



Skyline Ridge Runner

October 2024

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 36, No. 4

Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

Good Times at SRN's Summer Gathering!

By Suzanne Perra, SRN President

We are so lucky to live in this beautiful place where we are stewards of the Tualatin forest and agricultural lands and still 30 minutes to Portland. We have a strong identity and rich history from the Native Americans who first traversed Logie Trail, to the predominately Swiss-German families who first settled here, to the present day. There seems to be a connective thread between us as we hear about the lives of those who once lived here. We've now had the tradition of the Skyline Ridge Neighbors (SRN) Summer Gathering for over 30 years. Children have grown up with this tradition and many hope to bring their children in the years to come. You can read about the history of our area from the [srnpx.org](https://www.srnpx.org) home page by selecting "TOPICS" and "HISTORY OF SKYLINE" or <https://www.srnpx.org/history-of-skyline.html>.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it usually provides 80% of our revenue. Thank you for supporting the SRN Summer Gathering which allows us to publish the Ridge Runner and Newline, and to organize community events such as the SOLVE clean-up. This year, the auction

grossed approximately \$8,900 and netted around \$8K after expenses. Brad Graff and Tracey Larvenz co-chaired the Gathering this year. They oversaw the registration, food, auctions, band selection, volunteers, and the timing and physical layout of the event. See an album of photos from the [srnpx.org](https://www.srnpx.org) home page and selecting "Photo Gallery" and "Summer Gathering 2024" or <https://www.flickr.com/photos/skylineridge/albums/72177720320088424>.

Thank you to Jim and Peggy Kessinger for allowing us to use **Plumper Pumpkin Patch and Tree Farm** as our venue for the Summer Gathering for many years. Jim and crew worked alongside us during the event, as well as the planning and clean up. Thank you to Casey and Annie Miller of **The Meat-ing Place** for their generous

donation of delicious pulled pork again this year.

Silent and Oral Auctions

Nicole Anderson did another world-class job as Auction Chair. During the oral auction this year, she added

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Learn About Pollinators, Soil, Earthquakes, Tribal History and More

By Sen Speroff

Skyline Grange's Education Committee has organized a full schedule of topics for their 2024-2025 Skyline Living Lecture Series. Presentations are held at the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd, and are free to all. Here is what else is in store for you:

Preparing For Wildfire. On Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7 p.m., Kim Kosmas, Senior Public Education Officer for Portland Fire & Rescue and Jen Warren, Fire Risk Reduction Specialist with the Oregon State Fire Marshal

will speak. Learn how to establish defensible space and home hardening methods to best protect your home. Use the coming winter/spring months to prepare. Meet local Firewise community members and sign up for an assessment.

Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley. On Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 7 p.m., Dr. David G. Lewis returns to expand upon the history he provided to our Grange last year. Dr. Lewis is a member of the Confederated Tribes of

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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@srnpx.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 December 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 Newslite

Subscribe to SRN's weekly email newsletter of local events and news via the link at www.srnpx.org. Contact the Editor, Laurel Erhardt, at newslite@srnpx.org or 503.621.3501 to submit items for publication.

SRN Website

Visit www.srnpx.org for more news, photos and information about our community. If you have questions or comments, contact the Webmaster, Agnes Kwan, at webmaster@srnpx.org.

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

Thanks for Your Donations!

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

- ~ Motz & Sons
- ~ Roger & Carol Wilkerson
- ~ Nicole & Matt Anderson
- ~ Miles & Libby Merwin
- ~ Cindy Roach

SRN relies on the financial support of the Skyline community to pursue its nonprofit, educational mission. We operate entirely on the volunteer 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.



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www.srnpx.org

Fall's the Time to Tackle Invasive Plants and Sow Native Seeds

By Eleanor Greene, West Multnomah SWCD

As the days grow shorter and temperatures cool, fall presents a fitting time for gardeners and land managers to tackle some of their most challenging tasks: controlling invasive plants like blackberry and knotweed and sowing native seeds. The season's unique conditions create a perfect environment for these tasks, ensuring better outcomes for both plant control and ecological restoration.

Invasive Plant Control

Fall is a crucial time for addressing invasive species such as blackberry and knotweed. These plants are notorious for their aggressive growth and ability to outcompete native vegetation. However, their growth patterns in fall can be leveraged to our advantage.

Blackberry: Blackberries tend to focus their energy on producing and dispersing seeds during the fall, leading to a significant decline in their energy reserves. This makes them more vulnerable to control measures, which is good for those of us trying to control it. As blackberries prepare for winter, their shoots are actively transporting nutrients to the roots. Targeting them now means that the herbicides* or manual removal efforts can be more effective, as the plants are directing their energy into their roots, making them more susceptible to treatment. Blackberry roots are also easier to fully dig out of the ground once the soil is consistently moist from fall rains.

Knotweed: Japanese knotweed, another notoriously tough plant, is also good to treat in the fall. Like blackberries, knotweed is storing up nutrients in its roots in preparation for winter. This natural process means that herbicides* applied in the fall are more likely to be translocated down into the root system, leading to more effective control. Additionally, the reduced leaf canopy in fall can improve the efficacy of herbicide treatments by increasing the herbicide's contact with the plant's veins system. Manual or mechanical removal of knotweed is not recommended since these methods are not effective and can further spread the infestation. If you live within the Skyline area you may be eligible for free control. Contact Michelle Delepine (michelle@wmswcd.org) for more information.

Others: Fall is also an optimal time to manage several other woody invasive plants including English holly, English hawthorn, and English ivy. They all have their own particular best practices to follow such as "hack & squirt,"

"cut-stump," or specific herbicide* mixes, so be sure to consult these guidelines at the links below before taking action.

*See the PNW Weed Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations. Always follow the label and use the required personal protective equipment. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/weed-2022-pnw-weed-management-handbook>



If you live in the Skyline area and have a Japanese knotweed infestation, you may be eligible for help from WMSWCD (Photo: M. Delepine)

Seedling Success

Fall is also an ideal time to sow native seeds, contributing to the health of local ecosystems, as they are important for pollinators and the land.

Stratification and Germination: Many native seeds require a period of cold stratification to germinate. By planting them in the fall, you allow these seeds to undergo natural winter conditions, which can break seed dormancy and prepare them for successful germination in the spring. This process mimics the conditions seeds would experience in their natural habitats, leading to stronger, more resilient seedlings.

Moisture and Soil Conditions: Fall and winter provide more consistent moisture compared to the dry heat of summer. This increased moisture helps seeds establish strong root systems. Additionally, the cooler temperatures reduce evaporation, ensuring that soil remains adequately moist for longer periods. This is especially beneficial for seeds that need a stable environment to establish.

Reduced Competition: Planting native seeds in fall allows them to start the germination process before other plants become active in the spring. This early start gives native species a competitive advantage over invasive plants and weeds that may otherwise crowd them out. By planting in the fall, native plants can establish themselves more robustly, leading to a more resilient and balanced ecosystem come spring.

In summary, fall's cooler temperatures, increased moisture, and natural cycles make it an optimal time for both controlling invasive species and sowing native seeds. By taking advantage of these seasonal conditions, you can enhance the effectiveness of your plant management efforts and contribute to a healthier, more resilient ecosystem. Embrace the fall season as a time of transformation and renewal, and watch as your landscape flourishes with the benefits of thoughtful, seasonal stewardship. □

The Hill's Very Own Farmer, Carpenter, Firefighter & Storyteller

By Lindsey Laughlin

Ras Sauer did not intend to settle on “the Hill” when he first passed through the area in 1974 at the age of nineteen. He had left his hometown of Aurora, Colorado, because he longed to experience more of the world. In Ras’ words, he wanted, “Anything different! Different terrain, work, social structure ... the bottom line was that I wanted to experience different outlooks on life.” Ras’ thirst for adventure sparked a dream to visit Alaska, but otherwise, he hadn’t yet formed concrete plans for the future. He possessed a pickup truck, his carpentry skillset, and a foot-loose spirit that had once led him hitchhiking from Colorado through Western Canada. Fifty years since that first visit to the Tualatin Hills—minus four years spent traveling—Ras is still here, enjoying the rich life he’s created amongst family and friends.

A chance meeting with Christina Traunweiser, who went on to establish Phoenix Farms, changed Ras’ life in 1978. Christina acquired sixteen acres of land on Skyline Blvd and together the couple started Scarecrow Hill Farms. “We were trying to build a farm from zero,” Ras explains. “We had nothing to our names and had never farmed. I was a suburban boy from Colorado. We didn’t yet have the necessary farming tools, but made do. The land was mixed timber with no pasture. It was a ‘make whatever you can possibly make with what you’ve got and whatever you can get’ mentality.”

“Shortly after we moved onto the property,” Ras says with a smile, “our neighbors had an open house for us. Knowing we had planned to farm, most brought animals. The problem with that? We had no pasture, no fencing, no feed. We were gifted geese, ducks, rabbits, guinea fowl, chickens and a kid goat. It was an old European welcome to the neighborhood.”

Scarecrow Hills Farm welcomed scouting troops, preschool and elementary classes, special needs and private tour groups. People came to experience farm life firsthand—to milk cows, feed farm animals, and ride horses. Visitors could also purchase farm products, such as milk, eggs and butter. Locals could purchase meat, although it was not available to the general public. At one point, after the untimely death of a local animal trainer, Ras and Christina were even offered two female elephants to add to their wide assortment of animals—this was the early 1980’s and regulations governing exotic animal ownership were loose—but the offer ended up falling through.

Ras looks back on those years fondly, especially the role he found himself in as father figure to Christina’s daughters, Sarah and Katy. “It was a wonderful environment for the children,” he says. “The neighborhood girls would come on horseback with pruners and machetes and cut trails through the forest. Katy and Sarah still ride, as do the grandchildren, and run Phoenix Farms with Christina.”

After ten years of a flourishing family and farm life, Ras and Christina parted and Ras left to pursue his lifelong dream of reaching Alaska. Ras says, “Alaska was beautiful, with a lot of construction and commercial fishing opportunities.” But Alaska would prove to be “more allure than a place to settle.” Ras returned to the Hill and established residency on lower Rock Creek. He ultimately met and married Jennifer, a mother of three girls, and welcomed a son, Dustin, in 1991.

In 1990, before Dustin’s birth, Ras embarked on another adventure—this time to Itō, Japan, to do carpentry work. “I was approached by Japanese affiliates of a Hill neighbor, Jim Boyd, whom I was building log cabins with. They wanted an American builder to travel to Japan to build two houses. I spent three months in Itō, a southeastern vacation town, building these homes.”

Working in Japan was an eye-opening experience for Ras, both culturally and professionally. He recalls the immense heat of that summer, and the Japanese carpenters who generously brought him new shoes that better allowed him to grip building surfaces, such as roofs and scaffolding. “I still have those shoes. They were meant to be worn with split toed and five toed socks, long before those became popular here in America,” Ras says.

Throughout his early decades on the hill, Ras worked as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for Stations 198 and 199. “Prior to the fire department being established, many houses burnt down in this area,” he explains, “because everybody used wood stoves.” Ras recalls a forest fire in Forest Park where Station 199 came to Portland Fire & Rescue’s aid. At the time, Portland fire and rescue equipment was based on hydrant access. District 20’s equipment could hook to hydrants, but also draft and pump from ponds and pools. “After the suppression of that fire, we trained with PF&R on a monthly basis.”

Ras continues to farm off of Skyline Blvd, raising sheep and chickens. When asked about predators he has encoun-

Ras Sauer, p. 5 ➤



Domestic Wells: What You Need To Know

By Sen Speroff

Domestic well water usage is drawing increased attention due to climate change and protracted drought conditions. Thousands of wells are, or at risk of, going dry in Oregon. Most of our surface water (waterways, lakes, wetlands, etc.) comes from a groundwater source in Oregon.

Alice Morrison, Co-Director of Friends of Family Farmers (FofFF), spoke about water regulations in Oregon at Skyline Grange on September 7, 2024. FofFF is a non-profit organization with the mission to promote and protect socially and ecologically responsible agriculture in Oregon. The talk was sobering and with legal complexity. Here is a brief synopsis of her presentation.

- In Oregon, all water is publicly owned with few exceptions, even when water naturally flows through or under your property.

- In our area, if you are not on City water, you probably have a domestic exempt well. These wells are designed to provide water to a household and up to half an acre of land. There are exemptions for domestic exempt well use including the stockwater exemption (unlimited water for livestock drinking water needs), domestic use (15,000 gal/day), noncommercial gardening on a half acre (no gallon limit), and an exemption for a "single commercial or industrial use" (5,000 gal/day but the statute specifically excludes irrigation as a commercial use). As the law stands, it is legal to grow food using domestic exempt well water and it is legal to run a business using a limited amount of domestic exempt well water, but it is not legal to grow food for sale using domestic exempt well water. Yes, this means selling excess zucchini at the end of your driveway is not permitted if the plant was watered from a domestic well. Yes, this means selling pickles at a farmer's market is not permitted if the cukes were irrigated with water from a domestic well.

- It is estimated that domestic exempt wells make up about 88% of all wells in Oregon, but they account for only 4% of the groundwater pumped for any reason in the state.

- In Oregon, water used for commercial agricultural purposes requires a water right. If you grow and sell irrigated crops you must have a water right for your property. A water right clearly defines your specific use of the water.

- Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD) has increased its enforcement of the laws regulating the use of domestic wells by small farms. Most of its inquiries are complaint driven and starts with a letter to the potentially offending person.

- Currently, there are no exemptions under current Oregon statutes or rules that specifically allow water use for small irrigated commercial farming operations without a water right.

- Friends of Small Farmers is seeking a potential legislative solution to allow the use of domestic exempt wells for small commercial farm use. Currently it is in discussion with the community, partner organizations, state agencies, and legislators to find a solution for this problem. It plans to bring a bill with its legislative partners to resolve this statutory barrier and is still collecting feedback.

Resources

- Oregon Water Resource Department website: www.oregon.gov/owrd.

- Friends of Family Farmers contact info: Phone 503.581.7124; info@friendsoffamilyfarmers.org.

- <https://waterwatch.org/protecting-groundwater-resources-is-critical-for-oregons-environment-and-people/>

- <https://waterwatch.org/water-resources-commission-adopts-amended-groundwater-allocation-rules-in-unanimous-vote/> □

► **Ras Sauer** (continued from p. 4)

tered while raising livestock, Ras shares that in the spring of 1980 he and Christina lost a pregnant Ewe to a cougar. After an extensive search, he ultimately found her body hanging 20-feet up on the edge of a logged cedar stump.

Ras, who has a perpetual twinkle in his blue eyes, glows even more brightly when he mentions his grandchildren. His youngest granddaughter, Reese, recently turned

five months old. Her full initials are RAS, he tells me with a bright smile. "I just went 'how cool is that?' when my son told me. I was very, very happy. I have ten grandchildren and counting ... they make me very, very happy!" □



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2024 Summer Gathering Auction Business Donors (continued)

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**Special Thanks to Our Prime Summer Gathering Supporters
Plumper Pumpkin, Skyline Grange & The Meating Place**

► **Post Summer Gathering** (continued from p. 1)

5 wonderful free raffle items and all who attended had a chance of winning. John Chen helped with the Newline articles about the auction items. Lisa Graff of **Lux Perennials Nursery** decorated the auction tables with beautiful perennial plants. Candice McBeth created some spectacular baskets and Alex Rose welcomed and assisted our silent auction visitors. Rich Edwards did a wonderful and entertaining job again this year as our auctioneer.

Dinner and Potluck

The **Skyline Grange** was again happy to coordinate the potluck. Their "Greenest Potluck Goal" is an inspiration to us all. Food scraps were fed to the Plumper Pumpkin farm animals, Grange reusable napkins, dishes and utensils were used, and anything that could be recycled was recycled. A total of 30 volunteers donated their time for the potluck. **The Meating Place** was very generous again with the pulled pork and buns. **Plumper Pumpkin Patch and Tree Farm** offered up 100 ears of corn as well as use of their kitchen and tents. The **Skyline Grange** provided equipment and lemonade, baked beans, slaw, 2 desserts and 4 wonderful salads. **Plainview Grocery & Auto** provided ice - lots! All that plus potluck dishes from our community. Thank you all!

Children's Activities

Laura Watts and Casselle LaTourette once again chaired the Children's Activities. Moriah Walker helped bring some fun activities, such as paint markers for river rocks. An estimated 40-50 children were there. Laura said, "My greatest joy of the gathering was being able to recognize and remember the faces and families that I've met at previous gatherings. I loved watching the kids play, do crafts, make new friends, and dance to the great band's music!!"

Community Tables

We had community tables that provided information about many organizations in the Skyline area. Skyline Ridge Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) was represented by Susan Gorgas, Hope Roach, Burt Lazar, Judy Friedman, Roger Cummings and George Sowder. The FIREWISE program was represented by Kim Kosmas of Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R). TVF&R had firefighters from Station 72 along with firefighting apparatus. TVF&R Firewise representatives were Stephanie McKee and Heather Carpenter, Michael Gordon & others. Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) was represented by Jen Warren who is our District Risk Manager. West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) was represented by District Manager Lynn Barlow. Forest Park Conservancy (FPC) was represented by Roger Penn. Thank you to George Sowder and Rachael Brake for organizing the tables.

Special Thanks

The Registration and Cashier team (Laurel Erhardt, Judy Flynn, Jennifer Glowacki, Rhonda Kelvin, Candice McBeth, Grant Rolette, Leon Speroff, Jolene Williams), led by Rachael Brake, handled a lot of traffic checking people in and checking people out and are to be commended. Laurel and Candice were our warm and welcoming greeters. George Sowder led the setup and cleanup crew, most of whom also worked the days before and after the event.

Thanks to all our Wonderful Volunteers & Individual Donors

- An estimated 250 neighbors attended (based upon Jim Kessinger's detection of 123 cars and 1 fire truck at 6:26pm).
- Special thanks to the SRN Board members who sought out all the wonderful auction items, set up the event, chaired committees or provided support during the event (some with almost no breaks), cleaned up after and handled all the associated paperwork: Nicole Anderson, Rachael Brake, John Chen, Judy Flynn, Brad Graff, Tracey Larvenz, Candice McBeth, Suzanne Perra, Grant Rolette, Alex Rose, George Sowder.
- Almost 60 neighborhood volunteers in total who supported the Summer Gathering: Jenna Andersen, Marie Andersen, Nicole Anderson, Sharon Barthmaier, Pierson Bialkiewicz, Rachael Brake, Ava Chapman, John Chen, Debbi Cuddigan, Karen Cummings, John Driscoll, Valerie Driscoll, Rich Edwards, Ros Elfick, Paul Elfick, Laurel Erhardt, Eric Finch, Leslie Finch, Judy Flynn, Laura Goldfarb, Tim Goldfarb, Jennifer Glowacki, Brad Graff, Lisa Graff, Laurel Harroun, Kim Higgins, Rhonda Kelvin, Jim Kessinger, Peggy Kessinger, Peter Kessinger, Tyler Kessinger, Tracey Larvenz, Casselle LaTourette, Brian Lightcap, Candice McBeth, Tanner McBeth, Karen McDaniel, Miles Merwin, Elliot Michael, Janet Michael, Suzanne Perra, Grant Rolette, Alex Rose, Caleb Slavens, George Sowder, Leon Speroff, Sen Speroff, Claire Stock, Colleen Thompson, Eric Thompson, Christina Traunweiser, Moriah Walker, Ben Warren, Laura Watts, Tracy Waters, Jolene Williams, Jennifer Worth, Jani Vandenberg
- 20 friends and neighbors who donated auction items: Nicole Anderson, Cindy Banks, Sharon Barthmaier, Ava Chapman, Karin Hunt, Chris Larson, James Lyons, Avery Marvin, Candice McBeth, Miles & Libby Merwin, Andre & Suzanne Perra, Scott Posey, Cindy Roach, Alex Rose, Sen Speroff, Susan Still, Claire Stock, Tracy Waters.
- 74 businesses and government agencies donated to the auction. They are listed with their contact information in a special section of this Ridge Runner. □

Another Very Good Reason to Know Your Neighbors

By Sen Speroff & Elliot Michael

Disaster Preparation isn't "one size fits all" because disasters are as varied as the people they impact. You might get advance notice or no warning at all. In some cases, the best option might be to shelter in place while other situations might demand immediate evacuation. Some will inconvenience us for a few days, while others could impact us for years. Some will propel us into action (like smoke in the air on a windy day) while others are a prediction (like the 37% chance of a 7+ earthquake in our lifetimes).

We all need to be educated about and prepared for a variety of disaster scenarios. Each individual household should do the basic preparation: (1) have a 14-day supply of water, (2) have at least 3 days of food (but ideally 2 weeks), (3) prepare emergency kits for both sheltering in place and evacuating, and (4) have an evacuation plan including communications and make sure all household members know it

Importance of Neighbors

We know from historical evidence that in a disaster your most immediate source of aid will be the folks living closest to you. And it's better to have a relationship before a disaster hits. For this reason and many others, Skyline Ridge NET encourages you to build closer relationships with your neighbors.

We would encourage you to organize with your neighbors. Ideally a "neighborhood" consists of 15-20 households that get to know each other, develop trust, knowledge of who has what skills or who might have specific needs, where available supplies and equipment are located, and so on. Ideally each neighborhood

cohort will also have at least one Skyline Ridge NET member. Rock Creek Road has a Map Your Neighbor Group which not only makes them more prepared in the advent of a disaster, with occasional potlucks and informational talks, they have developed a greater sense of community.

Any organized neighborhood support system is dependent on a cooperative effort. Be receptive to neighbors reaching out to you by phone, a knock on the door, or inviting you to a get-to-know-your neighbors potluck. The goal is to empower neighborhoods to engage and create resilient communities to support each other, particularly during natural disasters. Better yet, become an organizer. There are resources for you to assist in developing neighborhood support systems.

Resources for Developing a Neighborhood Preparedness Group

These are resources to help guide you and your neighbors through simple steps to help enhance your preparedness for an emergency:

- Community Resilience Workbook https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2022/2020.02.18.edits_community-resilience-workbook_web.pdf
- Map Your Neighborhood, <https://mil.wa.gov/map-your-neighborhood>
- Talk to your Skyline Ridge NET team members.
- NETs are here to support the community. Questions? Email Skyline Ridge NET at SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com or contact Rachael Brake, Team Leader, at 503.201.6740 ☐

➤ **Grange Presentations** (continued from p. 1)

Grand Ronde and an Assistant Professor of Anthropology & Indigenous Studies at OSU. The Willamette Valley is rich with tribal history, largely unrecorded, incomplete, poorly researched or partially untold. Lewis combines years of researching historical documents, collecting oral stories, and highlighting Native perspectives about the history of the Willamette Valley as they experienced it. This presentation is funded by West Multnomah SWCD.

Soil: What It Is & How It Works. On Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 7 p.m., James Cassidy, Senior Instructor, OSU Dept. of Crop & Soil Science, will speak. Soil science has never been more fun and engaging as when presented by James Cassidy who is known as "Dr. Soil." He will discuss the importance of soil testing, cover crops, and how to interpret the results of your soil tests, and so much more. This presentation is funded by West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District.

More Than Flowers: What Your Garden Needs to Support Pollinators. On Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 7 p.m., Matthew Sheperd of the Xerces Society will speak. If you want a landscape that can support bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators, you need to create an area that can

support their entire life cycle, and that means more than flowers. Shepherd will discuss practical ways in which we can bring diversity into our landscapes and make our gardens havens for pollinators.

Potential Effects of Earthquakes on Skyline Ridge. On Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7 p.m., Jay Wilson will speak. He is Clackamas County Resilience Coordinator with the Department of Disaster Management and the former Chair of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC). More details to come.

Once a Braided River. In April, local filmmaker Barbara Bernstein will present her documentary about the Willamette River before it was transformed into a Superfund Site. The film features community groups and activists working to replace the current Industrial Sanctuary with a green working waterfront defined by good jobs, clean energy, and healthy ecosystems. The documentary explores their vision to reclaim this stretch of river for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Barbara and other activists will be present to answer your questions. Exact date TBD.

If you have recommendations for future topics that may be of local interest, let Skyline Grange know. ☐

We are Celebrating!

By Sen Speroff

By the time you read this our Parking Lot Lighting Project should be complete, and just in time before nights turn dark, foggy, and rainy. You should experience significant visual improvements in the parking lot. This was funded through a \$5,000 matching grant from Oregon State Grange and the rest donated by a local anonymous donor who considered this a priority project for safety. The lighting is dark sky compliant, neighbor-friendly, and controlled by both photocells to reduce energy consumption and by motion sensors.

Not Celebrating Permit Approval Yet

Andy Warhol once said, "The idea of waiting for something makes it more exciting." Believe us, you will hear an eruption of jubilation when the City finally approves our permits for our Reduced Scope Project. It has been an excruciating 1.5 years of paperwork, expense and anticipation. We had expected to hear by September 10...

What Has Been Happening at the Grange

Since the last *Ridge Runner*, our Education Committee has been busy lining up interesting and vital presentations for the community. In September there was one about domestic wells and the regulations for water and water rights in Oregon. Our Grange membership has increased from 93 to 106 members. This includes the 11 family memberships we have seen since the reinstatement of family memberships. For SRN's Summer Gathering, we provided equipment and coordinated its potluck. Our building was rented for monthly ISHA satsangs, a weekend meditation event, a robotics contest, for a PGE public meeting about the proposed Harborton Reliability Project, and as a venue for a 4-day enrichment retreat for young women.

Upcoming Community Activities

For details, visit our website at www.skylinegrange894.org and on the weekly SRN Newline.

- Fall Garage Sale on October 4-5

- Saturday Soup Supper on October 26
- Skyline Artisan Fair on November 23-24, 10 am - 4 pm
- Wreath-Making Workshop on December 1.
- Skyline Living Lecture Series (see page 1 for schedule)
- Yoga at the Grange (Schedule and details are at www.yogainalignment.com).



The Skyline Grange Artisans will present their annual holiday sale Nov. 23 and 24, featuring a large selection of locally handmade items, perfect gifts for friends and family. Food and beverages will be available downstairs in the Grange (Photo: M. Merwin)

Join Skyline Grange

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.

Contact Information

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/](https://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. □



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Snow Tires for Sale. Pirelli, Rimless 245/46/19. Barely used. Pictures available. \$250. Please text Linda, 503.704.1241.

Free Somatic Healing Sessions. Jenna Andersen is offering somatic healing for individuals, from her home: 10575 NW Skyline Blvd. These free practice sessions are for all who desire healing support focused on the body/nervous system. Includes light touch while resting on the massage table. Text 509.760.4600 for info.

Wanted: Snow Plowing Contact. The Highlands at Forest Park HOA (access points are Skyline @Glendoveer Dr and Skyline @Mactavish Ln) is seeking a reliable contact for paved street snow plowing (about 3/4 mile total) in the event of winter storms. Please contact Doug Franklin at dougf@live.com.

Yoga & Lavender U-Pick at Springville Lavender Farm. Yoga classes taught by Janci Vandenberg at 10 AM on July 13 & 21 and 6 PM on July 25 at 14425 NW Springville Rd. Costs \$40 and includes a bottle of lavender oil, U-pick lavender bouquet & lavender lemonade. Sign up: <https://springville-lavender-farm.square.site>. Questions: springville.lavender@gmail.com.

Free Piano. Baldwin Hamilton upright piano free to a deserving soul. Piano has been tuned regularly and is in good shape. Located on NW Sheltered Nook. Contact Mary Mayfield, 503.522.7379 or 503.755.9607.

Tree Protection Tubes & Cages. Protect your seedlings from deer & elk browsing. Blue plastic tubes: 4" diameter / 16" or 36" tall. Wire cages (field fence): 4 ft. high / 16" or 20" diameter. Call 971.285.6960.

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

Oct. 4, 9 am-7 pm & Oct 5, 9 am-5 pm: Fall Garage Sale at Skyline Grange. Donations from 35+ local households with a uniquely Skyline flavor with a mix of practical to zany, plus equipment useful for semi-rural living. All proceeds will go to our Capital Improvement Fund.

Oct. 16, 7-8:30 pm: Preparing for Wildfire. Learn the best steps to establish defensible space and home hardening methods to best protect your home in this comprehensive presentation by Kim Kosmas (Portland Fire & Rescue) and Jen Warren (OR State Fire Marshal). Meet local Fire-wise community members and sign up for an assessment.

Oct. 26, 5-8 pm: Community Soup Supper at the Skyline Grange. Homemade soups, baked breads, desserts and salad. Only the best ingredients. We cook - you enjoy. All proceeds to benefit our local Neighborhood Emergency Team.

Oct. 30, 7-8:30 pm: Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley. David G. Lewis, PhD (member Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde & OSU Asst. Prof.) will expand on the talk he gave last year about Native American tribes and how they managed aquatic and environmental systems in the valley.

Nov. 14, 7-8:30 pm: Soil: What It Is & How It Works. Soil science has never been more fun and engaging as when presented by James Cassidy (OSU). Cassidy, known as Dr. Soil, will discuss the importance of soil testing, cover crops, and how to interpret the results of soil tests, and much more.

Nov. 23 & 24, 10 am-4 pm: Skyline Grange Artisans

Holiday Sale. Local artisans offer their handcrafted goods of all kinds including pottery, jewelry, handmade soaps, paper art, woodworking, glass artwork and more. Café Grange will be open for light breakfast & lunch fare.

Dec. 1, 1-3 pm: Wreath-Making Workshop at the Grange. Details to follow. Contact skylinegrange894@msn.com if interested. \$25 for non-member & \$20 for Grange members.

SRN Board monthly meetings: Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12; 5:30 pm: All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@gmail.com) to get the Zoom link.

Skyline Grange monthly meetings: Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9; 7 pm: All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email Skyline-Grange894@msn.com.

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