



# Skyline Ridge Runner

April 2011

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 23, No. 2

A Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

## Emergency Preparedness Talk, Board Elections at April 28 Meeting

The recent devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan has focused everyone's attention on how people cope with the aftermath of natural disasters.

In addition to the ever-present danger of earthquakes and wildfires, another threat we face in our area is release of toxic emissions that could result from an accident on Cornelius Pass Road involving a truck hauling hazardous cargo, or a major fire in the petroleum storage tanks at Linnton.

On April 28, Dr. Jeff Rubin, TVFR's Emergency Manager, will discuss earthquakes and other hazards in our area, what we can expect during and after an earthquake, and how to prepare your household for major disasters and more local incidents. Learn about:

- Preparing an emergency kit, including critical documents and supplies
- Communicating with loved ones after a disaster
- Managing utilities



*Rachael Brake and Grant Rolette help out at last year's SOLV day. This year's clean-up is April 16. See p. 5*

- Conducting a home "hazard hunt"
- Available Internet resources

Jeff Rubin has served as Emergency Manager for Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Oregon's largest fire district, since February 2001. He is a member of the State of Oregon's ESF-8 Committee and has served on several committees and interdisciplinary projects relating to hospital and health-system preparedness, in which he has been involved since the mid-90s.

The April 28 meeting will start at 7:00 PM at the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd. Immediately preceding the presentation, SRN will hold a brief business meeting. Members of SRN will vote to elect new Directors to serve on the

Board. Anyone interested in the Board, please contact Miles Merwin, SRN President, at 503-621-9867 or [president@srnpdx.org](mailto:president@srnpdx.org). □

## SRN Wants Your Input on Local Road Safety Problems by April 30

*By the SRN Board of Directors*

As a follow up to the public meeting held last Feb. 16 at the Skyline Grange, SRN is seeking input from all neighborhood residents on their personal experiences of safety problems that occur on our public roads. These include speeding by cars and motorcycles (e.g. visitors who treat Skyline as a race track), unsafe driving (e.g. "drifting"), and maintenance needs. Your feedback is vital to better identify the severity and location of traffic problems and to help county agencies put measures in place to mitigate them.

Copies of the one-page survey can be obtained either in print, by email, or on the web. Printed copies are available at Plainview Grocery and Skyline School. You can also call Miles, SRN Pres., at 503-621-9867 to request that a printed copy be mailed to you.

Electronic copies of the survey will be sent to all subscribers of the Skyline Rural Watch Newslines. They are also posted on the SRN website at [SRNPDX.org](http://SRNPDX.org). Simply download the PDF form, fill in your responses and email it back to [srn@srnpdx.org](mailto:srn@srnpdx.org) with "road survey" in the subject

line.

Please return your survey by April 30, either by mail or email.

Forest Park Neighbors also plans to survey residents about safety issues on Skyline and other roads within its neighborhood. The results of their survey will provide additional documentation of problem location and severity, and could help justify measures covering the whole length of Skyline and other major roads.

### February Public Meeting

Last Feb. 16, about 30 local residents gathered at the Skyline Grange to talk about persistent safety issues on the busier public roads in our neighborhood. Also attending were several agency representatives: Brian Vincent of the Multnomah Co. Road Services department, MC Sheriff Deputies Jim Holoch and Bryan White, and Aaron Ridings with Commissioner Deborah Kafoury's office.

Neighbors shared their own experiences with speeding

**Road Safety Survey, p. 3 ►**

# Skyline Ridge Runner

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Send comments, articles, opinions and advertising requests to the Editor, 14355 NW McNamee Road, Portland, OR 97231, [ridgerunner@srnpdx.org](mailto:ridgerunner@srnpdx.org) or fax to 503.621.3450. Deadlines for all submissions are the 15th day of March, June, September and December, unless otherwise announced.

→ *Deadline for the next issue is June 15*

## 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.

## SRN Board of Directors (2009-11)

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## Skyline Rural Watch Newsline

Subscribe to SRN's weekly email newsletter of local events and news via the link at [www.srnpdx.org](http://www.srnpdx.org). Contact the Editor, Laurel Erhardt, at [newslines@srnpdx.org](mailto:newslines@srnpdx.org) or 503.621.3501 to submit items for publication

## SRN Website

Visit [www.srnpdx.org](http://www.srnpdx.org) for more news, photos and information about our community. Contact the Webmaster, Agnes Kwan, at [webmaster@srnpdx.org](mailto:webmaster@srnpdx.org).

The views and opinions presented herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by SRN or Skyline neighborhood residents.

*There's more online at*  
**[www.srnpdx.org](http://www.srnpdx.org)**

## Treasurer's Report

*By Karen Garber*

### SRN Income & Expenses 1/1/2011 - 2/28/2011

BEGINNING BALANCE JANUARY 1	15,935
INCOME	
Advertising	200
Donations	80
Interest	23
TOTAL INCOME	303
EXPENSES	
Hall Rental	25
Licenses and Fees	50
Website Development	345
Ridge Runner	652
Summer Gathering Materials	40
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,111
NET INCOME/(EXPENSE)	(809)
ENDING BALANCE FEBRUARY 28	15,126

### Thanks For Your Donations!

Many thanks to the following neighbors and friends who made a cash donation to SRN between December 1, 2010 and February 28, 2011:

~ Linda Barnes & Robert Vanderwerf

~ Corinne Van Raden

Donations are tax-deductible and always appreciated! Please send them to the SRN Treasurer at Skyline Ridge Neighbors, c/o Karen Garber, 16238 NW McNamee Rd, Portland, OR 97231

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## Marjorie Livingston, 1938-2011

Marjorie C. Livingston, a long time Morgan Road resident, passed away at her home in Portland on Jan. 20, 2011. She was 73 years old. Born in Portland, Marjorie was the eldest of two children. She graduated from Franklin High School in 1955 and on July 3 of the same year, she married her high school sweetheart, James Livingston. They had two children, Susan and James. Marjorie and Jim operated a hamburger restaurant in St. Johns called The

Big Nickel Hamburgers. In 1969 they moved to Morgan Road. Marjorie is survived by her husband, Jim; daughter, Susan and her husband, Dan Norvald of Scappoose; grandchildren, James G. Livingston, David Norvald, Anton Livingston and Derek Norvald; and brother, Michael Lamper of Hillsboro. She was preceded in death by her son, James J. Livingston in 1994. □

## In My Opinion

### Bicyclists Should Obey Traffic Laws

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to an article by Jay Kravitz in the January 2011 issue. I agree that there is a road safety challenge in the Skyline neighborhood. The number of bicycles on the roadways in our neighborhood has dramatically increased in the last decade. Through education of drivers and bicyclists alike, it would help improve safety in our neighborhood. Personally I would never bicycle on the very dangerous roads in our neighborhood due to the nature of the steep hills with many blind corners all having the double yellow marking.

The Oregon Vehicle Code outlines the expected

behaviors and subsequent penalties for not complying to keep our roads safe. When traveling safely a bicycle must pull off the roadway when being overtaken by a vehicle in that same lane if it is traveling slower than the speed limit for that section of road (OR 811.425). A situation where the bicyclist does not pull off the roadway and yield the right of way causes an extremely dangerous situation for both the bicyclist and motorist alike. Voluntary compliance with OR 811.425 by the bicycling community would greatly reduce the chances of road rage, potential injury, and would make our roadways safer in general.

Scott Wheeler  
Rock Creek Road

### ► Road Safety Survey (continued from p. 1)

cars and motorcycles, tailgating, "drifting," driving too close to the pavement edge that endangers pedestrians, bicyclists not riding single file when cars need to pass them, and the terrible condition of Rock Creek Road in Washington Co.

The Deputies said it's important for local residents to report crashes, near misses, and speeding incidents to the Sheriff's non-emergency number (503-823-3333). This helps document the problems. Deputy Holoch said he would send crash reports to SRN for posting on the Newslines.

Effective mitigation will likely require both engineering and enforcement measures. Part of the problem is that, in the absence of posted speed limits, the default limit of 55 MPH is too fast for our winding, two-lane roads. Brian Vincent said that speed limits are set by ODOT following a request from the local government jurisdiction (Multnomah County or City of Portland) for a traffic study. Limits are set at the 85th percentile of vehicle speeds recorded during the traffic study, he said.

The Sheriff Deputies said that although they would like to increase their presence in Skyline area to enforce speed limits, under the current County budget for the Sheriff's Office they are limited to only one Deputy per shift who must cover all of Sauvie Island, Skyline, Dunthorpe, and Sylvan. They try to drive up Skyline at least once per day.

However, the Sheriff's Office does have a radar trailer,

currently located on Sauvie Island. Deputy Holoch said this could be set up in the Skyline area to help discourage speeding. He needs a list of locations along Skyline where the radar trailer could be set up.

The group discussed some other possible ways the Skyline community could get involved with mitigating our road safety problems: 1) contacting the Sheriff's Office if they have a suitable location along Skyline or other major road to set up the radar trailer, 2) exploration of an Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District to increase patrols similar to one in Washington County, 3) possible purchase of our own radar unit (hand-held or pole-mounted) for the neighborhood, and 4) volunteering to help observe traffic on weekends and use radar guns borrowed from the Sheriff's Office to record speeds. □

### Laura Sheldon, Real Estate Broker

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## Parent/Child Embarrassment

By Rich Edwards

It amazes me the things parents do that embarrass their children. When I was a child I was certain the only reason my dad went to work every day was to earn enough money to take his children places to humiliate them. I knew that my mom stayed at home so she could conspire with other moms on the best ways to embarrass a child to death. My parents had insurance policies taken out on us kids which, I am sure, paid double indemnity if the child were to die of shame.

I have jotted down some memories, similar to others I would be able to recall except for the fact that my mind, in self-defense, has pretty much repressed them.

*(At the gas station, two boys in the background doing the 'potty dance')*

Parent: "Can I get your bathroom key? My boys drank two liters of root beer trying to beat each other in a burping contest. They are about ready to pop. Ha, I made a funny. Get it: pop -- root beer. That's funny."

*(At Disneyland)*

Parent: "Snow White, Snow White! HEY SNOW WHITE!! Can I get a photo of you with my boy? He's just getting over puberty and it might help his self-esteem to get a photo of himself standing next to a pretty girl. Hey, where did that boy go?"

To know the level of embarrassment a child has suffered, one only need count the syllables in a parent's moniker. For example, in most cases, "mom" or "dad" has only one syllable. However, in situations of perceived embarrassment, the parents' names begin to stretch: the more syllables, the greater the embarrassment. This is often followed by a rolling of the eyes and a general rocking back and forth of the upper body in anticipation of a speedy exit. For example "Da-aa-aad! Quit talking to Disney characters (whoosh, zoom)."

Now that I am a parent, I can relate to how my parents operated. First of all, as any teenager will tell you, parents are completely clueless. They just do not realize that what might seem completely reasonable to any other human being can cause potentially fatal mortification to the average teenager. These things include:

- Existing
- Or (worse) talking to them in front of other people
- Or (much worse) talking to other parents
- Or (much, much, way worse) talking directly to the teenager's friends (AAAARGH!!).

The other reason parents embarrass their child is payback from when the child was small and did things to cause great shame and humiliation to the parent. This

was a time when the reasonably new parent still cared slightly what the rest of the world thought of him and/or had not learned to say convincingly, "That's not my kid." Children, especially small children, have a great proclivity to embarrass their parents. For greatest effect, children wait to do truly embarrassing things until a formal event, hopefully in the company of some sort of clergy or a seldom-seen, straight-laced maiden aunt.

Below are true examples wherein a child caused great humiliation to a parent to the point where the parent's eyes opened to previously unimagined size followed by a dropping of the shoulders and a general desire to turn into a garden slug and slink slowly out of the room.

*(At a restaurant with friends the parents had not seen for years)*

Child climbing out from under the table: "There sure is a lot of gum under the table."

Parent: "Well don't eat any of it."

Child (with an indignant air of disgust): "I won't."

Upon leaving the restaurant the parent notices the child smacking loudly.

Parent: "Did you eat gum from under the table?"

Child: (with an indignant air of moral superiority) "No, from under the chair."

*(Just before reception at the child's house following a funeral)*

Maiden aunt in formal black dress: "Denise, I think one of your dogs pooped behind the couch."

Child: "Aunt Beulah, in our house the rule is: 'Whoever finds it has to clean it up' and you found it first."

Mother of the child after showing Aunt Beulah, now holding large dog bomb wrapped in toilet paper, to the outside garbage can: "Aunt Beulah, you did not have to clean up after the dog. Really, that rule only applies to people who live here."

Now, my daughter goes to Skyline School. One of the things I like best about Skyline is that the parents care greatly about the academic success of their children and encourage learning. They take it so seriously that most of the kids don't find out how dorky it is to learn new historic or science facts until high school and sometimes not even then. A case in point: my father was driving a minivan load of people back to my house after a school carnival. In the minivan were my mother, me, my daughter and a few of her friends. I took the opportunity to entertain the children while teaching them a few science facts.

Me to daughter's friend: "Do you smell through your nose?"

Friend: "Yes."

Me: "You know about goats, right? Do goats smell through their noses?"

# Volunteer for SOLV Neighborhood Clean-up on Saturday, April 16

By Jolene Williams

This year's SOLV Neighborhood Cleanup happens Saturday, April 16. We'll rendezvous at Brooks Hill Church across from Skyline School at 9 a.m. and provide you with gloves, bags, safety vests and an idea of what areas need work. We'll clean up trash on roads from Newberry to Logie Trail, Skyline to Highway 30. Before you head out, we'll load you up with coffee, drinks and treats. You don't have to haul the trash you pick up. Crews will come by to pick up the trash collected from the roadsides.

Last April we had a fantastic turnout. Over 50 volunteers made the roadsides sparkle. We started the morning at the church with homemade bread, blueberry muffins, homemade lemon curd, Libby's breakfast bars, coffee...I never knew it would taste so good to pick up garbage.

We are looking for info about possible dump sites of tires or large amounts of garbage so we can arrange for a crew to work that site. Please call Jolene at 503-247-7135 with locations you have noticed that will need extra attention, and/or if you'd like to bring a morning snack to

share.

Last year, we had a few stories, like the bag of fish guts on Morgan that we forgot to pick up and Sen hauled in her car later and, well, it still had a smell for quite awhile. I locked my keys in my car at the Grange, but got lots of suggestions on how to get them out (it was still running) and then there was a wreck on the Pass near the end of our work day; traffic really picked up since they had to detour, much to their dismay, on Skyline.

SOLV IT is one of the largest Earth Day projects in the nation. Thousands volunteer to remove litter from roadsides, clean up illegal dumps, beautify and improve neighborhoods and restore natural areas. The Skyline Ridge Neighbors Cleanup focuses on roadsides and every year, 40 or 50 volunteers find enough garbage to fill a 40-yard dumpster. It's satisfying to see all the collected garbage hauled away.

Register and sign a safety release on site or online at [www.solv.org/volunteers/volunteer\\_calendar.asp](http://www.solv.org/volunteers/volunteer_calendar.asp). Search for April 16 events; ours is called "Skyline Ridge Neighborhood Cleanup." Volunteers need to be at least 6 years old; kids under 18 must be with a parent. □

## Sustainable Living

### SRN's Weed Tour May 21-30

Do you know what a butterfly bush or Scot's broom looks like? Can you recognize plants that have been deemed a threat to our native ecology? SRN invites you to its annual Self-Guided Weed Tour on May 21-30. See local weeds-of-concern close up and personal. Pick up a Weed Map and Resource Guide at Plainview Grocery or at Skyline Grange. Most of these plants are on Oregon Department of Agriculture's infamous Noxious Weed List and some are not, but are nuisance or invasive in nature. Weed signs are located along our roadways where parking is available. Weeds will be identified along Newberry Road, Skyline Boulevard (between Newberry and Logie Trail Road), Rock Creek Road, Elliott Road, and Logie Trail Road (Skyline to Hwy 30). Many of these plants look beautiful and healthy, because many of them are originally from other parts of the world, and have no natural insects

or diseases here to keep them in balance. Learn to identify these plants, monitor your property, and then learn the best methods in how to control them.

Do you know of a weed specimen along our roadside that you think should be part of this Tour? Let us know about it. Contact Sen Speroff (503-621-3331) or John Salmon (503-621-9726) if you do.

### Spring Means Garlic Mustard Control

For the 5th spring, SRN, Forest Park Neighborhood Association, and Skyline Grange will work together to control the spread of garlic mustard locally. Garlic mustard informational signs will be erected in April along our roadsides. Landowners, neighbors, and friends concerned about the threat of garlic mustard to our local eco-system will be pulling plants April-June. City of Portland Bureau

► **Garlic Mustard, p. 6**



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## One City's Wilderness: Hikes in Portland's Forest Park

By Laura Foster

Marcy Cottrell Houle, a Sauvie Island resident, has written a book, *One City's Wilderness*, that should be on the shelf of every Portland hiker. Houle, an Oregon Book Award winner, is a wildlife biologist who first wrote about Forest Park in 1988. That first edition of *One City's Wilderness* featured 13 hikes and hand-drawn maps. A second edition in 1996 expanded to 20 hikes, and included new areas of the park north of Germantown Road. This third edition, published by OSU Press, describes 29 hikes that cover every trail in the park.

Not only a hiking guide, the book covers the park's human and natural history. It's a book to pore over and plan your next adventure. Each hike offers a menu of upfront details: length, elevation gain, hiking time, difficulty rating, GPS coordinates, and a handy graph that

puts all that elevation info into visual relief. Once you're on the trail, the history, biology and trail descriptions make it seem that you're hiking with a knowledgeable, enthusiastic guide, which of course you are.

The hand-drawn maps have disappeared; the maps are now a map-lover's delight: rich in detail, in full color with contour intervals. A pull-out map shows the entire park's trail system and watersheds. The maps were created by Erik Goetze, who created the award-winning maps for Metro's *Walk There!* book.

*One City's Wilderness* makes it easy to identify native plants and birds with 84 full color photos, and for those of us who like to know the name of every stream we cross, every water course and watershed is labeled, described, and mapped. Want to hike every trail in the park? The book's "All Trails Challenge" helps you track your progress.

The park next door is one of Portland's most unique assets. How lucky we are to live so close to it. Whether you've hiked Forest Park for decades or are new to it, this book tells you stories and facts that will enrich your visit to this urban wilderness. □

### ► **Garlic Mustard** (continued from p. 5)

of Environmental Services and WMSWCD are also gearing up to spray and pull plants on public right-of-ways and with permission on private properties.

How can you help?

1. Volunteer to help pull plants before they go to seed. Directions for pulling will be available at Plainview Grocery and at Skyline Grange in April, or log onto [www.srnpx.org](http://www.srnpx.org), click on "topics," then "land stewardship," then "garlic mustard."

2. Educate yourself by watching <http://www.insitevideo.com/wff/garlicmustard.html>.

3. Don't spread their seeds. If you walk, bike, or stop your car along the roadside, you inadvertently may have picked up some tiny garlic mustard seeds. Scrub your boots, tires, and dogs. Don't track seeds home, into Forest Park, or onto a friend's property! Scrub, and scrub often!

4. If you have garlic mustard, don't ignore it. It will spread and become an even bigger problem. Pull it, bag it, and dispose of responsibly. Do not leave pulled plants on the ground! You may bring your bagged garlic mustard

plants to Skyline Grange. Bags should be tightly closed and any holes be patched with duct tape.

If you live within Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services may be able to assist you with your garlic mustard, log onto <http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=49877> for more information. If you live within unincorporated Multnomah County, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District may be able to assist you, log onto [http://www.wmswcd.org/public/file/WMSWCD\\_Permission\\_to\\_Treat\\_Form\\_2010.pdf](http://www.wmswcd.org/public/file/WMSWCD_Permission_to_Treat_Form_2010.pdf). □



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## Skyline is Home to Unique Free-Range Egg Farm

By Miles Merwin

Located on Skyline Boulevard not far west of Cornelius Pass Road is a new small farm business that's unique in many ways. Phoenix's Egg Farm is the only licensed egg farm in Multnomah County and one of very few which are truly free-range. Souriya and Sophin Khamvongsa along with their son Phoenix have invested a lot of time and energy to develop a successful small business producing a fresh and healthy product.

The family moved to Skyline in 2007, their first time living in the country. The egg farm started in 2009 with a flock of only 20 chickens, which quickly grew to 50. Eggs were sold from a roadside stand at the end of their driveway on a weekly pickup schedule. Demand soon exceeded supply.

The Khamvongsas developed a business plan for a larger operation, built hen houses and fences, and got the necessary permits and inspections, including inspection by the Oregon Department of Agriculture of their egg processing room, where eggs are collected, washed and refrigerated. They now have approximately 1,000 chickens in their flock, with more than a dozen breeds laying eggs of different shades and colors. Full production started in June 2010. The farm is currently producing an average of 55 dozen eggs per day, Souriya said. He expects peak production of about 65 dozen per day this summer, and plans for further expansion are underway.

Neither Sophin nor Souriya has previous farming experience, but Souriya's father and grandfather each had farms with 1,000 ducks. He also has cousins in Texas with commercial-scale poultry operations. The farm is named for their son Phoenix, born in the Chinese Year of the Rooster. The parents say he has a rooster-like personality and that he takes an active role in tending the flocks.

Sophin manages the farm business and marketing relations, and Souriya also has a full-time job off the farm. They both spend long hours doing farm work: collecting and processing eggs every day, making deliveries four to five days per week, cleaning hen houses, etc.

### Free ranging birds

Daytime, chickens roam in large, fenced enclosures; they nest in open wooden boxes in the hen house at night, safe from predators. They are never in a cage. Free range allows chickens to pursue their natural foraging behavior.

Sophin said there are very few completely free-range egg farms since a lot of land is required, it's labor intensive and profit margins are low.

Phoenix's Egg Farm produces both conventional and organic eggs; currently about 50% each. The farm is certified organic by Oregon Tilth. Souriya said the only difference between conventional and organic eggs is the feed source; all chickens are free-range. Organic chicken feed costs about twice as much as conventional. In addition to chicken feed, hens are fed a mix of sunflower seeds, corn, and vegetables. The farm has partnered with other local farms to give their conventionally-fed hens different fruits in season.

The Khamvongsas believe in ethical treatment of their animals. There are no antibiotics given or beak trimming performed, both common with large commercial egg farms. Their goal is to produce a healthful product for customers wanting a healthy lifestyle. Sophin said that customers with food allergies have told them their fresh eggs are more palatable.

### Deliveries to local retailers

As the only local producer in the county, Phoenix's delivers to retail outlets, with no eggs held for more than a day at the farm before delivery. Souriya said this contrasts with the industry standard which considers "fresh" to be 21 days or less.

Sophin said consumer demand is strong for both their organic and conventional eggs, with organic eggs selling at a higher price point to reflect the higher feed costs. They have some flexibility to follow market demand, she said, since they can easily switch from organic to conventional by changing the feed source (but not vice versa). She said eggs are priced to economically sustain the operation, not to generate high profit margins.

The eggs are now sold at seven local grocery stores. They are no longer sold at the roadside stand due to theft problems. Our local outlet is Plainview Grocery, where, Sophin said, the mark-up is lower than at other stores. Other retailers include New Seasons (Orenco Station and Beaverton), Whole Foods (Pearl District), Food Front Co-op, People's Co-op and Urban Farm Store.

With demand still exceeding supply, Sophin says,



Phoenix Khamvongsa helps his parents tend the flocks at the family egg farm on Skyline Blvd. (Photo: Sophin Khamvongsa)

## Plan for Your Land

Are you interested in conserving your natural resources? Managing your rural property to save time and money? Making your land more sustainable *and* productive? The West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District hopes you will join us to “Plan for Your Land.” Our five week conservation planning series on Wednesday nights during April will cover topics such as inventorying your property, testing your well, managing septic fields, fostering soil health, protecting your natural resources, managing mud & manure, and much, much more. Please visit our registration website for more details at <http://www.wmswcd.org/content.cfm/Events/Plan-for-Your-Land-Series> or contact Jen Nelson at 503-238-4775 ext. 111. Be sure to register soon - classes start April 6 and capacity is limited to 80 people.

## West Hills Woodland Night

WMSWCD invites you to a meeting on April 27, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd. West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Forest Park Conservancy, Metro and the City of Portland have chosen Forest Stewardship Week as the time for a free information night to answer all your questions. Representatives will talk about the projects going on in or planned for your neighborhood as well as overall visions for forest natural areas. This is also a great time to ask about what you should be doing on your land right now. Snacks and beverages will be provided. For more information, contact Michael Ahr, WMSWCD Forest Conservationist, 503/238-4775, ext. 109; [michael@wmswcd.org](mailto:michael@wmswcd.org).

## Forest Park Gains a Ranger

What’s 5,000 acres and green? Portland’s Forest Park. The close-to-Portland trails in the park can be as busy as a neighborhood street, teeming with bikers, runners, dogs and walkers, while near the Skyline neighborhood, remote trails and fire lanes offer a rugged, near-wilderness experience. All this diversity has been getting attention of late: bikers want more trails, a revised trail book by Marcy Houle celebrates the park’s ecosystems (see review this issue), and the City has hired a ranger, Bob McCoy, to help address the park’s issues.

Ranger McCoy knows it takes many people to be stewards of this enormous urban asset. He is looking for volunteers to augment his presence—to be extra eyes and ears, walking the park trails on a regular basis and chatting with users about etiquette (pack out those dog poop bags!). Four hours per month: it’ll give you a reason to get out and walk, and make a section of the park your own corner of Portland to know and nurture. An initial volunteer training is planned for April. Interested? Contact Bob McCoy at 503.823.5596 or [Robert.mccoy@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Robert.mccoy@portlandoregon.gov).

## Forest Park Guided Hikes

Explore your park! The Forest Park Conservancy, an

advocacy group for Forest Park, offers hikes each year. They’re free if you’re a member, \$10 if not. Space is limited. Visit [www.forestparkconservancy.org](http://www.forestparkconservancy.org) to sign up or learn more. No internet? Call 503-223-5449.

Upcoming hikes include:

- April 2: Saturday: A North End Adventure with Portland author Laura Foster
- April 7, Thursday: Native Trees of Forest Park with FPC Stewardship Director Stephen Hatfield
- April 24, Sunday: Owl Prowl No.1 with owl expert John Deshler
- May 1, Sunday: Owl Prowl No. 2 with John Deshler

## TVF&R Volunteer Firefighter Information

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue will be hosting a forum for anyone considering service with the Fire District as a core volunteer firefighter on March 31, 7:00 PM at 11945 SW 70th Tigard, OR.

The Core Volunteer Firefighter program was established to provide hands-on experience for individuals interested in supporting their community via community activities, public education, and emergency response functions. Core volunteers participate in fire and emergency medical service related drills, and attend classes to attain and maintain necessary skills related to fire suppression, life safety, rescue operations, property conservation, clean-up projects, and other related activities. If you cannot attend the forum and are interested in learning more about serving your community, visit our website [www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com) or call (503) 649-8577.

## County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

In an effort to strengthen our community’s disaster readiness, the Multnomah County Office of Emergency Management (MCEM) is seeking the perspective of county residents, particularly residents living in the unincorporated areas of the county. MCEM is currently in the process of updating the County’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

“Hazard mitigation” is simply taking actions ahead of a threatening situation in order to minimize the impact. Some things are preventable and some are not. We aim to take an honest look at our natural environment; assess possible impacts when the unpreventable happens and develop a list of priorities to address in both the short and long terms. A strong Local Hazard Mitigation Plan draws not only from technical and historical data but also from the local perspective. Please take a few minutes to take and/or encourage your friends to answer a few questions on our public questionnaire posted on our website at [www.multco.us/em](http://www.multco.us/em). Follow the projects link to our Natural Hazard Mitigation project site. The questionnaire is on the top right corner of the project page underneath the “Help us out!” logo.

If you have any questions, please contact Luis Hernandez, [luis.hernandez@multco.us](mailto:luis.hernandez@multco.us) or 503-988-6041. □

## Tree & Native Plant Sale: April 8-9

Nothing like buying a bare root tree to get the gardening juices flowing. Come to the Plant Sale at the Grange Friday and Saturday, April 8 to 9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You'll find:

- Bare root trees & shrubs (fruit-bearing, ornamental, shade and flowering)

- Native plants (large variety) from Bosky-Dell

Natives

To request a Native Plant Pre-Order form, email [skylinegrange894@msn.com](mailto:skylinegrange894@msn.com) by April 3. Pick up and pay for orders at the sale. Haven't pre-ordered? Just stop by. Plenty of bare roots and natives will be available to purchase that day. The quality and quantity are high and the plants are well suited for our area.

Volunteer at the sale! It's a good way to meet people and learn more about plants. Contact Catherine at 503.621.0225 about bare root trees, or Sen at 503.621.3331 or 503.708.1414

about native plants. The Skyline Grange is located at 11275 NW Skyline Boulevard.

## Ivy Pull at the Grange Woods: April 2

By Tracy Waters

Every first Saturday since November, a hardy gang of volunteers has gathered to whip those woods behind the Skyline Grange into shape! Scraggly and non-native trees have been removed and a likely trail route defined. We've generated nearly 130 hours of volunteer time, and to date only one pair of spectacles has been lost into the giant jaws of the wood chipper.

Now we're setting our sights on an Ivy Pull for April. Come join us and share in the satisfaction of visible progress. We'll pull and cut ivy Saturday, April 2, 9 AM to noon. Wear sturdy shoes and gloves, and bring your pruners! All comers are welcome! ☐

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## Skyline School News

### Used Book Sale April 11-14

The fifth annual Skyline School Used Book Sale will happen April 11-14 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM (Tuesday open until 5:30 p.m.) at Skyline School Gym, 11536 NW Skyline Blvd.

Please come to this bargain hunter's paradise and support the school library budget. We have over 6,000 items for sale. Most items are a dollar or less! You will find adult and juvenile fiction and non-fiction books as well as games and puzzles. Books on every subject and interest are here! The sale is open to the public but first check in and get a visitor's pass at the school office.

We would love your donations of used books! You can drop them at Skyline School beginning Friday April 1st until April 7th. There will be a tub outside the school doors.

Thank you for supporting the Skyline School Library! If you have questions please feel free to ask me, Jet Griffith, [jetgriffith@gmail.com](mailto:jetgriffith@gmail.com)

### Be a Brick: Buy a Brick for Skyline School

Want to leave your mark in the neighborhood? Or maybe just help a great school continue its tradition of educating Skyline kids in one of the city's most beautiful settings?

For \$40, your name will be inscribed on a brick to be used in one of the school's new habitat/landscape enhancements. If you haven't been up to Skyline School recently, stop by to see the many additions and improvements to the once-tired landscape, all the work of dedicated parents, students and volunteers. Come visit, enjoy the stupendous views from new benches, and support your local school.

Bricks are 4 x 8 inches, and are stamped by Stone Impressions, a family-owned business in Milwaukie. Your name or message can be up to three lines of fourteen

characters per line. Proceeds from the first 50 bricks will help fund scholarships for the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. and New York City. Proceeds then go to the Skyline Foundation, which works to keep class sizes small.

Order a brick by calling Skyline School for an order form: 503.916.5212.

### Putting That Wind to Good Use

By Ben Keefer, Skyline School Principal

Many of you have noticed construction on the school playground. You may remember we were part of a grant to have a demonstration solar array on our bus barn. We were selected for this due to our work to become an Oregon Premier Green School. The purpose of the project was to educate students, teachers, and families about the science and benefits of renewable energy technology. The program provides activity guides, science kits and demonstration solar electric systems at no cost to the school or the district.

However, due to the setup of our current electrical system in the bus barn, it became clear that the solar array would not work. The folks who were to pay for the solar-powered system looked for alternatives and decided on a wind turbine. After 18 months, during which the proposal was presented to PPS planners, community members and permitting agencies, the point of installation has arrived, with a planned date of March 23.

### Boy Scouts Collecting Food Donations

Boy Scout Troop 728 is supporting a program called "Backpack Friday" at Harrison Park School in SE Portland. Each Friday a large orange backpack is sent home with 20 families filled with food and other items. There are about 200 families who receive food, and the distribution

**Skyline School News, p. 10** ➤

## SRN 2010 Annual Report

The mission of Skyline Ridge Neighbors is to inform, educate and involve the residents of rural NW Multnomah Co. so they will feel more connected to our community. As a nonprofit organization, SRN relies 100% on volunteers and donations from the neighborhood. Here are some highlights of our accomplishments last year.

- Published 4 issues of the *Skyline Ridge Runner* and mailed them to every household in our area plus other nonprofit and public agencies nearby.
- Disseminated over 80 issues of the Skyline Rural Watch Newslines to subscribers of our up-to-the-minute email bulletin.
- Redesigned and relaunched our website at SRNPDX.org.
- Helped coordinate neighborhood response to the disappearance and search for Kyron Horman.
- Presented public meetings and seminars on a variety of topics: walks in the West Hills, growing local food, safe food preservation, home brewing, Sheriff's patrols and home safety, and CPR / First Aid.
- Helped support volunteer efforts to remove garlic mustard and other invasive weeds.
- Cooperated with West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District with local resource conservation efforts. SRN was named as WMSWCD's Nonprofit Partner of the Year.
- Sponsored the annual SOLV clean-up and organized volunteers for to pick up trash along public roadsides in our neighborhood.
- Organized the annual Summer Gathering neighborhood party and fundraiser.

## SRN INCOME & EXPENSES 1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE JAN 1</b>	<b>19,367</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Advertising	1,155
Donations - General Operations	617
Donations - Kyron Hormon Search	3,515
Grants	495
Interest	138
Merchandise Sales	270
Other	145
Summer Gathering	5,325
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>11,660</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	
Bank Charges	24
Hall Rental	175
Licenses and Fees	318
Miscellaneous	50
Office Supplies & Software	99
Website Development	3,953
Thank You Gifts	100
CPR & First Aid Class	340
Garlic Mustard Eradication	908
Kyron Hormon Search Support	3,515
Merchandise Expenses (T-shirts)	966
Ridge Runner	2,765
Summer Gathering	
Beer & Wine for Resale	344
Entertainment	350
Event Insurance	476
Facilities	165
Food & Materials	546
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>15,092</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENSE)</b>	<b>-3,432</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE DEC 31</b>	<b>15,935</b>

### ► **Embarrassment** (continued from p. 4)

Friend: "Yes."

Me: "So if you smell through your nose, and a goat smells through its nose, you must smell like a goat. Isn't that right?"

Friend: "Well, I guess so."

Me: "Most animals smell through their noses except snakes; they smell with their tongues."

Friend, shifting nervously: "Oh."

Me: "And butterflies smell through their feet."

Other friend in the car: "That's only if they are flying, otherwise they are tasting."

These are smart kids.

And this brings me to my original point which is, the things parents do that embarrass their children. My mother who had been quietly sitting in the passenger seat took the opportunity to say, "My feet smell so I must be a butterfly," all the while making little air quotes with her hands to simulate butterfly wings. I was so mortified the only thing I could say was "Mo-o-o-om!!!" ☐

### ► **Phoenix's Egg Farm** (continued from p. 7)

the Khamvongsas are considering expanding the chicken flock to 5,000 birds next year. Grocery stores want supply commitments that they cannot meet at current levels of production, she said. Meanwhile, the newest arrivals at

Phoenix's Egg Farm are a flock of 30 Kaki Campbell ducks. They are expected to begin laying in April. The fresh, free-range duck eggs will be sold at New Seasons and, depending on availability, Plainview Grocery.

To see more information and photos about Phoenix's Egg Farm, visit [www.phoenixsegfarm.com](http://www.phoenixsegfarm.com). ☐

### ► **Skyline School News** (continued from p. 9)

is rotated between these families. Backpack Friday was started by the school nurse because she realized that many students were not getting enough food to eat during the weekend. The school sent home almost 700 backpacks last year!

We will have a collection box at Skyline School until April 13th. The most useful items are peanut butter and jelly, pasta and pasta sauce, chili, macaroni and cheese, juice and healthy snacks and bars. If delivery of these items is difficult for you, please contact us at 503 466-2701. Thank you for your support. ☐

**Garden Gleaners Network.** New ideas forming, any interest welcome. To get on the email or call list, email natalie.harger@gmail.com or call 503-621-3215.

**Free Wood.** Start or expand a retail firewood business. Local Christmas tree grower needs to thin an overgrown planting and offers the standing trees (mostly 12-15 ft.) for free to someone local who can cut them before the end of this summer. Call Miles 503-621-9867, or email ridgebacktrees@gmail.com.

**Free Software Training.** Learn the basics of Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and more so you can help occasionally with the Skyline Ridge Runner and SRN website. Email ridgerunner@srnpx.org or call 621-9867.

**Free Compost.** Shadysprings Farm has free 2 year old compost available for your flower beds or garden. I will load your truck or trailer for free with my tractor, or you can pay Dexter \$10 to load if I am unavailable. Ask re. dump truck loads. Contact Karin at 503-621-6932 (farm) , 503-799-7082 (cell or text) or ssfarm@me.com. Or contact Dexter 503-621-9878.

**Skyline Memorial Burial Plots.** 4 consecutive burial plots in the Garden of the Apostles in Skyline Memorial Gardens. \$4,523 each if purchased today. Will sell all, or any combination, for \$3,500 each, OBO. Anthony 503.522.9593.

**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

**Owen West Electric.** Our specialty: service and panel changes; kitchen and bath remodels; security and yard lighting. 28 years experience. CCB#29492. 503.297.6375.

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

**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.

**Math Tutor.** Skyline resident Linda Lovett tutors students in SAT and ACT test preparation, and in all levels of math from 7th grade through high school trigonometry / pre-calculus. 503-289-2027 or lindalovett@comcast.net.

**Donate your vehicle,** running or not, to MIKE Program, commemorating longtime SRN resident, Michael Hartnett. Detailed instructions at [www.mikeprogram.org/vehicle\\_donation](http://www.mikeprogram.org/vehicle_donation) to support health and mentoring enrichment for teens.

**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.

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

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## Community Calendar

**March 31, 7 PM:** TVF&R Volunteer Firefighter Information Night at 11945 SW 70th Tigard, OR. Learn about volunteer opportunities for firefighters and the auxillary unit. Visit [www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com) or call (503) 649-8577.

**April 2, 9 AM – Noon:** Help restore the Grange Woods by pulling and cutting ivy. For info contact Tracy Waters, [bluewaters@pcez.com](mailto:bluewaters@pcez.com) or 503-285-3530.

**April 6:** “Plan for Your Land” 5-week course begins covering how to better manage your rural property. For more details, visit <http://www.wmswcd.org/content.cfm/Events/Plan-for-Your-Land-Series> or contact Jen Nelson at 503-238-4775 ext. 111. Space is limited.

**April 8-9, 9 AM – 5 PM:** Tree & Native Plant Sale, Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd. To request a Native Plant Pre-Order form, email [skylinegrange894@msn.com](mailto:skylinegrange894@msn.com) by April 3. Contact Catherine at 503.621.0225 about bare root trees, or Sen at 503.621.3331 or 503.708.1414 about native plants or to volunteer.

**April 11-14, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM:** Skyline School Used Book Sale at Skyline School Gym, 11536 NW Skyline Blvd. Drop off book donations at Skyline School April 1-7. Contact Jet Griffith, [jetgriffith@gmail.com](mailto:jetgriffith@gmail.com) for info.

**April 14, 7 PM:** SRN Board of Directors regular monthly meeting, Brooks Hill church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd.

**April 16, 9 AM – 1 PM:** SOLV Neighborhood Cleanup. Meet at Brooks Hill church across from Skyline School. Register and sign a safety release on site or online at [www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org). Please call Jolene at 503-247-7135 with locations you have noticed that will need extra attention.

**April 27, 6:30 – 8:30 PM:** West Hills Woodland Night at the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd. Representatives of local agencies will discuss plans for public land acquisition and management, including Forest Park. For more information, contact Michael Ahr, WMSWCD, 503/238-4775, ext. 109; [michael@wmswcd.org](mailto:michael@wmswcd.org).

**April 28, 7 PM:** Emergency Preparedness, talk by TVF&R at Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd. There will also be a brief SRN meeting to elect Board members.

**April 30:** Please return your road safety survey by this date. See the story on page 1 for more info.

**May 12, 7 PM:** SRN Board of Directors regular monthly meeting, Brooks Hill church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd.

**May 21-30:** Self-Guided Weed Tour. Pick up a Weed Map and Resource Guide at Plainview Grocery or at Skyline Grange. Contact Sen Speroff (503-621-3331) or John Salmon (503-621-9726) for info.

**June 9, 7 PM:** SRN Board of Directors regular monthly meeting, Brooks Hill church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd.



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