



# Skyline Ridge Runner

April 2026

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 38, No. 2

Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

## Join us for the SRN Pizza Party & Annual Meeting, April 15

By Suzanne Perra, SRN President

Come to the Neighborhood Pizza Party at the Skyline Grange. It is Wednesday, April 15th at the Skyline Grange (11275 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR. 97231), between 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Feel free to drop by anytime. The Spring Pizza Party has become a popular Skyline Ridge tradition. 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. Assorted pizzas will be available. Please RSVP to Suzanne Perra at [perrasuzanne@srnpx.org](mailto:perrasuzanne@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

Oregon State Fire Marshall (OSFM) - Simone

Cordery-Cotter, OSFM Fire Risk Reduction Specialist  
Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVFR)

Portland Fire and Rescue (PF&R) - Kim Kosmas, Senior Public Education Officer and maybe another PF&R officer

Skyline Ridge Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) - Team members Judy Friedman & Roger Cummings and Team Leader Rachael Brake will be available

Local Firewise Communities - Ralph Brooks - Co-chair Forest Park South Firewise Community and maybe another co-chair

Metro - Jina Sagar & Lydia Mendoza

Forest Park Conservancy (FPC) - Eli Blackman, Executive Director

Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub - Nancy Hiser & Shawn Looney, Tank the Tanks representatives

SRN and SOLVE - Alex Rose & Laurel Erhardt

Skyline Grange - Grange representatives

Raffle Table

Also, Multnomah County Sheriff Morrissey O'Donnell plans to attend along with a couple of deputies. One of them may be our resource officer,

**Annual Meeting, p. 3** ➤

## Help Beautify Our Roadways on SOLVE Clean-up Day, April 18

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 clean-up 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.

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](http://www.srnpx.org/solve). Bags will also be available at the SRN annual meeting on April 16 at the Grange.

Save time by registering in advance from the SOLVE website: <https://tinyurl.com/547py6bx>.

**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! ☐

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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](mailto: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 May 31*

## 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

**Suzanne Perra**, President / 503.866.9289  
[president@srnpx.org](mailto:president@srnpx.org)  
**Alex Rose**, Vice President / 213.507.6616  
**Rachael Brake**, Treasurer / 503.621.3423, 503.201.6740  
[treasurer@srnpx.org](mailto:treasurer@srnpx.org)  
**John Chen**, Secretary / 503.720.7882  
**Judy Flynn** / 503.936.4027  
**Brad Graff** / 503.292.1614  
**Candice McBeth** / 503.860.7314  
**Grant Rolette** / 503.621.3423, 503.985.2060  
**George Sowder** / 503.621.3552, 503.961.3440

## Skyline Rural Watch Newslines

Subscribe to SRN's weekly email newsletter of local events and news via the link at [www.srnpx.org](http://www.srnpx.org). Contact the Editor, Laurel Erhardt, at [newsline@srnpx.org](mailto:newsline@srnpx.org) or **971.804.1667** to submit items for publication.

## SRN Website

Visit [www.srnpx.org](http://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](mailto: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.

## Treasurer's Report By Rachael Brake

### SRN Income & Expense 2025

**Beginning Balance 01/01/2025** \$17,882

#### INCOME

**Advertising - Newslines** \$ 78  
**Advertising - Ridge Runner** \$ 985  
**Donations** \$ 4,092  
**Summer Gathering** \$ 8,122  
**TOTAL INCOME** \$13,277

#### EXPENSES

**Administration<sup>1</sup>** \$ 542  
**Ridge Runner<sup>2</sup>** \$ 7,875  
**Fundraising Expenses<sup>3</sup>** \$ 1,398  
**Website<sup>4</sup>** \$ 357  
**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$10,172  
**Net Profit/(Loss)** \$ 3,105  
**Ending Balance 12/31/2025** \$20,987

<sup>1</sup> Licenses & Fees, Meeting Costs, Office Supplies, Square Fees, Etc.  
<sup>2</sup> Software, Email Service, Printing, Mailing Costs, Postage  
<sup>3</sup> Advertising, Entertainment, Materials, Facilities  
<sup>4</sup> Weebly/Hostgator

## Thanks for Your Donations!

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

~ Laurel Erhardt  
 ~ Susan Still  
 ~ Carol Chesarek  
 ~ Cynthia & Derek Thompson  
 ~ Chris Scolere  
 ~ Kenneth Prier  
 ~ Cheryl Neal  
 ~ Kristin Rader

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

## SRN Urges Action to Mitigate Health Hazards of CEI Hub

By Miles Merwin

Out of concern for the safety of our neighborhood residents, the SRN Board recently voted to add its name to a letter addressed to the Portland City Council. The letter urges action to address the public health hazards of fuel storage at the CEI Hub. SRN has joined 42 other local neighborhood associations and 29 nonprofit organizations that have signed the letter drafted by the CEI Hub Task Force. Here is the text of the letter:

“Dear Portland City Council President Jamie Dunphy, Members of City Council, Mayor Wilson and City Manager Raymond C. Lee III,  
 (cc: Governor Tina Kotek, Oregon DEQ Director Leah Feldon, Members of the Oregon Legislature, the Oregon Federal Delegation, the Board of Multnomah County Commissioners and the Metro Council.)

The CEI Hub poses grave dangers to our city, state and region.

Based on the findings of the DOGAMI Earthquake Risk Study, OSSPAC Hub Mitigation Strategies Report, EcoNW CEI Hub Seismic Risk Analysis, ISS Hazmat Risk Report, and others, it is clear that the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub poses serious health, safety, cultural, social justice, economic and environmental risks to every Portland neighborhood and the entire Pacific Northwest region. We applaud the City's commitment to transitioning away from fossil fuels, but fossil fuels are not the only dangerous fuels stored at the CEI Hub. It has been established that renewable fuels, whether derived from plant or animal products are as combustible, flammable, or toxic as fossil fuels. (See testimonies from Dr. Richard Plevin-10:17 and Mia Reback-56:00 before City Council February 27, 2025.) Therefore, transitioning to renewable fuels at the CEI Hub will not eliminate the huge risks posed

### ► Annual Meeting (continued from p. 1)

Jason Maurry.

### 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. There is an easy group signup at <https://tinyurl.com/547py6bx>.

### Free Raffle Prizes

We'll also be hosting a free raffle you won't

by fuel storage and transport at the Hub.

Public input on decisions regarding our safety and health is vital in mitigating and preventing further damage to the well-being of our communities and natural environment.

We, the undersigned Portland Neighborhood Associations and community and faith based organizations therefore support the following:

1. The City adopt a policy that any economic development must not increase the dangers at the CEI Hub.

2. The City of Portland's CEI Hub Policy Project (to amend the Comprehensive Plan and zoning code) should include all types of fuels or materials that are combustible, flammable or toxic to reduce risks at the Hub.

3. The Comprehensive Plan must prohibit new or expanded storage or transport of *any type* of fuels or materials at the CEI Hub that are combustible, flammable, or toxic on soils deemed vulnerable to lateral spread due to liquefaction from earthquake shaking.

4. The Comprehensive Plan must prohibit development at the CEI Hub that would lead Portland to become a national or international export hub for combustible, flammable, or toxic materials.

5. The City work with local and state officials and agencies to develop and fully resource and fund the capacity to respond to emergencies at the CEI Hub.

We are looking to our city government to lead the transition to a safer environment for all of us.

Sincerely,

The CEI Hub Task Force- Kathleen Boylan, Mark Darienzo, Laurie King, Joana Kirchhoff, Nikki Mandell, Bonnie McKinlay, Lyn Neeley, Diana Richardson, Alice Shapiro, Taylor Villucci, Jan Zuckerman [ceitaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:ceitaskforce@gmail.com).” □

want to miss! Every family who attends will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win. Three lucky winners will take home garden baskets filled with Territorial Seeds and supplies to help jump-start your spring garden. We'll also be giving away one of our SRN swag hats. Come join the fun—you might leave with everything you need to start a beautiful garden!

### Kid's Gathering Area

For the young neighbors, we will provide colored pencils and coloring books at the kid's meet and greet area. Also, weather and dry grass at the Grange permitting, there will be fun for all outside with the parachute game and other activities. □

## SRN Seeks Creative Person to Design our New T-Shirt

By Shea Lavalier

Calling all designers, artists, and Skyline Ridge lovers! In preparation for our annual Summer Gathering, we are kicking off a Skyline Ridge Neighbors T-shirt design contest.

We know some of you love our classic SRN logo and artwork, but we can all use a wardrobe refresh now and again. After some spring cleaning you might have a little extra space in your closet and are looking for just the right item to fill it.

Headed to a Grange gathering and don't know what to wear? How about a Skyline Ridge T-shirt?!

Headed out into the yard for a day of gardening & yard work? Where's that Skyline Ridge T-shirt that fits just right?

Meeting some friends at the Rock Creek Tavern? Nothing like a group in matching T-shirts to really make a statement.

Volunteering for SOLVE neighborhood pick up and want to show your neighborhood pride? Sky-

line Ridge T-shirt would be just the thing.

Joining a yoga class at the Grange? A nice baggy Skyline Ridge T-shirt sounds like a comfy option.

Now you may be thinking, "Yes! I do need a fresh SRN T-shirt! Where can I get one?" Here's where the design contest comes in. If you have some great ideas about what this T-shirt should look like, we want to hear from you! Take inspiration from the beauty of the Skyline Ridge and send us your vision.

Design submissions can come in any digital format: Photoshop, Illustrator, photo of a painted picture, photo of a hand drawn sketch...As long as you can figure out how to email it to us, we'll take it!

If your design is selected, you'll have the honor of seeing your artwork printed on shirts to be sold at the Summer Gathering. We're excited to see what you create!

**Deadline: May 15th. Please send your design along to shealavalier@gmail.com. ☐**

## People of Skyline

### Remembering Marjorie Sorenson 1942-2025

Marjorie "Betty" Elizabeth Sorenson passed away on November 14, 2025, at her home in Portland, Oregon, with her family by her side.

Betty was born on March 26, 1942, in Portland to John and Marjorie Keblbek. During her early childhood, her family moved to John Day, Oregon, where she attended first and second grade. They later returned to the Portland area, and Betty continued her education at Skyline Grade School before graduating from Hillsboro High School in 1961. Throughout her life, Betty worked in a variety of roles, including positions with the IRS and Plainview Grocery, and spent many years as a homemaker devoted to her family. In 1963, she married Kenneth Sorenson, and together they raised two sons, Kevin and Kurt. On their small farm in the Portland area, Betty created a beautiful garden filled with the rocks she loved to collect, though nothing brought her more joy than



Betty Sorenson in her younger days (Photo: K. Sorenson)

raising her boys.

After retirement, Betty and Ken enjoyed traveling throughout the United States and Canada, collecting rocks and taking a million photographs.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Beverly, and her brother, John. She is survived by her sister, Janice; her half-sister, Patricia; her husband, Ken; her sons, Kevin and Kurt; and her five grandchildren.

Betty will be remembered for her playful sense of humor, the warmth she brought to every gathering, and the way she made her home a place of joy and celebration. She was known for her wonderful cookies and butterhorns - and for the love she gave so freely. She was cherished deeply and will

be profoundly missed. ☐

Published by The Oregonian from Dec. 2 to Dec. 7, 2025. Submitted by Kevin Sorenson.

## Happy Memories of Shawn Bacon, 1964-2025

By Linny Stovall

Shawn Bacon died of cancer Dec. 17, 2025 at age 61. She grew up, along with her sister Zoe, on the farm on Rock Creek Road. She loved being on the land, riding horses with neighborhood girls and playing in the woods with the dogs. Even as a little girl, Shawn had a penchant for creative clothing combinations, a talent she continued all her life, developing a deep knowledge of fabric, textiles, and styles. At age 11, she moved into Portland with Zoe and her mom, Linny, where she attended Metropolitan Learning Center. In 1972, she moved to Pittsburgh, PA, with Linny, Zoe, and stepfather Dennis Stovall.

Shawn attended high school there, graduating in 3 years, excited about academics, woodworking, and track. During her senior year, on Saturdays, she attended advanced science classes at Carnegie Mellon University. Higher education included UC Berkeley and Portland State University. After her father, Dexter, died two years ago, Shawn moved back to the farm for over a year to get his place ready to sell.

She spent over 30 years with Jeff Ettlin, with whom she was living when she died. Following is his memory of Shawn:

If you saw Shawn on the street she may not have stood out in particular, blending in with all of us as another member of humanity, but if you looked carefully, under the umbrella, through the layers of Patagonia fleece and Frida Kahlo T-shirts, looking into her expectant eyes, you would have found a wholly unique individual. I can say without hesitation that I have never met anyone like Shawn before or since.

When we met in the late '80s Shawn was slinging pie by the slice at Escape From New York Pizza. I bought my slices through an exchange of small talk and banter. She asked me a question and instead of giving her the standard reply I told her something truthful. She yelled over the cacophony of music, bakers, patrons and co-workers, "I'm taking my break." She threw off her apron, took my arm and never let go.

Shawn's life was her art and I am forever grateful that she chose to share so much of it with me. Texture and color and sound and movement was the fabric of the world that she wrapped herself in. Listening and dancing to live music, supporting local artists, feasting on gastronomical delights - these things fed her soul. She taught me to cook from scratch in a 5'x5' kitchen to save herself from ever going hungry. She took me all over town to hear the

likes of Toni Childs, Edie Brickell, Elvis Costello, Soul Coughing and Beirut. Not to mention the countless nights eating nachos and listening to locals at the Laurelthirst pub. She had a pirate's chest of earrings created by regional jewelers and was a patron of the Blue Sky Gallery for as long as I can remember.

Shawn loved to see the world and then shop in it! No knick knack was safe. She loved mementos of her travels. She loved things with hidden meanings, things that added depth and texture to her life. She flew to Paris and New York, San Francisco and Seattle. But I think more than anything she loved going to the coast. We would go to Newport Oregon twice a year, a home away from home. Almost as much as she loved walking on Nye beach, she loved window shopping on the bay front or at her favorite store on Coast Street, Jovi.



Shawn is all smiles on her wedding day (Photo: L. Stovall)

And like clockwork, we would always stop in Lincoln City on the way home for breakfast at the Otis Cafe. I swear those german potatoes were so good they would make her smile every time they were brought to the table. But truth be told she was always a pancake girl. Pancakes! Pancakes!

Pancakes! Blueberry if you're nasty.

Shawn was strong willed and honest to a fault. She didn't have much in the way of a diplomatic filter. She wasn't here to placate you or make you comfortable. She was here for the truth. She wasn't afraid to get to the bottom of things, and if you needed to have feelings about it then so much the better. Shawn sought justice and fairness for all. She wanted the world to at least meet her half way and was often disappointed that it failed to do so. But she was resilient and strong and never gave up on the idea that people can be good to each other. That we can all find ways to lift each other up and help out when we can.

Shawn taught me that love is paying attention, that love is listening and being thoughtful. She taught me that snuggling up with someone under a giant comforter and sharing a pint of ice cream might just be the cure for all of the world's woes.

Shawn Loe Bacon, making you laugh was the greatest joy of my life. I'm so glad you grabbed my arm that day at Escape. What a gift you gave me, our lives together, your love and friendship. You were the only you I will ever know, there shall never be another. I'll see you soon and we'll go do something fun. ☐

Taking Care of Our Ocean Next Door

By Alex Rose

In part one of this article, two salient points about Earth's oceans were discussed: 1) The functions of oceanic waters are so intertwined with the planet's natural processes, if these great bodies of water die, so do we; 2) Having wreaked enormous damage to the ocean's systems and its creatures, humanity is awakening to the fact that a course correction is of utmost urgency.

**Fortunately, there are positive actions we can take!** We can live in a way that is coherent with the survival of the watery 2/3 of our home.

According to the Marine Debris Program, on the home front, we can reduce the impacts of marine debris on migratory birds by practicing the 4Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – keeping our home streams, watersheds, and roads clean and free from debris. Our community actions like SOLVE create effects more extensive than we think.

Another individual action we can take is offered by restaurateur, Tony Bixler, CEO of LOCAL OCEAN SEAFOODS. Situated on Newport's fishing docks and serving fresh, high-quality seafood, Bixler urges, "Buy locally. Stores are required by law to label fish origins by country. Buy from small fish stores or local fishmongers because they can guarantee the locality of origin. Plus, fish from these smaller vendors is the freshest – arriving in 1 or 2 days. Whereas, in large grocery chains, fish can take as long as 7 to 8 days to get into the case." He reminds us of the recent headlining news that Walmart had to recall pink shrimp from Indonesia for "possible" radiation contamination, "It pays to buy local."

Fortunately, we live in a state that follows federal fishing regulations as well as maintaining strict surveillance of fishermen's catches. Through the National Oceanic and Aeronautics Association's (NOAA) Vessel Monitoring System, which uses 21<sup>st</sup> century satellites and computers, federal and state fishing regulations can be monitored and upheld. Also, observers, collecting biological samples are deployed on fishing fleets to verify the targeted take and carefully record the numbers of by-catch.

Courtney Paiva, Project Manager for the Electronic Monitoring Program at Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, reports, "The number of fish caught per week is monitored and limited. With the removal of 4 dams from the Klamath River, the salmon population has shown vigorous regrowth in such numbers that fisherman have agreed they can resume careful fishing again next year without damaging salmon population."

On a state-wide basis, Oregon protects its Pacific Coast by designating five Marine Reserves and

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Cascade Head, Otter Rock, Cape Perpetua, and Redfish Rocks. Research activities in these areas function largely with the assistance of volunteers, and we are welcomed to join in this research or participate in advocacy and oversight groups. The U.S. is one of the few countries in the world to have created these safeguards, and other countries are beginning to recognize this need.

Marine harvesting is much easier to control locally. Recently, harvesting and marketing of Oregon squid exploded to an unprecedented degree, and ODFW was informed of a questionable fishing practice. Using small "light" boats equipped with mesmerizing lights within MPAs, fishermen began drawing squid outside the protected boundaries where the squid could be caught by larger vessels outfitted with purse seine nets. Seeing this, ODFW jumped into action and spearheaded a change in regulations.

Now - Light boats are prohibited from attracting or luring squid or other animals outside of an MPA to be caught by net gear.

Protective of salmon harvesting, Angela Forristal, Salmon Staff Officer for the Pacific Fishery Management Council describes the local Oregon salmon fishing as, "Small, family-run vessels, carrying very small crews and fishing very small areas and only in certain seasons. In the summer these 10 to 20 vessels typically run 4 troll lines, which range in length from 50 to 100 feet, specifically baited for salmon."

Because of thoughtful adherence to regulations and vigilant surveillance both of Oregon fisheries and the local fishermen, officials interviewed for this article have not seen alarming depletion of our local fish stocks. The towns of Newport and Astoria are two of the top-ranking commercial fishing producers in the United States contributing substantially to an enterprise that brings more than \$500 million in personal income to the Oregon economy.

Our local Pacific Ocean offers a wide array of choices - Dungeness Crab, Pink Shrimp, Rockfish, Groundfish, Pacific Whiting, Albacore Tuna, Salmon, Halibut, etc. As consumers, we can join the ranks of the responsible fishermen and safeguard the wild fish that are important to the economic health of our proud fishing communities by simply consuming less fish for ourselves and our pets and...BUYING LOCAL!!! □

Upcoming Events and Grant Opportunities From WMSWCD

By Eleanor Greene, WMSWCD

To register for the following three WMSWCD workshops this spring, look for links in the Events section of our website: <https://wmswcd.org/category/events/>.

**Stormwater Stars Workshop, April 11**

At our hands-on, family-friendly workshops, we share practical, sustainable landscaping practices that support healthy watersheds. All participants will go home with a native plant, too! April 11, 10am-noon in SW Portland. This is our last Stormwater Stars workshop of the spring rainy season! **Free, registration required, address provided upon registration.**



Community members at Habitat & Landscape Design workshop (Photo: WMSWCD Stormwater Stars)

**Become a Weed Watcher (Workshop), April 15**

Join our invasive species program manager in an engaging workshop where she'll bring live samples of emerging harmful species in our area. People who come to the workshop will get questions about weeds answered and come away being able to confidently identify and report the ones conservationists are most concerned about in our area. April 15, 6-7:30pm, Capitol Hill Library Community Room, 10723 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland. **Free, no registration required.**

**Habitat Restoration & Landscape Design Workshop, April 19**

Join West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District and the Backyard Habitat Certification

Program for a hands-on workshop on mapping and planning your landscape to support watershed health, wildfire resilience, and native wildlife. Learn practical steps to assess your site and design a restoration plan for your property. April 19, 1-4pm in SW Portland.


**Free, registration required, address provided upon registration.**

**Apply for a Splash Grant**

Want to make a *Splash*? Our Splash Grant program that supports events, sponsorships, and small projects that benefit the residents in our District with environmental education, restoration, and/or access. Amounts between \$100-\$3,500. The next cycle applications are due by May 30. Info at <https://wmswcd.org/services/financial-assistance/splash-grant/>.

**Save the Date: Skyline Ridge Wildfire Ready Workshop, Sept. 19**

Participate in a 1-day training on home hardening, evacuation, and land maintenance tailored for forested communities. Local experts on land care, fire preparedness, and emergency management will offer hands-on workshops on how to increase the chance of your family and your home surviving a wildfire and how to improve the resiliency of your property. This workshop will be held 8:30am-3pm on Saturday, September 19, at Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland. Sign up for the West Multnomah SWCD email list to get notified when registration opens: [wmswcd.org/#newsletter](https://wmswcd.org/#newsletter). **Free, registration required.** □

  
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## Affiliated Team Volunteers Help NET with Disaster Response

By Sen Speroff

Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) members deploy to an emergency only if they have been called out by Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM). In 2022-23, 61% of logged deployment hours were to events caused by extreme weather. It is expected that this percentage is likely only to climb. This means most times when a NET member is deployed, it is to a specific location for a specific purpose for a specific time and under the direction of PBEM.

Self-deployment happens only when there is a disaster that is city wide causing failure of regular communication systems. It is thought that only a major earthquake event will trigger a NET member to self-deploy since the time is unpredictable (but inevitable). This means a team's Operations Plans should in fact be earthquake response plans that include the use of Affiliated Team Volunteers (ATVs) with specific volunteer specializations.

### Become an Affiliated Team Volunteer

You can be an active part of community preparedness by becoming an ATV and an important part of Skyline Ridge Neighborhood Emergency Team. An ATV is a volunteer who associates with and is assigned to a Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) and is background checked, but does not possess full "Active" NET volunteer status. In general, ATVs are not deployed or indemnified by the City of Portland. They have a profile in the NET volunteer database, and may participate in non-deployment

team activities with active NET volunteers.

In a regional disaster, the needed number of ATVs is high. We will rely on them to be involved, engaged, and knowledgeable about a NET team and their role if a disaster occurs. ATVs are assigned to a specialization, which there are many to choose from, such as medical response, food, power, mass care, power, and communications. Refer to [https://volunteerpdx.net/index.php/Volunteer\\_Support\\_Functions](https://volunteerpdx.net/index.php/Volunteer_Support_Functions) to see the wide range of volunteer needs and if there is a role that best suits you.

If you're interested in playing a role in our neighborhood emergency response but don't have the patience or desire to wait with the other 3,000 applicants for the NET Basic Training Course, become an ATV. YOU are an important ingredient in the resilience of our community and the degree to which we are prepared to weather disaster and crises. We want to develop a hardy group of ATVs. If you are interested or curious, please consider joining us in our monthly NET meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. at Skyline Grange. For fuller information about ATVs, go to [http://volunteerpdx.net/index.php/Affiliated\\_Team\\_Volunteers\\_\(ATVs\)](http://volunteerpdx.net/index.php/Affiliated_Team_Volunteers_(ATVs)). □

### Contact Us

NETs are here to support the community. Questions? Email Skyline Ridge NET at [SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com](mailto:SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com) or contact Rachael Brake, Team Leader, at 503.201.6740. Learn more about NETs at <https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams>. □

## Forest, Farm & Garden

### Connecting to Your Woodland with Community Science

By Sarah Cameron, Forestry Program Assistant, OSU Extension

Community science, otherwise known as the public participation in scientific research, is a powerful way to learn about and connect with your woodland property. It can be as simple as watching which birds nest in your trees, tracking rainfall with a rain gauge, or monitoring for invasive species. The beauty of community science is its flexibility: your participation can be shaped by your land, your interests, and the time you have to give.

In this article, we'll explore a variety of local and national programs that offer meaningful opportunities to engage with your forest and contribute to

broader scientific knowledge.

### Locally organized efforts:

Forest Health Watch has two goals, 1) to accelerate research and find solutions about forest health issues and 2) to empower communities to care for the health of trees and forests. Project volunteers explore and collect data on a variety of forest health issues—including western redcedar dieback. Join the network of community scientists at <https://foresthealth.org/scientists/>.

Master Melittologist trains volunteers to collect, curate and synthesize records on the natural history of bees and their floral associations. Since its inception, the program has created one of the **Woodland Science, p. 10**►

## Grange Plans Naturescaping and Forest Restoration Projects

By Sen Speroff and John Chen

Inevitably, our landscaping was disturbed by large machinery during our recent renovations. A number of our members are planning to convert the mess into inspiration and opportunity by the launching of a Naturescaping & Fire Mitigation Demonstration Project. A committee was formed to direct the project and meetings have been held with both the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) and with the Storm Water Stars (<https://www.stormwaterstars.org/>) team that just joined forces with WMSWCD. The current plan is to modify and improve landscaping around the Grange to better enhance native habitat, control invasive vegetation, mitigate wildfire risk, and address water drainage from the slopes around the building. Next steps include setting priorities and mapping out the areas for planting while maintaining functionality for outdoor events and parking.

WMSWCD will provide guidance in fire risk reduction and forest restoration on our 4.27 acres. This work will start in the spring so we can take advantage of remaining WMSWCD funds in the current fiscal year. The Grange will be responsible for 50% of the cost. Our membership has committed the proceeds from plant sales for the next 3 years to this Project. Also, we can offset cost with credit for volunteer time, so look for upcoming opportunities to help. Native pollinator shrubs and flowers will be incorporated into the planting as well as potentially creating a mini-oak savannah in a grassy section of the property. The Grange is applying for grants, including a SPLASH grant from WMSWCD (<https://wmswcd.org/services/financial-assistance/>) and a grant from the National Grange.

The second component of the project will be working with the Stormwater Stars program (<https://www.stormwaterstars.org/>). This stage of the project will incorporate community involvement in addressing issues around drainage and stormwater runoff. Activities will include hands-on practice and demonstration in restoring soils, naturescaping with native plants, creating porous pathways, and more.

Please contact [skylinegrange894@msn.com](mailto:skylinegrange894@msn.com) if you have any questions or would like to get involved in any way.

### We are Open & Busy

After 4 years in planning and permitting, the Accessibility Project is complete. We could not have done this without the support of our greater community. Our \$200,000 Capital Improvement Challenge has reached the 94% mark. We thank each and every donor, large and small. Because of you, our

community has a place to meet that is now more accessible, safer, and more structurally sound. If you have not seen the improvements, please ask for a tour when you attend an event at the Grange.

Since our reopening in January, there has been a whirl of activities. About 130 people attended our annual Community Brunch. Our Garage Sale was very successful, thanks to 42 households that donated items and 43 volunteers that worked a billion hours. Our Education Committee offered presentations on local Metro land acquisitions, property insurance, and supporting biodiversity in its Skyline Ridge Living Series. Our Community Service Committee held our first Paper Shredding event which we will continue annually in the spring IF we have enough participants to cover the cost of the shredding company – let us know if you think this is a worthy community event and start saving documents. Our Mostly Tree Seedling Sale had 37 pre-order customers and our 21st Tree and Native Plant Sale has just occurred in the first weekend of April. We continue to be a meeting venue for a number of local groups, such as SRN, Skyline Ridge NET and a community celebration of life. Co-sponsored with SRN, 26 attendees, including youth and boy scouts, participated in a day-long CPR/Basic First Aid Course resulting in certification. Eleven people participated in our Open Circle: A Month of Thursdays to discuss what is on their minds in this evolving world.

### Upcoming Events at Skyline Grange

Greater details about these events can be found on our website [www.skylinegrange894.org](http://www.skylinegrange894.org) and on SRN's weekly Newslines.

### Yoga at the Grange

Yoga classes are open to the community on M-W-F 9-10 a.m. Join in no matter age, flexibility or experience. \$10/non-Grange member and \$8/Grange member. For updates and any schedule changes, visit Janci's website at [www.yogainalignment.com](http://www.yogainalignment.com).

Spring Presentations in our Skyline Living Series

Our Education Committee continues to present topics for our Skyline Living Series. All are open and free to everyone. Presentations begin at 7 p.m. Here is the spring schedule:

A documentary movie showing of "Chasing Chimeras: The Lure of Deceptive Climate Solutions" by local filmmaker Barbara Bernstein is on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. It will be followed with discus-

**Grange News, p. 9**►

► **Grange News** (continued from p. 9)  
sion.

“Is Your Home Able to Withstand a Moderate or Major Earthquake” will be on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. In the Portland Metro area, thousands of older homes are at high risk because they were built before modern safety codes. Due to age or original design, many houses will suffer serious damage or even be destroyed. Retrofitting helps ensure your home stays standing when the ground starts to move. Seismologists are in full agreement that the Cascadia Subduction Zone is long overdue for a significant earthquake. Speaker is Tim Cook of NW Seismic.

**4/25 Flea Market**

Vendors will be selling their crafts or lightly used or new items. For more information about being a vendor, go to <https://skylinegrange894.org/flea-market/>. It is on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**5/2-3 Barn Quilt Making Workshop**

In this 2-day workshop, you will make a 2'x2' barn quilt. We supply the materials. You are guided through selecting a pattern, color choices, drawing pattern onto a grid, painting and fixing oopsies. For more information and to register, go to <https://skylinegrange894.org/barn-quilt/>. In all probability, there will be another 2-day class offered this summer.

**5/16 Repair Café**

Volunteers from Repair Café ([www.repairpdx.com](http://www.repairpdx.com)).

► **Woodland Science** (cont. from p. 8)

largest data sets of its kind in the world and has led to countless new discoveries for the Pacific Northwest. The training costs \$325 which includes an introductory self-paced course of study with opportunities for working with mentors in the field. Learn more at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/master-melittologist>.

Oregon Forest Pest Detector prepares volunteers to recognize the signs and symptoms of invasive forest insects with a current focus on emerald ash borer, Asian longhorn beetle, and gold spotted oak borer. The free training, organized by OSU Extension, is available year-round at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ofpd/about>.

Oregon Season Tracker engages volunteers in climate monitoring through a two-pronged approach. Volunteers can either monitor rain gauges to gather valuable data on precipitation patterns or make observations on the phenology, or seasonal changes, of a select list of native plants. Many volun-

teers opt to do both parts of the program, which enriches the experience event further. Volunteering is free, although the cost of a rain gauge is required for precipitation monitoring. A self-paced online training is available throughout the year, organized by OSU Extension. Learn more at: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ost>.

**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 support 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**

Website: [www.SkylineGrange894.org](http://www.SkylineGrange894.org) (upcoming events, capital improvement, calendar, rental info, etc.)

Email: [SkylineGrange894@msn.com](mailto:SkylineGrange894@msn.com) (general & rental communications)

Physical Address: 11275 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR 97231

Mailing Address: 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Skyline-Grange-894-169559023662398/](https://www.facebook.com/Skyline-Grange-894-169559023662398/) □

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eBird is a powerful tool for birders of all levels to record and share bird sightings. Every check-list submitted helps scientists track bird distribution, abundance, habitat use, and population trends across the globe. In addition to contributing to research, users can maintain their own birding records and discover local hotspots to explore. Discover a new world of birding at <https://ebird.org/>. The Merlin app, powered by eBird data, allows users to explore and identify birds by sight and call! Explore Merlin at <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>.

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**Horse Boarding.** Deerpark Farm & Stables, located at the junction of Beck & Skyline, is now accepting applications for new boarders starting in September 2025. For more details, visit [deerparkstables.com](http://deerparkstables.com) or reach out to [fergusm@deerparkstables.com](mailto:fergusm@deerparkstables.com).

**Skyline Memorial Gardens.** We have two adult internment spaces for sale in The Good Shepherd's Garden at Skyline Memorial Gardens. We are asking \$3,000.00 each. (The market value at this time is \$5,995.00 per space) Please call Karla if you're Interested: 503.277.9439

**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 [13phoenixfarm13@gmail.com](mailto:13phoenixfarm13@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](http://skylinegrange894.org).

**Borrow tools 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

### Community Events at the Skyline Grange

**April 15, 6 - 7:30 pm: SRN Annual Spring Meeting and Pizza Party.** Please come to the Skyline Grange to enjoy some free pizza and visit with representatives from a wide variety of local organizations sharing information relevant to rural living. See story on page one for details.

**April 18 8:30 - 11:30 am: SRN SOLVE Neighborhood Roadside Litter Pickup.** Get collection bags and route assignments at the Skyline Grange. See story on page one for details.

**April 22, 7 pm: "Chasing Chimeras: The Lure of Deceptive Climate Solutions."** The Grange will host a showing of this documentary by local filmmaker Barbara Bernstein.

**April 25, 9 am - 4 pm: Flea Market.** Vendors will be selling their crafts or lightly used or new items. For more information about being a vendor, go to <https://skylinegrange894.org/flea-market/>.

**May 2 & 3, 9 am - 2 pm: Barn Quilt Workshop.** Have you seen the new barn quilts displayed at Skyline Grange? Would you like to make one for yourself, but were afraid it was too complicated? No worries, Skyline Grange is offering a 2-day class that will teach and guide you through all the steps necessary. Pre-registration & fee payment required. For info visit <https://skylinegrange894.org/barn-quilt/>.

**May 6, 7 - 9 pm: Is Your Home Able To Withstand A Moderate Or Major Earthquake?** Learn about evidence-based methods for upgrading your home's structural integrity. The featured

speaker is Tim Cook from NW Seismic.

**May 16: Repair Café Workshop.** Volunteer fixers help bring broken items back to life, from small appliances to well-loved toys. Save money, reduce waste, and connect with neighbors through the shared joy of repair. Contact Jill at [skylinegrange.events@gmail.com](mailto:skylinegrange.events@gmail.com) for more info.

**July 18, 4 - 7 pm: SRN 2026 Summer Gathering at Plumper Farms.** If you'd like to help out, reach out to our gathering chair Brad Graff ([bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com)). Watch for full details in the Newsline and July Ridge Runner.

**SRN Board monthly meetings:** Second Thursday of each month. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff ([bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com)) regarding the venue or Zoom link.

**Skyline Grange monthly meetings:** Second Monday of each month. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership.



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