

# Skyline Ridge Runner

October 2009

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 21, No. 4

A Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

## Water Master to Speak at SRN General Meeting on November 5

By George Sowder

Darrell Hedin of the Oregon Department of Water Resources will speak at our next general meeting at the Skyline Grange on Thursday, November 5th at 7 p.m. The Grange is located at 11275 NW Skyline Boulevard.

As we reside in our small piece of paradise in the Skyline neighborhood, where the procurement of water is usually quite expensive and can be in limited supply, many of us have contemplated the continued availability of this precious resource as our population increases and greater demands are made on the sources of our water.

Darrell, the Water Master for Oregon's Northwest Region 18, can answer questions concerning how groundwater and surface water are administered and regulated in Oregon and will talk about property owners' recourse should our supply of water diminish. While he does not have detailed information

concerning the hydrogeology of the Tualatin Mountains here (e.g., "How much water is there?"), he can speak in general terms on issues surrounding the withdrawal of groundwater and exempt uses, water rights and permits. Please treat him kindly.

Also, this meeting is a wonderful opportunity to find out about the Oregon Water Resources Department, what it does, and how it does it. A state agency, its mission is to serve the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management through two key goals:

- 1) To directly address Oregon's water supply needs
- 2) To restore and protect stream flows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-

term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life.

By law, all surface and ground water in Oregon belongs

**General Meeting, p. 3 ►**



*This youngster at the 2009 SRN Summer Gathering has the right idea: "eat dessert first." See story p. 3. Photo: N. Harger*

## Give Your Feedback on SRN's Activities and You Could Win

Inserted in this issue of the *Ridge Runner* you will find a one-page questionnaire. SRN is seeking feedback from all residents of our neighborhood so we can improve our publications and educational events. Your input is important to help us figure out what we're doing right and where we need to improve.

To encourage maximum participation, those who return a completed survey will be automatically entered in a random drawing for three prizes: \$25 gift cards to McMenamins. The cards are good not only at our local favorite, the Rock Creek Tavern, but also at any other McMenamins venue.

We encourage everyone who receives a survey form to return it. Simply fold the sheet in thirds, seal with clear tape at the top and apply a first class stamp. If you need more space to respond to any of the questions, feel free to add extra pages (in which case, please return your survey in an envelope).

To be eligible for the prize drawing, you must live within the SRN boundaries (in NW Multnomah Co. from Hwy 30, and north to the county line from Newberry, Red Cedar Ct., and Kaiser Rd). Your survey must be completed and postmarked no later than the deadline of **October 31, 2009**. Please answer the questions as completely and candidly as possible. Blank surveys don't count! So that we can contact you if your name is drawn, please include your telephone number or email address at the bottom of the survey. Your answers will be kept confidential. Members of the SRN Board are not eligible to enter the prize drawing and only one prize per household will be awarded. Winners will be drawn by random number at the SRN Board of Directors meeting on November 8 (6 pm at Brooks Hill Church).

We very much appreciate your taking the time to give us your constructive opinions on our publications and events. Your input will help us serve you better. Thank you! ☐

# Skyline Ridge Runner

**Editor:** Laura Foster

**Production:** Miles Merwin, Libby Merwin, Karen Garber

**Contributors:** Cindy Banks, Rich Edwards, Elinor Markgraf, Natalie Harger, Sen Speroff, Heather Nelson Kent, George Sowder

**Logo and artwork:** Ryan Anderson, Bruce Riches

Send comments, articles and opinions to the Editor, 14355 NW McNamee Road, Portland, OR 97231, ridgerunner@skylineridgeneighbors.org or fax to 503.621.3450.

## Skyline Ridge Neighbors Inc.

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

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## Skyline Rural Watch Newsline

Subscribe to SRN's weekly email newsletter of local events and news. Contact the Editor, Rich Edwards, at newsline@skylineridgeneighbors.org or 503.289.7169 to subscribe or submit items for publication

## SRN Website

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

Your source for local News and Humor

Subscribe via [newsline@skylineridgeneighbors.org](mailto:newsline@skylineridgeneighbors.org)

# SRN News

## Treasurers Report

By Laurel Erhardt, SRN Treasurer

Special thanks to those who worked so hard to make the Summer Gathering a fun time and profitable event. And thank you to Pat Brady and the Brumleys for taking a moment to write a donation check to SRN. Below are receipts and expenses from July 1 to October 2, 2009 for SRN.

## SRN Income & Expense 7/1/09 Thru 10/2/09

### Income

Ridge Runner Advertising	\$ 245
Donations	35
Summer Gathering	4,045
Interest Income	48

Total Income \$ 4,373

### Expenses

SOLV roadside cleanup	\$ 285
Ridge Runner Printing & Postage	669
Summer Gathering	485

Total Expenses 1,439

**Net Income** \$ 2,934

As usual, I welcome all comments and suggestions and your fiscally conservative board will continue to use your donations wisely. So, don't hesitate to send \$30 to demonstrate your continued support of the 501(c)3 Skyline Ridge Neighborhood Association. Donations can be sent to "SRN" c/o Laurel Erhardt, 14416 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR 97231. □

## Noble Fir Christmas Trees

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*\* Please call ahead \**

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**Ridgeback Tree Farm**

13950 NW Skyline



## SRN Thanks Donors and Volunteers for 2009 Summer Gathering

By the SRN Board of Directors

The local community turned out on August 8th at Skyline Elementary School for the 2009 edition of the SRN Summer Gathering. Not just a fun party, the Gathering is also the primary annual fundraising event for Skyline Ridge Neighbors, your all-volunteer, nonprofit neighborhood association. We really appreciate the help and support we received from all the volunteers and donors to this year's Gathering. Needless to say, we would not be able to carry on our activities for the community without you!

### Skyline School

Following the success of last year, Skyline School was again the host for the 2009 Gathering. We are very pleased to work with one of the "bedrock" institutions in our neighborhood. A big shout-out goes in particular to Principal Ben Kiefer for taking time out of his day off to be there and help us with on-site arrangements. Thank you, Ben!

### Volunteers

The Gathering is made possible through the hard work of many volunteers who generously donate their time before, during and after the event. SRN wishes to gratefully thank the following volunteers who worked this year (with apologies to any others whose names we have inadvertently missed!):

Bobbie Linn, Carole Hallet, Cassidy Aiolla, Diane, Rich & Chaucie Edwards, Cindy Banks, Donna & Tim Meyers, Elinor Markgraf, George Sowder, Jennifer Jenkins, Joe & Sharon Barthmaier, John Chen, John Desmarais, Jolene Williams, Judy Flynn, Karen Garber, Kate Eskew, Keith Hess, Laura & Kevin Foster, Laurel Erhardt, Sen & Leon Speroff, Libby & Miles Merwin, Natalie Harger, Nora Schreiber, Pat & Jim Barnard, Pat Brady, Ras & Dustin Sauer, Rebecca Jenkins, Rhonda Kelvin, Sara Bowersox, Vickie Coghill, and Zach Schuman.

### Donors

The Gathering would not fulfill its purpose without the generous donations of goods and services that we receive from both individuals and local businesses for our fund raising auctions. SRN wishes to sincerely thank the following individual and business donors this year:



Cheryl Neal, Cindy Banks, Gary & Kelly Kuntz, Grant Law, Jan & Tom Campbell, Jim & Sherry Bourdin, Jim Livingston, Joan Tanner, Joe & Sharon Barthmaier, John & Kate Eskew, John Gessner, Jolene Williams, Karen Garber & John Desmarais, Laura & Kevin Foster, Laurel & Joe Erhardt, Libby & Miles Merwin, Mary Young, Mitch & Harriet Greenlick, Rich & Diane Edwards, Richard & Bobbie Linn, Sara Bowersox & Morgan Beller, Sen & Leon Speroff, Tara Christie, Tim & Donna Meyers, and Zoe Bacon.

Liz Star & James Lyons (**Amber Lion**), Jake Shivery (**Blue Moon Camera & Machine**), Cindy Banks (**Brooks Hill Historic Church**), John Gritzmacher (**Busy Bee Gardeners**), Linda Worley (**Cornerstone Hunters & Jumpers**), Cherlyn Newcomer (**Floeter's Attic**), Michelle Busard (**Forest Park Conservancy**), Cindy Roach (**Forms in Clay**), Gary Houston (**Gary Houston Design & Illustration**), Terry & Sandi Hart (**Hart Tree Farm**), Ivan McLean (**Ivan McLean, Inc.**), BJ Jensen (**Jensen & Marineau Ceramics**), Don Kruger (**Kruger's Farm Market**), Dan Cadmus (**Linnton Feed & Seed**), Malu Day Spa, MarTANi Tanning Salon, McMenamins Rock Creek Tavern, Jim Means (**Means Nursery**), Katie Traunweiser (**One With Heart Tulen Center**), Laurel Hennessey (**Pet Barn**), Christina Traunweiser (**Phoenix Farm**), Ken Pincus (**Pincus Pottery Studio**), Jim & Peggy Kessinger (**Plumper Pumpkin Patch & Tree Farm**), Miles & Libby Merwin (**Ridgeback Tree Farm**), Angela Schillereff (**Sauvie Island Kennels**), Chief Michael Greisen (**Scappoose Rural Fire District**), Pat Barnard (**Skyline Grange**), Nora Schreiber (**Skyline Therapeutic Massage**), St Johns Bookseller, Pete Davis, DVM (**St Johns Veterinary Clinic**), Bill Hughes (**W A Hughes Construction**), and Ron & Jennifer Rich (**Oblation Papers and Press**). □

### ➤ General Meeting (continued from p. 1)

to the public. The Water Resources Department administers laws governing surface and ground water resources. It protects existing water rights, facilitates voluntary stream flow restoration, increases understanding of the demands on the state's water resources, provides accurate and accessible water resource data, and facilitates water supply solutions.

The director of the Water Resources Department is appointed by the governor for a four year term subject to Senate confirmation. The Water Resources website, [www.wrd.state.or.us](http://www.wrd.state.or.us), has a wealth of useful information. □

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## Little Furry Winged Creatures that Come to Call in the Night

By Rich Edwards

Over the course of a winter, window screens can get pretty dirty. Not needing window screens in the winter, we took them down for cleaning. That was several years ago. One hot day this summer, we left the windows to our bedroom open to let the room cool off. If the lights are out, not too many bugs get in; a few moths maybe, and this time, one giant moth-eating bat.

Normally, I like bats. They are like flying bug vacuums and do a great job keeping the night skies safe from moths. To encourage the little mammals, once I even made a bat house. However, upon realizing the amount of air required to be between me and the ground should I mount the bat house at the recommended elevation high in a tree, I decided to not attempt improving on Mother Nature. On another occasion I found evidence of bats living in our attic and I decided that we could surely let the little guys have some rent free space as reward for all the hard work they do every night sucking up air borne insects. I also decided to never go into the attic again.

On that hot night this summer, Diane woke up around 2:00 a.m. She turned on the light and calmly screeched, "RICH, THERE'S A BAT!"

In my dreamlike haze I pictured a Louisville Slugger in a co-ed softball game and said, "Whuh?" I then got a truer understanding of the situation when Diane clarified her previous statement by saying, "A BAT!"

I became fully awake standing in the far corner of the bedroom, but don't remember the process. Perhaps the human brain is unable to store and recall events that take only .000000001 milliseconds.

The bat flew around the room like a toy airplane on a string. It was about the size of a robin, and you could tell it had murder on its mind by the way it stayed pretty much about 4 feet off the floor taking one long, circular banked turn around the room, over and over. Every time it got near me I did my "mime-in-a-box" dance trying to fool the creature into thinking that if he came too close he would crash into a glass wall. I tried to protect the poor animal by making safety sounds like "Hup-dit-dit-dot-DOH-YA-YEH-dit-dut" when he would come close.

Diane did her best to assist, peering out of the bathroom, cracking the door open a micro-fraction of an inch. I requested assistance from her, using my best emergency responder voice: "Diane, get a blanket."

She answered in the way that made sense to her. "YOU get a blanket." I said nothing at this point because if I were

to step away from the corner I was cowering in, the entire fake glass mime wall would collapse.

At about that time, the bat had finished his 400th circle and was looking for a place to land. I really thought the top of the curtains would work for him, but after inspecting and rejecting the curtains about 20 times, it appeared he did not like our brand of curtains.

Finally, Diane said, "I'm getting out of here," and, as a good and protective husband I took the attitude of "Not before me, you're not."

Standing in the hallway, we considered sleeping in a different room. However, with two extra kids in the house, the best spots were taken. Besides, all of the good blankets were in with the bat. I suggested that one of us should find a blanket, enter the room, and subdue the beast. Diane responded by pulling a beach blanket out of thin air. I swear it was like one of those cartoons where the character reaches behind their back and pulls out a locomotive. Apparently,

her part of the plan was done and it was my job to fight the fiend. I entered the room and, timing it just right, I threw the blanket toward the brute, coming within half a room length of not even being close. It was at that time I realized I now had no protection at all. My eyes opened to a previously unimaginable size, and I resumed my speed mime routine. I must have looked like a bug-eyed Marcel Marceau on fast-forward, except that, even with Marceau's customary white face paint, I was probably paler.

Diane suggested we turn out the lights in the bedroom and, as she did that, I exited the room in such a way as to leave permanent burn marks on the carpet. We then went downstairs and turned on every light we own inside and outside hoping that the bat would find the open window and make his way back out. After allowing our heart rates to slow down into the three digit range, we went back upstairs to check the bat's progress. It appeared that he either flew out the window or landed someplace. I was thinking if someone were making a teen movie, a good gag would be for one of the characters to take a pair of black socks, shake out the curtains, and then throw the socks at one of the other teens while making screechy noises. Wouldn't that make a funny scene? However Diane saw me get the socks out of the drawer and suggested that I "Not even think about it."

We verified the bat had indeed gone on to live another day in the great outdoors (or more likely our attic). We were able to fall asleep again safe in our bed, just as the sun was rising. □



USGS

## Catarino Villareal, 1958-2009

By Elinor Markgraf

Long time resident of the Folkenberg/Cornelius Pass neighborhood was killed in a motorcycle crash September 9. Catarino Floyd Villarreal was 50.

Cat is survived by his partner of 30 years, Kim Holm, and their five sons, Avery 21, Ryan 19, Cameron 17, Kurtis 8, and Joseph 5. Kim and Cat's first grandchild, Makenzie Clara Catarino Villarreal, was born to Avery and his partner Breanna Pulliam four days after Cat's death. He also leaves his mother, Ruth, brother, Harrald, and sister, Monika.

Cat was born in Auburn, California on November 5, 1958 to Catarino and Ruth Villarreal. Kim met Cat in 1979 and they lived together in Aloha. Cat worked in construction. They moved to their present home in 1982.

Kim said when they first saw their property they didn't even bother to look at the house, but walked up the

hill and into the woods deciding then and there that this was where they wanted to live.

All who knew Cat were struck by his vitality, his devotion to his children and his passion for life. He will be missed deeply for many years by all whose lives were touched by his.

Kim would like to extend her thanks to the community for the outpouring of sympathy to her and her family.

Now that the initial shock has subsided Kim is facing the overwhelming task of carrying on as a mother and sole breadwinner. Cat and Kim poured their lives into our schools, our neighborhood and our children. During the coming months we need to keep Cat's family close in our hearts.

If you'd like to help with meals please call Nora Schreiber 503.645.3119.

If you would like to help with expenses you can make a deposit at any USBank, in the Villarreal donation account.

□

## Country Living

### Pet the Lambs and Learn about Raising St. Croix Sheep at Grange October 17

By Natalie Harger/Laura Foster

Learn about raising St. Croix sheep in a hands-on talk with questions and answers, led by sheep breeders Linda and Eddie Barnes of Pauly Road. The Barnes will bring two lambs to the talk at the Skyline Grange on October 17 at 9 a.m.

St. Croix sheep are ideal for people wanting to raise an animal, perhaps as part of a 4H project. The sheep are hair sheep, which means they don't need shearing; they are easily manageable and do a good job eating undesirable plants like Scot's broom and blackberry. They don't require alfalfa; grass hay is fine with them; they are extremely parasite resistant as well.



USDA ARS

They can be raised for meat, which is reportedly delicious, with sheep butchered at about ten months. Next year St. Croix sheep will be the featured breed at the Oregon State Fair.

The talk is free, with a suggested donation of \$3 per person to help cover the rental cost of the Grange hall.

*Skyline Ridge Runner*

Contact Natalie Harger for more information: Natalie\_Harger@beavton.k12.or.us.

This talk is part of an ongoing series of talks along topics relevant to life in the country. Other talks have included beekeeping and rainwater harvesting. If you have an idea for a future talk, contact Natalie or any SRN board member. □

### Full Color Maps of Skyline Area for Sale

SRN offers a 34 x 44 inch color wall map made by Metro that shows an aerial photo of our boundaries in Multnomah Co., overlaid with street names, parcel outlines, creeks, etc. Price is \$23 each. Contact [president@skyline-ridgeneighbors.org](mailto:president@skyline-ridgeneighbors.org) or 503.621.9867.

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## Skyline Ridge Neighbors Gets a New Logo and Website

By Cindy Banks

The SRN board has been working on a long-term project to rebuild our website. Technology has changed a great deal since the original site was built. Websites in the past were designed in a way so that only people who owned special software could make changes. Agnes Kwan of Skyline Boulevard has been the single person updating web content for several years and doing a great job, but it's a lot of work for one person.

New website tools make it possible for a website to become more interactive and receive content from multiple sources. New technologies also make common tasks easier to implement. For example, our email Newslines will be easier to build and new technology will provide additional resources, like an improved community calendar.

As we have been working on this project, the issue of our graphics has come to the surface. Since new graphics have to be built in order to complete the website, the SRN board decided this might be the time to look at creating a logo for SRN. The primary visual piece that SRN uses in our publications has been the beautiful drawing that Bruce Riches created many years ago. You can see it on the nameplate of the newsletter you are holding now. Many of us in the neighborhood really love this art and it has a special place in our history.

However, an illustration or drawing such as the one Bruce created is not the same as a logo. Art is personal and an expression of any size or complexity. A logo, on the other hand, is specifically designed to communicate identity in a small amount of space with a minimum amount of complexity. A logo design is usually something that can



be rendered in color, black and white or grayscale, resized easily for many different uses, and doesn't suffer on a copy machine. Logos can also be reproduced in different media without losing their graphic impact. Think about how simple and recognizable the Apple logo is, and the effectiveness of International Business Machines decision to shorten its identity to the famous IBM logo.

The board decided that Bruce Riches' drawing should be honored as the art it was intended to be and not, depending on the media and purpose, squeezed, resized, stretched, cut and duplicated into something that doesn't look as it was originally intended. The decision was made to keep the drawing for the nameplate of the Skyline Ridge Runner, where space allows it to be used correctly, and also to create a new logo to meet our other needs.

The criteria used for creation of the logo were:

- The logo must reference elements of Bruce Riches' original drawing. It must include a road and trees and at least one other element from the drawing such as a rural building or animals.
- The logo must communicate the same rural feeling of the drawing in a small amount of space.
- The logo must communicate the Skyline Ridge Neighbors name in a compact space.
- The logo must be easily resized, copied, and used in various media without losing the quality of the graphic, i.e., it must have a minimum of small lines. (The current drawing is intricate and detailed so it's easy to lose the quality of it when duplicated.)

I brought a proposal to the board to use the graphic design services of Ryan Anderson. I've worked with Ryan on many major marketing campaigns at my job so I was sure of the quality of the work. He also offered a deeply discounted price since SRN is a nonprofit. Ryan did our logo for \$350. Though he is not from the ridge, he drove the roads of Skyline so that he had a sense of the landscape here, and the result, we hope you'll agree, is beautiful.

The logo he created was approved at the board meeting on September 13. We hope that you like it. We believe it will add to the website and be useful in other projects for many years to come. □

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## Results of Spring Garlic Mustard Effort

By Sen Speroff

For the third spring, SRN, Forest Park Neighborhood Association, and Skyline Grange teamed up to help control the spread of garlic mustard. Twenty-three SRN/FPNA residents pulled 1,560 pounds of this menacing plant. We were relieved to find that garlic mustard had not further expanded its territory along Skyline west of Newberry Road.

We thank West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) for its support. Metro provided us with vouchers for disposal without cost. And did you see our new roadside signs that clearly indicated garlic mustard is a "BAD" plant! These signs and plastic bags were possible through a generous grant from WMSWCD. Over 170 pieces of information were taken from the literature boxes on these signs by passersby.

Our work was a part of an intense coordinated effort

to control garlic mustard in the West Hills. The City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, WMSWCD, Clean Water Services, and Multnomah County monitored, spot sprayed and hand-pulled plants along our roadways. Many landowners benefited from assistance by these agencies on their private properties.

What can you do to help control garlic mustard?

- Become educated. Watch "Stemming the Tide: Garlic Mustard ID and Control" at [www.in-sitevideo.com/wff/garlicmustard.html](http://www.in-sitevideo.com/wff/garlicmustard.html). It's an excellent 13-minute movie.

- Do not be deceived; garlic mustard has not been eliminated. Plan on volunteering next spring.

- If you have garlic mustard on your property, help may be available. For an agency to work on private land, the owner must sign a "Permit of Entry" form first. Contact one of the agencies listed above or us for information: Sen Speroff, 503.621.3331, and Karen Smith, 503.285.0207, coordinators for the SRN/FPNA and Skyline Grange effort. □

## Grange News

### Fall Garage Sale

Skyline Grange will hold its fall Garage Sale on Friday and Saturday, October 23-24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Items from all sections of the household are wanted, including furniture, bedding, kitchen equipment, old metal tools, gardening essentials, kids' stuff, and of course, books, DVDs, and records. All proceeds go to the Grange's Building Maintenance and Improvement Fund.

Donations are tax-deductible. Donations can be dropped off at the Grange October 17 from noon to 1 p.m., October 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and October 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Items should be clean and in good working condition. We do not accept car seats, televisions, computers, audio tapes, or large exercise equipment. Questions about donating or volunteering, contact Sharon Barthmaier (October 4-15) at 503.286.1261 or Sen Speroff (October 16-24) at 503.621.3331.

### Saturday Soup Supper

Skyline Grange invites you to its annual Soup Supper on Saturday, November 7 from 5-8 p.m. It's a perfect place to be on a rainy, foggy autumn evening. We do the cooking; you enjoy hearty homemade soups, homemade breads, fresh salads, homemade desserts and conversation with neighbors. Suggested donation is \$5/adult or \$12/family. Questions or to help, contact Tracy Waters at 503.285.3530 or [bluewater@pcez.com](mailto:bluewater@pcez.com).

### Donate to the Oregon Food Bank

During the Garage Sale and Soup Supper, you can drop off food donations for the Oregon Food Bank. The Bank particularly appreciates canned vegetables, fruits and meats, flour, oats, soups, nonfat milk, nuts, cooking oil, dry beans, peanut butter, cereal and breakfast bars. □

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## Using a Generator When the Power Goes Out

By Laura Foster

*(David King of McNamee Road provided the impetus for this article in January 2009 when local roads had 3 foot drifts of snow. PGE's website is the source of the material used below.)*

Grabbing a generator at Home Depot is not the same as getting some extra D cells for the flashlight and radio. With knowledge and an investment, our rural properties can be electrified instantly when there's an outage, but amateur efforts can be outright dangerous. Anyone who does not understand the phrase, "110 v circuits that are 180 degrees out of phase" should not use a generator without some guidance and education.

There are two types of generators: portable and stationary. A portable generator is the most common choice for home use. Most portable generators are "plug and play." You can install the equipment yourself. A stationary generator is connected to your home wiring and requires the services of an electrical contractor for installation. This option is best for people who need to keep life-support equipment powered at all times. Permanently installed auxiliary generators must meet electric codes and have a transfer switch to prevent dangerous back-feed of electricity into power lines. PGE requests that you notify it if you have a permanent generator.

If you will use your generator to operate an appliance with a large motor, you may need to install a power conditioning device such as an uninterruptible power supply at sensitive appliances. Check the manufacturer's specifications for details.

It is also important to know that the National Electric Code requires a transfer switch be installed if you use a generator to power some loads in your home.

### Selecting the right generator

The purchasing considerations for portable generators are:

- *Valve location:* Overhead valves enable engines to last longer than engines with side-mounted valves.
- *Run time:* Run time is usually specified at one-half load. More loading means less run time.
- *Starting method:* Compression release on pull-start models makes starting easier.
- *Low-oil warning:* Auto shutdown feature prevents damage to engine when the oil is low.
- *Spark arrester:* A spark arrester should be used when the generator is located near combustibles.
- *AC voltage:* 120/240-volt generators can power 240-volt appliances such as AC units and clothes dryers.
- *AC outlets:* Twist-lock outlets provide a more reliable connection to the generator.

### Common questions about generators

Q. *How large a generator should I invest in?*

That depends on how much equipment you need to operate during a power outage. For assistance in sizing a generator, call PGE's Power Quality Hotline at 503-736-5750 or 800-270-7016.

Q. *Will all of my equipment run properly when powered from a generator?*

Newer generators feature electronic governors, which can regulate voltage to plus or minus 6 percent of nominal or better. Most equipment should work with this type of voltage regulation.

Q. *How can I use my home generator to power lights in my home or my electric water heater?*

To power circuits in your home safely, you need the right switch. You can choose an electrician-installed transfer switch, which will cost \$500 to \$800. Never plug your generator directly into an outlet in your home. You can overload your electrical circuits and cause a fire or some of the power you generate can back feed into PGE's utility lines, putting our repair personnel at risk of injury.

### Generator Safety

- Always operate a portable generator outside. Since it is gas powered, place it in a well-ventilated area away from doors, windows and garage. Otherwise, deadly, odorless carbon monoxide can be drawn into the house.
- Don't get shocked! Use only an outdoor-rated, grounded extension cord. One with a GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) is best. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for grounding the generator, too.
- Never "back feed." Sometimes, a person might try to "doctor" an extension cord to plug a generator into a regular household outlet, thinking this will power the whole house. This is extremely dangerous! Connecting a generator with a regular outlet can not only ruin your home's wiring and start a fire, it can also back feed electricity into the utility system and energize a line thought to be without power. An unsuspecting PGE lineman could be seriously injured or killed, not knowing the line is live. Only connect individual appliances to the receptacle outlet of the generator, following the instructions in your owner's manual.
- Install a transfer switch. The safest and best way to prevent portable generator back feed problems is to install a transfer switch. A transfer switch permits the home's wiring system to be easily and cleanly disconnected from PGE's system and allows you to control the flow of electricity to those circuits you need most (like the furnace fan or refrigerator). Transfer switches are not inexpensive and require installation by a licensed electrician.
- Gas-powered generators. This type of generator

**Continued, next page ►**

can get very hot during operation. Use extreme caution to avoid burns. Also, let the engine cool before you refuel.

- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting down the generator.
- Don't overload your generator. Read and follow wattage guidelines in your owner's manual.

For more information, visit [www.portlandgeneral.com](http://www.portlandgeneral.com) and search for "generators" or call PGE at 503.228.6322, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you'd like one of PGE's pamphlets, "Medical Outage Checklist," "Home Generator Safety" or "Outages and Safety," contact the Ridge Runner at 503.621.3450 and we'll get them to you.

## Tractor work

The West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District is compiling a list of people who are willing (even occasionally or on a limited basis) to do tractor work of various kinds for neighboring small acreage farmers FOR PAY, or who are willing to rent out equipment to neighbors.

Needs include boom sprayers, manure spreaders, seed drills, small harrows, moldboard plows, and other tillage equipment. If you have equipment and are available, even on a limited basis, please contact Erica Stokes at [erica@wmswcd.org](mailto:erica@wmswcd.org) or at 503.238.4775, extension 100. Tell her what equipment you have, its size, other key specifications, and your hourly rate.

If you're someone looking for tractor work, email Erica. She will forward a list of providers once it is compiled.

## Winter Weather is Coming

Winter means challenges to those of us on Skyline Ridge. When the power goes out and the pipes freeze, it's good to remember a few cautions, courtesy of Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue:

- If using a fireplace or woodstove for heat, ensure the flue is unobstructed and the damper is open. Use a tight-fitting fireplace screen or glass doors to contain burning embers.
- Keep a close eye on your fire and keep it manageable. A fire that grows too large and hot can result in a chimney fire. Also, ensure your fire is extinguished before going to bed or leaving home.
- Never use gasoline or lighter fluid to start a fire.
- Keep combustible materials (Christmas tree, furniture, paper, etc.) at least three feet away from fireplaces, woodstoves, and all heating devices.
- Ashes can rekindle and start a fire. Wait several days before cleaning out your fireplace or woodstove or dispose of ashes in a metal container with a lid, placed outside your home (not in the garage).
- Candles are a fire hazard. Use only flashlights, battery-operated lanterns, and light sticks as emergency

lighting in your home.

- Never use outdoor equipment including propane or kerosene heaters or charcoal barbecues inside, due to the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that claims hundreds of lives every year.
- Check your smoke alarms to ensure they are working and install a carbon monoxide detector as a precaution.

## Water

- Make sure all members of the household know how to shut off the home's water supply in case of a burst or leaking pipe. Even if pipes do not burst, water freezing in them can cause them to expand and crack, with the leakage not noticed until the water thaws.
- Pipes located in exterior walls can freeze even if they're insulated. Help them by leaving a trickle of water running from the faucet and/or keeping cabinet doors open, if applicable, to let interior air warm the wall and pipes.
- Exposed pipes in the attic, basement or crawl space can freeze. Leaving a trickle of water running from a faucet farthest away from the water meter can help.
- Wrap insulating material or electrical wire heating wrap around the pipes.
- Never use a propane torch or open flame to thaw a pipe. You could ignite wood beams, flooring and other nearby combustible materials. Hair dryers should also be avoided due to the risk of electrocution. ☐



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<p><b>Means Nursery</b> 27400 NW Saint Helens Road, Scappoose 503.543.3223 <a href="http://www.meansnursery.com">www.meansnursery.com</a></p>	<p><b>Oblation Papers &amp; Press</b> Ron &amp; Jennifer Rich 516 NW 12th Ave, Portland 503-223-1093 <a href="http://www.oblationpapers.com">www.oblationpapers.com</a></p>	<p><b>One With Heart Tulen Center</b> Katie Traunweiser 8641 N Lombard Blvd, Portland 503-283-1313 <a href="http://www.onewithheart.com">www.onewithheart.com</a></p>

## Metro acquires land to protect upper Rock Creek watershed

By Heather Nelson Kent, Metro

Metro secured its first land acquisition in the Rock Creek Watershed and Greenway target area in September with the purchase of 20 acres.

The acquisition, located north of Germantown and Kaiser roads and south of Skyline Boulevard's intersection with McNamee Road, protects a portion of wildlife corridor connecting Rock Creek to Forest Park, the region's largest protected nature park.

Made through the Metro Natural Areas Program, the acquisition safeguards water quality in the Rock Creek watershed.

Originally zoned for commercial forest use, the

property was logged in 1995 and reforested with Douglas fir. Today the fir, combined with Western red cedar, bigleaf maple and cottonwood, provide an intact forest canopy.

The Rock Creek headwaters are located in one of 27 areas identified for protection in 2006 when voters approved Metro's Natural Areas bond measure.

The program funds land acquisition and capital improvements that protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and provide greater connections to nature in urban areas throughout the Portland metropolitan area.

For more information, visit [www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas). □

<p><b>Pet Barn</b> Laurel Hennessey 12675A NW Cornell Rd, Portland 503.641.9443</p>	<p><b>Phoenix Farm</b> Christina &amp; Kati Traunweiser 16428 NW Rock Creek Rd 503.621.3823 / 621.9203</p>	<p><b>Pincus Pottery Studio</b> Ken Pincus 14754 NW Ash St, Portland 503.285.4784</p>
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<p><b>Scappoose Rural Fire District</b> Chief Michael Greisen 52751 Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose 503.543.5026, <a href="http://www.srfd.us">www.srfd.us</a></p>	<p><b>Skyline Grange</b> Pat Barnard, Master 10800 NW Skyline Blvd 503.286.2857</p>	<p><b>Skyline Therapeutic Massage</b> Nora Schreiber, LMT 11539 NW Skyline Blvd 503-645-3119</p>
<p><b>St Johns Bookseller</b> 8622 N Lombard St, Portland 503.283.0032</p>	<p><b>St Johns Veterinary Clinic</b> Pete Davis, DVM 4818 N Lombard St, Portland 503.289.4996</p>	<p><b>W.A. Hughes Construction</b> Bill Hughes 10805 NW Skyline Blvd 503-286-4362</p>



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## Community Calendar

**Oct. 17, Saturday:** Raising St. Croix Sheep. Local sheep breeders Linda and Eddie Barnes will bring two lambs to their talk at the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline, 9 a.m.

**Oct. 23-24, Friday-Saturday:** Garage Sale at the Skyline Grange from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donations (tax-deductible) can be dropped off at the Grange October 17 from noon to 1 p.m., October 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and October 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Oct. 31, Saturday:** Postmark deadline to return the

SRN survey and be entered into the drawing for prizes.

**Nov. 5, Thursday:** Darrell Hedin, local Water Master for the Oregon Dept. of Water Resources will speak to the SRN general meeting which starts at 7 p.m. at the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline.

**Nov. 7, Saturday:** Soup Supper at Skyline Grange, 5-8 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5/adult or \$12/family. Questions or to help, contact Tracy Waters at 503.285.3530 or bluewaters@pcez.com.

## Classifieds

**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](mailto:skylineeggs@gmail.com).

**Lil Kid's Soccer Program** at Indoor Goals for kids 4-6. Contact Kim at [kholm57743@q.com](mailto:kholm57743@q.com) or call 503-621-3042. Brochures at Plainview Market.

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

**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.

**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](mailto:cbcohen@hotmail.com)

**Buy? Sell?** Post a free listing at Skyline Online, a place where the Skyline community meets to talk and trade. [www.skylineonline.org](http://www.skylineonline.org)

**Free Mushroom Compost:** Shiitake mushroom blocks make great compost and some block 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](http://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](mailto:pbarnard2@aol.com). Visit [www.skylinegrange.org](http://www.skylinegrange.org) for info.

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