

Skyline Ridge Runner

July 2024

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 36, No. 3

Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

Join your neighbors for the 2024 Summer Gathering, July 27

By Suzanne Perra, SRN President

This year's neighborhood bash will be on Saturday July 27, 4-8pm, at the Plumper Pumpkin Patch and Tree Farm, 11435 NW Cornelius Pass Road. Let's celebrate summer with food, music, kid's activities and good friends.

We expect approximately 300 neighbors again this year. Back by popular demand, we will have live music by the Dryland Band. **THANK YOU** to Plumper Pumpkin and Tree Farm and the Kessinger Family for providing our venue again in 2024.

We will start in the early evening again this year. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert for the potluck. Please leave your pets at home for this event.



Come make your Skyline Ridge Summer Gathering memories!

Schedule

Join us in the evening for a fun filled family event at Plumper Pumpkin including great food, music and neighbors.

4:00-8:00	Summer Gathering
4:00-6:30	Children's Activities
4:00-7:30	Silent Auction (closings at 6:30 & 7:30)
5:00-7:30	Dinner is served
5:00-9:00	Live Music
6:30-7:00	Oral Auction
8:00	Event Ends

It's a Potluck

Thank you so much to the Meating Place for providing us with their delicious pulled pork and buns. Skyline Grange members will provide some side dishes along with water, lemonade, plates, silverware and glasses. Please bring a dish to share with your neighbors. If you prefer beer or wine, please bring your own (and include glasses to minimize late evening cleanup).

Creative Auction Donations

Check the online catalog of the auction items often at <https://www.srnpx.org/auction-2024.html> as new items are frequently added.

We are seeking more items for our auction! Do you have a vacation home at the Coast / Gorge / Central Oregon etc that you could donate for a long weekend? Getaway stays are a huge hit at our auction! Reach out if you have a place you'd be willing to donate.

Neighbors, do you have a special skill or hobby that you could offer as a donation? Here are some ideas:

- Home visit from an indoor plant expert
- Complimentary appointment with a home organizer
- Car tune up from a mechanic
- Processed partial animal

from local farmer

- Service time from a home handyperson
- A couple hours of landscaping work
- Crafting lessons - knitting, crochet, pottery, any creative outlet

Share your ideas with us at srn.auction@gmail.com and we can craft a custom auction item that works with your schedule. This is a fantastic way to support SRN. We are excited to see what our neighbors have to offer. Connect ASAP please. The final deadline for auction item submissions is July 12.

Contact Nicole Anderson at srn.auction@gmail.com.

It's a Fundraiser

The Summer Gathering Auction is our primary annual fundraiser. Over 80% of our revenue comes from this event. SRN depends entirely on support from the neighborhood to publish the Ridge Runner and Newsliner, and to organize community events such as the SOLVE cleanup. We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization so your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consider donating your time or an item for the

Summer Gathering, p. 8

Skyline Ridge Runner

Editor: Miles Merwin

Contributing Editor: Laura Foster

Page Composition & Graphics: Agnes Kwan

Copy Editor: Libby Merwin

Printing & Mailing: Metro Presort

Contributors: Suzanne Perra, Sen Speroff, Patrick Ahern, Alex Rose, Catherine Dalziel, Eleanor Greene

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 September 15*

Skyline Ridge Neighbors Inc.

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

SRN Board of Directors

Suzanne Perra, President / 503.866.9289
president@srnpx.org

Alex Rose, Vice President / 213.507.6616

Rachael Brake, Treasurer / 503.621.3423, 503.201.6740
treasurer@srnpx.org

Tracey Larvenz, Secretary / 805.319.2960
secretary@srnpx.org

Nicole Anderson / 614.975.9942

John Chen / 503.720.7882

Judy Flynn / 503.936.4027

Brad Graff / 503.292.1614

Grant Rolette / 503.621.3423, 503.985.2060

George Sowder / 503.621.3552, 503.961.3440

Skyline Rural Watch Newsline

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 newsline@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.

SRN Treasurer's Report - Corrected

By Rachael Brake, SRN Treasurer

SRN Income & Expenses 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	12/31/2022	\$16,351
INCOME		
Advertising - Newsline		20
Advertising - Ridge Runner		1,115
Donations - Rock Creek Rd Repairs		100
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:

~ Carol Chesarek
~ Joe & Heidi Phillips
~ John Rhodes

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.

Which Is What? Comparing Skyline Grange and SRN

By Sen Speroff and Suzanne Perra

It's not unusual for visitors to be confused and think that Skyline Ridge Neighbors (SRN) and Skyline Grange are one and the same. Even the most connected people to our community may not realize that they are two completely different organizations. Both work to support our local community but have different structures, bylaws, members and financials.

Very briefly, SRN primarily distributes information to keep local residents informed and the Grange provides a building for gathering and activities. Both organizations collaborate on the Skyline Residents-Based Garlic Mustard Control Effort.

The relationship between the two organizations is mutual and complementary. Many people are actively involved in both organizations. SRN provides space in its Ridge Runner for "Grange News" and distributes information about Grange events on the Newsliner, the weekly electronic newsletter. The Grange provides a free venue for SRN meetings & organizes the potluck for SRN's Summer Gathering.

Here is a comparison of these two organizations:

Year of Origin

SRN: 1987 started as "Citizens for the Preservation of Skyline Ridge" then later renamed Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Skyline Grange: 1940 organized as a community Grange (National Grange was established in 1867)

Type of Organization

SRN: A Neighborhood Association which is a group of neighbors & business owners who work together for changes and improvements addressing issues in a way that individuals can't do on their own. SRN is the recognized neighborhood association representing the rural northwestern portion of Multnomah County.

Skyline Grange: A Community Grange; an organization that brings neighbors together to meet local needs and promotes nonpartisan, nonsectarian face to face connections. Also a member of the National and Oregon State Granges. Skyline Grange owns the 4.27-acre property that the building is located on. Zoning is "Community Use".

IRS Classification & Nonprofit Status

SRN: A 501(c)3 public benefit organization with members. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent of the law*.

Skyline Grange: A 501(c)8 fraternal organization with members Donations are tax-deductible only when designated for charitable or educational activities (not for capital improvements) *.

Service Area

SRN: Encompasses approximately 17,000 acres & 1,400 households (<https://www.srnpx.org/boundary-map.html>). Residents & businesses within the boundaries are automatically members.

Skyline Grange: No designated boundaries. Anyone can apply for membership who supports the Mission of the Grange.

Governance

SRN: Board of Directors, Bylaws, & rules for 501(c)3 organizations

Skyline Grange: Bylaws, membership & executive committee, plus the Bylaws of the National & State Granges.

Mission/Goals

SRN: To protect and enhance the well-being of the neighborhood by educating all those who live, work and visit there on subjects relevant to life in the rural-urban interface, and by encouraging voluntary efforts to better the community; To foster good will and understanding within our diverse community by maintaining open communications whereby all those interested in the neighborhood may be informed of and may involve themselves in, the affairs of the neighborhood; and To assist local government and other nonprofit organizations by acting as a liaison between the neighborhood and governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and other neighborhoods.

Skyline Grange: Its Mission is to provide a welcoming gathering place where Skyline Ridge residents can connect locally to become informed and engaged in activities that promote community resilience, well-being, and good land stewardship. It accomplishes this Mission in part by: Providing educational opportunities and activities that bring the community together; Providing a venue for local nonprofit organizations; Lending equipment out to local nonprofit organizations; Encouraging our local governmental representatives to hold town halls, informational meetings, etc.; and Providing an affordable rental venue.

Activities

SRN: Publishes the quarterly Skyline Ridge Runner and the weekly Skyline Rural Watch Newsliner; Distributes urgent, accurate information to community promptly; Organizes the Summer Gathering; as a social gathering & fundraiser; Holds Pizza Party; & Annual Meeting in the spring; Organizes the annual SOLVE Clean Up; and Advocates for reliable Internet and other community concerns.

Skyline Grange: Traditional Events include: Skyline Living Series of educational talks; Mostly Tree Seedling

Joe Erhardt, 1950-2024: A Master Storyteller Weaves His Legacy

By Alex Rose

It's a rare person, these days, who masters the craft of "capturing" his audiences as he weaves "fantabulous" stories the way bards and shamans captivated listeners around the campfire in days of yore. At 74, storyteller Joseph Otto Erhardt will be sorely missed. Friends recently reminisced:

"He knew so much and was very willing to enlighten others!!!!" Bobbi Jo Linn

"Such a great man. I definitely landed in the "gullible" group. Loved his stories!" Shayne Snyder

"His stories were the BEST!" Tanya Bachman

"He was definitely one of a kind and a jokester!" Julie Nelson

"If you knew one thing about Joe it was likely that he was an epic storyteller. There was nothing like the smile he would get when he knew he had an audience. You could always tell where he was in camp as that would be where the crowd was laughing the loudest, having the most fun, clinging to every word of whatever tale he was spinning. Heaven help you if you were gullible and Joe Erhardt got you in his crosshairs 'cuz he would take you down a path of BS and fantasy as you had never imagined!" Joe's obituary.

Highschoolers, Joe and his wife, Laurel, probably never would have met if it weren't for a church get-together held when she was 16 and he 17. Falling fast for Laurel, who lived in Scappoose, he traveled all the way from Roosevelt High in North Portland to take her on dates – often to drive-in movie theatres – remember those?!?! Marrying young, they shared a bountiful life together for 55 years. Their union produced three boys – Jay, Jonathan, and Tony, who deeply bonded with their very interactive father, partnering in his many and varied hobbies.

Starting at the bottom rung of Malarkey Roofing, Joe worked his way up to achieve his Associate's Degree in Marine Technology, and he earned his Millwrighting and Supervising Manufacturing Electrical License largely through self-study and sheer diligence. Becoming the Supervising Plant Manager at Malarkey's provided him with his mainstay career for many years, after which he worked at Sulzer Bingham Pumps until he retired. Any and all things electrical and mechanical appealed to Joe; the thornier the problem to be solved, the more he relished the challenge.

Specializing in Human Resources for financial institu-

tions for many years, Laurel changed careers when her son Jon opened his own physical therapy clinic in Scappoose. Laurel helped Jon grow his clinic into a substantial enterprise which he was then able to sell to a larger company. Laurel's career spanned from when her children were adolescents to 2020 when Joe's care grew to become her primary focus.

It was 1978, and fearing Skyline Boulevard too far and too remote from Portland, Joe and Laurel almost passed up an incredible opportunity found by Joe's sister. They took the plunge and purchased five acres replete with a homey, unassuming house affording a spectacular view of three imposing mountains. Settling there ever since for the past 46 years, the couple and their three boys grew into one of the area's most active and endearing social "fixtures." To this day, Laurel sends out the internet Newsline, which functions as a vital link in the community for emergencies, lost pets, and event announcements.

If there were such a concept as the "King of Hobbies," Joe Erhardt was the embodiment. There was a phase of cattle-owning; Joe ran 18 or so head on his and neighboring property. He milked them all before going off to work, and the boys slogged hay through the muddy fields to the feeder for the cows and horses. Laurel owned and rode several horses, and pigs, goats, and chickens also comprised the Erhardt farm "4-legged" complement.

From there, his hobbies grew to building a dune buggy and running it around, motorcycles, fishing boats – lots of weekend fishing trips, homemade wine and craft beer, planting a dwarf fruit tree orchard, avid gardening, beekeeping, hunting trips, getting his pilot's license and cars!!! Souping up cars for the boys to race in the high-school drags at Portland International Raceway warmed Joe's heart. He relished working with them in the family shop where there was always one vehicle or another being rebuilt.

Off-roading, in particular, appealed to Joe; the rougher the road, the tougher the drive, the better. During one of the heaviest flooding seasons in Portland history, no one could get up to or off Skyline Blvd. Undaunted, Joe delighting in the challenge, started out. Laurel awakened to Joe's voice on the morning radio weather report saying he had just driven down Germantown Road, "It wasn't pretty, but it was passable." Laurel knew other drivers would hear that advice and try to take that road. Unlike Joe, they



Joe Erhardt, Class of 1969. (Photo courtesy Laurel Erhardt)

Joe Erhardt, p. 8 ➤

Skyline Ridge Runner

The Name Game (True Stories)

By Patrick Ahern

One of the more frustrating aspects of aging is the attendant loss of memory that we all experience in our latter years. My wife insists that it's mostly nouns for which we search; my own experience is that names of people seem to elude my everyday consciousness. This can especially become annoying when moving to a new community where all the names and faces are new and unfamiliar. I think though, that I have found a solution for myself that helps to remedy this situation: I simply connect the new name to the identical name of someone, or something, from my past that has made an impression on me.

When I first moved into my new residence here at Mary's Woods, I knew it was especially important to remember everyone's name here on my street, Martin Way, since I saw them most frequently. My closest neighbor is Steve; next to him is Bill, and next to Bill is Dave. So, using the first letter of each name yields S.B.D, something I've been very familiar with much of my life. (S stands for silent.)

One of the most friendly, helpful, and gracious of our wonderful Social Lounge employee's name was extremely easy to remember my first week here. Anyone who read the news during the Clinton administration will forever remember the name of Monica! That one was easy.

Reed was familiar, since my cousin's daughter gradu-

ated from Reed College in Nuclear Science. And, he's a little nerdy...

And Carollee...well, the only Carollee I've ever known, until now, was the girl across the street who was the first (and only) girl I ever played doctor with at the age of 5 or so! My decision to work forever in the medical field thereafter was quashed by our mothers, who both adamantly denied my credentials. They combined to heap an excessive, in my opinion, amount of criticism upon my behavior; eventually suggesting that my career should actually be in the Priesthood. I was offended by this, and would have billed that mother's insurance for the house call, but I didn't know how to buy a stamp.

Mark in the 3 Sisters deli and I have always recognized each other as he has served me; but at a distance, he and Sammy have very similar hair, and I occasionally have called Sammy, "Mark". Then, one day, Sammy was wearing his name tag and I came to the realization that he and my precious border collie had the same name. The four-legged Sammy has been gone a year and a half now, and I still miss him terribly. Thankfully, the two-legged Sammy doesn't seem to mind when he brings me my lunch and I remark: "Good boy, Sammy."

Well, that's all for now. Signing off, this isumm..... umm ☐

You're invited to the Freak Mountain Family Reunion & Hog Roast!

Come celebrate a reunion of the ages with live bands, potluck, face-painting, pie contest, photo booth, and a traditional roast. A reunion of the hill family to celebrate the community and memories that bond us together

Dates: August 3-4. Afterparty extends through August 4th for overnight campers

Bands: Dreamland Farmers, Lynn Conover & Gravel, and Open Mic for jam sessions.

RSVP: Please RSVP on our Facebook event page at <https://fb.me/1PQFj8gMIGM2kp9> or call/text Ista at 585.683.3263.

Fundraising: Suggested donation \$40 for a single and \$65 for a family. ALL donations are appreciated, so help if you can. To donate please scan the QR code or follow this link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/freak-mountain-family-reunion-and-hog-roast>. You can also Venmo your donation to Ista at @izahn if you prefer!

Planning your trip: There is ample vehicle and tent camping space, and you are encouraged to stay overnight. Bring a food dish to share, and extra food, water, and camping gear if staying overnight. BYOB.

Location: 41 Cougar Creek Rd., Stevenson, WA 98648. Driving from Portland to the event site is about 45 mins. From the I-205 bridge, follow Hwy 14 east for 16 miles.

Shortly after Franz Lake, turn LEFT on Franz Road and proceed 0.8 miles. Turn left on Cougar Creek Road, then stay straight when the driveway forks. ☐

P.S.: The fun begins the previous Saturday, July 27 at the Summer Gathering at Plumper Pumpkin.



Help Lead Conservation Efforts in Your Community

By Eleanor Greene, West Multnomah SWCD

Do you love where you live? Are you interested in protecting its natural spaces, plants, and animals? Do you want a say in how tax dollars are spent? If you said yes, then service on West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District’s (SWCD) board might be for you.

On November 5, 2024, Multnomah County will hold a general election that includes Board of Director positions for West Multnomah SWCD.

Four of our seven director positions are up for election in November 2024, including Zone 3, which represents the farthest northwest portion of the District, West of US 30 and North of Cornelius Pass, which includes the Skyline Ridge neighborhood. An at-large position is also open, as are two seats representing Sauvie Island. All positions serve a four-year term.

Board members help guide West Multnomah SWCD by working with district leadership to establish policy and strategies. Specific duties include ensuring fiscal responsibility, adopting the budget, attending board and committee meetings, representing West Multnomah SWCD at local and regional events, and helping set the strategic direction for the organization. Read more about our current Board of Directors at wmswcd.org/board-members.

At-large directors must reside within the boundaries of the conservation district and be a registered voter in the District. Zone directors must be a registered voter and reside within the specific zone they represent.

Last year, there was a rule change, removing the re-

quirement for land-management or -ownership in our and several other Districts. That means anyone who is a registered voter in the District and lives in the District is eligible to run. This change will open the Board to folks who had not previously been eligible to run and may bring great energy and insight to the role.

While conservation is core to our mission, West Multnomah SWCD is strengthened when board members bring expertise in a variety of fields, whether from professional or lived experience, such as community organizing, outreach, education, financial management, business, human resources, public service, agriculture, environmental services, and more.

On June 13, we had a virtual information session for potential board members across the region and across several counties to talk about what you gain and what you give while serving on an SWCD board. You can find a recording of that session and more details about how to run at wmswcd.org/news. If you have any questions about how to access that information, please email info@wmswcd.org.

If you’re interested, you need to fill out some forms and tell the Oregon Department of Agriculture you want to run. Those forms must be filed no earlier than July 18 and no later than August 27, 2024. You can find the forms and more details at wmswcd.org/news. □

► **Which is What?** (continued from p. 3)

Sale; Tree & Native Plant Sale; Skyline Artisan Fair; Spring & Fall Garage Sales; Community Soup Supper; Community Brunch; Yoga at the Grange; and Flea Market.

Website

SRN: www.srnpx.org

Skyline Grange: www.skylinegrange894.org

* References about tax deductible donations:
<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charita->

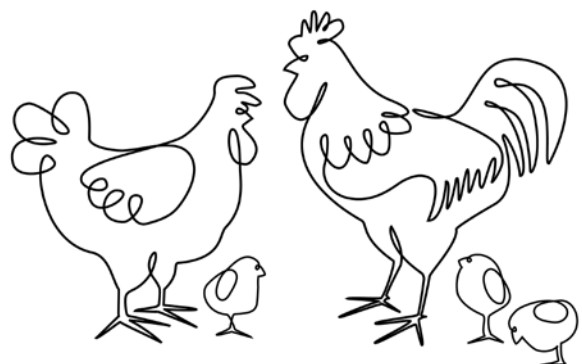
[ble-organizations/charitable-contribution-deductions;](https://www.irs.gov/charitable-contribution-deductions;)
<https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc506>

That summarizes which is what! If you have questions, contact us:

Sen Speroff, President of Skyline Grange #894 (skylinegrange894@msn.com)

Suzanne Perra, President of Skyline Ridge Neighbors (president@srnpx.org) □

Keep up with local news via the Skyline Newsline. Subscribe at www.srnpx.org



Harden Your Home Against Wildfire

By Miles Merwin*

The risk of wildfire is a fact of life, even west of the Cascades, as our climate trends toward hotter and drier summers. Faced with that risk, the challenge for rural homeowners is to prevent wildfires from becoming structure fires. The key to reducing the vulnerability of your home is fuel management, from the house itself out to the surrounding area. The aim is to change fire behavior as it approaches your home.

There are three ways that fire can ignite a house: embers, conduction (direct contact), and radiation (heating).

In a major wildfire under windy conditions, clouds of embers and firebrands can blow far ahead of the actual fire front. Small embers can enter a house through vents, windows, open doors. They can also ignite any flammable vegetation or materials close by outside.

To demonstrate how an ember storm can ignite a home, researchers built a model house and blasted it with glowing embers. This video shows the effect can be devastating: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvbNOPSYyss>.

Fire can be conducted to the house via anything flammable that's attached to it or close by: e.g. wooden fences, woody plants, bark chips, firewood, outdoor furniture, etc. An ember storm can set those items on fire.

Radiant heating to the point of ignition can happen as flames approach a structure, having burned outbuildings or close-by vegetation. This makes wood siding and windows near large vegetation vulnerable.

Reducing Structure Ignitability

Roofing: Wood roofing, e.g. cedar shakes, makes a home highly susceptible to ignition from wildfire embers. It's like having kindling on your roof. Treatments are available to somewhat reduce the flammability of wood roofs, but they need to be reapplied regularly. Composition shingles, tile or metal roofs are much more combustion resistant. Read more about the hazard of wood shakes and shingles: <https://centralsierra.ucanr.edu/files/145303.pdf>

Eaves: Box in eaves using ignition-resistant or non-combustible materials, and seal any gaps to prevent ember intrusion.

Vents: To keep embers out, screen all vents with 1/8th inch wire mesh, i.e. soffits, crawl space, eaves, etc.

Fences: Wood or bamboo fences that attached to the house are a potential avenue to conduct fire. Consider non-combustible materials like fiber cement or metal.

Decks: Like wood fences, wooden decks can conduct fire into the house, especially if they are open below and/or extend over a slope. Consider enclosing the area beneath the deck with nonflammable material or metal screen.

Landscaping: The "Immediate Zone" (0-5 ft) should be free of easy to ignite fuels (e.g. bark dust) and flamma-

ble vegetation. A guide to fire resistant landscape plants is available from OSU Extension: (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/pnw-590-fire-resistant-plants-home-landscapes>).

Hardening your home involves both structural changes and routine maintenance. Every year, clean debris out of the gutters and off the roof. In summer, move firewood at least 30 ft away from house. Prune vegetation and mow grass that's close to the house.

In the "Intermediate Zone" (5-30 ft), prune trees up to 6 ft (or 1/3 of height), and woody shrubs to reduce ladder fuels that can conduct fire into the tree canopy. Chip or move brush to an area where it's safe to burn. And mow dry grass to reduce surface fuels, especially in areas down slope from the house.

Home hardening against wildfire can take time and expense but it's well worth the peace of mind. Doing so also helps makes your house more defensible for fire fighters who may have to prioritize which properties to defend in a wildfire emergency.

References

Hardening Your Home <https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/hardening-your-home/>

Fire Behavior and Home Ignition Zone Webinar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sizGtxQFYP4&t=5s>

Oregon State Fire Marshal: Defensible Space Program <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EH6sD6W1Ynk>

Oregon Defensible Space home assessments <https://oregondefensiblespace.org> □

**Adapted from "Is Your Home Ready for Wildfire?," by Kayla Bordelon, OSU Extension, and Jen Warren, Oregon State Fire Marshall, presented at Tree School Clackamas, March 23, 2024. A copy of the slide show is posted on the SRN website, under Be Prepared: <https://www.srnpx.org/be-prepared.html>.*

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

silent or oral auctions, making a cash donation or purchasing some of the wonderful auction items. A successful auction needs donors and bidders.

Kids and Teens

Laura Watts and Casselle LaTourette are our Children's Event Coordinators this year and they have all kinds of fun activities planned for the kids. There will be farm animals to visit and outside play structures. Both Laura and Casselle have children and have previously led the children's activities.

Ideas for teens: Make cookies for the potluck, make or buy an auction item to donate, volunteer to help serve food, be on the setup or teardown team, etc. Or just come and kick back and enjoy your summer!

Join the Team

The Gathering will be coordinated this year by Brad Graff and Tracey Larvenz. Thank you to the following neighbors for leading the main Summer Gathering activities. We couldn't do it without you: Auction – Nicole Anderson; Music – Brad Graff; Children's Games – Laura Watts and Casselle LaTourette; Food – Skyline Grange; Greeters, Registration and Sign out – Rachael Brake; Table Setup and Cleanup – George Sowder; Flowers – Lisa Graff; and Community Relations – Alex Rose.

There will be information specific to our neighborhood from organizations, including SRN, Skyline Grange, the Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET), Portland Fire and Rescue (Firewise), and Oregon State Fire Marshal (Firewise). We will keep you informed in the Newslines of participating organizations as they are confirmed. You will have the opportunity to talk about your latest neighborhood interests, be it traffic, Skyline internet, Firewise, or

► **Joe Erhardt** (continued from p. 4)

would never make it down Germantown that morning because she knew there probably wasn't even a road there.

Jason Erhardt has this to say about his father, "He was a dedicated family man who would do anything for his family and his neighbors. Whenever the mechanics in the shop I manage hit a repair obstacle, I remember Dad, who told me - and I passed it on to them, "Think outside the box."

Jonathan Erhardt adds, "Both Mom and Dad gave me resilience and altruism. Always, a kid at heart, Dad cast a light on those in the world around him – that's a torch I will always carry with me as I work in healthcare for the underserved communities I serve."

Laurel lives her life with entertaining quotes festooned around her house. One of her favorites from Mark Twain is, "I've lived through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened."

Now, she's making some changes inspired by her cur-

rent favorite, "This chapter is yours to write." Anonymous

No one can ever say Joe didn't live his life with gusto and to the fullest. □

just introduce yourself and get to know those who serve our community.

Please contact Brad Graff at bradgraff@gmail.com or 503.292.1614, or Tracey Larvenz at srngathering@gmail.com or 971.373.7714 to volunteer for the Gathering. You can volunteer some time to help prepare for the event, during the event or for cleanup. There are some slots that require just an hour of your time. It's a great way to make new friends. We'd also love to have some teens involved!

Contact Nicole Anderson at srn.auction@gmail.com or 614.975.9942 to make donations for the silent and oral auctions. Cash donations are welcome as well. To make a cash donation, please make checks payable to SRN and mail to Rachael Brake, SRN Treasurer, 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. Online donations to SRN can be made using Venmo ("@Rachael-Brake" or [https:// account.venmo.com/u/Rachael-Brake](https://account.venmo.com/u/Rachael-Brake)). Please be sure to indicate it is a donation to SRN. Donations received that surpass essential Ridge Runner funding help SRN provide educational and safety programming for our entire community.

Summer Gathering Updates

Please sign up for the SRN Newslines emails at [https:// srnpdx.org](https://srnpdx.org) to keep track of any changes to the Summer Gathering. Also, please "Like" Skyline Ridge Neighbors on the Facebook page ([https:// www.facebook.com/SRN-PDX](https://www.facebook.com/SRN-PDX)) and check out the Summer Gathering web page periodically for updates and for our auction catalog: [https:// www.srnpdx.org/summer-gathering-2024.html](https://www.srnpdx.org/summer-gathering-2024.html). □

rent favorite, "This chapter is yours to write." Anonymous

No one can ever say Joe didn't live his life with gusto and to the fullest. □



Hawthorne

General Construction

Roofing & Gutter Specialists

971-500-5190

Metal & Asphalt Roofs | Slate, Cedar, & Spanish Barrel
Tiles | 6K, 5K, Half Round, & Copper Gutters

4862 SW Scholls
Ferry Rd.

HawthorneGeneralConstruction.com

Talk With Your Family About Disaster Prep

By Sen Speroff



Often when I'm away from home I think, "Please do not let The Big One happen now". Then in winter on a rainy, windy, snowy, sloppy, slick day again I think, "Please don't let the Big One happen today". With earthquake damage possibly making our houses inhabitable, our supply preparation severely tested, and water needs rationing....please, not today! Summer is a good time to practice survival skills when the weather is pleasant and kids are on summer break. Involving kids in emergency planning helps make them more emotionally prepared and resilient and empowered with skills and knowledge.

Talk to your children so they know you are prepared to keep them safe. Their involvement will provide them with a sense of control once they gain knowledge and practice action. Remain calm. If you don't know answers, research the answers together. Here are some resources available in kids for a natural disaster:

- Preparing Children for Disasters (<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/20200220/preparing-children-disasters>)
- Be a Ready Kid (<https://www.ready.gov/kids/be-ready-kids>)

Here are some ideas for family activities, some include new skills, practical math, and group planning.

- Memorize Home Address & Phone Number
- Teach How & When to Call 911

Source: Teaching Your Child How to Use 911

(<https://www.childrensmn.org/educationmaterials/parents/article/8552/teaching-your-child-how-to-use-911/>)

Memorize Emergency Contact Information

- Learn to Tie Knots

This is fun to learn together. It's worth knowing some effective and sturdy knots.

Source:

My First Book of Knots by Berndt Sundsten & Jan Jäger, Sky Pony Press.2006.

- Practice Limited Water Consumption

Have kids do the math. How much water would your family require at a minimum at 1 gallon/person/day. Then calculate the amount needed for recommended 14 days. Test your ability, see if you can limit yourselves to that amount for 2 days. Involve the kids in correctly storing a 14-day emergency supply of water. (Source: Emergency Water Storage (<https://www.regionalh2o.org/emergency-preparedness/emergency-water-storage>))

- Practice Camping Outside

Gather items needed if you were unable to safely enter your home after a disaster. Turn this situation into

an adventure and get the kids involved with planning. Put up a tent or make a protective structure, figure out food and water, sleeping blankets, entertainment, and have emergency equipment. Don't forget the marshmallows and enjoy the night sky. Can you camp outside for a day or two without re-entering your house?

Resource:

How to Make an Emergency Kit with Camping Gear (<https://www.rei.com/blog/camp/10-camping-items-to-add-to-your-emergency-kit>) and www.ready.gov.

Enjoy these experiences together. Learn about yourselves and learn from your kids.

Happy Anniversary, NET

Thirty years ago, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management trained its first group of residents. The Portland NET program continues to train residents on the basic skills needed to be a neighborhood hero after a disaster, and to do it safely. For information, log onto <https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams>.

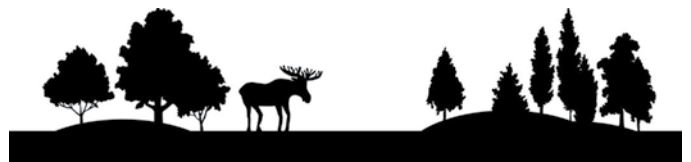
Contact Us

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. ☐



Like SRN on Facebook!

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



Skyline Grange Receives Matching Grant for Improvements

By Sen Speroff & Catherine Dalziel

We recently received a \$5,000 matching grant from Oregon State Grange to help with installing lighting for our parking lot. Other funding has come from anonymous donors in our community. The current lighting is inadequate and has been a safety concern for some time. The new installation will have dark sky compliant lighting that is controlled via both photo cells to reduce energy consumption and motion sensors to increase safety. Next winter on dark, foggy, rainy nights, you should experience significant visual improvements.

Update on Capital Improvements

Permit approval from the City for our Reduced Scope Project is still pending. The City has requested some clarifications and revisions to the plans including those for the ramp from the planned second emergency exit to the parking lot. The supplier's original engineer has been unable to provide the requested changes due to illness. Our ramp supplier has hired a new engineer and as it takes some time to generate these plans, we are still waiting to resubmit. Since this project has to be completed during the dry season and time is running out for this year, we now plan construction in summer of 2025. This means the Grange is open for rentals and activities as normal this fall.

What Has Been Happening at the Grange

Since the last Ridge Runner, we have held our 3rd Flea Market providing an opportunity for local residents to rent space to sell their crafts, vintage items or new items. Our huge Tree and Native Plant Sale took place in April. Our Education Committee has offered presentations on pollinators, black bears, and beavers. Our membership numbers have increased from 79 to 93 since the first of the year. Since the reinstated family membership, we have had 8 families join. We provided monthly meeting space for Skyline Ridge NET, a Forest Park Neighborhood Association meeting, a venue for SRN's annual Spring Meeting and a registration venue for SRN's annual SOLVE clean-up. The building was rented for monthly ISHA satsangs and a weekend meditation event; we loaned equipment to Washington County Master Gardeners; and our parking lot space was utilized by nearby neighbors holding events.

Beavers in our Environment

In our Skyline Ridge neighborhood beavers are returning to creeks, constructing dams, rechanneling streams, creating bogs and ponds, thereby changing the landscape. At "Beavers: Our Local Ecosystem Engineers," the 5th presentation in the Skyline Grange "Skyline Living Series" held May 22, David Osborn, professor of University Studies at PSU, shared observations from his PSU class collabora-

tion with the non-profit organization Bark (bark-out.org) and their efforts to reintroduce beavers in the Mt. Hood National Forest. This project demonstrated that beavers, in reacting to their surroundings and providing habitat for themselves, developed habitat for other species as well, creating biodiversity. David concluded that as a society, incorporating a similar approach to our own impact on the environment, we too can create biodiversity, and advance sustainability. Living here allows us a glimpse of beavers and their ecological example. Watch for announcements on future Skyline Grange Education Committee presentations in the Skyline Ridge Runner.

Upcoming Community Activities

By tradition, Grange-sponsored events are minimized during the summer giving its membership a well-deserved break to enjoy their gardens and activities of summer. We are still open for rentals, monthly meetings, and work parties. Portland General Electric has scheduled public meetings in July. Details of these events will be announced on the weekly SRN Newslines, on our website, and some in the October Ridge Runner issue.

In the fall, our Fall Garage Sale is scheduled for October 4-5, the popular Saturday Soup Supper on October 26th and the annual Skyline Artisan Fair on November 23-24, 2024. Our Education Committee has planned for several educational presentations in the fall. We will again organize the potluck for SRN's Summer Gathering and look forward to seeing you there on July 27.

Yoga at the Grange

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

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 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

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. □

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.).



Crow Water Systems
Pump Sales and Service • Backflow Testing
Water Treatment • Water Testing

P.O. Box 665 (503) 543-6326
 Scappoose, OR 97056 www.crowwater.com

Emergency: (503) 796-5632 • Fax (503) 543-6929 • service@crowwater.com



LUX PERENNIALS NURSERY
 Bountiful Blooms, Dazzling Colors, Unique Varieties

300 varieties of perennials
Super long blooming
Wander the display garden – 1000's of plants

13610 NW Skyline Blvd
 Open Fri, Sat, Sun 10am – 5pm
 Website: LuxPerennials.com
 Email: LuxPerennials@gmail.com

Open:
Apr 12 – Oct 13, 2024



WEST MULTNOMAH
 Soil & Water Conservation District

Need help with your land?
Call us for a free consultation
503-238-4775 • info@wmswcd.org



The MEATING PLACE
 Established 1974

Butcher Shop
 Local | Sustainable | Fresh

Specializing in:
 • Local Meats
 • Hand-Crafted Sausages
 • Wild Game Processing

6495 NW Cornelius Pass Road
 Hillsboro, OR 97124
 503.533.0624

www.meatingplacepdx.com
meatingplacepdx@gmail.com



Gaiian Gardens llc

Garden Design and Consultation
 refurbishment and specialty pruning
 Fruit trees and Japanese Maples

Specializing in edible gardens and
 homesteading as well as native habitats
 Functional, beautiful and inspiring

Gaiiangardens1@gmail.com
www.gaiiangardens.com 503-347-4717



COUNTRY ROADS
GUESTHOUSE
 vacation rental

Eric and Annette Lucas | www.airbnb.com/h/country-roadsgh or
 503-784-0670 | VRBO.com/2526540
 North Plains, Oregon | **Follow us on FB and IG!**



Skyline Ridge Runner
 Skyline Ridge Neighbors
 17050 NW Skyline Blvd.
 Portland, OR 97231

NONPROFIT ORG.
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PORTLAND, OR
 PERMIT NO. 2358

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***ECRWSS R002
 POSTAL CUSTOMER

Printed on paper containing 10% post-consumer waste.

Community Calendar

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

July 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.

July 27, 4 - 8pm: SRN Summer Gathering at the Plumper Pumpkin Patch. For details, see story on page 1 and the SRN web: <https://www.srnpx.org/summer-gathering-573265.html>.

Aug. 8, 6:30 pm: SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@gmail.com) to get the link.

Aug. 12, 7 pm: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email SkylineGrange894@msn.com.

Sept. 9, 7 pm: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email SkylineGrange894@msn.com.

Sept. 12, 6:30 pm: SRN Board online meeting via Zoom.

All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@gmail.com) to get the link.

Oct. 4-5: 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.



*** FIELD TRIPS * PARTIES ***
*** LOCAL PRODUCE & FLOWERS ***
*** FAMILY OUTINGS ***
*** FARM FRESH MEAT ***

Fall Hours: OPEN DAILY—
Sept. 29th to Oct. 31st
 9am to 5:30pm

Christmas Trees: Fri, Sat, & Sun
 Starting Friday after Thanksgiving

503-645-9561
www.plumperpumpkins.com
 11435 NW Old Cornelius Pass Rd.
 Ptd, OR 97231