director, at tom.powers@state.or.us.

Forest Park Conservancy News

Our next Day of Stewardship is Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It's a regular event in which you can help remove invasive species in Forest Park, and plant native trees and

Continued ►

Skyline Clean-up: Save the Date, Saturday, April 18.

Our annual neighborhood clean-up is April 18, 2009, part of the 20th annual SOLV IT Earth Day event. Last year, over 3,000 volunteers picked up trash and clear out illegal dumpsites at 110 projects sites in 5 Oregon counties. Great exercise, good camaraderie and a sense of accomplishment await you! More details will come in the spring Ridge Runner and on the Newslines. See solv.org for more information.

Don't Just Recycle; Precycle!

By Jacqui Dowsett, Master Recycler in Training

If you are like me, who loves to have new systems in place to kick start good habits, you were excited to receive those lovely new recycling carts recently. I thought I was doing a wonderful recycling job until I graduated from Class 39 of the Master Recycler Program and discovered there is so much more I could do to leave less of a carbon footprint and be a better land steward of this wonderful area we are lucky enough to live in.

It is true that Portland does recycle well; in fact, our recycling rates have doubled over the last few years, but it is also true that our waste generation has increased at the same rate. Although important to recycle, it is far better not to generate the waste in the first place. Think about the Reduce and Reuse (or "precycling") parts of a waste management strategy first. Reducing can include opting out of receiving unwanted mail through the metro Stop Junk Mail kit (503.234.3000), and reducing toxins in our waste stream by making your own non-toxic cleaning

products. (Go to oregonmetro.gov and search for "green cleaners" for recipes and tips, or call Metro at 503.234.3000 and ask for the "Green Cleaners" booklet to be mailed to you.) Reusing can include refilling bottles, reusing bags, and donating and buying from thrift stores.

Precycling can be a fun and simple way to help reduce the stuff we buy in the first place. Firstly, decide what you (really!) need. This includes thinking about what you are giving up to buy the stuff. Secondly, try and find an alternative, through borrowing, renting, or using what you already have. Thirdly, if you really need the new item, carefully select the product and packaging to avoid waste. Think about buying for durability and quality – it might cost more but it will save money in the long run. Store reusable grocery bags in your car so they are handy when you need them, and while at the grocery think about buying unpackaged goods from the bulk bins, using your own weighed durable containers.

Comingling recyclables in those blue carts makes recycling easier, but haulers ask us to be careful NOT to put plastic bags or glass in the cart. Two major causes of accidents at the processing plants are cleaning the machines after being clogged by plastic bags, and the shattering of glass that inadvertently goes through the wrong processor. Bags are recyclable, but not curbside – just take them back to the grocery store. Glass is also highly recyclable; just put it out separately in the hard sided bin. Working together, we can make a difference. Just think: 2.5 billion fewer bags would need to be manufactured if just 25 percent of U.S. households used 10 fewer bags a year.

For information on the Master Recycling Program (supported by the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development, Metro, and Clackamas and Washington counties, visit www.masterrecycler.org. □

► Forest Park Conservancy, continued

understory plants. Volunteers focus on three sites. Look for more information at www.forestparkconservancy.org.

Run 20 with 20 for 20! March marks the 20th anniversary of the Forest Park Conservancy (formerly Friends of Forest Park). On March 28, celebrate with a 20 mile trail run. Start at the Wildwood /Germantown Road trailhead and end

at Lower Macleay Park. The 20-miler is a pledge event; each runner must raise or donate \$750 to the Conservancy. The run, meant to be small in number, is limited to 20 participants, so sign up early. Finishers will receive thank you gifts from the Conservancy and the run's sponsors. Contact Andrea Schwartz, andrea@forestparkconservancy.org or 503.223.5449 for info. □

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Cornelius Pass Rd. Problems Need Action

By J. Kravitz

The recent Cornelius Pass Road Safety Audit of hazard issues and possible solutions was thorough, but fails on two points:

First the study was done during the summer. There is no reference to fog, present for at least 5-6 months of the year, especially at night, which severely limits visibility.

Second, every time I read that there might not be funds for major repairs, it makes me disgusted. When Cornelius Pass was designated as a hazardous materials route into Washington County in the 1980s, no apparent thought was given to the inadequacies of this country road as a major transportation route. Divert the trucks elsewhere and many problems would go away. Since that is not going to happen, it's about time the Multnomah County Roads Department and political will get real and fix the road! And not just minor cosmetic repairs. Excuses no longer are acceptable. This is not a "rural arterial," the current convenient label. Semantics! This is a major transportation route linking

three counties with extremely limited alternatives.

At present, the Roads Department doesn't even wash or replace reflectors that were installed in the late 1980s (only after I made repeated phone calls and several visits to our county commissioners' offices). Increased traffic pressures over the past 20 years are astounding. Several people in this neighborhood have been killed, in addition to the recent death of a Scappoose teenager. With traffic safety a lesser concern in this relatively unpopulated area of Multnomah County, attention appears to be focused on higher density areas. Being told at the December 9th "open" Task Force government meeting that monies to effect improvements on Cornelius Pass Road are budgeted for 2012 and 2026 is ludicrous. We were reassured at the meeting that, in addition to safety improvements, maintenance to keep reflectors visible was routine.

After the meeting I decided to travel home via Cornelius Pass to observe reported improvements already implemented. It was dark as I drove south past a quarter mile line of cars and trucks waiting to enter Highway 30... and, not surprisingly, reports of roadside reflectors actually doing their job were highly exaggerated! □

Skyline School News



"Think Green" will be theme for Skyline School Auction, March 14

By Sandra Kruger

Skyline School is going green or at least thinking green. "Think Green: Growing Our Hearts and Minds" is the theme of this year's auction on Saturday, March 14, 2009. Held at the school, it begins at 5:30 p.m. and includes food, a raffle, and a silent and oral auction.

Going once, going twice, sold. Last year's auction included a lunch and limo ride with the principal, vacation home rentals, and airfare to L.A. and tickets to a taping of the Dr. Phil Show. This year's auction promises to have a similar cadre of fun items to bid on and some of the bidders were quite serious about going home with the winning item. It is fun to join in the bidding or at least watch while others bid an item up. The auction is not just for big spenders; there are many auction items priced at under \$25. Everyone can go home with something and, what is more important, knowing they have supported Skyline School.

The auction is the main fundraiser for the school's PTA and Foundation. Money raised goes to support the enrichment and educational programs at the school. One

of the main initiatives of the Foundation is keeping the school's class sizes small. The auction committee is hard at work getting donation items. If you have something to contribute to the auction, please contact Sandra Kruger at sandralahti@msn.com or 503-286-6346.

School receives grant to boost recycling and waste reduction efforts

By Jill Inahara

Skyline School has been awarded a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Solid Waste grant to hire an AmeriCorps worker for the 2009-2010 school year. This person will be implementing programs to make Skyline School more sustainable, including waste prevention, reuse, recycling, resource conservation, and environmental education. Recycling efforts will include increased recycling of plastics and paper as well as composting of paper towels. Options for recycling milk cartons will be investigated. Waste prevention activities will include increasing the number of weekly parent newsletters distributed electronically rather than by paper copy, increasing use of double-sided copies, electronic filing, and a zero waste program for lunches and classroom parties. Reuse activities will include donation of edible food. Please contact Jill Inahara (503)286-4737 or markjill@hevanet.com if you have any questions. □

Certified Reading Therapist. Private sessions to improve your child's reading skills. Call for information or to schedule an evaluation. Caren 503-327-8046 or cbcohen@hotmail.com

Linnton Community Center. New winter classes starting this month at LCC. For details, visit www.linnton.com or call 503.286.4990.

Sisters Vacation Rental. Enjoy the Central Oregon outdoors at this Sisters getaway: 3 bed/2 bath home sleeps 6/7 people. From \$125 p/n plus tax/cleaning. 503.240.2992 or email: sistershome@comcast.net. View at www.vrbo.com #168319.

Writing a book? I design covers, layout interior pages, obtain necessary publishing numbers, and coordinate book printing. Visit www.ALLPublications.com and call Jennifer Omner at 503-690-2438.

Free Mushroom Compost: Shiitake mushroom blocks make great compost and some blocks will still produce.

One full size pick-up load per week. For best compost, blocks need seasoning. Contact Mary 503-522-7379.

Pet Rescue. Desperately needed - foster and forever homes for homeless Basset Hounds. Please contact Oregon Basset Rescue, 503.351-0649 or obhr@oregonbassethoundrescue.com, if you can help us save these dogs.

Brooks Hill Historic Church. Open for weddings, music events. Beautifully remodeled. Ask about rental discounts for Skyline neighbors. 11539 NW Skyline Blvd. Call Cindy at (503) 629-9700 or visit www.brookshill.com.

Rent the Skyline Grange. Planning an event? The Grange may be the perfect spot. Contact Pat Barnard at (503) 286-2857 or pbarnard2@aol.com. Visit www.skylinegrange.org for info.

Weed wrenches. Eliminate Scot's broom, holly and other woody shrubs and sapling trees easily with a weed wrench. Borrow one free from Skyline Ridge Neighbors. Contact Sen at (503) 621-3331.

Community Calendar

February 18, Wednesday: "Basics of Going Solar" presentation and SRN member's meeting, 7 pm, Skyline Grange.

February 28, Saturday: Winter Casserole Night at Skyline Grange. To offer potluck dishes, please contact Tracy Waters 503.285.3530 or Sen Speroff 503.621.3331.

March 13-14, Friday-Saturday: Spring Garage Sale at the Skyline Grange. To donate or volunteer to help, please contact Sen, 503.621.3331.

March 14, Saturday: Skyline School Auction. For more info, contact Sandra Kruger, 503.286.6346 or sandra@msn.com.

March 21, Saturday: Forest Park Conservancy Day of Stewardship. For info, visit www.forestparkconservancy.org.

March 28, Saturday: Run 20 with 20 for 20. Trail run and pledge event to benefit Forest Park Conservancy. For info, contact Andrea Schwartz, andrea@forestparkconservancy.org or 503.223.5449.

April 18, Saturday: 20th annual SOLV IT neighborhood clean-up day. Save the date; more details to follow.

May 8-9, Friday-Saturday: Tree and Native Plant Sale, Skyline Grange. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please call Vickie Coghil, 503.621.3507, or Sen Speroff, 503.621.3331.

Skyline Yoga with Jay Fields, RYT

Enjoy yoga in your community!

Monday & Wednesday 6:15-7:30pm

Tuesday 9-10:15am

\$10 to drop-in/\$108 for 12 classes

Classes held at Brooks Hill Church on Skyline

For more information, please contact Jay
jay@wingrockjourneys.com 503.679.7979

www.wingrockjourneys.com

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Contact Your Government Officials

To find out who your particular representatives are, go to www.votesmart.org (or similar site) and search by your **9-digit** zip code. The following officials represent all or portions of zip code 97231.

Congressional

Senator Jeffery A. 'Jeff' Merkley - U.S. Senate Junior Seat (Democratic), Post Office Box 33167, Portland, OR 97292-3167,
Phone: 503-261-7826, <http://merkley.senate.gov>

Senator Ron Wyden - U.S. Senate Senior Seat (Democratic), 1220 South West 3rd Avenue, Suite 585, Portland, OR 97204,
Phone: 503-326-7525, <http://wyden.senate.gov>

Representative Earl Blumenauer - U.S. House District 3 (Democratic), 729 Northeast Oregon Street, Suite 115, Portland,
OR 97232, Phone: 503-231-2300, <http://blumenauer.house.gov>

Representative David Wu - U.S. House District 1 (Democratic), 620 Southwest Main, Suite 606, Portland, OR 97205,
Phone: 503-326-2901, <http://www.house.gov/wu>

Gubernatorial

Governor Theodore 'Ted' Kulongoski – Governor (Democratic), 160 State Capitol
900 Court Street, Salem, OR 97301-4047, Phone: 503-378-4582, <http://www.governor.state.or.us>

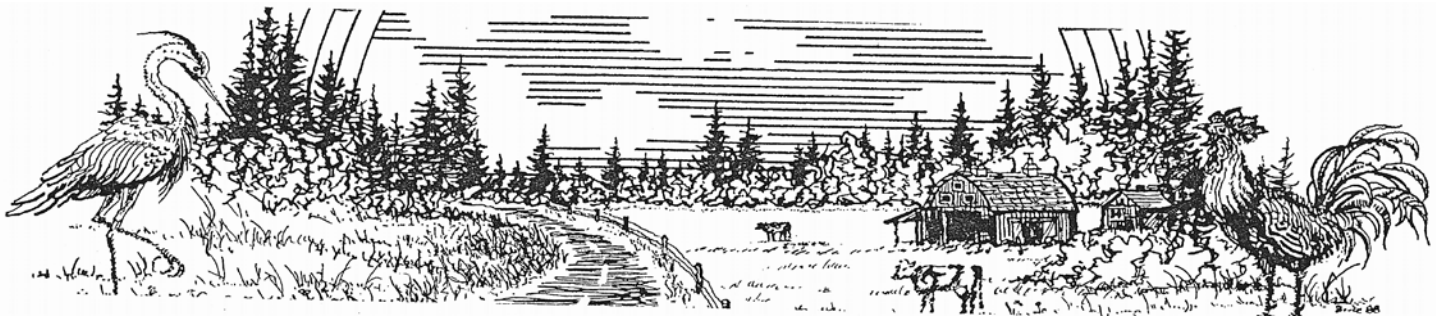
State Legislative

Representative Mitch Greenlick - State House District 33 (Democratic), 712 Northwest Spring Avenue, Portland, OR
97229, Phone: 503-297-2416, <http://www.leg.state.or.us/greenlick/home.htm>

Representative Bradley 'Brad' Witt - State House District 31 (Democratic), 900 Court Street Northeast, H-277, Salem, OR
97301, Phone: 503-986-1431, <http://www.leg.state.or.us/witt>

Senator Suzanne Bonamici - State Senate District 17 (Democratic), Post Office Box 990, Beaverton, OR 97075, Phone: 503-
627-0246, <http://www.leg.state.or.us/bonamici>

Senator Elizabeth K. 'Betsy' Johnson - State Senate District 16 (Democratic), Post Office Box R, Scappoose, OR 97056,
Phone: 503-543-4046, <http://www.leg.state.or.us/johnson>



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