

Skyline Ridge Runner

October 2022

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 34, No. 4

Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

Find Your Christmas Tree Right Here in Our Neighborhood

By Alex Rose

The holidays are fast-approaching, and we're dashing out to buy a tree, not really thinking much about the tree itself and where it comes from. We take for granted that we'll jump into the car, drive to a place nearby where we can easily access a tree; and there will be plenty of trees from which to choose.

We are fortunate to have five established tree farms in our Skyline 'hood, **listed in the directory below.** Many of these growers started their farms as sideline businesses that mushroomed into surprisingly popular destinations for customers seeking festive "outings," and a happy holiday destination day for families to share as they walk the properties, hang out around a firepit and enjoy conversation, cider, and cocoa with owners, friends, and new acquaintances.

Repeat business is the name of the game for the success of these farms. The stand-out theme for all the growers is how wonderful it is to see familiar faces every holiday season and to watch the children growing up. The joy of seeing their repeat customers year after year can't be beaten, and the farmers have many funny and sweet stories to tell.

Lloyd Pollard, owner of Pollard Ranch, brightens as he mentions that several wedding engagements began on his farm. "Each one is different, but in the most basic sense they're all alike - people who adore each other decide to spend their lives together, and the moment their decision crystallized happened while picking a tree on our farm. How cool is that?!?!"

Bob Reichen of Reichen Family Farm chuckles, "One morning a few years ago, a nice lady came out looking for a tree and found one she liked. She told my son, who was

working the field that day, that she wanted to go and get her husband. She runs over to her car and pulls out an urn, then proceeds to walk all around the tree asking the urn, i.e., long-gone hubby Earl, 'Does this look like a good tree?'" Bob adds an observation, "Part of the family wants this tree; the other part wants a different tree. They usually settle on the tree the kids want; if the kids are happy, that's the tree they'll take."

Gene Zurbrugg, co-owner of Zurbrugg Farms, says, "Sometimes, it's kind of cute. Folks come out in dress clothes and fancy shoes, and they wonder what have we gotten ourselves into? And that's when we're right here with a tractor to help them when the weather's rainy, and they get stuck in the mud."

Jim Kessinger of Plumper Pumpkin Patch recounts a couple who were dead set on choosing a tree that was so humongous - a 20-foot Grand Fir that was as wide as it was tall. "This thing was so big, it took five of us to wrestle it on top of their car, and it was much

too wide to fit through even a double door. I always wondered whatever happened to them when they got home."

Dave Roy, co-owner of Quail Creek Farm, tells how many years he's had to referee major blow-ups between a husband and wife over which tree - his or hers. "Sometimes, I thought they'd come to blows. My remedy was to find them a third tree, a compromise tree, and they always seemed to settle on that." Here's where advice from a pro can save the day!

Lloyd Pollard adds, "Many of our customers live in high-density neighborhoods and so rarely have the chance to just run through a field, let alone to harvest a tree so fresh it leaves them smelling like a forest. After seeing the **Christmas Trees, p. 10**



Part of holiday joy is finding just the right tree from a local Christmas tree farm, and playing in the snow! (Photo: D. Roy)

Skyline Ridge Runner

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→ *Deadline for the next issue is December 15*

Skyline Ridge Neighbors Inc.

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

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Skyline Rural Watch 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 newslines@srnpx.org or 503.621.3501 to submit items for publication.

SRN Website

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

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

Thanks for Your Donations!

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

- ~ Tim & Susanne Cusick
- ~ Agnes Kwan
- ~ Miles and Libby Merwin
- ~ Susan Still
- ~ Ann Ruttan

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



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SRN Gives a Big THANK YOU to All for the 2022 Summer Gathering

By Suzanne Perra, SRN President

Neighbors were ready for the 29th Annual Summer Gathering (after skipping two years due to Covid-19) and it showed with a large attendance, lots of auction participation and the joy of mingling with neighbors we hadn't seen for a while. We met our goal of slightly over \$6,000, which along with our proceeds from the "I Love SRN" February fundraiser, will allow us to cover the basic costs of running our all-volunteer Skyline Ridge Neighbors 501c3 organization for another year.

Brad Graff and Suzanne Perra co-chaired the event this year. We changed it up and had an evening event which was well received. The gathering, which started at 4 pm, was kicked off by Children's Activities and the Silent Auction, followed by live music by Cindy Lou Banks and her band Brooks Hill, delicious food, and the Oral Auction. The event ended at 9:30pm. See an album of photos here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/skylineridge/albums/72177720301565059>.

Generous Donations from Local Businesses

The venue was the spacious **Plumper Pumpkin Patch and Tree Farm** on Old Cornelius Pass Road. Jim and Peggy Kessinger provided this generous venue donation. We reaped the benefit of newly manicured garden areas that were revamped for a recent family wedding. They met with us during the planning phase and had several employees available during the event. They also donated baked potatoes and homemade donuts for dessert.

The Meating Place, located on Cornelius Pass and West Union, donated their delicious pulled-pork and buns as they have in years past. Thank you!

The flowers were donated by Lisa Graff from her business, **Lux Perennials Nursery**, on Skyline Blvd. The flowers on all the tables as well as the donated plants in the auction came from her garden and nursery. Lisa says, "I love donating flowers to the auction every year, it's my way to contribute to our great neighborhood and what a fun way to do it, with bright and colorful flowers. I hope all our neighbors know they are welcome to swing by and visit, I love sharing my garden."

Community Tables

We had community tables that provided information about many organizations in the Skyline area. Other nonprofit groups consisting of volunteers from our neighborhood include the Skyline Ridge Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET), the FIREWISE program and the Skyline Grange. A few neighbors belong to all four of these organizations and sometimes these groups work together on community goals, but they are all very distinct organizations, each with their own purpose and bylaws. Our volunteers for these organizations included: Skyline

Grange: Diane and Mitch Todd; Skyline NET Team: Susan Gorgas, Hope Roach, Burt Lazar and Judy Friedman.

Other community partners with information tables were Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R), Station 72, Portland Fire and Rescue (PF&R) and West Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) and the Oregon State Fire Marshal. Our representatives for our community partners included: WMSWCD: Laura Taylor, TVF&R for Firewise: Trace Richards and Stephanie McKee; Station 72: Michael Gordon & others; PF&R for Firewise: Kim Kosmas & Laurent Picard; Oregon State Fire Marshal: Jen Warren.

Dinner and Potluck

The dinner was served by 19 Grange members and one non-Grange volunteer under the watchful eyes of Skyline Grange. We ate the Meating Place pulled-pork and buns, Grange salads, Plumper Pumpkin donuts and wonderful potluck dishes brought by neighbors to share. The lines were long, but the food was worth the wait. Many thanks to the Skyline Grange, The Meating Place, Plumper Pumpkin and Tree Farm, and to all who brought dishes to share!

Children's Activities

Laura Watts and Casselle LaTourette coordinated the kid's activities. They had relay races, painting, cotton candy, crafts, music, and face painting. If that's not enough, the kids could check out the many farm animals: llamas, alpacas, cows, goats, rabbits, turkeys, chickens, sheep and more. There was also a real Fire Truck at the event. There seem to be a lot more children in the neighborhood lately and we hope that they can make it a tradition to attend the event every year so we can see them grow. We also hope that they can fit in some play dates during the rest of the year with the new friends they meet at Summer Gatherings!

Silent and Oral Auctions

Suzanne Perra was the lead driver for the auctions, collecting over 115 items that were donated by neighbors, friends, and businesses. So many helped with the silent auction, but key players include reliable standbys Alex Rose, Rachael Brake, Grant Rolette and auction newcomers Tracy Larvenz, Agnes Kwan, and Ava Chapman. We moved the silent auction from the barn to an outdoor tent this year and that contributed to more bidding and auction volunteers being closer to the activities.

Rich Edwards did a wonderful job as our oral auctioneer. He kept everyone in stitches with his funny neighborhood jokes. He auctioned off 9 items including a year of pest control from Summit Pest Management, \$500 gift certificate for Greenbox Mechanical, Sen's famous

Summer Gathering, p. 7 ➤

Working for Healthy Forests and Woodlands

By Laura Taylor, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

The Tualatin Mountains (also called the West Hills) of western Multnomah County are a rare and precious place. They form a long narrow arm of the Oregon Coast Range that reaches a great distance east to the confluence of the Willamette, Tualatin, and Columbia Rivers. Despite their close proximity to the largest metropolitan area in Oregon, the mountains are still largely covered with forest. This is perhaps in part due to their steep rugged slopes which make building and development a challenge. This area also holds a rich tribal history. It was and remains a place of convergence for many Native American tribes who originally inhabited this land, including the Multnomah, Atfalati (Tualatin Kalapuya), Stl'pulmsh (Cowlitz), Clatskanie, and several other tribes.

Over the past few centuries, the forests of the Tualatin Mountains have been resilient – able to successfully recover following the many changes and challenges they have experienced. With new threats on the horizon, the continued health and resiliency of these forests, and the wildlife and residents of the communities within them, is the focus of our forestry work.

The Tualatin Mountain forests have seen several rounds of logging over the past century and a half. This has resulted in the forest structure becoming more simplified than it was when the local tribes maintained it as old-growth mixed conifer-hardwood forests and Oregon white oak woodlands. Now there's a prevalence of smaller trees of similar age, less tree diversity, fewer and smaller logs and snags (standing dead trees), and a less complex and diverse understory.

In some places, Douglas-fir has grown back in thick stands, leaving little else growing under the closed-in canopy. In other areas, efforts to reestablish conifers largely failed, and the live roots of the cut native bigleaf maple trees resprouted and grew into whole forests of dense maple clumps. There's nothing wrong with either Douglas-fir or bigleaf maple, but a healthy forest generally has both of these species plus several more, rather than being made up entirely of one or the other.

The proximity of a growing port city also brought in many invasive weeds such as Armenian blackberry, Scotch broom, and English ivy that have significantly impacted forest health and resiliency by reducing the diversity and complexity of the forest understory. More recently, increased drought and high summer temperatures have severely taxed the health of many trees in the Tualatin Mountains, causing die-offs, especially of western redcedar growing in vulnerable locations. These trends have also led to a growing risk of wildfire in this region. These growing challenges have left the health and resiliency of the Tualatin Mountain forests more tenuous. Yet despite this, the ethic of stewardship held by the residents of this

area is a beacon of hope for this forest ecosystem. Through efforts great and small, independent and collective, the Skyline Ridge community is taking an active role to help improve the health and resiliency of these forests, and we are helping residents in this effort.

Our services in action

Over the past year, our Forest Conservationist provided information and technical advice to 34 woodland owners through site visits and follow-up communications, and co-developed 3 comprehensive forest stewardship plans with landowners that cover a total of 82 acres.

In a forest stewardship plan, we include a description of the forest's current conditions that we gather during a series of site visits. We describe forest structure and diversity, wildlife habitat, weed presence, road conditions, water features, and other elements that might influence the condition of the forest. Plans also include forest management recommendations and a list of resources. Management recommendations are tailored to fit the goals of the landowner, but some common examples include: forest thinning, gap creation, invasive weed removal, wild-fire fuel reductions around homes, planting native trees, shrubs, and ground covers, and pollinator and other wild-life habitat enhancement.

For participants who have developed a forest stewardship plan and are ready to begin implementing some of the recommendations, we help identify and access financial assistance, and in some cases, assist with project management. Once funding has been secured and the project is ready to get started, our Forest Conservationist and other staff may be able to assist in managing its implementation, including mapping and marking project areas, securing and supervising contractors, selecting and securing appropriate plant species, and monitoring project outcomes.

Taking on a forest health project is a big and complex undertaking for most, and we are helping many woodland owners navigate the process. In the past year, in addition to the planning work described above, we have also helped implement projects on 14 properties benefiting a total of 114 acres.

Many woodland owners who have taken advantage of our services say the effort has been worth it. They share their delight at now hearing birds singing in thriving trees, sightings of elk, salamanders, and bumblebees, and satisfaction at seeing clear cool water flowing in the streams.

Long-Term Conservation Easements

West Multnomah SWCD is partnering with The Forest Park Conservancy (FPC) to help woodland owners in the Tualatin Mountains protect their land into the future through conservation easements. Properties must demonstrate significant conservation value and fulfill a number of

Healthy Forests, p. 10 ➤

Be Informed to Stay Safe: Tips from the Skyline NET

By Sen Speroff

PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff Notices

As many of us have recently experienced, if extreme fire danger conditions exist, PGE may shut down the transmission of electricity in the interest of public safety. This is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). If possible in advance of an outage, PGE will send notifications to the contact information that they have on file for your account. You should keep your account updated with accurate phone, email and text information at Customer Sign In (portlandgeneral.com) or call 1-800-542-8818 during normal business hours.

Public Alert Notices

PublicAlerts sends lifesaving information about how to stay safe when an emergency is happening in the Portland-Vancouver Metro region. Sign up for Public Alerts at <https://www.PublicAlerts.org>. It can send messages by text, email, or voice message. It's available for anyone who lives, works, or visits the Portland-Vancouver Region. Personal information is kept secure and private. The service is free, but message and data rates may apply depending on your phone provider.

PulsePoint Alerts

This App provides early notification of local threats such as wildland fires, flooding, vehicle accidents, and utility emergencies. It can keep the community updated in real-time. Users who indicate that they are CPR trained and willing to assist in case of emergency can be notified if someone nearby is having a cardiac emergency. PulsePoint may increase the chance of saving the life of someone in cardiac distress. Sign up at <https://www.pulsepoint.org>.

Report Downed Lines or Gas Leaks

If you smell natural gas (rotten egg odor), see downed power lines, or suspect another emergency situation, leave the area immediately and call 9-1-1. You can then call PGE to report a downed line at 503.464.7777 or 1.800.544.1795. You can call Northwest Natural Gas to report a potential gas leak at 1.800.882.3377.

What our Team Learned

Several days before the Red Flag weather warning & the PSPS, our Skyline Ridge NET team had practiced packing up and leaving home within 10 minutes of

receiving a "Go Now" level 3 evacuation order for a pretend, quickly advancing wildfire. As NET members we all are well educated about the importance of a Go Bag and a plan. We showed and shared our packed cars with each other. Judy was at work, and realized she needed a Go Bag for work and in the car in addition to home. Susan had plenty of stuff for her pets, but less so for humans. I forgot to grab my purse and its important contents. None of us thought about taking a fire extinguisher, though one did take a wet blanket. All of us felt much more prepared for the reality of an evacuation after this practice, especially since other members of the household had been included in the exercise.

During the PSPS, members of our local NET team along with other NET members and Multnomah County volunteers staffed TVF&R's Station 72 to help provide a safe, reassuring place to rest and recover, and to ensure that ice, water, and adequate charging supplies for medical devices were available to those in need. Over the weekend our NET team group texted each other for updates, observations, and help. We problem solved generator failures (dead battery and no fuel), and assisted with a flat tire. We knew who did and didn't have power. We learned who among us were receiving or not receiving alerts and notifications. SRN's Newsline was terrific in keeping the community at large posted. We learned from the experience, and it deepened our sense of connection as a team.

Become a NET Team Member!

Did you know most of the people rescued in a disaster are rescued by their neighbors, NOT by professional first responders? The Portland NET program will train you on the basic skills you need to be a neighborhood hero after a disaster, and to do it safely. Your instructors are Portland Fire & Rescue firefighters and emergency response professionals. You will learn search and rescue, basic medical response to treat injuries, radio communications, disaster psychology, and much more.

NET volunteers are prepared to be self-sufficient for two weeks during any emergency, are able to provide emergency assistance to their family and immediate neighbors; able to work within an emergency response team to save lives and property in their neighborhood, and able to guide untrained volunteers who want to help others in the aftermath of a disaster. Graduating from Basic NET Training also gives you access to advanced training opportunities, such as certifying for Wilderness First Aid, emergency animal sheltering, amateur radio communications, and more!

The next Basic NET Training cohort has a flexible weekend schedule (either Saturdays or Sundays) between **NET News, p. 9**

SRN Thanks These Businesses for Their Donations to our Summer Gathering

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	Helvetia Market 503.928.4428 23137 NW West Union Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97124	Chennai Masala 503.531.9500 Chennaimasala.net	

► **Summer Gathering** (continued from p. 3)
cheesecake, and Tracey Water's beautiful Disney Quilt.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to our greeter and previous SRN President Laurel Erhardt, our registration and cashier team led by Rachael Brake and our setup and cleanup crew led by George Sowder. These teams worked hard, starting with George putting up the signs weeks before the event and ending with cleanup the day after the event, and paperwork organization much later.

Additional Heartfelt Thanks to

- Over 200 neighbors who attended
- Over 40 neighborhood volunteers who supported the Summer Gathering:

Rachael Brake, Pat Brady, Korissa Burns, Ava Chapman, John Chen, Cindi Cramer, John Driscoll, Valerie Driscoll, Diane Edwards, Rich Edwards, Laurel Erhardt, Judy Flynn, Judy Friedman, Laurel Harroun, Jennifer Glowacki, Susan Gorgas, Brad Graff, Lisa Graff, Jim Kessinger, Peggy Kessinger, Peter Kessinger, Tommy Kunzman, Agnes Kwan, Tracey Larvenz, April Lata, Casselle Latourette, Burt Lazar, Miles Merwin, Kelly Sue Munson,

Jerralynn Ness, Suzanne Perra, Hope Roach, Grant Rolette, Alex Rose, George Sowder, Leon Speroff, Sen Speroff, Claire Stock, Diane Todd, Mitch Todd, Bernie Thurber, Christina Traunweiser, Tracy Waters, Jolene Williams

- Over 20 friends and neighbors who donated auction items:
 - Patrick Ahern, Susan Ahern, Sharon Barthmaier, Beller-Bowersox Family, Rachael Brake, Ava Chapman, Judy Friedman, Dick Gilkeson, Jeanine Gilkeson, Agnes Kwan, Casselle LaTourette, Candice McBeth, Steffan Mejia, Libby Merwin, Miles Merwin, Jeff Miller, Kristi Ritson, Grant Rolette, George Sowder, Sen Speroff, Claire Stock, Susan Varnum, Tracy Waters, Stacey Wilson
- 47 businesses that donated to the auction. They are listed with their contact information in a special section of this Ridge Runner.
- Also contributing to our auction again this year were: Metro Parks and Nature and West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. Also, thanks to gubernatorial candidate Betsy Johnson who was in attendance. ◻

Community Activities at Skyline Grange Back in Full Swing

By Sen Speroff

The Grange is fully open again bustling with Grange events, for rental opportunities, and as a place for community groups to meet. And, we are about to submit building plans for improvements this fall.

Travel Movie Series

Come travel the world for free. Since June, we have shown a monthly movie in which culture, landscape, and/or the journey play a significant role. So far, we have traveled to South America, Greece, Australia, and Mississippi. We travel on the 4th Thursday of each month, but will take a hiatus in November and December during the holidays since many of you will be traveling on your own to grandma's house. On October 27th we will show "Amélie" which will give us a quirky introduction to French culture.

Yoga at the Grange

Feeling stiff from inactivity or gardening? Come to yoga classes at the Grange on most Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9 a.m. Join in no matter your age, flexibility or experience. For updates, schedule, and required registration, visit Janci's website at www.yogainalignment.com.

Fall Garage Sale

It's back! Fall Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, October 7-8, 2022. Donations come from about 30 local households. Sale has a uniquely Skyline favor with items for all sections of a household, plus equipment useful for semi-rural living. About 2,400 sq. ft. of items, from zany to practical. Expect quality, quantity, and good prices. All proceeds will go to Skyline Grange Capital Improvement Fundraising Campaign.

Fall Soup Supper

For the 14th year, Skyline Grange invites the Skyline community to a hearty home-cooked community supper. We cook; you enjoy. The menu will delight vegetarians and meat-lovers, picky and hardy eaters, children and adults. Twelve different soups, fresh salads, and home-baked breads and desserts. On Saturday, November 5, serving from 5-7 p.m.

Artisans Holiday Fair

We are happy to announce the return of the Skyline

Grange Artisans holiday arts show as an in-person event this year, after a hiatus of several years due to the pandemic. The show is planned for the weekend of Nov. 19 & 20, from 10 am to 4 pm.

As in past years, we plan to have about 20 artisan booths with a variety of locally handmade items available for purchase, including jewelry, accessories, pottery, glass, journals, home décor, paintings, woodworks, essential oils, fiber arts, yard art, handmade preserves, dog toys, quilts, and more. This event provides a wonderful opportunity for the community to gather, and for the artisans to educate the public and sell their work.

There will be food, snacks, coffee and tea available for a suggested donation, with tables set up downstairs in the Grange. Plus, visitors will also be able to buy tickets for a raffle to win numerous handmade items donated by the Artisans and gifts from local businesses.

We know that the community looks forward to this event, and hope that many will attend with their family and friends, find that perfect hand-made object, and learn about the creative works of local Skyline artisans.

For more information, contact Sue Selbie (sselbie@gmail.com), Ken Pincus (kenpincus@comcast.net) or Miles Merwin (mlmerwin@gmail.com).

Skyline Living Lecture Series

We kick off our 2022/2023 Skyline Living Series of lectures and presentations this fall with a couple of forestry related topics of particular interest and relevance to our neighborhood in these times of change and challenges to our forest health. After the new year, we'll have our large roommates, Skyline elk, as a topic with the exact date not determined as of yet. Watch for date updates on SRN's Newsline and on our website.

"Yikes - EAB!! A New Bug in Town" will be our first presentation. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), is an exotic beetle that infests ash trees. It was first discovered in Oregon in June in nearby Forest Grove. This pest has proven deadly to all ash species in North America and Europe, including our native Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), killing up to 90% of ash species in some locations. Laura Taylor (WMSWCD) will present information on this insect on Thursday, October 20 at 7 p.m. Learn about ash trees and their importance to our PNW ecosystems. Learn to identify signs of EAB infestation, who to contact and what can be done to limit its impact. Laura Taylor is our new Forest Conservationist at West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD).

"Building Forest Resiliency During Climate Disruption" will be the topic of our next presentation (date TBD). As our forested properties are being affected by climate disruption, we must become more knowledgeable land stewards. Climate changes affect ►

our forest viability, wildlife habitat and fire risk. Learn about how our landscapes are changing and how we can build greater forest resiliency for the future. Join us for a viewing of a “fireside chat” on this topic by Northwest Natural Resources Group (NNRG). This may be followed by a remote Q&A session with their Director of Forestry, Kevin Hanson. You can read more about NNRG at www.nnrg.org.

Capital Improvement Update

As a part of our due diligence for our long-term plans, we contracted with a local geotechnical firm to perform a site investigation and provide a report and recommendations. Those results have shown that our building is not structurally adequate for the current plan and would require significant seismic upgrades. Instead, our architectural consultant, Convergence Architecture (CA) has suggested structurally separating the existing building from the new addition while still appearing as one building both inside and out. This will leave us the option of seismically upgrading the existing building at a later date while providing us with the accessibility improvements we have planned on. Another recommendation from CA was to combine two phases of our Long-Term Capital Improvement Plan – the front wall repair and the addition – which should simplify both permitting and construction.

Final design plans should be ready to submit to the City of Portland for building permit this fall. We hope to start work in the dry season next summer. The work next year will include improvements in accessibility and safety and the mitigation of drainage issues. We hope to raise

enough funds above our grant money to include a lift for handicap accessibility between levels. If you would like to donate to the lift (\$50,000), the drainage repair, and the required water garden, send a check to the mailing address below or contact the Grange. These items are not included in the grant we received.

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 want to support its well-being. We take seriously the fact that our building is a community asset as a gathering place. Our impact, activities, and accomplishments depend upon our members and community volunteers.

Contact Information

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

Email for general info & rental enquiries: Skyline-Grange894@msn.com

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

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

Facebook: at <https://www.facebook.com/Skyline-Grange-894-169559023662398/> □

► **NET News** (continued from p. 5)

October 15 – November 5. Each day runs from about 9 am to 4 pm. Each trainee can mix-and-match their schedules from the following weekends: October 15 or 16; and October 22 or 23; and October 29 or 30; and November 5, 2022.

Sign-up deadline is October 13 by 9 am. More details available on the website: Volunteer to be a Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) Member at <https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams/volunteer>. Training is FREE. You are asked to purchase your own response equipment, which is around \$100. If that is challenging to afford right now, assistance is available. Childcare is FREE through Politisit (www.politsit.org).

Affiliated Team Membership

If you're not interested or just don't have time to do the full NET training, we welcome local expertise to join us as “Affiliated” team volunteers (ATVs). We would welcome

your aid and experience in a disaster and we'd love for you to attend our meetings but we need to know you're out there. One position that doesn't require any physical work would be that of an Amateur Radio Operator for Skyline Ridge NET. AROs are vital in an emergency, especially with the limitations of two-way radios in our steep, vegetated terrain. For further details log onto www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/31667 or contact Rachael Brake.

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. □

► **Christmas Trees** (continued from p. 1)

pure joy that our place brings to families, we just couldn't resist opening for another year."

As buyers, we don't stop to think about the hazards neighborhood growers go through; it's an arduous journey from seedlings to our homes. During the long years needed for growth, tree farmers face 10 years of risky financial challenges from pests and fungal infections, heat, and drought, and hurdles in cultivation.

Last summer's scorching heatwave – temperatures at 113 plus – fried so many young trees at the Reichen Christmas Tree Farm, they couldn't open last season. Dave Roy notes, "Last year we lost about 8800 of the 9000 we planted. Usually we can dig down a foot, and it shows moisture which keeps the trees safe. Last year, we dug down 2-3 feet, and there was no moisture". Dave Zurbrugg said, "Last year we lost all our new trees. We put 15,000 in the ground, but those days of 115 degree heat just cooked them." Jim Kessinger adds "I had a couple of years where I planted 4,000 trees and lost most of them, so I planted 4,000 again." These intrepid farmers deserve a big "shout-out" for staying the course and providing our neighborhood and the larger Portland community with both beautiful trees and warm cheer for the holiday season.

Tree types these growers sell are names with which we're fairly familiar – favorites are Nobles or Douglas Firs. However, according to Dave Roy, when customers see Grand Firs, they're usually pleasantly surprised, since the Grand is a uniform, deep green and one of the more fragrant trees. Trees rising in popularity are the Nordmann and the Turkish Fir, which emanate from the Caucasus Mountains in Europe. They take longer to grow – as long as 15 years to grow an 8-foot tree; whereas, Douglas Firs and Grands take about 6 – 8 years. The Caucasus trees are popular because they carry more moisture and more wood – they're heavier to move around – but their needles stay green for a longer time.

Then, in the Christmas tree trade, there's the art of shearing each year, depending on how growers want to "sculpt" certain trees. Some people like a tree that has very dense growth in the middle; you almost can't see through it – that's a sheared tree. Others prefer a more natural tree, one that's less sheared leaving more space between the

► **Healthy Forests** (continued from p. 4)

other criteria to be eligible for this program. For example, the property must be within the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative service area. FPC develops the conservation easement with the landowners, and then holds and manages them into the future. West Multnomah SWCD contributes to the partnership by developing forest stewardship plans for the properties, either beforehand or in the early stages of the process. The forest stewardship plan helps inform the easement by describing baseline conditions, outlining long-term conservation goals, and specify-

ing forest management strategies that the landowners can use to move the condition of the forest toward those goals. To learn more, visit <https://forestparkconservancy.org/conservation-program/>. □

Advice From the Professionals to Tree Buyers

From Michele Reichen: "Keep the cut tree wet the whole time. A tree will stay alive for a long time if it stays in water the entire time. Never let it get dry; you don't have to put any additives in the water. Washington State did a big study and concluded that just plain water is best for your tree."

From Jim Kessinger: "Don't get too hung up on the type of tree. Find a tree YOU like, and don't worry about what type of tree it is. It's funny, some people have to walk the entire farm, and they spend hours looking at every single tree. Some people come in and say, 'That's the one!'"

From Bob Reichen: "Just be careful you don't break the tops off! Be careful as you get the tree into the house."

From Gene Zurbrugg: "Come out prepared...prepared for mud or bad weather. Enjoy the cutting experience. Make a morning or afternoon of it and enjoy the whole thing."

Tree Farm Directory

PLUMPER PUMPKIN PATCH & TREE FARM– 11435 NW Old Cornelius Pass Rd. www.plumperpumpkins.com.

Open: Saturday, November 19th until December 18th.

POLLARD RANCH: 13225 NW Skyline Blvd. www.pollard-ranch.com.

Open: Friday November 18th until December 24th.

QUAIL CREEK CHRISTMAS TREE RANCH: 9949 NW Kaiser Rd. www.qcxtrees.com.

Open: Friday, November 18th until December 18th.

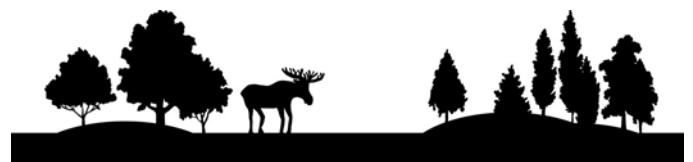
REICHEN FAMILY FARM: 8450 NW 185TH Ave. Find us on Facebook @ Reichen Christmas Tree Farm.

Open: The Friday after Thanksgiving (11/25) until Sold Out.

ZURBRUGG FARMS CHRISTMAS TREES: 16875 NW Germantown Rd. Find us on YELP – Zurbrugg Farms Christmas Trees.

Open: From the day after Thanksgiving (11/25) until Closed. □

ing forest management strategies that the landowners can use to move the condition of the forest toward those goals. To learn more, visit <https://forestparkconservancy.org/conservation-program/>. □



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.

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.

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.).

Rent the Skyline Grange. Reservations accepted for dates in 2022, Covid-19 permitting. Rental details at www.skylinegrange894.org.




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

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Community Calendar

Oct. 7-8: Skyline Grange Fall Garage Sale. Sale has a uniquely Skyline favor with items for all sections of a household, plus equipment useful for semi-rural living. Friday 9 am – 7 pm, Saturday 9 am – 5 pm.

Oct 10, 7:30 pm: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email SkylineGrange894@msn.com.

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

Oct. 20, 7 pm: Skyline Living lecture series at the Grange. Laura Taylor from WMSWCD will talk about the Emerald Ash Borer, a highly destructive insect pest recently found in Oregon.

Oct. 27, 6:30 pm: Skyline Grange Travel Movie series continues with a showing of the French film, “Amélie.”

Nov. 5, 5 pm – 7 pm: Fall Soup Supper at the Skyline Grange. Twelve different soups, fresh salads, and home-baked breads and desserts. We cook; you enjoy.

Nov. 7, 7 pm: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For

more info, email SkylineGrange894@msn.com.

Nov. 10, 6:30 pm: SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@gmail.com) to get the link.

Nov. 19-20, 10 am – 4 pm: Skyline Grange Artisans Holiday Fair, featuring local artisan booths with a variety of handmade gift items available for purchase.

Dec. 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.



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