



Skyline Ridge Runner

October 2010

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 22, No. 4

A Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

Sheriff's Patrols and Home Safety Featured at November 3 Meeting

Skyline Ridge Neighbors invites you to our next general meeting, at the Skyline Grange, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Bryan White of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (www.mcso.us) will be there to provide useful and timely information for Skyline area residents on the following:

- Organization of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

- Responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office, including the difference between a deputy sheriff and police officer

- Patrol unit staffing, including the numbers of patrol districts and deputies assigned to each; average response times to calls in your patrol district; why your patrol district and neighborhood is unique compared to other patrol districts; how other MCSO units supplement the patrol unit when responding to calls; why you may see other law enforcement agencies in your neighborhood

- Statistical information: what types of calls are being reported in the neighborhood; the most common calls in the neighborhood

- How the Bureau of Emergency Communications

(BOEC or the 911 Call Center) works; when to call 911 versus calling 503.823.3333, the non-emergency number

- When and how to report illegal or suspicious activity in the neighborhood such as how to provide detailed descriptions to aid the responding deputy sheriff; understanding YOUR SAFETY is the most important factor when reporting suspicious activity; knowing it's important to report all suspicious activity to BOEC as soon as possible; why a deputy sheriff may not answer all your questions about activity in the neighborhood

- What to do to make your home and neighborhood safer such as the Sheriff's Office Vacation Check program (503-255-3600 ext 0) and other ways to increase your home's safety

- What you can do to help your Sheriff's Office: contact County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury or e-mail: district1@co.multnomah.or.us, Phone: 503.988.5220

Deputy White has worked in the Sheriff's Patrol Unit since 2003 and his weekly shifts include patrols in the SRN neighborhood. He also trains new deputies after they graduate from the state-run Police Academy in Salem. □



Neighbor kids young and old get ready to compete in the tug of war at the Summer Gathering; see story page 6. (Photo Natalie Harger)

Skyline Grange Gets Grant for Woodland Restoration Project

Tracy Waters

The West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, with the energetic and knowledgeable help of Michael Ahr, has funded another FISH Grant for our neighborhood's Grange Woods. (FISH stands for Financial Incentives for Sustainable Habitat; see www.wmswcd.org.)

They have bestowed matching funds for the caretaking of the "front half" of the woods property behind the Grange building. We were lucky to benefit from the help of one of Michael's summer interns, Wendy Berg, who designed a sweet loop trail to a sylvan spot which will host a bench overlooking the headwaters of Abbey Creek.

Once the blackberries have been whacked back along the upper edge of the grassy zone where the stream

originates we'll plant a multi-layered hedgerow of food-bearing native plants. We're thinking about planting Oregon white oaks, too.

It's our hope we can garner community woodworkers and other volunteers to help us remove sick trees, yank out ivy and holly, and whack back brush along the path and cut trail. We're hoping to generate as much community firewood as we can communally harvest and still have a healthy woods.

To help restore the Grange woods, contact me, Tracy Waters at 503.285.3530 or bluewater@pcez.com, or contact the Grange Master, Pat Barnard, 503.286.2857, PBARNARD2@aol.com).

As winter approaches, there's work to be done this fall in the Grange woods. □

Skyline Ridge Runner

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Contributors: Tracy Waters, Michael Ahr, Natalie Harger, Karin Hunt, Kim Johnson, jet Griffith, Patrick Ahern

Logo and artwork: Ryan Anderson, Bruce Riches

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 January 15*

Skyline Ridge Neighbors Inc.

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

SRN Board of Directors (2009-11)

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Skyline Rural Watch Newsline

Subscribe to SRN's weekly email newsletter of local events and news via the link at www.srnpdx.org. 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

Treasurer's Report

Karen Garber, SRN Treasurer

SRN Income & Expenses

7/1/2010 - 9/30/2010

BEGINNING BALANCE JULY 1 14,092

INCOME

Advertising 235

Donations 338

Interest 28

Summer Gathering

Auctions/Fixed Price 4,204

Beer & Wine Sales 626

Cash Donations 160

T-Shirt Sales 270

Wine Raffle 310

TOTAL INCOME 6,171

EXPENSES

Administration

Licenses and Fees 185

Office Supplies 39

Website 6

Thank You Gifts 100

Ridge Runner 814

Summer Gathering

Beer & Wine Sales 344

Entertainment 350

Facilities 165

Materials 546

T-Shirts 966

TOTAL EXPENSES 3,514

NET INCOME/(EXPENSE) 2,658

ENDING BALANCE SEPTEMBER 30 16,749

Kyron Horman Search Fund

6/1/2010 - 9/30/2010

Cash Donations 3,515

Expenses

Food & Supplies for Meals Served 2,602

Donation to Multnomah County

Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue 913

FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30 0

Thanks for Your Donations!

Many thanks to the following neighbors and friends who made a cash donation to SRN between July 1 and September 30, 2010:

~ Patrick Ahern

~ Cameron Healy & Susan Snow

~ Miles & Libby Merwin

~ Dorinne Pedersen

~ Norma Tucker

Donations are tax-deductible and always appreciated!

Please send them to the SRN Treasurer c/o Karen Garber, 16238 NW McNamee Rd, Portland, OR 97231

Have Goat Will Travel

Kim Johnson

Is it just me or is everyone meeting on the Internet these days? Match.com, e-harmony.com: singles everywhere are finding love.

Why should livestock be any different? I sat down one afternoon at my computer to find the perfect mate for my goat Lucy, a long legged LaMancha beauty. It wasn't long before I found him on the Internet: Storm, a lovely stud, creamy white buck hair, blue eyes. He had an impressive pedigree, from a long line of proven milkers. After a lengthy e-mail conversation with the owner we decided Storm would come to my house for a few weeks to see if he was interested in Lucy. I was hopeful they would like each other because what they had in common was that they were both goats.

Storm arrived one weekday morning in the back of a pickup truck. His owner had been breeding a line of milking goats for some time, selecting the offspring of the best milkers with the creamiest milk. I was already envisioning pots of cheese, chevre molds all lined up on the counter, creamy bars of goat milk soap and frothing bowls of frosted flakes, all from my very own goat milk. I couldn't wait for him to meet Lucy. When Storm got out of the truck I couldn't help but be struck by his short stature. While handsome, he was certainly smaller than his stated Internet dimensions. I didn't want to insult his owner so I kept my thoughts to myself.

We trotted Storm off to the barn. He seemed sure of himself, confident, his little legs moving with a certain determination. We introduced him to Lucy, who took one look at him and let out a mournful sound. Storm's owner spent some time apprising the two of them and imagining, I'm sure, how the breeding would work. Nonplused at the obvious size difference, she turned to me and asked in all

seriousness, "Do you have something he could stand on?"

Storm spent several days trotting around the barn. He seemed to trot everywhere he went which I thought odd until my neighbor pointed out that his legs were so short he had to trot just to keep up with the other goats. It wasn't long after Storm's arrival that Lucy went into heat. One morning I found them in the barn in a desperate state. She was desperate to breed with him; he on the other hand, looked like he might be having a heart event. Lucy was trotting around after him and he was at a full out run to get away from her. This went on for some time.

In the end Storm went home and I had to wait five and half months to find out that there was no goat milk in my future, at least not from Lucy. Perhaps match.com was not the answer. Instead, a visit to craigslist found a lovely LaMancha goat in Woodburn that was already being milked, giving almost a gallon of milk per day. At the very least I wouldn't have to worry about height differentials.

I agreed to meet the lady with the goat in a superstore parking lot. I packed the kids into my Volvo station wagon with an a/c unit of dubious quality and drove down I-5 on the hottest day of the summer. The goat had a fabulous bag of milk and I agreed at once to buy her. Although friendly, she eyed the dog crate I brought with serious misgivings. Push and pull as we might, the old owner and the new owner could not convince the hundred plus pound goat it was a good place to be.

Low on options, I begged the goat not to pee in the Volvo, loaded her in the back with the kids and up I-5 we went. Other than attracting attention with a goat hanging out the window the trip was uneventful. We named her Jelly and she turned out to be a fabulous milker, giving almost a gallon of milk a day. My dreams of cheese, soap and frothy frosted flakes were realized and I spent the rest of the summer gaining fifteen pounds. □

In My Opinion

It was reported in the last issue of the Ridge Runner that an unscrupulous logger had made off with several loads of timber from a neighborhood landowner. His method of operation is to drop off business cards in mailboxes, fishing for business.

This has been happening for decades. Do not respond to anyone dropping a business card in your mailbox; this is how these characters survive. If you want to consider

logging your property, contact the OSU extension service, forestry division, at 503 725 2300, or <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington/find-us>. They will provide referrals and loads of information on how to proceed.

Patrick Ahern
Master Woodland Manager

Correction

In the story "Skyline Grange" in the July 2010 Skyline Ridge Runner, we mistakenly stated that Tracy Harris was involved with food preparation at the Grange during the initial Kyron Horman search and rescue effort. Instead it was Tracy Waters. Our apologies for the confusion.

Farm Stands: A Part of Our Landscape and the EFU Code

Karin Hunt

The Multnomah County Land Use and Transportation Program is responsible for enforcing land use codes. It also advises County Commissioners, Land Use Planning Commissioners, the Planning Director and Hearings Officers when code language is rewritten or when writing staff reports on permit applications. Each county establishes its own code of use. The state directs counties to establish land use rules based upon established minimum requirements but each county can make the rules stricter, leading to differing land use codes for each county.

Most of the West Hills is zoned CFU (Commercial Forest Use). Our area also includes small amounts of MUA (Multiple Use Agriculture), EFU (Exclusive Farm Use) and RR (Rural Residential).

Let me explain part of the code that pertains to agriculture lands that are zoned EFU. According to County Code:

“Commercial agricultural enterprise consists of farm operations that will: 1. Contribute in a substantial way to the area’s existing agricultural economy and 2. Help maintain agricultural processors and established farm markets.

When determining whether a farm is part of the commercial enterprise, not only what is produced, but how much and the method by which it is marketed shall be considered.”

EFU has “allowed uses,” “reviewed uses” and “conditional uses.” Better soils are very restricted while poorer soils allow more options.

Allowed uses include farm use, farm or livestock buildings, growing forest products, mining, replacement and new dwelling, wetlands, churches and cemeteries, fire services, utilities, home occupations and several types of accessory structures, from garages and workshops to swimming pools, gazebos and sports courts. There are some other uses which are rarely employed in our area. A county planner can usually issue allowed use permits after a completed application is approved with adjacent landowners notified.

Farm stands are a reviewed use that is also mentioned in MUA (Multiple Use Agriculture). The following language describes farm stands in Multnomah County for EFU lands.

“(H) Farm Stands are allowed when found that:

“(1) The structures are designed and used for the sale of farm crops or livestock grown on the farm operation, or grown on the farm operation and other farm operations in the local agricultural area, including the sale of retail incidental items, and fee-based activity to promote the sale of farm crops or livestock sold at the farm stand if the annual sale of incidental items and fees from promotional activity

do not make up no more (*sic*) than 25 percent of the total sales of the farm stand; and

(2) The farm stand does not include structures designed for occupancy as a residence or for activities other than the sale of farm crops and livestock and does not include structures for banquets, public gatherings or public entertainment.

(3) As used in this section, “farm crops or livestock” includes both fresh and processed farm crops and livestock grown on the farm operation, or grown on the farm operation and other farm operations in the local agricultural area. As used in this subsection, “processed crops and livestock” includes jams, syrups, apple cider, animal products and other similar farm crops and livestock that have been processed and converted into another product but not prepared food items.

(4) As used in this section, “local agricultural area” includes Oregon or an adjacent county in Washington that borders Multnomah County.”

Farmers have become more creative in increasing income by selling crops directly to the public at farm stands or at farmers markets. They have marketed their products via public promotions such as “pumpkin patches” as well.

Plumper Pumpkin Patch

Recently Multnomah County ruled on some “farm stand permits” in the west side of the county, using this part of the land use code to approve creative ways for farmers to market their products.

Kessinger Farm (Plumper Pumpkin Patch), located near Cornelius Pass on Old Cornelius Pass, applied for a farm stand permit and the county recently issued its decision. Most of the applicant’s requests were granted with conditions in a Notice of Decision dated September 24, 2010. The uses allowed at Plumper Pumpkin Patch includes:

1. U-pick activities
2. Small birthday parties and picnics. The applicant didn’t define small and the county referred to a prior approval of 10 to 30 participants.
3. Educational field trips; farm stand to be open during these activities.
4. Pumpkin flinging activities; the participant would purchase the farm product to be flung.
5. Barrel train rides
6. Pony rides
7. Activity area including hay mazes, hay rides and animal viewing
8. Professional photography of patrons

The county’s decision described why each of these uses directly promotes the sale of farm products. The decision also referred to the state legislature’s language on farm stands, which includes many of the above uses. The county

denied Plumper Pumpkin Patch from having “company gatherings.” The county referred to prior decisions which stated that “the focus of weddings and fundraisers is the wedding celebration or social cause, not the farm or farm stand.”

In a July 2009 decision on Don and Sandra Kruger’s application for a Sauvie Island farm stand and related activities, Multnomah County wrote: “Weddings, bike races, birthday parties, corporate picnics, and group gatherings are not allowed as part of this decision.”

The Kessinger decision included design reviews for parking, restroom facilities, hours of operation and also required that farm buildings need a building permit change if used for promotional uses. It also requires the Plumper Pumpkin Patch to send annual reports that break down income to meet the 25 percent rule in the code.

Skyline Farm

Another farm under review by the Multnomah County Land Use Program is Skyline Farm, located on Skyline Boulevard. Over the past year, neighbors have noticed activity at Skyline Farm which appeared to be banquets and weddings. A few filed complaints with Multnomah County about potential land use violations.

I spoke to John Orlando, who operates Skyline Farm and this is what he told me: They have 18 acres with 4 ½ acres being farmed. Although they are not certified organic, they use organic practices in growing vegetables. They currently have a greenhouse used for propagating starts for their outside growing area. Most of their vegetables are sold to Meriwether’s, their restaurant in Northwest Portland. Vegetables are also sold at farmer’s markets and CSA programs. He plans on building another greenhouse where they will be able to grow vegetables for a longer season.

His website, www.meriwethersnw.com, states that Skyline Farm sold 8,000 pounds of produce to the restaurant in 2009. It also states that Meriwether’s Skyline Farm is available for events such as corporate lunches, brunches and dinners, large banquets, holiday parties, company picnics, team-building and networking, rehearsal dinners, wedding ceremonies and receptions.

I called the Multnomah County Land Use Enforcement Division and spoke with Mike Grimmatt. He could not tell me details of the investigation because it is not public record. He did say he has received letters of complaint and is working with the land owner. He said that Skyline Farm has stated that past events were for family and friends, which would be allowed under current law.

When I spoke to John Orlando and asked if he has applied for a permit to hold events, he said that he is working on that, and awaiting the decision on the Plumper Pumpkin Patch application.

For Skyline Farm to hold promotional activities such as those listed on its website, it will have to go through the same process that Plumper Pumpkin Patch and Kruger Farm on Sauvie Island recently completed. Some will argue that since Kessinger Farm can’t hold “company gatherings” and Kruger Farms was denied some promotions such as weddings, that Skyline Farm may face similar restrictions

on the range of promotional activities they are allowed.

Agri-Tourism

However, many states are changing their views on viable agricultural choices. For economic reasons, land owners seek new ways to make a living off their land, in addition to the growing and selling of crops or livestock. Locally grown and organic products have gained popularity, giving the small farm new possibilities. Agritourism is a new approach to agriculture and includes weddings, farm to plate dinners, farm stays, cultural festivals and youth camps. These activities would be similar to cattle ranches charging for round-up experiences to supplement income. Oregon agricultural producers are asking the legislature to include these choices to Oregon’s Land Use Rules. With our area’s proximity to a large urban population, some might argue that non-traditional uses of farmland contribute to the region’s liveability and have become the highest and best use of the land.

Whether you apply for a land use permit or comment on someone else’s application, here is food for thought: Land use decisions are quasi-judicial; any decision has to be made based on fact and current code language. Emotion, opinions and comments not pertaining to the application will not be taken into consideration.

If you are an applicant, look at the code language that covers your application. Make sure you give arguments for each sentence in code language as to how your application meets the code. If you want to comment on an applicant’s request, read the code language and show how the application does or does not support the code. You can even look at the state’s Land Use Rules as part of your argument. Multnomah County will look at the application to see how it does or does not meet code. It is not its job to fill in the blanks. □

Kessinger (Plumper Pumpkin) decision, Sept. 24, 2010:

[http://www2.co.multnomah.or.us/Community_Services/LUT-Planning/Notices/T2-09-024_farm_stand_at_11435_NW_Old_Cornelius_Pass_Rd_\(due_10-8-10\).pdf](http://www2.co.multnomah.or.us/Community_Services/LUT-Planning/Notices/T2-09-024_farm_stand_at_11435_NW_Old_Cornelius_Pass_Rd_(due_10-8-10).pdf)

Kruger decision, July 8, 2009:

<http://www2.co.multnomah.or.us/aspnet/decisions/pdfFiles/T2-09-002.pdf>

Karin Hunt served on the Multnomah County Planning Commission for eight years in the 1990’s.

Noble Fir Christmas Trees

Choose & cut: 6 - 10 ft.

*** Please call ahead ***

503-621-9867 / 971-285-6960

Ridgeback Tree Farm

13950 NW Skyline



SRN Thanks Volunteers and Donors for 2010 Summer Gathering

By the SRN Board of Directors

Skyline Ridge Neighbors wishes to thank everyone who participated in our 20th annual Summer Gathering on August 15. We sincerely appreciate the generous support from the neighborhood, especially from those who participated in the auction, who donated auction items or cash, and the many volunteers who made it all come together wonderfully.

Thanks are due to John and Renee Orlando who generously donated the use of Skyline Farm as the venue for this year's Gathering, along with equipment and facilities that helped make the day enjoyable for everyone. A big shout-out goes to Lynn Conover and her band 'Gravel.' We are lucky to have such fantastic musicians on the Hill! Special thanks go to Karin Hunt, our auctioneer extraordinaire this year, and we gratefully acknowledge the in-kind contributions from Columbia Distributing and Full Sail Brewing.

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 (plus any others whose names we have inadvertently missed!):

Rebecca Jenkins, Sen Speroff, Bobbie Linn, Lori Schreiber, Michael Ahr, Ras Sauer, Susan Ahern, Dustin Sauer, Zack Shumann, Josh Volk, Pat Brady, Todd Orris, Julie Perry, Elinor Markgraf, David Lammert, Cory Knight, Joe Erhardt, Vickie Coghill, Audrey Vasconcellos, Rhonda Kelvin, Becca Kelvin, Chris, Dick Riggs, John Eskew, Rich & Diane Edwards, James Lyons, River Lyons, Joe & Sharon Barthmaier, Sean Sowder, John Desmarais, Arden, Patrick & Milo Jenkins-Law, Richard & Bobbie Linn, Mackenzie

Perry, John Gritzmacher, Niki Love & friends, Joanne & Delaney Emmerson, Scotty, Lesa, Ariel Quenneville, Jennifer Jenkins, Ellen Schlotfeldt, Taylor King, Nova, Lucca, Chaucie Edwards, Ted, Samantha Perry, Jim Cheadle & family.

Donors

The Gathering would not be a complete success 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:

Jim Livingston, Laurel & Joe Erhardt, Sara Bowersox & Morgan Beller, Jan Campbell, Ava Chapman, Jim & Peggy Kessinger (Plumper Pumpkin Patch & Tree Farm), Pete Davis, DVM (St Johns Veterinary Clinic), Susan & Patrick Ahern, Angela Schillereff (Sauvie Island Kennels), Linda Worley (Cornerstone Hunters & Jumpers), BJ Jensen (Jensen & Marineau Ceramics), McMenamain's, Dan Cadmus (Linnton Feed & Seed), Jim Means (Means Nursery), Ken Pincus (Pincus Pottery Studio), Joe & Sharon Barthmaier, Ridgeback Tree Farm, Chief Michael Greisen (Scappoose Rural Fire District), Leon & Sen Speroff, Gary & Kelly Kuntz, Laurel Hennessey (Pet Barn), KC Cowan (Oregon Public Broadcasting), Richard & Bobbie Linn, Avon & Frederick Holmes, Miles & Libby Merwin, John Gritzmacher (Busy Bee Gardeners), Cindy Roach, Dr. Ziad Kaady, DMD (Bridgetown Dental), Gary Houston (Gary Houston Design & Installation), Ron & Jennifer Rich (Oblation Papers and Press), Jake Shivery (Blue Moon Camera & Machine), Martani Tanning Salon, Donna Stewart (Peninsula Family Acupuncture), Mike & Marilyn Oliver, Nena Rawdah (St. Johns Bookseller), Dick & Phyllis Riggs, John & Renee Orlando, John & Kate Eskew, Carole Hallett, Jim & Kandy Davis, Lyndsey Levi, Debbie Brockway Bauer, Audubon Society of Portland. □

Forest, Farm and Garden

Ties to the Land: A Workshop on Succession Planning

Michael Ahr, WMSWCD

The two-part Ties to the Land workshop will be held Wednesday, October 20 and Tuesday, January 18, 6-9 pm; plan to attend both sessions. Both will be held at the Audubon Society of Portland, 5151 NW Cornell Rd.

The Ties to the Land workshop tackles a tough issue – handing the land down to the next generation. A lot goes into preparing the family to inherit land. The younger generation needs to be ready. Estate planning can take

place years in advance to make this transition easier. There can be many tough family dynamics that make the discussion of this topic difficult. This two-part workshop will help you work through all of that. You'll also find this workshop helpful if there is no younger generation to hand the land to. Participants of the workshop will receive a great workbook that you can refer to later and you'll also get an informative DVD. To learn much more about this program, visit <http://www.tiestotheland.org/>.

Registration is only \$25 per person for the full workshop. To register and get more info, call Michael Ahr, 503-238-4775 extension 109, or email michael@wmswcd.org. You can also register online by clicking "Events" at www.wmswcd.org. □

Local Family Finds Success with Organic Chestnuts

Miles Merwin

Driving along the twists and turns of McNamee Road, you may have noticed an orchard of unusual trees. That's where Chris Foster and Andee Carlstrom have developed a thriving business growing organic chestnuts under the name 'Cascadia Chestnuts.'

They moved to the McNamee Road property in 1986, and in the mid 1990s started experimental plantings of chestnuts in a former cow pasture. They now have over 350 mature trees on 5 acres.

Theirs is the only organic chestnut orchard in Oregon, with organic certification provided by both Oregon Tilth and Salmon Safe.

"I always wanted to pursue farming," Chris said. "I come from a long line of farmers. I grew up with old chestnut trees in my backyard. I collected seed and planted them out while in high school."

They have discovered that chestnut growing is very labor intensive. Their orchard produces between 5,000 to 10,000 pounds of fresh chestnuts annually, all of which are harvested and processed by hand.

Chris mostly works at home for his "day job" as a commercial building construction consultant, and so is able to fit farm work into his daily schedule. Andee, who works part-time as a pediatric nurse at Emanuel Hospital, works in the orchard evenings and weekends.

Grafted Cultivars

Chris grows cultivated varieties of the European chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) that he has grafted on seedling rootstocks. He originally collected 25 cultivars from the western U.S. and Europe, and over time selected the six best ones for local conditions. Chris learned how to graft with apple trees which he says are easier than chestnuts.

Our wet western Oregon climate combined with poor soil drainage present problems for chestnut growers, Chris explained. The trees are susceptible to both disease (especially phytophthora) and pests (ambrosia beetle, shothole borer).

"Many people have tried and failed" growing chestnuts in Oregon, Chris said. "You need persistence and dedication. Chestnuts are not an easy crop to grow."

Commercial viability is especially challenging for organic growers since they are limited to approved

fertilizers and pest control methods. Monitoring is very important, Chris says. He and Andee watch for boring insects slowly climbing up the trunks of susceptible trees during a two-week period in spring, so they can catch them before they infest the trees.

Finding little research or extension help locally, Chris has consulted and attended conferences with other growers in the U.S., France, Italy and Australia.

He advises potential chestnut growers to be ready to experiment and to learn what works for them by trial and error.

"We would be further along," Chris said, "but I am prone to experimentation. I'm always trying different methods and looking for

better trees."

Chris and Andee are active in the national Chestnut Growers of America (www.wcga.net). Chris was president of the organization five years ago.

The trees need annual pruning to keep them within easy reach from a ladder and also to produce nuts of large size that are easier to collect off the ground than small ones.

Chris makes his own organic fertilizer of composted tree prunings mixed with chicken manure. He spreads this under the trees to improve soil fertility and encourage native soil fungi that are antagonistic to phytophthora.

Hand-harvested

The labor-intensive job of hand harvesting usually begins in late September and runs about 30 days. After the prickly husks open, the nuts are collected with long-handled scoopers. They are then washed and sorted by hand. An organic-approved disinfectant like hydrogen peroxide is applied to kill bacteria & molds.

Chris and Andee have a walk-in cooler with a controlled atmosphere to store the nuts during and after harvest. This is essential for extending the selling season for fresh chestnuts, which are perishable if not carefully stored.

They sell most of the crop to local retail stores. New Seasons is their largest customer.

Next time you're at the store in the fall or winter, ask for a bag of fresh chestnuts. As you enjoy them, you'll now know where they come from. □



Chris Foster demonstrates the scoop he and his wife Andee use to harvest their organic chestnuts on McNamee Rd. (Photo: M. Merwin)

SRN Sponsors Low-Cost CPR / First Aid Class November 10

As part of the Country Living series, SRN will sponsor a class this fall in CPR and first-aid for families. The class "CPR and First Aid for Families and Friends" will be taught by an instructor from LIFELINE Health and Safety LLC (www.cprlifeline.com). It will be held at the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline, at 7:00 PM on November 10. Space is limited and pre-registration is available on a first come-first serve basis.

The 3-hour class will cover the following: Introduction to the Chain of Survival, Early Access-Early CPR-Early Defibrillation- Early Advanced Care, Rescuer Safety, Warning Signs and Action for Heart Attack, Stroke, and sudden Cardiac Arrest; CPR Instruction, One rescuer CPR for ages 1 year & older, Use of a Face Shield for breathing, First Aid for a choking victim: and First Aid, an overview of common first aid emergencies involving children & adults. The class does not provide American Heart Association certification in either CPR or first aid.

Tuition for the class is \$10 per person and pre-registration is required. No walk-in registration will be permitted. Enrollment is limited to SRN area residents and to no more than 15 people due to floor space requirements for practice. Mail a check payable to SRN along with your name, address and phone number to Karen Garber, SRN Treasurer, 16238 NW McNamee Rd., Portland 97231. Registration and payment must be received no later than November 2. Everyone will need to bring their own exercise mat or blanket since part of the CPR practice will involve kneeling on a linoleum floor.

Stewardship

Cull a tangled forest,
Then watch it grow,
Speckled with young strong natives
For all to know

Build a sweet loop pathway
Watch it grow
Into deeply trodden trails
For all to know

Plant a native hedgerow,
Watch it grow
Healthy happy habitat,
For all to know

T H₂O's 9/26/10

Learn How to Home Brew October 22

Learn how to brew your own beer or sodas, Friday, October 22, 7-9 p.m. at Brooks Hill Historic Church. Longtime home brewer and vintner Rick Wilding will discuss how to brew your own beer. He will discuss types of beer including root beer and ginger ale, ingredients, equipment, recipes and references. Come prepared to take a few notes. You'll be inspired and ready to try the fine art of brewing for yourself. Check out www.howtohomebrew.org for a preview of the evening. This event is part of Skyline Ridge Neighbor's Country Living series, presenting topics of interest to the neighborhood.

Saturday Soup Supper at Grange November 13

Skyline Grange invites you to its annual Soup Supper on Saturday, November 13 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 Sen Speroff at 503-621-3331. Skyline Grange is located at 11275 NW Skyline Boulevard, 1.6 miles east of the Cornelius Pass Road intersection. □



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Wildwood Nature School Opened in September on Newberry Road

Nicole Fravel

This fall, with the help of many friends and Skyline neighbors, I realized a longtime goal of opening a nature-based preschool. When my family moved to the area in December, I learned firsthand that the price we pay for our beautiful seclusion up here on the ridge is convenience. Most families were carting children 20, 25 minutes down the hill somewhere – to Aloha, Beaverton, Southeast Portland – for a quality preschool experience.

I remarked to a neighbor how unfortunate it was that nobody was running a school out of a mother-in-law cottage or old farm building up here on the ridge – a place for children to explore the natural world, discover how things work and grow, and learn at the joyfully relaxed pace of childhood. That’s when I thought “somebody should” – and that somebody could be me. After all, before full time mommyhood, I was an Even Start preschool and public elementary school teacher.

Encouraged by friends (one of whom signed on as the school’s Spanish teacher) and armed with a small inheritance check from Grandma, I started searching for a place to rent. Unfortunately, there is no commercial property to rent up here, and folks with small homes to let were understandably hesitant to lease to a preschool.

As a last ditch effort, I placed an ad in the Ridge Runner asking if anyone was interested in renting space to a preschool and resigned myself to delaying the dream

until I could raise enough money to buy a place. Then a call came from a neighbor. “Hi, I just saw your ad in the Ridge Runner. I have a renovated barn that might be what you’re looking for.”

And was it ever! The barn had the look and feel of a cozy one-room cabin, on 11 acres of land abutting the Wildwood Trail, and came with its own chickens, garden, and greenhouse shed. After a long summer of building fences, walkways, and play structures; installing carpets, toilets and heating; painting, and putting together furniture, Wildwood Nature School opened its doors in September. Now a small group of children are playing, learning, exploring, and growing together right up here on the ridge.

For more information about Wildwood Nature School, call 408.656.6916, visit www.wildwoodnatureschool.com, or e-mail nfravel@wildwoodnatureschool.com. □



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<p>Busy Bee Gardeners 15800 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland 503-621-9834</p>	<p>Ridgeback Tree Farm 13950 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland 503-621-9867</p>	<p>Scappoose Rural Fire District 52751 Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose 503-543-5026 www.srfd.us</p>
<p>Pet Barn 12675 NW Cornell Rd Ste A, Portland 503-641-9443 www.petbarn.org</p>	<p>Oregon Public Broadcasting 7140 SW Macadam Ave, Portland 503-244-9900 www.opb.org</p>	<p>Bridgetown Dental 8907 N Lombard St, Portland 503.286.5654 www.bridgetowndental.com</p>
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<p>Martani Tanning Salon 7319 N John Ave Ste 102, Portland 503-860-8122 www.myspace.com/martani</p>	<p>Peninsula Family Acupuncture 7617 N Decatur St, Portland 503-283-5518 www.pfacu.com</p>	<p>St Johns Bookseller 8622 N Lombard St, Portland 503-283-0032 www.stjohnsbooks.com</p>
<p>Columbia Distributing 3601 NW Yeon, Portland 503.727.3292 www.columbia-dist.com</p>	<p>Audubon Society of Portland 5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland 503-292-6855 www.audubonportland.org</p>	<p>Full Sail Brewing Co. 405 Portway, Hood River 541-387-7201 www.fullsailbrewing.com</p>

Jet Griffith, Skyline PTA Co-President

Most Portland residents are aware of the PPS High School System Redesign. But some neighborhood residents may not be aware that there has been discussion in the past of making a boundary change that would send our kids to Roosevelt High School instead of Lincoln. This boundary change was not included in the most recent proposal (see <http://www.pps.k12.or.us>). However, area residents are still encouraged to send letters or emails with questions and concerns to the School Board and Redesign team at <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/> as the boundary issue was left open for continued review.

Quoting from the most recent proposal to the Portland

School Board on 9/27/2010:

“Previous proposals shifted Buckman Elementary’s neighborhood assignment from Cleveland to Lincoln and Sunnyside K-8’s neighborhood assignment, now split between Cleveland and Franklin, to Grant. Those changes are not included in this revised Action Plan. Buckman remains assigned to Cleveland and all of Sunnyside’s area would be assigned to Franklin. **The prior proposal also left open potential student reassignment for the Skyline and Sabin neighborhoods, which are not included in the revised plan.** (*emphasis added*) The Portland School Board and Superintendent will continue to review boundaries K-12 in order to promote enrollment balance across the system at all grade levels.” □

Classifieds

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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 cook/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.

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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.



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Community Calendar

October 14, 7:00 pm: SRN Board of Directors regular monthly meeting at Brooks Hill Historic Church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd.

October 16, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm: Horse and Livestock Field Day. Presented by West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation Dist. Cost \$5 per person. Register at registration@wmswcd.org or call 503.238.4775.

October 16, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm: Forest Park Day of Stewardship volunteer work projects at four separate sites in Forest Park. Contact Forest Park Conservancy, 503.223.5449 or info@forestparkconservancy.org.

October 20, 6:00 – 9:00 pm: Ties to the Land, first of a two-part workshop on inter-generational transfer of your farm or forest. Cost \$25 per person. Contact Michael Ahr at WMSWCD, 503/238-4775, ext. 109 or michael@wmswcd.org.

October 22, 7:00 – 9:00 pm: How to Home Brew, taught by Rick Wilding, at Brooks Hill Historic Church, 11539 NW Skyline.


November 3, 7:00 pm: Sheriff's Patrols and Home Safety, presentation by Deputy Bryan White of the MC Sheriffs Office. Public meeting at Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline.

November 10, 7:00 – 10:00 pm: CPR and First Aid for Families and Friends class (non-certification). Space limited; pre-registration required. See story this issue for details.

November 11, 7:00 pm: SRN Board of Directors regular monthly meeting at Brooks Hill Historic Church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd.

November 13, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Soup Supper at the Grange. Potluck dishes and soups are needed; please call Tracy Waters 503.285.3530 or Sen Speroff 503.621.3331.

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



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