



Skyline Ridge Runner

March 2024

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 36, No. 2

Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

Join Us for the SRN Pizza Party & Annual Meeting, April 24

By Suzanne Perra, SRN President

Come to the Skyline Grange for a Neighborhood Pizza Party. It is Wednesday, April 24th at the Skyline Grange (11275 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR. 97231), between 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Feel free to drop by anytime. Last year's pizza party drew a huge crowd, so we are keeping the same format. There will be a very quick business meeting to vote in new board members, share the annual treasurer's report and introduce the volunteers at our info tables. Then you are free to enjoy pizza while mingling with neighbors and to roam around the neighborhood info tables.

It's a Pizza Party!!!

Meet your neighbors at the Skyline Grange for Pizza. Children are welcome. Stop by any time between 6:00-7:30pm. Assorted pizzas will be available. Please **RSVP** to Suzanne Perra at president@srnpx.org with the number of people in your group. That will help us to order the right number of pizzas. However, please feel free to come regardless of whether you have RSVP'd. We'll have some extra pizza on hand.

Check out the Neighborhood Info Tables

- Neighborhood Emergency Team

- Skyline Grange
- Firewise, TVFR and Fire Marshal
- SRN, Skyline Internet and SOLVE
- Metro Partners
- Forest Park Conservancy
- West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District



Neighbors gathered last year from SRN's annual meeting and pizza party. (Photo: M. Merwin)

Pick up your SOLVE bags early

Sign up for a street and pick up your SOLVE bags on Wednesday, so you can have an early start on Saturday morning picking up trash. Please feel encouraged to engage your neighbors in an annual Block Party where you can walk together to beautify our neighborhood.

Community News Bulletin Board

Bring whatever news you want share with us and pin it on the bulletin board. Anything goes from family and pet photos, local event schedules, local businesses, garden club signup, tennis partner wanted, looking for playmate for my child, tractor for rent, dog sitter available, etc. Let's fill it up! ☐

Help Beautify Our Roadways on SOLVE Clean-up Day, April 20

By Brad Graff

SRN invites you to show some pride in our beautiful neighborhood with a few hours of volunteer time. Once again, we will host a neighborhood clean-up for SOLVE, the organization dedicated to keeping Oregon clean. Each year, SOLVE mobilizes over 35,000 volunteers and organizes over 1,000 cleanup and restoration projects throughout the state, including Skyline Ridge. Over the years, we have

collected tons of garbage, recycled tons of metal, hauled hundreds of illegally dumped tires to proper disposal, and reported potentially hazardous materials to authorities. It's sad to see the countryside abused like this, but it's so rewarding to get out the door, and help be a part of the solution. Every year, neighbors near and far come for a morning outing and workout catered to their comfort level, to pick up litter along our public roads.

SOLVE, p. 10►

Skyline Ridge Runner

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Send comments, articles, opinions and advertising requests to the Ridge Runner, 17050 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland, OR 97231, or email to ridgerunner@srnpdx.org. Deadlines for all submissions are the 15th day of March, June, September, and December unless otherwise announced. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but must include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length.

→ *Deadline for the next issue is June 15*

Skyline Ridge Neighbors Inc.

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

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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 newslines@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. If you have questions or comments, 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.

Annual Treasurer's Report

By Rachael Brake, SRN Treasurer

SRN Income & Expenses 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE 12/31/2022 \$16,325

INCOME

Advertising - Newsline	20
Advertising - Ridge Runner	1,115
Donations - Rock Creek Rd Repairs	3,961
Donations	824
Summer Gathering	9,490
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,549

EXPENSES

Administration (Licenses & Fees, Meeting Costs, Office Supplies, Square Fees, etc.)	604
Community Outreach (CPR/1st Aid)	600
Community Outreach (SOLVE)	60
Ridge Runner (Software, Email Service, Printing, Mailing Costs, Postage)	7,574
Fundraising Expenses (Advertising, Entertainment, Materials, Facilities)	1,945
Website (Weebly/Hostgator)	263
Rock Creek Road Repair	276
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,323

NET PROFIT/(LOSS) \$ 227

ENDING BALANCE 12/31/2023 \$16,578

Thanks for Your Donations!

Many thanks to the following neighbors and friends who recently made cash donations to SRN:

- ~ Jim & Kelly Sue Munson
- ~ Scott Ray Becker
- ~ Grant Rolette & Rachael Brake
- ~ Susan Still
- ~ Larry Collins
- ~ Kenneth Prier

SRN relies on the financial support of the Skyline community to pursue its nonprofit, educational mission. We operate entirely on the volunteers efforts of neighbors like you. Donations are tax-deductible and always appreciated! Please make checks payable to SRN and send them to Rachael Brake, SRN Treasurer, 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. Thank you.

Ready for Spring? Be Ready for Bears

By Alex Rose

How excited are we when we experience a bear sighting, either on our outdoor video cameras or maybe even “for real” on our semi-rural properties? We call our friends – partially as a warning and partially because we’re surprised, if not delighted; and we should call the ODFW to offer them the details of the bear encounter.

What we need to wonder is, “Why did that bear visit us?” Was it a random “call,” or did we inadvertently invite that bear over for breakfast, lunch, or dinner? The chances are, unfortunately, that the bear found something delicious in our trash or somewhere on our property, perhaps, something as seemingly innocuous as the grains in our bird feeder. Because Spring has sprung and bears - starved and skinny - are emerging from hibernation, they are particularly voracious. In addition, they have a nose that is seven times more efficient than a Bloodhound – yes, they can smell your grill over a mile away. Thus, in an effort to mitigate possibly dangerous, destructive, and unhappy human/bear encounters, it is worthwhile to learn more about them.

Ben Cate, District Wildlife Biologist kindly offered important information about which we want to be aware, especially if we don’t want to harm the visiting bears or see them euthanized.

Some background: The bear population in Oregon numbers about 35,000, which seems a large number for the relatively small number of sightings reported. The ODFW receives calls from residents in the North Willamette Watershed District on 50 or 60 sightings each Spring. Yes, it’s normal to see a bear in our area. Cate reports the number of bears in our area may increase in the future because there’s little to no safe hunting near densely populated urban communities nor on large areas of bear habitat such as Forest Park or the Metro acreage. Based on the various pictures of different colored bears residents have shown Cate, there seems to be more than one bear in the Skyline and Forest Park areas.

The ODFW will occasionally visit someone’s call site, but this is not a common occurrence, and it typically happens if there’s a human safety concern. If a bear doesn’t run off with hazing or is posing a threat to human safety, the ODFW will take action – trapping the bear and removing it – taking it to a meat processor if it’s fit for human consumption, which is not a bear that has been eating trash. (On one rare occasion, a bear “broke into” a 50-gallon vat of slug bait, so it had to be completely disposed of.) But,

it’s unrealistic to think the ODFW is going to come racing out to your property, trap the large intruder, and take him or her off to some glorious pristine forest somewhere else.

Bears are extremely territorial, and introducing a “foreign” bear into another bear’s territory usually means one of the two bears will be wounded or even killed fighting for dominance over the area. In addition, bears conditioned to eating human food will continue that behavior no matter where they’re transported. No, the trapped bears are euthanized. Hence, if we care about the health and well-being of these handsome, indigenous beings, it is very wise to heed the ODFW’s residential guidelines for bear-adjacent territories listed below.



Our native Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) (Photo: CDFW)

HOW BEARWISE ARE YOU? Aspects you might not have taken into consideration.

1. Bears scenting abilities rival those of the best Bloodhound – and they’re not fussy – they’ll eat anything that smells! Yes, even a baby’s diapers.

2. Clean your smokers and grills – including the utensils, drip pans, and grates after every use; or lock up the whole kit and kaboodle in a secure garage or shed.

3. Your car parked outside – Have you left any cosmetics inside? Any food wrappers from a driving snack, air fresheners, petfood, etc. are fair game.

4. Bird feeders are especially attractive to bear (just as they are for squirrels)

all those yummy grains! Remember to empty them during active bear seasons and best yet; put them away.

5. Feeding pets or barn cats outdoors – not a good plan with bears roaming around.

6. Bear-proof ALL your trash cans and recycle bins. There are any number of ways to adapt your existing cans or purchase bear-resistant containers. Also, it’s not advisable to put your trash out the night before; rather, do it the pick-up morning.

7. Fruit trees and gardens. Pick up all fruits and vegetables that are lying around.

8. Chickens, ducks, farm livestock (particularly young ones) keep them and their feed securely locked up at night.

9. Beehives – we can imagine the strength of these super-sweet magnets for bears. Electric fencing is definitely recommended as well as keeping the hives well-distanced from bear-protective trees and forests.

10. Homes and Outbuildings can present a bevy of “gifts” for bears – screen doors (a piece of cake for a bear); sliding glass doors (easy peasy, especially if unlocked); Crawl spaces under buildings can be used for hibernation

Bears, p. 7 ➤

Dr. Speroff: Doctor, Author & Senior Softball Player

By Lindsey Laughlin

On the wall above the staircase that ascends to Dr. Leon Speroff's widow walk office, a photo hangs of his Macedonian grandmother holding a baby in her arms. She stands in front of the Speroff family's farmhouse near Lorain, Ohio, warmly smiling. "This is a picture of me with my grandmother," Dr. Speroff tells me. "I was raised by my grandparents on their farm until I started school at age seven."

Dr. Leon Speroff and his wife, Sen, have lived on Skyline Boulevard for thirty-five years. Both Leon and Sen had accomplished careers at the Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) in Obstetrics and Gynecology — Leon specializing in reproductive endocrinology and infertility, and Sen as a Nurse Practitioner specializing in midwifery. "Working in the same discipline as my wife was so much fun. We understood each other — we understood why we had to work so hard," Leon says.

Leon and Sen first moved to Portland from New Haven, Connecticut, in 1976. Leon, who was Assistant Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Yale University's School of Medicine, was offered a position as Chairman of the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at OHSU. For seven years he held this position before moving to Cleveland, Ohio, to become Chairman of the Department of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University in 1983.

In 1989, Leon and Sen decided to return to Portland. Leon recalls how his mother-in-law, who lived in Banks at the time, helped him and Sen achieve their goal of finding a property to purchase with two requirements: first, southwestern exposure for gardening, and second, a commute to OHSU that did not include highway driving. When she came upon a developer offloading acreage in the Tualatin Hills for a decent price, she rang up Leon and Sen and asked them to fly to Portland immediately. Leon says they were there by the weekend.

For a year, the Speroff's lived in a trailer on their land while their home was built. They chose to replicate their Cleveland house, designed by Yale-trained architect Jack Bialosky, here in the Tualatin Hills. On sunny days, light pours into their spacious, high-ceilinged living room with floor to ceiling windows. An orchard of cherry, plum and apple trees, planted by Leon, grows in the field behind their house.

Leon's early years on the Lorain farm with his grand-

parents instilled a love of gardening in him, and this passion shines through in the design of his home. A greenhouse just off the kitchen allows Leon easy access to the seedlings he starts each spring, and during our visit he showed me an amaryllis just beginning to bloom.

"Each year, we spend a day making Macedonian sausage with friends. The magic ingredient is leeks, which we grow here in our garden," Leon tells me, gesturing to the large, fenced in garden that sits beside his and Sen's orchard. "In the evening, we dance. I treasure my Macedonian culture. And I love Macedonian dancing."

The Speroffs have two grown daughters, Sevda and Elena, and Leon glows with pride about their individual accomplishments. "Elena is such a wonderful Macedonian dancer," he says, "and Sevda is an equestrian. She won first place today at a competition."

I have a unique story," he continues, showing me a picture of the Macedonian village where his grandparents came from high in the mountains in Greece next to the border with then Yugoslavia. "My grandfather walked away from the village one day in July, 1910. No one knew where he went. Ten years later, he sent a telegram home to my grandmother saying, 'I am in Sofia, Bulgaria, come join me.' Back then, men had to leave to make money for their families," he explains. "My grandmother

walked with her two sons, my father and uncle, five hundred miles to Bulgaria to join" him."

Leon credits his Macedonian heritage with his strong work ethic and his love of people. As vice-president of the Macedonia Schools Project, a volunteer-run non-profit that grants funds to schools in Macedonia, Leon organizes fundraising to support Macedonian children. "I always tell my kids, whatever you do, do something that helps people. That makes people around you better."

In addition to his accomplished medical career and volunteer work, Leon is a prolific author and senior softball player. He has written medical textbooks, biographies, memoirs and historical non-fiction. In April, 2024, Leon will be giving a talk on his book, *The Deschutes River Railroad War*, at the Southern Wasco County Library in Maupin, OR. Many of his books are available on Amazon, including *A Slow-Pitch Summer* and *Slow-Pitch Stories*, which chronicle his return to softball as a seventy-one-year-old.



Leon

(Photo: L. Laughlin)

Dr. Speroff, p. 10►

Skyline Ridge Runner

Well-Trained Dogs Sniff Out Native Culinary Truffles

By Ava Chapman

Did you know Oregon has native culinary Truffles which grow in the forests around us, right here on the Ridge? I am talking culinary fungi, native truffles with names like *Tuber oregonense*, (Winter Whites), and *Tuber gibbosum* (Summer Whites). There are also Oregon Black Truffles and a rarer native Brown Truffle which can be found.

Each variety of Truffle has a unique fragrance, and the aromas are variable. The Winter White Truffle is pungent and unforgettable. The Summer White Truffle is less pungent, ethereal even.

Truffle scents are hard to capture in words because it is more about how they make you feel, and the memories they evoke. Their profile is a little different for everyone, of course, but a mixture of gasoline and woody scent is what many experience with the Winter Whites. The science behind this aromatic draw to truffles is that truffles contain a compound called anandamide, the bliss molecule, a bliss booster which by its sheer aroma attracts creatures with endocannabinoid systems, including dogs, pigs, and humans. When ripe truffles emit their attractant the fungivores show up. Many mammals besides humans enjoy eating them. Squirrels, voles, deer, fox, coyotes, all will eat truffles. (Even bugs and beetles eat them.) Though mushrooms are not on a dog's diet, truffles are! Truffles are aromatic underground fungi that flourish in many areas around the world, growing in relationship with a tree or shrub, even in the deserts of Mesopotamia (on a bush called a Rock Rose).

Here on the Ridge each of our native White Truffles grow in a symbiotic relationship with Douglas Fir and in the case of Oregon Black truffles, sword ferns, in a predominantly Douglas Fir forest. Mushrooms are fungi which fruit above ground, while truffles are fungi which fruit underground. Truffles are the fruit of a particular fungi. Think of them like the apples on an apple tree, though the underground organism (mycorrhiza) that produces truffles can be the largest organism in the forest! Because they fruit underground out of our sight, scent-trained dogs help find them. Truffles depend on fungivores (including mammals of all kinds) to eat them to spread their spores. Because they fruit underground the wind is unable to scatter their spores like above ground mushrooms. Forest creatures and we humans alike are attracted to the fabulous aroma, which acts like a pheromone. The aroma is a vola-

tile gas being expelled by the truffle which draws us to it. Though there are hundreds of identified truffles, four culinary truffles draw us to the woods in the middle of winter, January through March, when it is wet, cold, and muddy; the culinary ones are so worth it!

Why use a dog? Well, first off, a dog is easier to fit in a Subaru and secondly when you take a pig for a walk in the woods everybody knows what you are doing! Though both are good reasons enough to use a dog, a dog's nose has over 220 million olfactory receptors. With such a "superpower" sniffer it is easy to train and employ most any breed of dog to help you find them. A dog is trained to alert you exactly where a ripe one is located, one at a time, which means you harvest only ripe truffles. This way the dog is in charge of quality control, leaving unripened truffles to mature. Foragers who rake, instead of using dogs, harvest ripe and unripe truffles alike. By raking, the potential of damaging the very organism which produces the truffle is possible and over time, even damaging the host tree whose roots sustain the organism which produces the truffle.



Joey the Truffle Dog with friends Joanie and Cameron on a local hunt. (Photo: A. Chapman)

The size of the truffle is not the determinant of ripeness. By leaving small ones in the ground, they will not grow larger. If the dog sniffs them out, they are ripe. We collect even small ripe pea-size truffles to infuse with foods which have high fats like eggs, nuts, butters, cheeses, avocados, cream, and olive oils.

So, I presume you who have forested land might be asking "Might I have culinary truffles in my woods?" "Yes," would be the answer. If your woods are planted with a monoculture of Douglas Fir trees from 10-30 years old with little undergrowth and you have not used herbicides, most likely culinary truffles can be found with a well-trained dog!

My hope is during the 2024-2025 Truffle season you all get to experience, just once, the allure of a fresh dog-found truffle! ☐

Written by Ava Chapman of Dirt Dogs (DirtDogsinDuff@Outlook.com). With Joey the truffle dog, the more skilled team member, and Ava a hobby truffle advocate, dog trainer and harvester of truffles, they make the case that dog-dug truffles are the best option for finding truffles over pigs or rakes and a whole lot more fun!

WMSWCD Seeks Grant to Help Improve Wildfire Resiliency

By Laura Taylor, WMSWCD, and Rachael Brake

West Multnomah SWCD has submitted an application for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant offered through the US Forest Service, in partnership with Ash Creek Forest Management, Portland Fire & Rescue, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, and many local community groups including the Forest Park North & South and Skyline Ridge Firewise Communities, Skyline Ridge Neighborhood Association, Skyline Ridge NET, and the Skyline Grange. The goal for seeking this funding is to support communities across the Tualatin Mountains in their efforts to improve wildfire resiliency and forest health and increase community awareness around emergency preparation and wildfire risk reduction actions. This is a very competitive national grant, but there will be additional rounds of this funding opportunity to apply for in future years if an award is not

received this year. The US Forest Service (the agency running this grant program) expects to let us know their final decision in May, 2024.

Skyline Firewise

Our local Firewise groups encourage residents to take advantage of the season to work on items to reduce their risk in a wildfire by taking steps to harden their homes against wildfire intrusion and increasing defensible space around their homes. Take time to review potential actions you can take: <https://www.portland.gov/fire/your-safety/documents/your-personal-wilfire-action-guide/download>. Focus on the home first then work on creating defensible space. Remember, it's a marathon, not a sprint! Here are some timely Winter Safety Tips courtesy of Portland Fire & Rescue: <https://www.portland.gov/fire/your-safety/winter-fire-safety-tips>. □

TVF&R Seeks Approval of Local Option Levy for Emergency Services

By Christina Lent, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Voters will decide in the May 21 election whether to support Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's local option levy to maintain fire and emergency medical response services and personnel hired since 2000.

Measure 34-332 proposes a replacement five-year operating levy with a rate of 69 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. For a property assessed at \$305,000, about the average in TVF&R's service area, the cost of the local option levy would be about \$210 per year or \$17.54 a month.

TVF&R's existing levy, which was approved in 2019, will not sustain current or future fire and emergency medical service operations and is set to expire in June 2025. Under Oregon law, levies expire in five years or less and require voter approval.

Over the past five years, there has been a 23 percent increase in the frequency of emergency incidents in TVF&R's service area. The District's growing community and rising demands require more firefighters and paramedics to maintain reliable emergency response.

If the replacement levy does not pass, funding that pays for at least 92 of 450 TVF&R firefighters and paramedics would be lost and staffing reductions would be required, which may impact response times and reliability.

If the replacement levy passes, levy funds will retain existing first responders and add 36 more. Additional responders at existing stations will ensure prompt response times and reliability when multiple incidents happen at the same time.

Levy funding will also be used to purchase specialized equipment used for medical emergencies such as cardiac monitors and defibrillators as well as critical firefighting

tools, including thermal imagers that aid in search and rescue efforts and self-contained breathing apparatus worn by firefighters in burning buildings.

With increased wildfire risk and a strained emergency medical system, levy proceeds will also purchase smaller vehicles used to fight wildfire, shuttle water, and transport patients.

Levy funds will allow the District to add personnel who train and equip first responders.

If approved, the replacement levy would appear on the November 2025 property tax statement. This measure may cause property taxes to increase by more than 3 percent. TVF&R intends to maintain the same levy rate for 10 years, which will help long-term planning, ensure service stability, and provide predictability to taxpayers.

For more information or to schedule a presentation, call Public Affairs Manager Stefan Myers at 503.649.8577. □



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► **Bears** (continued from p. 3)

if not blocked; open garage doors, freezers and refrigerators, coolers holding food and drinks on patios and decks.

11. Who would have thought?!? Swimming pools, hot tubs, ponds and water features – especially with fish.

12. Inadvertent attractions – orchard trees, wild berries and natural foods growing close by, dense bushes or forest close to the house.

The bear population is kept under control by the issuance of hunting licenses and tags. The total number of Oregon bears killed annually usually numbers just under 2,000 – As an example, 1966 bears were killed in the entire state of Oregon by all methods including hunting, property damage, human-safety, and vehicle collision in 2023. Special tags are available for people to hunt bear for meat in the Spring (April – May, which is a controlled hunt) and one must apply in advance for an opportunity to have a chance at drawing a tag. There are a limited number of spring bear tags available for the Northwest region of Oregon – approximately 1400 tags are usually dispensed. Bear hunting in the Fall (Aug – Dec) is a general season hunt, meaning that unlimited numbers of permits are available for hunters to purchase over-the-counter. It is mandatory for all bears that are killed by hunters, or statutorily killed for damage/ human-safety reasons, be checked in with ODFW.

Some people have an unnecessary fear of bears; they're a terrifying predator out to kill people; some people think they're a cuddly teddy bear to pet. Which are you? In truth, bear are shy, furtive, elusive to locate, and actively avoid humans and dogs. Bears are hardly even meat eaters – they are true omnivores, leaning much more toward herbivores. They eat all types of berries and any type of vegetation – almost the same as cows, such as sedges, grass, nuts, apple trees, flowers, any palatable portions of plants. When they do eat meat, it is usually scavenged. In the spring, mature males will actively prey on elk calves and deer fawns – but that's only for a short window of time. Besides being guarded by a ferocious mother, very soon the prey animals are fast enough to outrun a bear.

The black bear is the only species of bear in the state of Oregon. To date, no resident in our area has been injured by a Black Bear; and if a person were threatened, stalked, or in danger from a bear, s/he would, statutorily, be allowed to kill the bear, cougar, bobcat, and fox - all of which are protected animals. (Coyotes are a completely unprotected animal.) This is according to Oregon Revised Statute 498.012, which refers to the taking of wildlife causing damage, posing a public health risk, or that is a public nuisance.

If a bear does approach you, don't turn and run; it's important that you face the bear and confront it. If you're with other people, group together to accentuate your size.

- Stand your ground.
- Back away only when the bear stops its approach.
- Make yourself look bigger by raising your arms

- and jacket, and/or standing on a rock or stump.
- Yell "HEY BEAR!" loudly.

To learn more about our native black bears, come to the Skyline Grange on April 17 to hear Benjamin Cate, ODFW Wildlife Biologist, talk about their lives and how to avoid conflicts with them.

A helpful website to visit is: www.bearwise.com. The site is maintained by bear biologists, and it provides suggestions to remedy all types of bear activities and visits as well as information on how to secure your existing trash cans and links to find bear-resistant receptacles and bear deterrents for the home.

An unfortunate truth is that once bears eat human food, their brains are addicted; we can understand this sad situation because our food is laced with food additives and secret formulas expressly designed to addict us (natural flavors, yeast, msg, and on and on.) Once accustomed to human food, bears will do ANYTHING to repeat eat. If they find food on property, their desire to find it again is awesome. They'll be back, hopeful of a return feed! They've also been known to travel long distances – even 100 miles to find human food.

If you're lackadaisical about bear-proofing your home and property and find yourself with a nuisance bear such that you are compelled to call the ODFW for removal, you are responsible for needlessly killing a bear. Please secure your trashcans. As "cute" and compelling as they are, it's better for all concerned to not create a continual drop-in friend in *Ursus Americanus*.

Skyline Ridge Neighbors and the Ridge Runner are very interested in hearing about your encounter with a bear in our "hood." Kindly either email Alex Rose at: nemorose@sbcglobal.net; or you are welcome to call or text: 213.507.6616. Thanks so much!!! ☐



Like SRN on Facebook!

Visit Skyline Ridge Neighbors' page to see the most current happenings in our neighborhood and add your news and comments.

Six Ways to Be Involved With Community Preparedness



By Sen Speroff

As the sayings go: "Being ready for disasters takes preparation, not luck." and "A Team is only as strong as its weakest link." Be prepared and don't be

the weakest link.

Be Prepared as Individuals

This means being prepared to be self-sufficient for 14 days after any disaster. Have your household and workplace ready with preparation, education, and a plan of action. Have the supplies you would require; have both a family/work evacuation plan and a stay-in-place plan.

Know Your Neighbors

Help develop a network of immediate neighbors of 15-20 households. Get to know each other. Identify skills and equipment that may be useful in a disaster. Identify those having specific needs such as the elderly, those with disabilities. Learn to work together as a Team and as support in the advent of a disaster.

Be a NET Team Member

The Portland NET program will train with basic skills to provide emergency assistance to your family and immediate neighbors and to work within an emergency response team to save lives and property. Periodically you would be called for deployment opportunities (always optional) for situations such as downed power line safety perimeters, public outreach events, event first aid stations, emergency evacuation shelters, severe weather shelters, emergency transportation dispatch, and Logistics operations. As a NET member, you would be indemnified by the City of Portland when volunteering within the scope of your NET training. And as a local resident, Skyline Ridge NET hopes you would become one of its active members. For information, log onto <https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams>.

Become an Affiliated Team Volunteer (ATV)

If you're not interested or just don't have time to do the full NET training, we welcome you to join Skyline Ridge NET as an (ATV). An ATV must be associated with a Neighborhood Emergency Team, be on its roster, and agree to the PBEM Volunteer Code of Conduct. PBEM is developing ATV policies. At present, ATVs are not badged for their role as an ATV and are not indemnified by the City of Portland, but work under the Good Samaritan laws.

An ATV declares a support function, such as a medical role or as an amateur radio operator. Skyline Ridge NET would appreciate your aid, expertise, and skills in plan-

ning for or working together during a disaster. You are welcome to attend our monthly meetings usually on the first Tuesday of the month at the Grange at 7 p.m.

One ATV position that doesn't require any physical work would be that of an Amateur Radio Operator for Skyline Ridge NET. AROs are vital in an emergency, especially with the limitations of two-way radios in our steep, vegetated terrain. For further details log into NET Amateur Radio Resources (<https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams/crtradio>) or contact Rachael Brake.

Be a Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteer (SUV)

Ideally, all volunteers should be affiliated with an established emergency team and trained for specific disaster response activities. An SUV is a person who shows up during a disaster to volunteer to help their community, but has no prior affiliation with the emergency management group. There are valuable and appropriate roles for SUVs in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, as well as in other areas of community need. A management structure is necessary to coordinate the skills and interests of SUVs and to maximize their benefits.

Be Firewise

Take action to make your home safer from wildfires. Although not officially a NET function, our local team is focused on wildfire as one of the major threats to life and safety in our area. Fire season is approaching and now is a good time to prepare. General information can be found at: <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/wildfire/firewise-usa/become-a-firewise-usa-site?l=75>. There are several local Firewise communities in our neighborhood, contact Rachael Brake for more specific information.

Contact Us
NETS are here to support the community. Questions? Email Skyline Ridge NET at SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com or contact Rachael Brake, Team Leader, at 503.621.3423. □

The logo for Crow Water Systems features a stylized black and red bird-like shape above the text "Crow Water Systems" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the logo is a list of services: "Pump Sales and Service • Backflow Testing Water Treatment • Water Testing". At the bottom, contact information is provided: "P.O. Box 665 Scappoose, OR 97056" and "(503) 543-6326 www.crowwater.com". A footer line reads "Emergency: (503) 796-5632 • Fax (503) 543-6929 • service@crowwater.com".

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Planning Decision Gives the Grange Cause for Celebration



Skyline Grange #894 – Since 1940
“Where Community Connects”

By Sen Speroff

The City has finally approved the zoning for Skyline Grange as Conditional Use for Community Service in a Residential Farm/Forest Base Zone. Our City Planner communicated, “You won’t need a Type II Review now. The Community Services use designation means no land use review is required for your current permit or any future project under 2,000 new square feet of new floor area.” We have local resident Carol Chesarek to thank for knowing the fine print in City land use codes and urging us to insist upon a Conditional Use review, and not the restrictive Non-Conforming Use review.

Now we await the City to give its final approval of our year-long effort to obtain building permits for our Reduced Scope Project application. If the stars are correctly aligned, by the fall rains you will have access to both a restroom and a second emergency exit with a ramp on the main level, and the building’s decades-long drainage issues will be solved. A thank you to those of you who have donated to our Capital Improvement Fund in various ways. (If this cannot be completed by the fall rains, we will need to postpone construction until summer 2025.)

What Has Been Happening at the Grange

There has been a lot going on at the Grange since the last Ridge Runner. Over 40 local households donated items to our successful Garage Sale, and proceeds were slightly above average despite Mother Nature giving us wintery weather in March. About 110 people enjoyed our annual Community “Pancakes, Etc.” Brunch. Yoga at the Grange happens 3 times a week. Forty-two people purchased species from our Mostly Tree Seedling Sale. Our Education Committee organized 3 events in its “Skyline Living Series” of presentations. Forest Park Conservancy talked about Forest Park. Twenty-three attendees participated in our first ever “Skyline Reads” evening to discuss Nature’s Best Hope by Douglas Tallamy. If you haven’t read it yet, do. That evening stimulated interest in pollinator-friendly plantings and the realization that all of us can easily make little changes that have significant effects on pollinator survival. To follow up on the subject, Tammy Kern-Korot from WMSWCD just made a presentation at the Grange on “Pollinators” and installing pollinator hedges and plantings.

We provided meeting space for Skyline Ridge NET, Forest Heights HOA while recovering from the damages caused by frozen pipes, and a warm venue for Chef Hiro

Obayashi’s celebration of life. The building was rented for monthly ISHA satsangs.

Skyline Living Series

Our Education Committee has prepared the next round of talks in its Skyline Living Series. These talks are free to attend, starting at 7 p.m. The Committee is full of ideas, but if you have a topic you would like to be considered, contact them at skylinegrange894@msn.com. Here is what is scheduled for this spring:

April 17, “Living with Black Bears.” Seldom do local residents sight a bear here but may occasionally see scat or tree markings. Black bears are normally wary of people, making encounters rare. But in 2023, a black bear made an occasional nuisance of itself along Skyline Ridge. Benjamin Cate, ODFW Wildlife Biologist, will talk about our local black bear neighbors, their lives, and what we can do to reduce the chance of conflict with a bear becoming more habituated to human presence.

May 20, “Beavers: Ecosystem Engineers.” David Osborn will speak about beavers, our State’s official animal. Though nearly wiped out by early fur trappers, many American beavers now thrive on Skyline Ridge. Beavers fulfill an important role in creating wetlands that provide a multitude of benefits to fish, wildlife, water quality, and flood control. Come learn about beavers and how to reduce conflicts, solve problems, and to live with them.

See <https://skylinegrange894/calendar/> for upcoming events and building use.

Tree & Native Plant Sale 4/5-6

This huge 19th annual sale is on Friday-Saturday, April 5-6, 2024. There are two parts to our sale. The indoor Native Plant Section has a large variety of native plants. The outdoor Bareroot Section has fruit-bearing, shade, flowering and ornamental trees and ornamental shrubs. Most of these bareroot trees and shrubs are not true PNW “natives”, but they have been selected for their ability to thrive in our area while not out-competing plants in our native habitat. All plants are from licensed local nurseries. Grange has a Temporary Nursery Sale license from the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. Expect both quality and quantity at good prices.

Flea Market 5/18

Skyline Grange is offering local residents space at our 3rd annual Flea Market, tentatively set for Saturday, May 18, 2024. Make a little cash from your unwanted, never used or gently used collection of stuff, or crafts you have been making. If interested, contact skylinegrange894@msn.com for details. Vendor space is limited, so register now.

Grange News, p. 10 ➤

► **SOLVE** (continued from p. 1)
How to join in?

Register at the Skyline Grange (11275 NW Skyline Blvd.) between 8:30 -9:30 AM to get SOLVE bags and a route assignment of your choosing. Light refreshments will also be available at the registration table. A map of the collection routes is available at www.srnpx.org/solve. Bags will also be available at the SRN annual meeting on April 24 at the Grange.

Save time by registering in advance from the SOLVE

website: <https://volunteer.solveoregon.org/opportunity/a0CVL00000Ki25p2AB/skyline-ridge-neighbors-clean-up>.

It is important to have your filled bags ready on the side of the road no later than noon and in a safe location where a truck and trailer can pull off the road for pickup. Crews will come by at that time to collect bags and trash. Excess tires & hazardous materials will not be accepted this year.

Thank you for being a part of what makes our neighborhood such a special place to live! ☐

► **Grange News** (continued from p. 9)
Yoga at the Grange

Yoga is offered three mornings a week. Schedule and details are on www.yogainalignment.com.

Garlic Mustard Drop-Off Site 3/22-6/15

For the 16th spring, Skyline Grange will provide a drop-off site for garlic mustards pulled and bagged by local residents. We all need to be on the lookout for these highly invasive plants and pull them before they go to seed in late spring. For details about how to identify garlic mustard, its threat to our native habitat, and how to bag and dispose of it safely at Skyline Grange, visit www.srnpx.org/garlic-mustard.html.

Join Skyline Grange

Our Grange reinstated Family Membership. So far

4 families have taken advantage of this. We hope family members will promote Grange events geared to the interest and needs of families in our community.

Grange is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-profit, and totally volunteer-driven organization. We are a diverse group of people who believe that we are fortunate to live in the Skyline area and are dedicated to supporting its well-being. We take the fact seriously that our building is a community asset as a gathering place. Our impact, activities, and accomplishments depend upon our members and community volunteers. We offer 3 categories of membership: lifetime, individual and family.

You can learn more about the Grange and contact us regarding rentals and general questions as follows: www.SkylineGrange894.org; SkylineGrange894@msn.com; www.Facebook.com/Skyline-Grange-894-169559023662398/; Physical Address: 11275 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR 97231; Mailing Address: 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. ☐

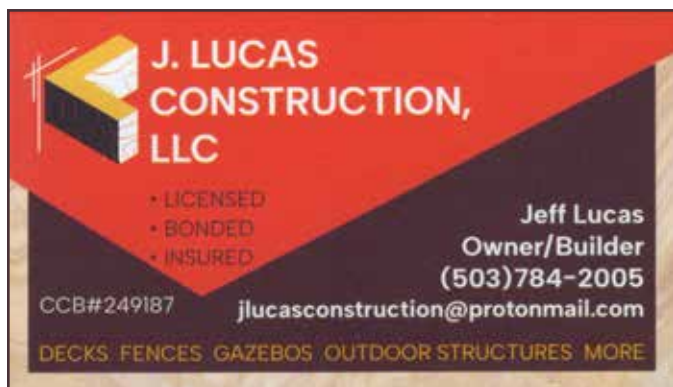
► **Dr. Speroff** (continued from p. 4)

Other titles include *Carlos Montezuma, M.D., A Yavapai American Hero*; *A Good Man, the story of the Birth Control Pill*; and *Harry Lane, M.D., Oregon's Progressive Physician and Politician*.

When asked what his favorite part about living in the Skyline area is, Leon doesn't hesitate: "It's the people. It's a marvelous neighborhood. People are friendly, helpful, and come right over when you need them." He and Sen are

active members of the Skyline Ridge Neighborhood Association.

Leon recalls how he and Sen threw a housewarming party in 1989, when they first moved to the ridge. "Two hundred people came. I flew in a Macedonian band from Detroit and we roasted a lamb. Some of our neighbors still remember dancing on the deck." Leon gazes out of the window where snow swirls and falls onto that same spacious deck. Wistfully, he adds, "I just love it here." ☐



Phoenix Farm Riding School. English horse-riding lessons for the whole family. All ages and ability levels are welcome! Day-off-school camps. Summer camps. Parties and special events. Located on the corner of Skyline Blvd. & Rock Creek Rd. Call/text 503.621.3823, email 13phoenix-farm13@gmail.com.

Owen West Electric. Our specialty is service and panel changes, kitchen and bath remodels, security, and yard lighting. 30 years of experience. CCB #29492. 503.297.6375 Office, 503.880.9512 Cell.

Rent the Skyline Grange. Details at skylinegrange894.org.

Borrow tool to eliminate Scotch broom, holly and other woody shrubs, sapling trees easily. SRN will lend 3 sizes of Weed Wrench. Contact Sen 503.621.3331 for large and medium size (Skyline near mile marker 15). Contact Laura 503.407.7175 for small size (McNamee Rd.).



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Community Calendar

Apr. 5-6: 19th annual Tree & Native Plant Sale at the Grange. All plants are from licensed local nurseries. Expect both quality and quantity at good prices.

Apr. 8, 7:30 pm: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email SkylineGrange894@msn.com.

Apr. 11, 6:30 pm: SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@gmail.com) to get the link.

Apr. 17, 7 pm: "Living with Black Bears." Lecture at the Skyline Grange by Benjamin Cate, ODFW Wildlife Biologist, about our local black bear neighbors and what we can do to reduce the chances of conflict.

Apr. 24, 6-7:30 pm: SRN Annual Meeting at the Skyline Grange. Visit with representatives of local organizations and enjoy free pizza and beverages provided by SRN.

Apr. 27, 8:30 am-Noon: SOLVE Roadside Cleanup. Register at the Skyline Grange (11275 NW Skyline Blvd.) between 8:30 -9:30 AM to get SOLVE bags and a route assignment of your choosing.

May 9, 6:30 pm: SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@

gmail.com) to get the link.

May 13, 7 pm: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email SkylineGrange894@msn.com.

May 18: 3rd Annual Flea Market at the Skyline Grange, featuring a menagerie of never used or gently used stuff for sale by local residents.

May 20, 7 pm: "Beavers: Ecosystem Engineers." David Osborn will speak at the Skyline Grange about beavers, our State's official animal. Though nearly wiped out by early fur trappers, many American beavers now thrive on Skyline Ridge.

Jun. 13, 6:30 pm: SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@gmail.com) to get the link.

Jun. 10, 7 pm: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email SkylineGrange894@msn.com.

July 27: SRN Summer Gathering at the Plumper Pumpkin Patch.

Summer Gathering Date Change

The SRN Summer Gathering will be held Saturday, July 27 at the Plumper Pumpkin Patch
 Details to follow on the Newsline and the July Ridge Runner