



Skyline Ridge Runner

July 2010

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 22, No. 3

A Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

Neighborhood Responds Quickly to Disappearance of 2nd-Grader

Miles Merwin

On June 4, second-grader Kyron Horman of Sheltered Nook Road did not come home on the bus after participating in a morning science fair at his school, Skyline Elementary. The school and law enforcement, including police, sheriff and FBI, immediately became involved. Search and rescue teams mounted an extensive search of the surrounding area and also parts of Sauvie Island.

The major search effort lasted more than 10 days and was one of the largest in state history, involving over 1,300 people from Oregon, Washington and California. As of July 8, the investigation by law enforcement and the search for Kyron are still active and his whereabouts remain unknown.

This frightening and heart-wrenching disappearance has weighed most heavily on Kyron's family, but also on the staff, students and parents at Skyline School and the community at large. This has been a difficult and trying experience for the Skyline area. We have been under intense scrutiny by the local and national media, and false and misleading stories about our school and our neighborhood have circulated. Parents, students, and school staff have been interviewed, and often re-interviewed by law enforcement.

However, rather than becoming paralyzed by fear, school parents and neighborhood residents responded quickly with an outpouring of generous support and concern...for Kyron's family, for school staff, for fellow neighbors and parents, and for the amazing men and women who appeared by the hundreds to search for Kyron.

The staff at Skyline, including principal Ben Keefer and school secretary Susan Hall, met one of the worst situations a school could face with an unwavering commitment to the children of Skyline. They provided the students, in the last remaining days of the school year, with a complex mixture of continuity and normality combined with an acknowledgement of the unexplainable.

Their caring professionalism in the face of this tragedy – not allowing their own emotions to get in the way of

servicing the kids – was an example that helped many Skyline parents manage their grief in the early days after Kyron's disappearance. As always, they have our community's full support and appreciation.



Decorations and messages fill the Wall of Hope at Skyline School for the safe return of missing student Kyron Horman (Photo: M. Merwin)

There were many people who gave donations and/or long hours of volunteer time to help support the search and rescue effort in a variety of ways. SRN received over \$3,500 in cash donations in person and on its website, from all around Portland and as far away as New Hampshire.

These funds were expended to directly support the search and rescue effort and, after all current expenses are paid, the balance will be given to Multnomah County Search and Rescue. SRN helped broadcast the call for non-monetary donations and other factual information on the

Newsline and website.

Neighbors and area residents contacted local merchants for food donations and dropped off a huge amount of food, water, and other items at Brooks Hill Church and the Skyline Grange which were then taken to the search and rescue command center at the county facility on Quarry Road. Neighbors assisted there in the making and serving of meals.

This generous, selfless response clearly demonstrated that although our homes are relatively far apart, in reality we are a close-knit community that is ready to come to the aid of neighbors in need.

Following are two first-person accounts (edited for length) from neighbors who were in the middle of it all at Skyline Grange and Brooks Hill Church during the first weeks of the search effort. (For the complete interviews, go to www.srnpx.org). Of course, there are many others who have equally compelling stories to tell about how Skyline School families and Skyline neighbors have responded to Kyron's disappearance. And there are many more people who deserve thanks for their hard work and donations during the on-going crisis, even though we do not know all their names.

Neighborhood Response, p. 8 ➤

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 or fax to 503.621.3450. Deadlines for all submissions are January 15, March 31, June 30 and September 30, unless otherwise announced.

☞ *Deadline for the next issue is September 30* ☞

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 (2009-10)

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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. Contact the Editor, Laurel Erhardt, at newsline@srnpdx.org or 503.621.3501 to submit items for publication

SRN Website

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

Skyline Newsline

Neighborhood news via email weekly

Subscribe via the link at www.srnpdx.org

SRN News

Treasurer's Report

By Karen Garber, SRN Treasurer

SRN Income & Expenses April 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010

BEGINNING BALANCE APR 1 \$16,835

INCOME

Advertising 240

Donations 69

Interest 34

TOTAL INCOME \$343

EXPENSES

Administration

Licenses & Fees 83

Logo design 50

Website 1,917

Ridge Runner 560

Summer Gathering insurance 476

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,086

NET INCOME/(EXPENSE) (\$2,743)

ENDING BALANCE JUN 30 \$14,092

*Kyron Horman Search Fund 6/1/2010 - 6/30/2010

CASH DONATIONS by check & website \$3,515

EXPENSES 2,602

FUND BALANCE AS OF JUN 30 \$913

*After all expenses have been reimbursed, any remaining funds will be donated to Multnomah County Search and Rescue.

Thanks For Your Donations!

Thanks to the following neighbors and friends who made a cash donation to SRN general fund between April 1 and June 30, 2010:

~ Linda Barnes & Robert Vanderwerf

~ Ava Chapman

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

We Invite You to the Summer Gathering August 15 at Skyline Farm

SRN Board of Directors

Save the date, mark your calendar - Skyline Ridge Neighbors invites everyone to the 20th annual Summer Gathering! This year it will be held Sunday, August 15, noon to 6 p.m., at a new venue: Skyline Farm, located about one half mile west of Cornelius Pass Road.

An annual tradition since 1991, the Summer Gathering is free and family-friendly. The public is welcome, especially folks from our neighborhood and their guests. It's a neighborhood party, potluck feast, music concert, fun and games day, and most importantly, the primary annual fund-raiser for SRN.



The 20th annual SRN Summer Gathering will be held Sunday, August 15 at Skyline Farm (Photo: M. Merwin)

Auction donations

All proceeds from the Gathering support SRN's educational activities, e.g. the quarterly newsletter you are reading, the email Newslines, our new website, community meetings, the Country Living series, weed control efforts, and annual SOLV clean-ups. Since SRN is a nonprofit, charitable organization, donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Any new or lightly-used items in good working condition or offers for services or special events are welcome for the silent and oral auctions. Here are some ideas:

- Household and personal items
- Furniture, exercise equipment (see note below)
- Gardening tools, power tools, etc.
- Electronic equipment
- Sports equipment
- Food and picnic baskets
- Wine (for a special raffle)
- Art works, photographs, crafts, jewelry, homemade items
- Books, CDs, DVDs, audio books etc (new & used)
- Special events, e.g. hosted dinners, outdoor activities
- Certificates for services, e.g. gardening, mowing, tutoring, etc.

Starting now, bring donations to Brooks Hills Historic Church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd., opposite Skyline Elementary. Drop off donations by the side entrance (under the covered porch) anytime. Contact Vickie Coghill (503.621.3507, catawho03@msn.com) in advance if you're bringing any expensive or large/heavy items. If you have furniture or any other large, bulky items, please bring them on August 9.

Please deliver all items for the auction no later than Monday, August 9. It takes time to process and inventory the donations so bringing them early is much appreciated by the volunteer auction team.

For questions about donations, contact Rich Edwards (503-621-3326, rdedwards@rdedwards.com) or Cindy Banks (503.629.9700, cindybanks@gmail.com).

If you have an easy-to-put-up folding canopy (not a closed tent), we would like to borrow it for the day. Please let us know in advance if you can bring a canopy; contact Karen Garber, (503.289.7169, kmgarber@gmail.com).

Volunteers needed

Like all other SRN activities, the Gathering is run by volunteers. We can really use your help before, during and after with a variety of tasks:

- Set-up / Take-down: Help before and after the Gathering on Sunday morning or early evening.
- Registration: Greet people, provide name tags, answer questions.
- Cashiering: Help auction winners at check-out on Saturday afternoon.
- Parking lot: Help direct cars.
- Drink servers: Serve beer and wine. (SRN will pay your tuition for an OLCC-mandated training course to become a licensed server.)
- Art table: Facilitate kids' painting and drawing at the Art table.
- Books & Music table: Help sell books, CDs, DVDs, etc.

To volunteer, please let us know in advance. Call 503.621.9867 or email president@srnpdx.org. Thanks!

Food and drink

Bring a large hot or cold dish to share. Put your name on the bottom of the serving tray or dish. The grill will be fired up so bring hotdogs, chicken or steak to barbecue. We will have serving utensils. Contact Laurel Erhardt for questions about the potluck (503.621.3501, laurel.erhardt@gmail.com).

This year, we will be serving Oregon craft beer on tap and Oregon wine, donated by local microbreweries and wineries. Proceeds support SRN. While it's okay to bring your own wine or beer, the OLCC sales license does not allow you to serve yourself. (Sorry for the inconvenience.)

Summer Gathering, p. 4 ►

WMSWCD Offers Help with Protecting Your Livestock and Property

Scott Gall, WMSWCD Rural Conservationist

Whether you have horses, cattle, goats, or emus, keeping livestock in Western Oregon can be a rewarding yet tricky labor of love. Our climate provides the perfect conditions for grass and forage but also for weeds. Summer weather in Oregon is perfect for trail riding, yet winters can be a muddy mess around the barn.

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District works with livestock owners in the West Hills on livestock issues. The three most common are pasture weeds, mud, or excess manure. The district offers free conservation planning, project management support and even financial assistance to help horse and livestock owners in the Skyline area find ways to alleviate these problems.

The creation of a conservation plan is a great way to think about the future of your property and to get to know the land a bit better. We provide technical expertise and work with you on a plan to improve the health of your animals, the quality of nearby water, and the value of your property.

The West Hills' steep slopes and loess (wind deposited soil) present challenges to conservation and animal management. Without deep rooted vegetation, horse and livestock owners have to be careful of where they direct water from roof gutters and which slopes they use for pasture. Also, limited flat ground can make it difficult to properly store manure, place watering troughs or even provide resting areas for the animals. Here are some helpful things to think about when dealing with horses or

livestock in the West Hills:

- Ensure your animals have a proper place to weather the winter...not on land you intend to pasture or hay in the summer. This can be in the form of well drained "sacrifice pastures" or paddocks, engineered "heavy use areas" or by limiting time on a particular parcel of land to just a few hours per week.
- Cover manure. This allows for quicker composting and prevents leaching of nutrients and pollutants.
- Make sure barns and outbuildings have proper and functioning gutters and downspouts that are piped well away from buildings or areas of heavy use.
- During the growing season, manage your pastures using the 3-7 rule: put your animals on your pastures if the grass gets 7 inches or higher but take them off if they eat it down to 3 inches. This provides optimal growth and nutritional value and the best defense against weeds while ensuring grass does not set seed and go dormant. However, this also means you may be feeding hay in late July and August.
- Periodically check for weeds in and around your pastures throughout the growing season and pull, spray or even disk/re-seed problem areas before they spread.

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is here to help you. Please call us with any questions or concerns you have about your pastures, manure piles, composting, water quality, and wildlife. Contact Rural Conservationist Scott Gall at 503/238-4775, ext. 105, or scott@wmswcd.org. □

► **Summer Gathering (continued from p. 3)**

Venue and parking

John and Rene Orlando own Skyline Farm and have generously agreed to host the Gathering at no cost to SRN. Surrounded by extensively-landscaped grounds, the farm has a soccer field for games and a large turf area for eating, listening to music and viewing auction items.

Skyline Farm is at 12735 NW Skyline Blvd. Watch for the "Skyline Farm" sign at the gate and gravel driveway. If arriving by car, park in the designated parking area at the east end of the farm, closest to Cornelius Pass. Attendants will show you where to park in the large, open field. For your safety and to reduce traffic congestion in consideration of nearby residents, please do not park along Skyline Boulevard.

Please do not bring your dog, even on a leash. Thanks.

Music and family fun

SRN is pleased to welcome one of our favorite local musicians, Lynn Conover and her band Gravel, to the stage. Lynn has been a regular on the Portland folk circuit

for nearly twenty years, performing in popular duos with Little Sue and Lowell John and playing with many other groups including Welfare Ranch Rodeo, Billy Kennedy, and the Lynn Conover Trio. (P.S.: Tips for the band are appreciated!)

There will be activities and games for both young and old, including a tug of war and other old-fashioned games. Kids are welcome to stop by the Art Table, make a drawing or painting, and take it home as a souvenir. Materials for painting and charcoal/colored pencil drawing will be provided free of charge.

You can also take a tour of the 5-acre, farm-to-table operation that produces fresh produce in season for Meriwether's Restaurant, also owned by the Orlandos. Farm managers will be on hand to describe the crops and production methods used on the farm.

Beginning at 4:00 p.m., you'll want to be present to bid on some fun and fabulous prizes reserved for the oral auction.

Please donate and volunteer, but most of all, come and enjoy yourself at our annual neighborhood get-together. □

Be timber savvy: watch out for timber thieves

Laura Foster

A Skyline neighbor reported a logging incident that has resulted in a lawsuit. If you're thinking of selling timber, her experience may provide you with valuable insights into the process and its potential pitfalls.

A few years ago, a logger left his business card at neighborhood homes. He was contacted by one neighbor and gave an estimate to log her property. She hired him, obtained a permit to log, and sourced mills, using several different mills for different types of timber. With each mill, she agreed to a price and set up a purchase order.

Logging began. Soon another neighbor noticed this logger might not have been following normal procedures and asked the property owner if she'd been getting truck tickets. These tickets list for each outgoing load the number of logs, the trucker's name, the scale, and the destination mill. She says she had not.

She began noting the daily loads hauled off and matching loads to incoming checks. However, she said checks did not come in for many loads, so she began calling mills. She told the Ridge Runner that the mills claimed not to have received loads that should have been bound for them. When she inadvertently called the wrong mill at one point and read them her logging permit number, she tells the Ridge Runner that the mill had received logs under that number but told her the name corresponding to that permit was not hers but the logger's. By calling many local mills, she found three other similar situations.

Her resulting lawsuit claims damages in the six figures. The loss of time, money and trust has taken its toll. She urges Skyline residents who are considering logging their land to ask neighbors for recommendations and to follow up with reference checks.

OSU Extension Service offers *The Woodland Workbook*, "Selling Timber and Logs" available at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1587>. Or call OSU's Washington County Office at 503-821-1150 to order and obtain other information related to forest management.

Field Demo on Small Acreage Weed Removal Methods August 5

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, in partnership with SRN, is holding a hands-on demonstration, Thursday, August 5th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Ridgeback Tree Farm, the home of Miles & Libby Merwin, 13950 NW Skyline Boulevard. Come learn about how to control invasive perennial weeds such as Scot's broom, Himalayan blackberry, holly and hawthorn, on your property.

You'll see a variety of methods to control noxious

weeds, including mechanical tools (e.g., brush mowers or weed-whackers) and also learn about the safe and appropriate use of herbicides for weed control. The tree farm offers a unique opportunity to see sites where weeds have already been controlled next to sites where they haven't. You'll hear from the owners and West Multnomah SWCD's Forest Conservationist, Michael Ahr, as well as a certified pesticide applicator who'll talk about sprayer calibration, safety, and herbicide specifics.

Please register by clicking "Events" at www.wmswcd.org. For more information, contact WMSWCD Forest Conservationist Michael Ahr at 503/238-4775, ext. 109 or michael@wmswcd.org.

2,460 Pounds of Garlic Mustard Collected

Sen Speroff

Over one ton of garlic mustard was pulled by 28 local residents in 181 hours of volunteer time. During the past four springs, Skyline Resident-Based Garlic Mustard Effort and many agencies race against the clock to destroy these highly invasive plants before they go to seed. This year Mother Nature did not help us. She gave Oregon a record number of wet days for May and a record amount of rain in June. This greatly hindered the use of herbicide application by agencies and it produced a lush growth of blackberries, poison hemlock, stinging nettles, and reed canary grass that made finding each garlic mustard plant more difficult.

We thank Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Portland Parks & Recreation, Clean Water Services, and Multnomah County for their aggressive efforts, with a special thanks to Mitch Bixby (City of Portland), Kendra Petersen-Morgan (Portland Parks), and Mary Logalbo (WMSWCD) for their expertise and dedication, and for keeping us in the communication loop. We are grateful to Metro for providing us with disposal vouchers at no cost. Portland Parks gave us twenty artificial garlic mustard plants to use next year to discourage us from using live potted plants at our roadside educational displays. Apparently, those maturing plants caused a fair amount of anxiety to agency colleagues, who were fearful plants would go to seed. No fear: each plant was assigned a watchful volunteer "pot-sitter." David Linden is Pot-Sitter Extraordinaire, tending our potted plant and display at Plainview Grocery for the past four years as conscientiously as if he was caring for a rare orchid. Rare they are not! Prolific and damaging they are! We thank all who volunteered to pull, those landowners who allowed entry onto their property, and those of you who took the time to educate yourselves about these plants that threaten our woodlands. We hope to see more people involved next spring.

For more information about garlic mustard, visit www.srnpx.org, click "topics", then "land stewardship." □

Learning From the Chilean Earthquake

Jim Emerson

We've all heard Oregon and Washington are subject to rare but powerful subduction zone earthquakes, but it's difficult to visualize the reality. I got a big visualization boost June 28 by attending the latest in OMSI's Science Pub Portland series, a 2-hour presentation about the February 27, 2010 subduction zone quake (Magnitude 8.8) in Chile. Since we in the Skyline Ridge and Forest Park neighborhoods have particular vulnerability to earthquakes due to our slopes and loess soils, I'd like to share a few highlights of the lecture.

The presentation was by three university professors of geotechnical and civil engineering: Pedro Arduino of UW, Scott Ashford of OSU, and Jack Moehle of UC Berkeley. They were part of a team sent to Chile a week after the quake to assess damage and learn more about the behavior of soils, structures, and tsunamis. They visited many areas in the quake "rupture zone," an area the equivalent of from Seattle to Medford and from the coast to the Cascades. The Chilean quake was much more powerful than the Haitian quake that killed so many. It drifted off the news radar because Chile was far more prepared and had far fewer deaths.

Still, over 8 million people were affected; 800,000 were made homeless; nearly 200,000 homes were destroyed as were bridges, port facilities, and commercial buildings; and 521 people are known dead. Electricity in 90% of the country was cut off immediately, with most restored in 24 hours. Cell phones failed after 3 hours, when batteries ran down at cell towers, and were out for 7 days. Water and sewer systems had heavy damage, especially on the coast. There were several major landslides, and widespread lateral spreading of soils which destroyed foundations. Due to toppled and split tanks at wineries, over 300 million liters of wine – nearly the entire 2010 vintage – were lost! There have been thousands of aftershocks, 19 of them in the 6 – 6.9 range.

What is striking is how similar the Chilean cities and towns look to our own. This is not a sad scenario of crumbled adobe, but rather modern concrete bridges askew and/or collapsed, modern buildings cracked or with collapsed floors, and one 14-story building that fell on its side, intact – like a giant cereal box tipped over.

The most fortunate physical fact is that the quake happened late in a very dry summer. There would have been far more damage if soils had been saturated. As it is, there were several collapsed buildings north of Santiago, on silty soils. Santiago is 55 miles inland, just as Portland is 60 miles inland. And it's 270 miles north of the "epicenter" at Concepcion.

One of the things I learned is that with these quakes, "epicenter" is not a useful concept; the subduction zone is a whole segment of the earth's crust slipping about 10 feet in 5 minutes, along hundreds of miles.

Educate yourself

The most fortunate societal fact is that Chile has educated the citizenry very well. People were prepared to be amazingly, though not happily, self-reliant, and they know what to do at the coast: run uphill, NOW!

In the coastal town of Dichato, 1500 homes were destroyed by the tsunami (10 meters of generalized sea rise all along the coast, with runups as high as 30 meters high at inlets and steep slopes) yet only 17 residents died, even though it was in the middle of the night. At a tourist campground, on the other hand, where visiting foreigners slept in tents, 99 of 100 people died even though the shaking gave them 15 minutes warning before the water arrived. Chile also has building codes generally similar to California, which puts them ahead of Oregon structures built before our 1993 code upgrades.

Can we in Oregon find any good news for ourselves? Yes! Our seafloor is subducting much slower than Chile's, less than half as much per year. So our quakes are much farther apart in time. But our average recurrence interval over the past 10,000 years is a little under 300 years (with a range of about 150 to 900 years) and it's been 310 years since our last big quake. So we may not be so far from our own wild ride.

The presenters urged Oregonians to make sure our houses are structurally sturdy; to keep some emergency supplies, food, and water on hand; to have simple emergency coordination plans for family and neighborhood; and to carry our awareness into public policies as possible. More information is available at the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries website, www.oregongeology.org. □

Passing of a long time "Hill" resident

Ras Sauer

A long time friend and transient neighbor, Kenneth Frega has passed away after a long struggle with cancer. Ken passed the morning of Monday June 28, 2010. Ken, Kenny or "Mountain Kenny" as many knew him, had lived in various places around "the Hill" since 1977. Kenny came here from Illinois with his daughter Tomorrow Frega. She lived with Kenny until 1981 then returned to Illinois to live with her mother and step father. The last resident of many of the old homes in the area, Kenny last lived off Smoke Ranch Road in the Dixie Mountain-Scappoose area. Kenny lived in more places and probably owned more Vehicles than any resident in the area. "Simple living" (ha ha), his classic chest length beard, his chuckle, facial twitch, long winded conversations, guitar, bango, and harmonica playing were all things we'll miss about his colorful character. Happy Camping, Kenny.

Live in the Country and Own a Dog? Take Responsibility

Bonnie T. Leiser

I live on a lovely, quiet, meandering road which runs through the forest. We have been here about 14 years and we absolutely love it. It is the magical mix of country with wildlife and serenity which holds our hearts. Most neighbors are very respectful of the environment.

I like to think that we all live cooperatively and in harmony with nature here.

Many families have pets. A recent experience, combined with prior situations, has caused me enough concern to write this article. A friend, a man in his sixties, was watching our house while we were gone. He was walking the road when a neighbor's huge dog ran off of its property and onto the road, aggressively coming towards him to attack. He hollered at the dog with all of his might and it did not actually attack. However, as he told me later, he had never been so frightened in his life. Even if the dog did not complete the attack, his fear was great enough to easily have caused a heart attack!

The electric fence, I later learned from the property owner, was supposed to keep the dog on the property. It had not worked in this case.

In an earlier incident on our road, another large dog ran off of its property and onto the road to attack me and a walking companion as we passed by. The owner came out and, after struggling to get his dog under control, explained he too had an electric fence. Clearly, that fence had not been sufficient to contain the dog.

My concern is that these large dogs are a danger to anyone passing: motorcyclist, bicyclist, walker, or runner. The danger to children, elderly or just plain folks, as well as wildlife, is just not acceptable. Dog owners, please keep your dogs under control. The law does not support keeping known vicious dogs. It seems that an electric fence is not sufficient to contain a dog whose instincts are to protect and attack.

Think about it! Is it worth it to have someone be maimed or lose their life and for the dog owner to lose everything in a lawsuit? Please, dog owners, keep your animals under CONTROL!

How to Report Illegal Dumping

Dave Thomson, Multnomah Co. Health Dept.

To report illegal dumping, folks should call our main line (503) 988-3464 and the office personnel will take in the information and start a file. Our office is connected with the County's Vector Control program, so "Vector Control" is how the phones are answered.

Generally, I handle all illegal dumping in the unincorporated sections of Multnomah County. If the

dumping occurs within the City of Portland limits, Metro directly handles the problem, and they should be called at (503) 234-3000.

If the dumping incident is in progress ("hot"), people should call 911.

If the dumping incident is "cold", then call us. We request the following information:

1. Location, as exact as possible. Closest address, if possible, a milepost estimate (MP 1.3), north or south side, over embankment approx. 50', etc. are examples of helpful location information.

2. Approximate size of dump and general description of dumped materials (pickup load of demolition material and waste tires, for example)

3. Any suspicious vehicles or people in vicinity near dumping location.

4. Name, address and contact information of reporter.

Please DO NOT try to pick up or sort through the material yourself, since it is a crime scene.

I personally consider illegal dumping a high priority and do my best to investigate and arrange for cleanup at the earliest opportunity. If you have any other questions, please call or e-mail, I am happy to help,

Dave Thomson, Code Enforcement Officer
Environmental Health/Nuisance Control
Multnomah County Health Department
5235 N. Columbia Blvd., Portland, OR 97203-0157
Main: (503) 988-3464 ext. 229
david.i.thomson@co.multnomah.or.us

Grange's Fall Garage Sale

Mark your calendars now. Skyline Grange will hold its fall garage sale Friday-Saturday, October 8-9, 2010. The Grange calls its sales "Everything AND the Kitchen Sink." Start collecting clean and functioning items to donate. Donations are tax-deductible. Smaller items are accepted anytime; just contact us first. Large items, such as hefty furniture, cannot be donated until October 1. The Grange does not accept large exercise equipment, computer components, televisions or car seats. For questions or to volunteer, contact grangegarage@msn.com or Sen at 503-621-3331. □

WEST MULTNOMAH



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conserving and protecting soil and water resources for
people, wildlife and the environment

www.wmswcd.org

► **Neighborhood Response (continued from p. 1)**

Brooks Hill Historic Church

Cindy Banks (taped interview transcribed by Libby Merwin)

On Friday (June 4th), after I came home from work, I heard a knock and the door and it was two officers and Ben Keefer, the principal of Skyline School. Ben said, "We're missing a little guy. Have you seen him?" I said, "No, I haven't. Do you want to search the church?" We searched then talked a few minutes about where else could be searched and then they left.

I seriously thought it would be over in a few hours. I thought, "Oh, he's just over playing video games with a friend, or the wrong parent picked him up, no big deal."

A few hours later, the news trucks started to arrive. The longer it went on, the more trucks arrived. I really didn't understand the impact of what was happening. The next day there were even more news trucks and more reporters there. On Sunday, a ripple went through the parking lot where the news trucks were parked: "The nationals are coming!" One of the women from a local station came up to me and said, "The nationals are coming – you'd better be prepared because this will explode, and they're going to take over your property. You'd better set some rules."

On Sunday, the sheriff and the FBI were outside in my parking lot giving press briefings in the pouring rain. After watching Captain Gates getting totally soaked, I thought to myself, "I've got this huge empty building, and these guys are just trying to do their jobs; they should really come inside." So, I invited them inside. Once they were set up inside, that's the way it stayed – it just seemed logical to me. A neighbor was in trouble and law enforcement was trying to do something for us in the neighborhood and I just felt like it was my duty.

When I got up the next day to go to work, the national networks had arrived. There were huge satellite trucks parked up and down Skyline in front of the church. They actually ran their cables through my flower beds and along my eaves (where I hang holiday lights). Frankly, I was overwhelmed, and I found it kind of shocking. I just kind of glared at them and went to work.

As the press conferences went along in the coming days, we started setting up systems for handling it. When

law enforcement wanted to have private meetings before the press conferences, we would clear the receiving hall 20 minutes before the press conferences. We knew which stairwells and doors needed to be watched. We got out our walkie-talkies. We usually use them so that brides can find us or we can tell them when to come down the stairs.

I got a message from a former neighbor on Facebook asking if I would keep everyone updated so I kept a live feed of all the press conferences at the church on my Facebook page, which I made public so that everyone in the neighborhood would know what was going on. I had reported all of them in the first ten days of the case.

Vickie Coghill did the most of anyone involved to help at the church. She spent over 200 hours of unpaid staff time there. Instead of working on her farm and doing the things she needed to do, she basically ran the church while I was at work. She had to give up a vacation she had booked and lost the deposit. I went to work early so I could come home for lunch, and then come back at 4 pm for the daily press conferences. Then towards the end of the first week I just decided to take vacation days off because it was becoming too hectic.

We learned about 3 days ahead of time that the family was going to come and speak to the press so we had to arrange how to get them in and out of the church without the press mobbing them. We moved my car out of my driveway (off Brooks Road), so the sheriff's van could park there. We took the family in through my apartment entrance and up the back stairs.

Everybody really jumped in and helped. Jan Campbell came to help us. As time went on and the press conferences became more hectic, Elinor Markgraf, Rhonda Kelvin and Ras Sauer all came to help manage the crowds. Jan soon volunteered to help coordinate meals for the search and rescue teams based at the Multnomah County facility on Quarry Road. The original plan was to do food intake and meal preparation at the Grange, but when they figured out that it was logistically better for the searchers to eat at the Quarry Road location, they decided to take donations at the Grange, and prepare and serve the meals up at the Quarry Road facility.

It was only a few days after Kyron's disappearance that people started stopping by asking if they could help. People would come by and say, "We want to help with the search for Kyron so bad, and we don't know what to do." Food was dropped off at the church, there were donations to Kyron's fund, people dropped off sandwiches for the

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searchers, they dropped off food for the press, and bottled water. Total strangers came and asked if I needed help with managing the church. One very kind woman dropped off toilet paper and paper towels knowing that this was having an impact on my supplies. It was really touching and really amazing how people came together - the immediate way people got organized. I think what it says about our neighborhood is that we have a neighborhood of deeply caring people and that we are very well-prepared to deal with a crisis.

I went across the street to the school when the parent meeting happened, and a couple of the parents and I started coordinating email lists, what should go out on the Newline, how to get info out, how to get posters out, etc. Everybody just pulled together with one goal: to help the family and to help coordinate the neighborhood response.

Ten days after his disappearance, the sheriff came and said the major search and rescue operations were about to cease. Many people in the room choked up, thinking, mistakenly, that that was the end of it, that they (law enforcement) were going to stop searching for him. But then the Sheriff clarified that they were only sending the out-of-state searchers home, and that the local searchers would be on call. The sheriff clarified that he did not want this to become a "cold case."

Then the sheriff cleared the property of the press, and he said, "We can see that this has had a big impact on your property, and we'd like to help you get it cleaned up." They sent a big truck with ten inmates, who mowed the grass, hand-weeded, and took down four diseased trees. They cleaned the church from top to bottom, and the carpets were professionally cleaned. The place really has never looked that good.

Some of the press were very courteous, some were not, but the sheriff wanted them there. The sheriff said at every press conference that they needed the press to get the word out. People would be surprised to learn how much law enforcement works with the press on these things. This is why we agreed to allow the press there: to help the sheriff. Our attitude toward the press was: they were just trying to do their job and they were useful to the sheriff.

What's been most striking to me is the difference between what's going on in the outside media, and the maturity and compassion that the neighborhood has shown. Neighbors who talk about the school, or talk about the sheriff, or talk about what's happening show a real intelligence and patience, even if they are sad and want answers. That's very different from what's going on in the media. The thing I'm most proud of is that while there's a lot of negativity toward the school in the outside media, the people in the neighborhood have rallied behind the school and supported them, and I think that's wonderful.

The FBI was there the first night. People have a misconception that the FBI was not there until later, but they were there the first night and dogs were there the first night. In fact, one of the things that made us really angry was that there were stories in the press that law enforcement had been slow or disorganized in their response. That wasn't what we saw at all. There was an unbelievably competent, caring, and organized response to

what happened. I was shocked at how many people were on the ground that night after he was reported missing. They were incredible.

One of the things that hit me the most, besides the fact that everybody in the neighborhood came together, was watching law enforcement. When you watch too much TV, you get kind of jaded and you think everything's an episode of "CSI" and everybody's walking around talking tough. What I saw instead was real people in law enforcement trying to do a real job. They're emotionally invested in it, they're there on their days off, they're pulling incredibly long hours, and officers are donating vacation time to each other so that they can stay on the case. The captain was having a hard time getting people to go home - they're there all hours. I saw officers there for 10-12 days in a row without a day off, and I saw officers in tears. I saw officers there at 6 AM and then again at midnight. I was really impressed, touched and amazed at how hard working they are, how much they care and how much they have sacrificed to contribute to the case.

Both Vickie, and myself, as owner of the church, feel very honored that it's available for this. The family is using it now when they need to meet with the press. When I bought the building, my intention was for it to be an asset to the community and so I'm very happy that it's been able to help with something like this. As long as I've lived in this neighborhood, people have helped me. They helped me when my dog was sick, they helped me when my mother died. When I almost lost the building last year, the neighborhood stepped in and helped me stop it. I've always hoped that I would be able to give back. This is not an inconvenience, it's an honor.

For the complete version of Cindy Banks' interview, please visit www.srnpx.org. If you don't have internet access and wish a copy at no charge, please call Miles at 503-621-9867.

Skyline Grange

Tracy Waters

On Friday, June 11 I needed to be at the Grange at 10 a.m. to meet our conservation forester. I got there early after I'd heard the Grange would be a place that the searchers for Kyron would be using for "down time."

Pat Barnard, our hardworking Grange Master, was already there. She'd made an 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. commitment. At 9:30 a.m., the joint was already jumpin! Folks came from all over our city to drop off donations. Cases of water bottles, boxes of granola bars, baskets of fruit, bags of candy bars, packets of individually wrapped cookies; it went on and on and on.

I spent the day acknowledging these generous gifts, unloading rigs while also listening to donors' fears and anxieties. People needed comforting. This was a grandmother's nightmare and all the moms and grannies were out in force! Jan Campbell, who volunteered to help feed the searchers, had amassed an impressive array of lunch meats and 25 baguettes. Those loaves became 100

Neighborhood Response ►

► **Neighborhood Response (continued from p. 9)**

sandwiches for the next day's lunch. A steady stream of people wanted to help all day long. Tables groaned under the weight of the city's generosity.

The workers kept searching, which meant they were still hungry. At one point I was asked to take potato salad to the Quarry Road site where the search teams were based. I collected an Air Force reservist on my way and was astounded to see Parr Lumber had arrived at the old quarry with grills, hot dogs, burgers and workers. They were serving hot lunches. It was as if a little city had been born at the Multnomah County facility. Plenty of cars, tents, fancy equipment and people. People everywhere. It was a mighty impressive scene!

Saturday, more sandwiches needed to be made. Someone had acquired 30 more long loaves. Laurel Harroun joined me in the Grange kitchen. Pat, Laurel and I cranked out another 120 buns with meat and cheese but it still wasn't enough.

Pat stuffed four 20 dollar bills in my hand and we called the Fred Meyer on Cornelius Pass. "Can y'all find 50 baguettes for us?"

"Sure, just give me 30 minutes."

"Really? OK!" So we set off with our list and found a full basket of 50 more baguettes in the bakery.

At the store, I paid for my own small pile of groceries and inquired of the checker, "So, Ben, can you make me a deal about these loaves of bread?" I briefly explained what we were about.

"Oh no, but maybe if you talk to Paul. He's the one in the red vest."

I addressed Paul: "Can you and I make a deal about these loaves of bread?"

"Oh no, you need to talk to Gordon." Gordon had just walked up.

I stuck out my hand. "Hello Gordon." I introduced myself and explained, "These baguettes are destined to become 200 MORE sandwiches for the searchers up at Skyline School. May I make a deal with you about this \$84.50 ticket?"

At this point he looked me right in the eye, palmed that ticket, stuffed it in his pocket and said, "Go make more sandwiches; we'll take care of this part."

On to the next meal. Jan had acquired 300 big baking potatoes. Friday afternoon, the Sunset Presbyterians came by, collected those spuds, took them to their congregation and baked them for the steak dinner planned for Saturday night. The coordination duties were complex. Pat was remarkable in her calmness and her ability to keep letting the right hand know what the left hand was doing. So much energy going so many directions, there was so much to do and so many volunteers were involved. Pat Barnard stayed calm and peaceful and steady with it all. Thanks, Pat!

Sunday there didn't seem to be much to do at the Grange as the sheriff had transported all the supplies to the Wapato Jail site. So I tried to read the paper and think about something else. But I live on Newberry Road and never in the 23 years I've been here has my road been so nonstop busy! Full buses, empty buses, BIG trucks with trailers with 4-wheeled motorcycle gizmos, horse trailers, police cars, sheriff's rigs, news vans; it was a steady stream of vehicles up and down. Too much activity to suit me on my country road and still we have not found the boy. Giving up the idea that bad things don't happen in my sweet neighborhood has been the most difficult part of all for me. □



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Neighbors in the news

Skyline Boulevard resident Alisa Roe has had her sculpture, "August Trunk," installed in Lake Oswego's fountain plaza at Millennium Plaza Park. The installation of the life-sized elephant is part of Lake Oswego's Gallery without Walls exhibit of outdoor sculptures. She created the sculpture over an eighteen-month period in Portland Community College's Rock Creek welding shop.

Local utilities want to pay you to produce electricity. Under a new program managed by the Oregon Public Utility Commission, Oregonians will have seven chances in the future to install solar panels and sign a 15 year contract to receive above-market rates for electricity from Portland General Electric and Pacific Power. The first opportunity to apply for the program was July 1, 2010. McNamee Road

resident Mark Pengilly was one of about 170 successful applicants. The next application date is October 1, 2010, with six more to follow over the next four years. Pengilly is on the staff of Oregonians for Renewable Energy Policy, which lobbied the legislature for the program. It's modeled after a German program, which makes residential solar systems more affordable for homeowners and small businesses. In other programs, Oregon offers state and federal tax breaks and cash incentives for residential solar installations.

For more information on the new program, search for "solar" at the Commission's website, www.Oregon.gov/PUC; for other solar programs, visit www.oregon.gov and search for "renewable energy" or visit www.energytrust.org and choose the "Solar for Home" link on the left side of the page. □

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Wildwood Nature School. New play-based preschool opening fall of 2010 on Newberry Road. Located on 11 rural acres where children develop through interaction with nature, authentic art activities, and hands-on discoveries. Space available for children ages 3-5. Email nfravel@wildwoodnatureschool.com or call Nicole at 408-656-6916 for more information.

Experienced cook looking for position as personal chef/nanny/senior companion in Skyline area. Resume, references, driving record, and snow-going vehicle available. Hours: week-days with minor exceptions. I have a strong Christian faith and passion for healthy food that tastes good. Deborah, 503.621.1205.

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.

For Rent: Every Man's Dream Building. 3200 sq ft building on NW Old Germantown Road. Perfect for storage. Open floor plan, 21 ft. ceilings, skylights, cement floors, finished interior, insulated, large sliding entry doors, woodstove. Water available. Electronic gate entry with total privacy and security. \$995/month. 503-240-1842.

Farm Fresh Eggs, \$3 dozen. Stand located by the gate at 12520 NW Skyline Blvd. Place your order now by calling 503-784-9990, or email skylineeggs@gmail.com.

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.

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 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

July 17, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm: Forest Park volunteer work parties. Details & required advance registration at www.forestparkconservancy.org.

July 28, 12:30 pm: Linnton Community Center monthly senior potluck luncheon. Bring a dessert or side dish. The main dish is provided. For further information, call Kate at 503-267-4790.

August 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm: Small Acreage Weed Removal Methods. Hands-on tool demo at Ridgeback Tree Farm, 13950 NW Skyline Blvd. For more information, contact WMSWCD Forest Conservationist Michael Ahr at 503/238-4775, ext. 109 or michael@wmswcd.org.

August 12, 7:00 pm: SRN Board of Directors regular monthly meeting at Brooks Hill Historic Church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd.

August 15, Noon – 6:00 pm: SRN Summer Gathering. Please join us for a fun, family-friendly picnic, music, games, garden tours and auction. Venue is Skyline Farm, 12735 NW Skyline Blvd. See this issue for details or visit www.srnpx.org.

August 21, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm: Forest Park volunteer work parties. Details & required advance registration at www.forestparkconservancy.org.

September 9, 7:00 pm: SRN Board of Directors regular monthly meeting at Brooks Hill Historic Church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd.

October 8-9: Grange Garage Sale. "Everything AND the Kitchen Sink." For questions or to volunteer, contact grange@msn.com or Sen at 503-621-3331.

On Behalf of Skyline Ridge Neighbors and the Skyline Grange

THANK YOU!

to the Skyline Community

Sincere thanks to everyone who donated money, food, water, etc.;
 to all who volunteered to work long hours at difficult tasks;
 and to everyone who expressed support for our Skyline School and its staff.

*If you gave a donation and wish to receive a receipt, please contact Karen Garber, 503-289-7169 or write treasurer@srnpx.org.