



The **TARGET RANGER**

April 2020

Target Range Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 1075 Missoula, MT 59806
www.TargetRangeHOA.org

The Target Range Area Homeowners Association, Inc. was formed pursuant to the Montana Nonprofit Corporation Act in 1980. The Mission Statement for the Association states the goals of TRHOA:

1. To promote the Target Range School boundary area of Missoula as a rural residential area of the first quality.
2. To maintain and improve the environment, esthetic qualities, property values, public improvements and facilities, and such other features of the Target Range area of Missoula County as are desirable to continuance of the area as a rural residential district of the first quality.
3. To sponsor and support public and civic projects and programs consistent with the other purposes of the corporation.
4. To engage in any other lawful activity.

Since 1980 when TRHOA came into being, the definition of the term "Homeowners Association" has evolved into meaning a governing body that sees that all the property owners abide by the covenants of a subdivision. A modern "Homeowners Association" has the authority to levy fees and impose fines. The Target Range Homeowners Association has never had, nor does it seek, such authority over the residents of Target Range (area within the Target Range School boundaries). Additionally, TRHOA has come to include all residents in Target Range. One does not have to pay membership dues to come to and participate in General Meetings or to receive this newsletter or informational e-mails. If you have a suggestion, please go to our website at www.targetrangehoa.org and contact us.

The TARGET RANGER welcomes and encourages articles on topics of general interest to those in the Target Range area. **The TARGET RANGER** reserves the right to reject or edit informational articles for content, style and length. Submission of articles constitutes permission to publish the article in **The TARGET RANGER**.

From our president's pen ...

Spring is here! At least it is as I write this. Clear, blue skies and 34 degrees, yup spring is here,but don't get your shorts out just yet.

I've been retired sixteen years, years that have flown by. Years during which my affection for and my dedication to Target Range's "rural by design" character has grown. 2019 was busy and 2020 looks to be a repeat.

What has been happening for us Target Rangers? A small group is working with CAPS (the County planning group) to encourage the County Commissioners to adopt the Target Range Neighborhood Plan's zoning recommendation which would give the residents more say in zoning issues that arise and encourage the concept of "conservation design" in planning new developments. The Maclay Bridge/South Avenue West Bridge project remains on the table. The Missoula Regional Park is busy. (I hope that park visitors take a moment to enjoy the beauty that we cherish so much.) Missoula Rural Fire Department is seeking to move the current firehouse from its busy location on South Reserve and South Avenue West to one a little less hectic. (See Chief Newman's article later on in this newsletter.)

On the horizon is a Missoula City project to redesign South Avenue West between South Reserve Street and 36th Street. A large group of South Avenue residents affected by this redesign attended a public presentation of the plan and expressed their concerns and issues. At a neighborhood meeting following the public presentation, the folks wrote down their concerns and issues which were then shared with the City and Mayor Engen. The City's written response stated that the designers will be looking into solutions to the neighborhood's concerns and issues. Neighbors joining together in a common cause are heard and listened to.

Thank you to Dave and Tammy Keck, owners of the proposed Macauley Acres subdivision, and to the neighborhood homeowners who have been meeting with the Kecks to address concerns and issues regarding the proposed subdivision. The subdivision plans have gone through several iterations in response to the neighbors' concerns. The Kecks and the neighbors are taking time out of busy schedules to discuss their differences in an effort to come to a mutually-agreed-upon conclusion. This is a prime example of "rural by design" in action. Thank you to all involved in these discussions.

TRHOA membership increases each year especially after the arrival of The Target Ranger. Meeting attendance grows as folks come to meet candidates and to hear about issues facing our neighborhood. Thanks to all of you who attend the TRHOA General Meetings and to all of you who are members of TRHOA. There is strength in numbers.

Take time to enjoy our ruralness. (I'm not certain that's even a word, but it describes our Target Range). We are fortunate to live in "the last great place" in the Missoula valley.

Have a great year.

Peggie Morrison, TRHOA President

Meet Your Executive Board

President – Peggie Morrison, raised in Missoula, is a 49-year Target Range resident and a 36-year English teacher, now retired. Her thirteen acres provides hay for her horses and those of some of her neighbors. She shares the fruits of her yard with the squirrels and the resident deer. She is currently the market manager and resident cookie baker for the Target Range Farmers Market. She has been president of TRHOA for fourteen years.

Vice-President - Anne Rupkalvis has been a resident of Target Range for many years and happily so. Anne is delighted to be a part of the Target Range Homeowners Association and its interesting and talented members. She enjoys picking up gardening tips at the farmers' coffee on Wednesdays.

Secretary – Bob Carter After 25 years in the hi-tech software and business finance industry, Bob Carter is now a full-time student and volunteer in addition to being the father of three and husband. Bob assists non-profit organizations with their computer, website, and other technology challenges and has served on many local boards of directors including the Target Range Sewer & Water District, the Missoula County School District's Technology Advisory Committee, Target Range School District, Spirit at Play Early Childhood Program and Future Agriculture Resources of Montana (FARM).

Treasurer - Carol McQuade was born in Westchester County just outside Manhattan, NY. She moved to Montana in 1983 and became a Target Ranger in 1985. In her past life, she has hiked across England, shown horses in three-day events along the East Coast, and was, for many years, a NYS paramedic. She is also a mother and a grandmother, three grown grandchildren, and a great-grand son.

Raising her own vegetables every summer and training dogs in agility, tracking and therapy work keep her pretty well occupied. (Although more recently she has slowed down a bit with all that dog training, but she's still tracking.) She was been a "lunch lady" at Cold Springs for 8 years. Currently she is on the "lunch Lady" substitute list for the MCPS elementary schools. (A little less time in the work force.) She also has counted birds for Cornell Lab of Ornithology for the past 12 years. (Wow! A citizen scientist!) Carol has been active for many years in TRHOA.

Area 1 Rep - Elizabeth Stegmaier loves living in Target Range with her husband, John, and children Sunny and Warren. She works for Providence Medical Group and practices integrative primary care medicine. Elizabeth has a strong interest in maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and safe neighborhood for all to enjoy. She loves to exercise, enjoy the outdoors and travel. She also loves to spend time with her family and friends and entertain.

Area 2 Reps - Ed and Laura Taylor have been organic food farmers for over 40 years (30 of which have been in the Target Range/Orchard Homes neighborhoods) supplying produce for the Missoula Farmer's Market, Target Range Farmers Market, the University of Montana Farm to College Program, and area restaurants. They also provide vegetable starts as Taylor's Tomatoes at the Olde Dairy. Both are active participants in both city council and county commissioners meetings, they enthusiastically contribute time and energy to maintaining a rural atmosphere in the Target Range area. Together they work and volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House next to Community Hospital. There are various opportunities for anyone to help at the Ronald McDonald House or just drop in for a tour. For more information go to www.rmhcwesternmontana.org

Area 3 Rep - Carol McQuade (see above under Treasurer)

Area 4 Rep – Fred Stewart, having lived in Missoula for 46 years (36 of them in Target Range), put his B.S. in Wildlife Biology and his PhD in Natural Resource Economics to work for the U.S. Forest Service where he wrote the economic section for numerous environmental documents. Following his retirement from the Forest Service, he carved out a second career for himself as a wealth manager. Having now retired from his second career, he is growing his third career as an apple/raspberry farmer with 185 apple trees and 300 raspberry plants at Green Bench Orchard at the end of South Avenue. 2019 was the fourth year for U-PICK fruit at the orchard and he's hoping for another delicious crop for the neighborhood pickers this summer.

Area 5 Rep – Daphne Herling and Steve Seninger have lived in the O'Brien Creek neighborhood for 25 years. They moved to Montana for Steve's job at the University of Montana where he taught MBA courses and conducted economic research in many areas.

After many years in the non-profit sector, Daphne is the recently retired director of Montana KIDS COUNT at the University of Montana, which tracked the well-being of children in Montana. Both Steve and Daphne have volunteered many hours to conservation organizations. Their passion is ensuring that future generations have access to public lands and all that makes our state the "last, best place". Living in the Target Range area is a gift and maintaining its rural qualities is an important reason for giving their time to the TRHOA.

Area 6 Rep - Willis Curdy is a retired, thirty-year Hellgate High School social studies teacher. He served as a wildland firefighter for 38 years. He is a 50-year resident of the Missoula area and a 38-year resident of the Target Range/Big Flat area. Besides farming in the Bitterroot, he owns a flight instruction business where he teaches new pilots. He also worked professionally as a commercial pilot. He has been involved in a number of planning issues affecting the Target Range/Big Flat area including writing portions of the Target Range Neighborhood Plan. Willis is currently serving his third term in the Montana House of Representatives as the representative from the Orchard Homes, Fort Missoula, and Target Range areas. He is involved in expanding agricultural tourism opportunities to local and statewide farmers.

Who is my Area Representative?

Area 1: near Big Sky and Equestrian Park

Area 2: north of South Ave, east of Clements to south of 7th

Area 3: north of South Ave, west of Clements to the river

Area 4: south of South Ave from Target Range School to the river

Area 5: Blue Mountain and O'Brien Creek

Area 6: Big Flat

*To contact your representative, visit
www.targetrangehoa.org*

TRHOA News

MEMBERSHIP

Currently TRHOA membership is 224 (and growing). There is a membership form included in this mailing with rates and address information to make it easy for those who would like to join or renew to do so conveniently. Please note the option to include an email address to receive President Peggie Morrison's FYI messages with informational updates and goings on in the neighborhood.

Any membership questions can be addressed to Anne Rupkalvis at 549-6689. Please send checks to our PO Box 1075, 59806. Thank you so much for your membership in both person and dues.

Your interest in and support of the TRHOA funds all of our projects, not the least of which is this newsletter. Each year in the late winter those who have something to contribute begin working on their articles.

Perhaps you are one of those people who doesn't know how to help. You may contact your area representative who also serves as a TRHOA board member, or any officer of the board. Your interest is most welcome and appreciated, as is your presence at our meetings.

Anne Rupkalvis, Vice-President

TRHOA meeting dates in the Target Range School library:

April 29th at 7 pm *Stay tuned for possible cancelations of one or both meetings.*
May 27th at 7 pm *Watch for the TRHOA signs.*

September 30th at 7 pm

October 28th at 7 pm

Greetings, Target Rangers,

With the mailing of our annual newsletter in April, we always see an influx of membership renewals. We are most grateful for that response to our fine publication. We know you enjoy and appreciate reading all that our contributors have to offer and we appreciate all the support from the people who work to get the newsletter put together with such a professional result.

I'm appealing to your generosity to help us respond to the increased cost of printing, preparing, and mailing of **The Target Ranger**. With your renewal or, if you're new, please be aware that now is the time to take advantage of the current membership rates. If you can afford it, join as a family at the rate of \$20.

The Executive Board will be proposing for your consideration and vote a small bump to the current rate at an upcoming TRHOA General Meeting. (See Article IV section 2 of the existing and amended By-laws.)

Thank you for making it possible for us to be a connected and well-informed citizenry. Your generosity will help continue that for us all.

Anne Rupkalvis

New By-Laws

It's been fifteen years since the current TRHOA By-laws were adopted. Your Executive Board felt that these By-laws needed to be update to address law changes (statutes) and life changes (such as using electronic means of communication). Knowing that our membership was counting on us, the Board spent the summer and fall reviewing other relevant by-laws as examples and considering our unique circumstances as a small, all-volunteer board, and that TRHOA operates as a neighborhood association. The structure of TRHOA has not changed, but we added sections to cover in more detail such things as:

- Clearer language on membership and membership fees;
- Clarification of how general membership meetings and/or special membership meetings are advertised and run;
- Clarification of the maintenance/sharing of the membership roster;
- Membership voting rights;
- How Executive Board meetings or special meetings are to be conducted;
- Nomination process, required qualifications and voting process for Executive Board members;
- Clearer position descriptions for all officers and area representatives.

The amended By-laws can be found on our website, TargetRangeHOA.org. If you have any comments please send them to Daphne Herling by April 15, 2020 (daphne.herling@business.umt.edu)

General Membership Voting: The TRHOA Executive Board approved the draft By-laws on March 8, 2020. The membership will vote on the amended By-laws at the TRHOA General Membership meeting on April 29, 2020, at 7 pm in the Target Range School library.

Useful Websites:

TargetRangeHOA.org

Target Range Sewer and Water District: **TargetRangeSWD.org**

Target Range School: **target.k12.mt.us**

Missoula Rural Fire District: **mrfdfire.org**

Big Sky Horse Park: **bigskyhorsepark.org**

Information about Big Sky Park can be found by searching Missoula County's website: missoulacounty.us

Community Food and Agriculture Coalition: **missoulacfac.org**

International Dark Sky Association, of which TRHOA is a member: **darksky.org**

Missoula County Weed District & Extension: **missoulaeduplace.org**

Information on the South Avenue Bridge project can be found on both Missoula County's website and HDR's project-specific website: **southavenuebridge.com**

Community News

MISSOULA RURAL FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Continuous Improvement to Better Serve Our Community

Missoula Rural Fire District (MRFD) is Target Range's fire department and we work hard every day to provide the best service we can to our community. MRFD is striving for continuous improvement in everything that we do. This is accomplished through methodical strategic planning and the efficient use of your hard-earned tax dollars. The result will continue to be top-notch service when you need us.

On May 7, 2019, voters approved a mill levy increase request to hire ten additional firefighter/EMTs, guarantee an Advanced Life Support medical response and continue to upgrade apparatus and equipment. The promise was kept. On November 24, 2019, the new firefighter/EMTs completed their training academy and started serving our community. Your Station #1 at South Ave./Reserve St. is back to being staffed with three firefighter/EMTs, 24/7, with Advanced Life Support capabilities.

Speaking of your Station #1, MRFD continues to push forward in hopes of relocating the new Station #1 to Tower Street in the southeast corner of Big Sky Park. Not only is this the correct location to best serve the majority of our customers west of Reserve Street, but 81% of you who returned the survey postcard stated you were for this move to the new location. Thank you for taking the time to provide the feedback!

The Station #1 relocation project has been a painstakingly slow process but MRFD wanted to be sure that we heard from all interested parties. The project is now at the County level and we are confident that it will go before the County Commissioners soon.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you ever have any questions, comments or concerns.

Proudly serving,

Chris Newman, Fire Chief

Greetings from the Big Sky Park Stewardship Committee (BSSC):

All Big Sky Park user groups are preparing for the upcoming active season. A lot of hard work, by a bunch of very competent and dedicated volunteers, goes into making all that goes on at our park such a success. In addition to the many informal uses at Big Sky Park, are all the kid, adult and animal events and activities. Remember that all that happens at the Park is accomplished with donated time, money and effort. Thanks to all who make it work. Please consider contributing in some capacity at the Park to make it even better for all of us.

Beyond all the normal but substantial seasonal activities, some efforts are worth highlighting. The new archery range managed and maintained by the Hellgate Hunters and Anglers is open and in full operation. The Missoula Mavericks American Legion Baseball Program has begun construction of their indoor winter practice facility. They hope to complete construction by June, 2020. Stop by and see those two park improvements.

Additionally, the Missoula Horse Council will host the Insane Inflatable 5K Run in June. That event will be a fun, wholesome, family activity that should be a significant fund raiser for the Missoula Horse Council. Missoula County continues to weigh the appropriateness of a rural fire station at Big Sky Park. "Dedicated" status for our Park by the Missoula County Commissioners remains a top priority for us all.

The BSSC meets 5:30 pm, at Westside Little League on the third Wednesday of each month throughout the Park's active season. Stop by to meet our committee or to share ideas. Feel free to contact me or any committee member to share ideas or concerns. Thanks goes out to the entire TR Community for your support.

Bill Dahlgren, BSSC President

721-2726

TARGET RANGE SEWER & WATER DISTRICT

Committed to Protecting our Aquifer, Serving our Community

The Target Range Sewer and Water Board hired Larry Nagy to work as the Board's business manager. He worked for about a year before resigning early in February. He actively furthered the Board's interests and its public relations in our area. One of his last duties was addressing the Board of County Commissioners regarding the absence of notice being given to TRSWD for a revision of subdivision regulations which directly impacted the TRSWD. As a result, the county sent a CAPS planner to the TRSWD January Board meeting to explain the proposed (since adopted in whole) revisions.

As a result of his resignation, the Board is again looking for a business manager, which is a half-time position. The TRSWD is still offering residents nearer to Reserve St the opportunity to join the District. We continue our efforts to update our website (www.TargetRangeSWD.org), and to protect the aquifer within our district. Specifically, we oppose the

County's inclusion of land South of Third Street, between Hiberta and Tower in its proposed high density planning. The city and county's planned expansion of South Avenue is another project of interest to TRSWD.

We expect to continue to monitor wells in Target Range. We have proven that the water from our "world class" aquifer is better west of Reserve Street than it is east of the same. We continue to offer financial support for new or replacement septic systems.

If you happen to have questions, please contact Fred Jones or any board member; information is listed on our web site. The Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Target Range School library. All are welcome to attend.

George Hart

Target Range School District #23

Your neighborhood school is enjoying the mild season to date and looking forward to the upcoming energy and excitement that Spring brings to our campus. Target Range Elementary is having a banner year and enjoying the successes of our students and the growth they are demonstrating based on data along with the professional growth of our faculty and staff.

The school district supported, in conjunction with the Target Range Foundation, sending a team of teachers this past January to a very positive and educational event in California called, "Get Your Teach On." Our professionals returned with newly discovered ideas and positive energy that has uplifted our staff to new heights. They returned and are sharing with their colleagues items they learned while they were there. We are thankful for their dedication and time they invested for our school while they were away from home and their families.

General information for the community:

We have two open school board seats available this spring. The application deadline is March 26, 2020. Please visit our school web site to review the application information if you are interested in running for one of the positions. We also would like to invite you to sign up to volunteer at the school if you have time and are willing to assist our students as we close out the school year.

Thank you for supporting the Target Range Elementary family!

*Corey Austin, Superintendent
Target Range Elementary School*

KNIFE RIVER

This past December the Montana Department of Environmental Quality settled their lawsuit against Knife River Company concerning the gravel pit behind the Target Range School. Knife River agreed to rehabilitate the gravel pit in order to meet Montana's open cut mining requirements. The rehabilitation is near completion and the City of Missoula is now negotiating with Knife River for purchase of the pit. That purchase should be completed some time this year.

In addition to the purchase of the pit, the City must negotiate for access across the private property adjacent to the pit. Those access negotiations will also continue this year. Once these negotiations are finalized, the City will begin to develop the pit area as a park.

The Target Range Homeowners Association is in contact with the City Parks Department and will be notified when negotiations are completed. Grant Carlton, 552-6267, is the city parks manager in charge of this project.

Willis Curdy

TRHOA is now on Facebook!

Meet Your County Commissioner: Juanita Vero

I'm Juanita Vero, fourth generation of the E Bar L Ranch in Greenough. It's one of Montana's oldest family-owned and operated dude ranches. Before I was appointed as a Missoula County Commissioner, I chaired a variety of conservation non-profit boards. Working together, listening hard, respecting differences and accommodating similarities before making decisions are some of the rural sensibilities that guide me.

As commissioners, we don't achieve anything alone. Commissioners are each one third of a governing body. We're dedicated to closing this affordable housing/wage gap, we're planning for 100% clean electricity by year 2030, we're exploring ways to adjust our taxing system so the burden doesn't rest so heavily on property owners. We believe in being pro business and industry while at the same time adhering to our conservation ethics of protecting working lands, open space, agricultural soil, wildlife and riparian habitats. We also support neighborhoods and communities articulating their vision for what they want to look like in the future.

The tricky thing about a county commission is that we're limited to doing only what the state expressly allows us to do, unlike an incorporated city such as Missoula. We're committed to implementing the Jail Diversion Master Plan, investing in child development ages zero to 5-years-old, and encouraging communities to be wildfire resilient. We've worked to better coordinate our social services and maintain infrastructure like roads and bridges. It could be argued that we don't have a lot of power as commissioners but we do have the ability to influence and set the tone.

EYE ON THE SKY

As our liaison for the International Dark Sky Association, I thought it would be fun to give all of you Target Rangers a link to something I have enjoyed seeing in our night skies: <http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/>.

The space station is the third brightest object in the sky and can actually be seen in "not so dark" big cities. This web site will enable you to plug in your location and tell you where to look in the sky and the time to view this spectacular sight. Most often if you are able, you can view it twice the same evening!

The website is full of information about the station and also has many links to other NASA and astronomical topics. Once you get your interest piqued while looking at the heavens, I bet in no time you will have a desire to investigate more fully the possibilities we have here in our fairly "light free" skies.

There is even a telescope at the top of Blue Mountain with free viewing during the summer. Check with the University of Montana for the schedule.

Of course, as I have written in the past, there are also meteor showers throughout the year. The Perseids which occur in early August are always spectacular, if it happens to be clear, and can be seen well from even your own backyard.

Ed Taylor

Community News

IS RADON IN YOUR HOME?

Radon is a radioactive gas which causes the death of over 20,000 Americans every year. It is naturally occurring, odorless, and colorless and seeps into homes from the surrounding soil and in some cases from well water. Because the air pressure inside a home is often lower than the pressure in the soil underneath and surrounding a home's foundation, a home acts as a vacuum and draws the gas through foundation cracks and other openings. In Montana, 53% of buildings have elevated levels, over 7 times the national average.

Once inside the home, radon and its decay products can be inhaled into the lungs, resulting in cellular damage that can lead to disease. Radon exposure is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer (tobacco smoke being #1) and it is estimated that in the U.S. >20,000 deaths are attributable to radon exposure every year.

Children may be especially sensitive to radon due to increased respiratory rates and decreased immune function.

Radon exists throughout the world, and in the US the average indoor radon level is 1.3 pCi/L and in Missoula County the average indoor radon level is 7.1 pCi/L. The EPA has established that a level of 4 pCi/L is the action level or the level above which homes should be fixed.

Testing your home is the only way to know if radon levels are high. Old homes, new homes, or your neighbor's radon results are not predictive of an individual home's radon levels. Inexpensive test kits can be obtained at local hardware stores. Test kits are easy to use and include instructions and a pre-paid envelope for mailing your kit to a lab for analysis. Test kits are available at the Health Dept. in Missoula. There are no hard and fast deadlines but it is best to test for radon when a home is closed up so the sooner the better.

To learn more about radon you can contact the Missoula City-County Health Dept. (258-4755), contact the local website: www.missoularadon.org, visit the EPA's website: www.epa.gov/radon or call the National Radon Hotline: 1-800-767-7236.

Missoula County Environmental Health

TRHOA Amended By-Laws

Please check out the amended TRHOA By-Laws on our web page www.TargetRangeHOA.org. At our April 29th meeting, we will discuss the proposed By-Laws and then vote on their adoption at our May meeting.

Please be certain you've paid your membership dues (\$15 for singles and \$20 for families) so you are eligible to participate in this important vote.

Special thank you's

Lisa Walker for putting The Target Ranger together
Elizabeth Stegmaier for bringing our website up to date and for coming up with the idea of sending special postcards welcoming new Target Range residents

Carrie Elensky for getting our Facebook page set up
Daphne Herling for all her work on the revision of TRHOA's By-laws

TARGET RANGE FARMERS MARKET MAY 24, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 TENTH SEASON

The excitement for green grass, blue skies, and fresh fruits and veggies is building. The Target Range Market will be up and running on May 24th. For information about becoming a vendor, please contact Peggie Morrison, 728-5302. A food vendor joining us would be a welcome addition to our market.

The Joy of Turning Active

I joined the Target Range Home Owners Association ten years ago and haven't been active, but my neighbors have been. Since making the decision to become actively involved in TRHOA, I've met some of the nicest people and some people who were students of mine whom I taught in 5th grade. There are a lot of people who have lived in Target Range for many, many years. Needless to say, I was educated quickly.

I was surprised at how many subjects were covered in a meeting and how many important things went on that would affect my life. The meeting's agendas were always applicable to the home owners and our concerns. We've had speakers from the County Extension Office, the fire department, the farmer's market, CFAC, and the City-County Planning Board. All of them are interested in keeping the Target Range Home Owners up to date because they know how active the members are. Every meeting includes updates about sewers, water, and

life in Target Range. I have come to understand how hard people have worked to create standards that reflect conservation and development. It means a lot to me now that I know what has been accomplished.

Target Range is filled with homeowners and landowners who care deeply about the land and our quality of life. The views of the valley around our neighborhood are fantastic, the land is fertile and it's close to town.

Since becoming involved, I've attended meetings of the County Commissioners, City Council, the City-County Planning Board and the monthly meeting between the Montana Department of Transportation and the County Commissioners. Target Range Homeowners Association works because people get involved.

Jan Lieber

Farm & Garden News & Resources



Community Food & Agriculture Coalition

“Working to keep ag in our community”

As the sun begins to warm the soil, our thoughts turn toward farm fresh foods that will be sprouting up again soon. With over 20 farms in the Target Range/Orchard Homes neighborhoods, there is plenty to enjoy!

The Community Food & Agriculture Coalition (CFAC) wants to ensure that these and other farms across our valley have the resources they need to successfully feed our community. CFAC was founded more than a dozen years ago to create a radical change in the way we think about our food and our community. As you may know, in the past, Missoula produced over 70% of all the food consumed in Montana – much of that coming from right here in Target Range. This valley was fertile with all kinds of meats, dairy, grains, potatoes, fruits and veggies. Over time, this has shifted and a majority of our food now travels over 1500 miles to reach our plates. Less than 10%, it is estimated, is currently grown here.

CFAC is working hard to increase that number. We are working 1) to rebuild a vibrant local food and farm system, 2) growing new farmers, and 3) conserving good farmland, and feeding local families who otherwise could not afford local foods.

In addition to our 3 key programs above, CFAC loves to host events, farm parties, and community discussions. We are currently creating our calendar of seasonal events for everyone to enjoy and engage with, so check out our websites and come be a part of building our local food and farm system! We need you and would love to hear your ideas.

You can find us online at these websites:

www.missoulafac.org and www.farmlinkmontana.org
We've recently revamped and upgraded our websites to better inform and engage our community. We hope you will join us and get involved in preserving the rural character of our agricultural neighborhood.

Bonnie Buckingham

PEONY PROFIT

This is the space I generally encourage folks to farm peonies, due to their fine qualities (deer don't eat them, harvest is in mild weather June, no natural enemies, productivity, profitability, etc.). Instead, I will encourage you to plant trees (with me). Smaltz Park and Rose Crest Park (and lots more areas) need trees, and trees are available to plant. The problem seems to be watering them for the first couple years. Solving these problems may take a while, so the low hanging fruit is planting a tree or several on your property. You will likely water what belongs to you, and I can help you with obtaining tree(s) and planting them. We lose a lot of trees annually, and planting more is sound management. Please call me if you want more trees (George Hart 396-8245)

BLUE MOUNTAIN MONTANA GROWERS COOPERATIVE

The local Blue Mountain Montana Growers Cooperative was formed March 13, 2019, with the purpose of collectively advancing agriculture, floriculture and animal husbandry in the Target Range vicinity. The formative board of directors are Dennis Tayer, Greg Peters, Fred Stewart, Erin Turner and George Hart.

These farmers have been (and will continue) meeting at the Trough each Wednesday morning at about 9:00 AM. They discuss all aspects of farming, orchards, raising animals, farmer's markets and related topics. New guests are always invited to join in. At times representatives from the Missoula Extension Service, CFAC, and others drop by to add to the discussions.

With their experience, they are able to solve a great many puzzles for each other and new members, and the support obtained by all involved is priceless.

George Hart

WATER—OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE

Water is the life blood of all land. Here in Target Range we are blessed with a very old irrigation ditch system that delivers this life blood, turning semi-arid land into extremely productive fields of garden and farm crops. All that is required is a reasonable amount of husbandry.

Everyone with water rights has the right to travel the ditch system to do cleaning or repair work to insure delivery of their water. To maintain good relations it is best to advise a neighbor if you plan to enter his/her property to work on a ditch. Many newer owners may not know that you have that right and may need a cordial explanation.

Although the ditch rider employs a crew to clean the ditches each spring, anything you can do to help is welcome. Clearing branches and leaves ahead of time aids in how fast they can get the work done. The ditch rider is only responsible for delivery of water down the main supply ditches. Most of the small laterals and supply ditches are private and maintenance responsibility is entirely up to the users. Coordinate with your neighbors for the yearly cleaning and maintenance work in preparation for the water coming in. Historically we have seen the ditch water come around the last week of April.

Cooperate with neighbors regarding regulation of flow. Flooding a neighbor or in any way polluting water with chemicals or trash is not acceptable. When mowing next to the ditches, please be sure to throw clippings away from the water. Please remove garbage if you see any floating in the ditch.

Weeds are a problem along ditch banks. In recent years leafy spurge has been spreading along the main ditch by South Avenue. Learn what first year spurge plants look like and dig them out. Pulling will not work as the stem breaks off and the rhizome puts up even more shoots. There are no effective chemicals that can be used near water.

Our ditch water is a valuable resource that grows crops better than colder and more mineralized water from our wells. Make use of it and help keep Target Range beautiful.

Michael Chandler

Farm & Garden News & Resources

AGRICULTURAL RESURGENCE IN TARGET RANGE



There are a number of agricultural operations in the Target Range community, some new, some old and some just getting started. Below is information about some of them. If you know of others, please let Peggie Morrison (728-5302) or Fred Stewart (549-9017) know the details. We would like to compile a contact list of farm projects and products in our community.

Red Hen Farm and Orchard is located at 3803 Spurgin Road. Julianna Engh Peters, Greg Peters, and their sons Everett and Soren are the farmers who operate Red Hen Farm. Our CSA is a 10-week share that is unique because berries and other fruit are the major component each week. We will look forward to continuing our u-pick strawberries, raspberries, tree fruits, and lesser knowns such as haskaps, currants, and gojiberrries.

Our farmstand is self-serve, open all days once strawberries are in season. We also hold classes at the farm for both adults and children, such as growing from seed, grafting, and pruning. And we do consult and prune fruit trees for people. We offer a wide variety of opportunities to experience the farm and to know where your food comes from. We hope to see you this summer!

Feel free to call us at 240-3813 or find us online at redhenfarm.net or on Facebook @MontanaRedHenFarm.



Missoula's premier apple and raspberry U-Pick orchard, **Green Bench Orchard**, is located near the end of South Avenue at 4701. Fred and Geri Stewart had their fourth U-Pick harvest in 2019. About half of the trees are the Honeycrisp variety, with the remaining split among Liberty, Spartan, Goodland, Goodmac, Haralson, Kerr Crab and Wealthy varieties. You'll find something for almost any taste or use, from eating fresh to pies, sauce or cider. Apple harvest begins about the middle of August and lasts until the middle of October. The trees are all semi-dwarf size for easy picking on your family outing. No ladders needed, we supply the bags and containers and you pick the freshest organic fruit available.

2019 was also the fourth year for U-Pick raspberries, with Boyne and Nova summer red varieties. Harvest usually begins early-July until August. Due to the increased demand for raspberries, we expanded our beds by 50% in 2018 and those new plants should be coming into full production by Summer 2020.

Green Bench Orchard is now USDA Certified Organic, and does not use chemicals in the orchard, keeping you and the environment healthy. Find us on Facebook for hours and availability @ Green Bench Orchard. Our web site is under construction and should be fully up-to-speed by spring 2020. Check it out at GreenBenchOrchard.com for picking hours and events at the orchard.

Turner Farms is a local organic vegetable farm in the Orchard Homes neighborhood. With the diminishing of farms in Missoula, the Turners have made it their mission to open their farm to the community so kids know what local food tastes like and what a farm looks (and smells) like! You will find local schools and youth organizations visiting the farm often for educational tours.

The Turners offer a CSA Share Program where members pick up a freshly harvested bag of produce each week. The TURNER FARM STORE is a renovated 1930's barn (original to the property) featuring fresh produce daily during the growing season, fresh eggs and lots of other farm items. The store is set up as a self-serve stand allowing it to be open every day from dawn to dusk! Swing in and enjoy a little nostalgic trip back to the days of the ol' country stores!

In October, Turner Farms hosts an annual Pumpkin Festival selling pumpkins grown on their farm by local school children! The festival brings lots of families from the Missoula community allowing them a fun day on a local farm during the beautiful fall season.

Along with their vegetables, the Turners also raise chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, peacocks, lots of goats, pigs, cows and sheep. With 3 boys in 4-H and FFA, there's always a variety of animals running around. Please call 544-6600 or email: turnerfarms406@gmail.com. Learn more about our farm from our website: www.turnerfarms406.com



Tayer's Gardens, owned by Dennis Tayer, is located at 2548 River Rd. Dennis owns and operates a lawn service and snow removal business. He currently is selling grass-finished beef, apples, and potatoes. He can be found either in the garden or at one for the following markets: Clark Fork River Farmers Market (May – Oct.), Orchard Homes Farmers Market (June – Sept.), Missoula Valley Winter Market (Nov. – Apr.), and Orchard Homes Winter Market (Jan. – Mar.). Farm produce includes raspberries, rhubarb, carrots, potatoes, kohlrabi, plums, apricots, pears, peaches, pie cherries, squash (winter and summer), peppers (hot and sweet), tomatoes, cabbage, tomatillos, corn, radishes, green onions, beets, leeks, and many other garden vegetables. Dahlias, peonies, and gladioli add color to his garden. Dennis is one of the founding members of the new Blue Mountain Growers Co-op.



Harts Garden and Nursery (George and Marcia Hart) grows a wide assortment of cut flowers and foliage at 4405 North Avenue W. They have been growing and selling flowers since 2006. Weddings and other special events enjoy great prices for fresh flowers.

Some crops are grown year round in their heated greenhouse. Lilies, tulips and peonies are still important crops, but they have dahlias, hydrangeas and zinnias into October, along with a variety of non-GMO produce and

organic culinary herbs. Granddaughter Aidan Stevens sells some products on Friday afternoons on North Avenue. Stop in if you are driving past.

George has recently become a peony broker, buying and selling peonies regionally. See them at the Missoula Valley Winter Market (Senior Center on Higgins) or at the Clark Fork River Market, or call 396-8245 to learn about their flower CSA program or other available flowers, herbs and produce.



TOWER GARDENS, (Kari Brittain), located on the n.e. corner of Tower and 7th Streets is busy getting ready for the 2020 growing season. The high-tunnel greenhouse will be delivered in April. The pollinator planting with native fruiting shrubs was planted in 2019. The FARM Stand will be finished this spring offering the bounties from the gardens. Garden space is available in the community garden. Call 370-0375 for details.



Full Bushel Farm is a seed-to-stem farm specializing in flowers for every occasion. Aimee Miklovic is a farmer florist who uses local, *ethically-grown, and sustainably-harvested flowers. This also includes growing a variety of herbal, medicinal, and edible flowers!

Aimee is passionate about supporting local, and conserving resources. Growing seasonally in Montana can present unique challenges, but she is thrilled to not only be restoring farmland in this historic community, but to also be building community through helping promote the Orchard Homes Farmers Market.

In the summer on Thursdays 4:30-7, or January through March on Saturdays 9-1, Aimee and her blooms are at the Orchard Homes Farmers Market. Farm shares and floral subscriptions are available year round. For more information, to sign up for a subscription, or to order flowers for an event, please email aimee@fullbushelfarm.com or call/text 406-599-9496.

*Most commercial flowers (like the grocery store or florist) aren't grown using ethical practices like keeping pesticides away from workers, paying fair wages, and using an adult labor force. It's similar to "fair trade coffee".



Frank's Little Farm, run by Sean McCoy and Prairie Wolfe, consists of two separate pieces of cultivated ground; one at their home on River Road, and the other in the Target Range area near McCauley Butte.

They are proud to be one of the farms continuing to uphold the agricultural traditions of the Target Range area. An area that has been growing food and hay in the nutrient rich soil along the river for decades. In fact, Prairie's great-grandfather owned and worked the land in this exact same area decades ago.

Frank's Little Farm strives to offer a wide variety of Homegrown™ produce. They sell at the Missoula Farmers' Market near the XXXX's on Saturdays. They also sell

directly to the public through their road-side farm stand located on the corner of Curtis and Wyoming, just off Third Street. The farm stand is open every day of the week beginning in May. For more information about their farm you can visit their website at frankslittlefarm.com. You can also find them on Instagram or Facebook.



New folks on the block

Heron Crossing Farm (Ali Hakala and Eric Rasmussen) backs up against the Clark Fork River at the corner of S. 3rd St. and Clements Ave. A farm in the making, our orchard is bearing nicely and the chickens keep pests to a minimum. We have a small herd of Alpine dairy goats and look forward to the bouncing baby goats and fresh milk in spring. We've begun the replacement of lawn with vegetable, fruit, herb, and cut flower gardens, as well increasing native habitat for birds and beneficial insects. Eric studies birds as a field biologist, and is a PEAS program graduate. Ali has extensive background as an organic farmer and landscaper emphasizing sustainable, natural applications. Together we look forward to cultivating a diverse and bountiful edible landscape for our greater community, emphasizing organic, heirloom and saved seed and producing the most nutrient-packed, healthy food available. Fresh and local and it tastes like it.

The evolution of a farmer

I owe a lot to Target Range. It's where I cut my teeth on agriculture. I learned to clip lettuce on early foggy-breathed spring mornings. Knowledge of the correct spacing for broccoli transplants came only after re-digging a row of plants I had plunged into the soil with speed, grace, and twice the frequency they were supposed to be. I learned to dig potatoes in the dwindling summer heat, sweat creating muddy rivulets over my arms and legs as I forked and pulled. Clark Fork Organics was my home for the season and I owe a lot to the mentorship of Kim and Josh for their guidance that season and beyond.

About five years after my first season, I returned to the Target Range area. I had worked in other fields and with other farmers north and south in our valley chain. I was ready to manage a space on my own. Luckily, I stumbled upon Tower Gardens and connected with Kari to once again cut my teeth. This time, it was on being the boss and making decisions about when, where, and how much to plant on my small plot.

Now, another five years have gone by and I am on the lookout for a farm of my own. Perhaps I will be digging the soils of Target Range again should the right spot come up. If not, I will remember fondly glancing over my shoulder to see what weather was blowing in from Blue Mountain. Thanks for sharing the skies and soils with me this past decade, neighbors.

Ellie Costello
Black Bear Soups & Produce
blackbearsoups@gmail.com

Farm & Garden News & Resources

Missoula County Public Schools Agricultural Program

The MCPS Ag Center continues to offer students in MCPS high schools an opportunity to learn where their food comes from and follow their food from farm to table. The Ag Center currently has a working farm that is nearly 100 acres, a production greenhouse, metal shop and leadership center.

The newest addition to the facility is the Meat Lab which is named "School House Meats". The meat lab is fully state inspected and students are learning to cut, package and create specialty products in the facility. A generous donation from Farm Credit Services allowed the Ag Center to purchase a commercial smoker and students are especially enjoying producing sausages, hams, smoked meats and most importantly, bacon! A dedicated class is offered for junior and senior students and several students have gained enough skill that they are soliciting their own customers and creating income earning Supervised Agricultural Experience projects in the lab.

Currently, the farm is finishing up with farrowing and lambing season. The farrowing barn has over 80 piglets born in the last three weeks and so far 22 lambs have hit the ground. Calves will start coming the beginning of March, so keep a look out for the newest arrivals.

Cindy Arnott, Ag Center instructor

Hello, I am a student of Cindy Arnott's at the MCPS Ag Center, as well as one of the members on her horse judging team through FFA. I am trying to find a place to keep my horses that is close to the horse park. I am a junior at Big Sky and own two well-behaved geldings. One is a 23 year old Kentucky mountain horse and the other is an 11 year old quarter horse Arabian cross. They currently are kept in a pasture in Lolo, but due to the lack of ability to irrigate it very well, I am looking for a place to move them for this spring and summer so we can regenerate the pasture. In Lolo, I am used to watering and feeding the horses so that would not be a problem. Please contact Cindy if you can help.

Rocky Mountain Gardens & Exploration Center Coming to Missoula County Fairgrounds

The Rocky Mountain Gardens and Exploration Center is moving forward to become an important part of Missoula. Located on the northeast four acres of the Missoula County Fairgrounds, it will be the new home for the Missoula County Extension Service/Weed District Department, the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium (experience butterflies in a tropical environment and understand the complex interrelation of land, plants, and insects and the Missoula Conservation District). Novice to master gardeners can learn about new kinds of fruits and how to grow herbs to flavor the foods you eat; how to grow native wildflowers that attract your favorite pollinizers and ones you will be excited to identify. Those who enjoy kitchen adding to their kitchen skills learn how to dry, freeze and can favorite fruits and vegetables, and yes, get canning pressure gauges to experience butterflies in a tropical environment and understand the complex interrelation of land, plants, and insects checked.

Our commitment to our partnership and to our community will offer a one-of-a-kind place of natural connection – to our landscape and to each other. Our public-

private program integration and collaboration will be nationally distinctive. And our combined efforts will be a legacy to inspire generations to learn and experience the characteristics that make us uniquely Missoula, proudly Montanan and one of a kind in the Rocky Mountain West.

Major construction is scheduled for Spring 2021. For more information go to healthyacres.org or contact Jerry Marks, Extension Agent and Missoula County Weed District and Extension Department Head at 406-258-4204.

Sandy Perrin, County Extension Agent

COMPANION PLANTING

Have you ever noticed two particular vegetables grow exceptionally well next to each other? The plants are beneficial to one another for various reasons; biological, nutritional, spatial, environmental, etc. This is known as companion planting.

For the same various reasons listed above, certain combinations of vegetables are incompatible in sharing the same space, which is really important when crops are not doing so well, and everything else is perfect; water, fertilizer, sunlight etc. Below is listed a few crops with their companions and incompatibles:

Crop	Companions	Incompatibles
Beans	most vegetables and herbs	Onion, Garlic, Gladiolus
Beans (pole)	Corn, Summer Savory, Radish	Onion, Beets, Kohlrabi, Sunflower
Beets	Cabbage, Onion Family, Lettuce	Pole Beans
Cabbage Family	Celery, Beets, Onion Family, Spinach	Dill, Pole Beans, Tomato, Pepper
Carrots	Pea, Tomato, Lettuce, Onions	Dill, Cabbage, Strawberry
Crop	Companions	Incompatibles
Corn	Potato, Beans, Squash, Cucumber	Tomato, Cabbage, Celery
Cucumber	Beans, Corn, Pea, Radish	Irish Potato, aromatic herbs
Lettuce	Carrot, Radish, Cucumber	Celery, Parsley
Onion family	Beets, Carrot, Lettuce, Cabbage Family.	Beans, Peas
Pea	Carrots, Radish, Turnip, Corn, Beans	Onion Family, Potato, Gladiolus
Potato	Beans, Corn, Cabbage Family	Squash, Tomato, Cucumber
Squash	Nasturtium, Corn, Marigold	Potato
Tomato	Onions, Nasturtium, Carrot, Cukes	Potato, Fennel, Cabbage Family

Celery, Eggplant, Parsley, and Spinach do not have incompatibles, but can be incompatible with others. "Mother Earth News" on line has an in depth list of companion planting options.

Kari Brittain, "Garden Coach"

The Bulletin Board

ORCHARD HOMES COUNTRY LIFE CLUB POTLUCKS

Open to all

Friday night potlucks start at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday potlucks start at 6 p.m.

~~April 10 (fish fry)~~

~~April 24 (Easter)~~

~~May 15 (Mother's Day)~~

~~May 29 (Memorial Day)~~

**Cancelled because of
coronavirus.**

June 14 (Father's Day: Sunday @ 6)

July 12 (Summertime!)

August 16 (post fair: Sunday@ 6)

September 11 (Spaghetti cook-off)

September 25 (Celebrate Fall)

October 9 (Indian tacos)

October 23 (Halloween)

November 14 (Sat. 9-3: no potluck. Donate
a pie or volunteer to help)

November 20 (Veterans Day Pancake Dinner)

December 6 (Christmas: Sunday@ 6)

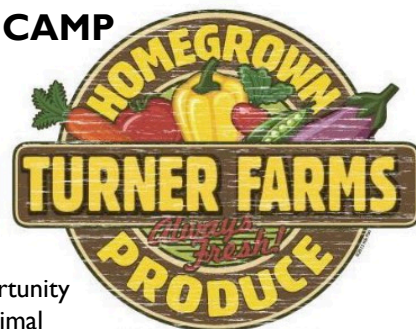
January 2021 (Install new officers)

January 22 (chili cook off)

TURNER FARMS CAMP SUMMER 2020

Farm camp will be a comprehensive week of agricultural education with an emphasis on local sustainable food production.

Campers will have the opportunity to learn about small scale animal production by working with chickens, goats, cows and sheep. They will take part in plant production through the process of seeding, weeding, and harvesting a variety of vegetables and fruits. And finally, campers will use the products which they have harvested to create our daily lunches.



Camp Weeks for Ages 8-13:

June 15-19 July 6-10

June 22-26 July 13-17

Sprouts Camp for Ages 6-7:

June 29-July 2

Turner Farms

606 Stallion Ln. Missoula, MT 59804

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/yRAPrhoUBjTcJLWu7>

Did you know primary care is available without having to cross Reserve Street!? *by Casey Knutson*

Hello, 59804 neighbors! At Providence Medical Group's **Women's Care and Family Wellness**, we provide primary care for your entire family - we see children (including newborns), women and men. Conveniently, **Women's Care and Family Wellness** is located in the Montgomery Building on the west corner of Spurgin and Reserve, so no need to cross Reserve! We strive to involve you in all decisions that impact your health and make sure you have easy access to your providers.

We aim to provide you the same care we want for our own family members — from education & support to prevention & wellness. We offer care and treatment for chronic conditions, as well as same-day appointments for when you have a minor illness or injury.

Our practice has multiple approaches to meet your needs and give you the tools you need to manage your health care goals. As a patient of **Women's Care and Family Wellness**, you get our full attention and the backing of the entire team of Providence Medical Group specialists and Providence St. Patrick Hospital.

Women's Care and Family Wellness wants to be the place you turn any time you have a health issue or question.

Services we offer include:

- Annual wellness exams

Immunizations

Cancer screening

Medicare wellness exams

Disease prevention

Naturopathic care

Disease prevention

On-site behavioral health specialist

Direct electronic messaging with your care team

Family planning and contraception

Flu and pneumonia vaccinations

Management of ongoing health issues:

- heart disease,
- diabetes
- COPD

Genetic testing

Routine health issues

Hormone replacement therapies

Same day access

Holistic approach to better health and life

Women's health

Well child checks

Medical advice to help you:

- Eat healthier
- Lose weight
- Reduce alcohol consumption
- Stop smoking

Office-based procedures:

- skin lesion removal
- stitches
- care for minor skin infections

Contact Info: Address: 1211 S Reserve St., Ste. 101
Phone: 406-327-3057

TRHOA
PO BOX 1075
MISSOULA, MT 59806

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MISSOULA, MT
PERMIT NO. 569

2020

General Meetings

*Held at the Target Range
School Library at 7 p.m.*

All are welcome to attend!

Stay tuned for possible
cancelations of one or both
meetings. Watch for the
TRHOA signs.

April 29, 2020

May 27, 2020

Election of Executive Board

September 30, 2020

October 28, 2020

**Target Range Homeowners Association
Membership Form**

Dues are \$15 per year for an individual and \$20 per family. Please fill out this membership form and mail it with your dues to TRHOA, P.O. Box 1075, Missoula, MT 59806, or bring it with you to the next General Meeting. Thank you for supporting TRHOA in its efforts to maintain our rural environment!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Do you want to receive email updates? ___ Yes ___ No