



The TARGET RANGER

April 2024

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

TRHOA is on
Facebook!

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 the President's Corner

The character and beauty of Target Range are before me every day. The gardens, small farms, farm stands, u-pick farms, even the Target Range Farmers and Orchard Homes markets lend to the character of Target Range. Add to these the rivers, the openness, the butte and the mountains which are all a part of the uniqueness that is Target Range and WOW! "Rural by Design"...that's us.

Change is inevitable (as we all know from looking in the mirror each morning). While we can't, nor should we want to, prevent change, we can help guide it in directions that keep the flavor of Target Range alive and healthy.

Missoula is expanding and building. I'm grateful for The Target Range Neighborhood Plan (written by Target Rangers and adopted by the County Commissioners as part of the County Growth Policy) for helping Target Range stay "Rural by Design". We need to stay tuned to proposals that will affect us (e.g. subdivisions, makeovers for South Avenue West and Third Street, the plan for the Old Fort Missoula hospital) and be willing to have our voices heard and to take part in the decision making.

It doesn't matter how we show our support for the uniqueness of Target Range. Each of us has something to offer. Working together we can advocate for our Target Range community. Its future will reflect the strength of our commitment to that future.

Peggie Morrison, TRHOA President

Irrigation Time is Coming

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

Everyone with water rights has the right to travel the ditch system to clean or do repair work to insure delivery of water. To maintain good relations, advise a neighbor of plans to enter his/her property to work on a ditch. Many newer owners may not know that you have this 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 the crew gets the cleanup 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 May 1st.

Cooperate with neighbors regarding regulating 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 found floating in the ditch.

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.

Mike Chandler

Weeds

Our ditch system helps weeds spread. In the past ten to fifteen years leafy spurge has invaded the main ditch banks and threatens to invade all adjacent land. This is probably the worst invasive plant of all weeds in our area.

Learning what new spurge plants look like and thoroughly digging them out in their first year helps curtail the plants' spreading. Once this plant has two or more years' growth, the root system is too deep and extensive to dig out. If you need help, contact the Missoula County Weed District.

Mike Chandler

Meet Your Executive Board

President – Peggie Morrison, Missoula-raised, has been a Target Range resident for 54 years. Returning to Missoula in 2004 after 24 years in Petersburg, Alaska, she became involved with Target Range, helping to write the Target Range Neighborhood Plan and becoming president of the Target Range Homeowners Association. A retired English teacher, she raises hay on her thirteen acres for her horses (affectionately referred to as the “old girls”, ages 29 and 26) and those of some of her neighbors. Sharing the fruits of her yard with the resident squirrels and deer keeps her busy year 'round. In her spare time between May and September, she is the market manager and resident cookie-baker for the Target Range Farmers Market. Her Flathead Lake cabin calls to her often during the summer.

Vice-President – Anne Rupkalvis My husband Jeff and I moved to this end of the Missoula Valley before our kids were born. We now have four grandkids. How time flies!

Ahhh.... springtime in our neck of the woods is delightful. So much to look forward to! As a gardener I enjoy the workable ground to dig in a little even if it's only dandelion patrol. That small effort improves my yard and, by extension my neighbors' also by keeping weed seeds from flying. *continued on p. 8, Membership*

Secretary – Bob Carter Born and raised in Montana and a U of M graduate, Bob spent 25 years in the business finance and software industry, and in 2022 was elected to the Montana House of Representatives. Bob volunteers for non-profit organizations to solve their computer, website, and other technology challenges and has served on local boards of directors including the Target Range School District, Missoula County School District's Technology Advisory Committee, Spirit at Play Early Childhood Program, Orchard Homes Country Life Club, Target Range Sewer & Water District, and Future Agriculture Resources of Montana (FARM).

Bob and Laurie have been married for more than 22 years. They have three children, Nick, Max, and Ben in addition to being foster parents to more than two dozen wonderful kids.

Treasurer – Carol McQuade was born in West Chester County just outside Manhattan, NY. She moved to Montana in 1983 and became a Target Ranger in 1985. In her past life, she hiked across England, showed horses in three-day events along the East Coast, and was, for many years, a NYS paramedic. She is also a mother and grandmother with three grown grand-children and a great-grandson who attends Target Range School.

Raising her own vegetables every summer and training dogs in agility, tracking and therapy work keeps her pretty well occupied; though, as the years progress, she only trains dogs in tracking. Carol has also counted birds for Cornell Lab of Ornithology for the past twenty 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. She is also a trustee of the Target Range School Board. Elizabeth has a strong interest in maintaining a healthy, vibrant, and safe neighborhood for all to enjoy. She loves to read, 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 Ed and Laura Taylor have been organic food farmers for over 50 years (45 of which have been in the Target Range/Orchard Homes neighborhoods), supplying produce for the Missoula Farmer's Market, Target Range Farmers Market, the Missoula Food Bank, and the Poverello Center. They also provide vegetable starts as Taylor's Tomatoes at the Olde Dairy. Ed and Laura 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. rmhcwesternmontana.org

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

Area 4 Rep – Fred Stewart, having lived in Missoula for 48 years (38 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 USDA Certified Organic U-Pick Orchard at the end of South Avenue. 2023 was the eighth year for u-pick fruit at the orchard and he's hoping for another delicious crop for Missoula area pickers this summer.

Area 5 Rep – Dave Loomis Having spent 37 years on the West Coast, where he completed his degrees at Cal State Northridge, Dave Loomis moved to Missoula in 1995, purchasing a home in O'Brien Creek Meadows in 1997. After working for more than 30 years in California for local, regional, and state planning and resource management (the last 24 for the Coastal Commission), he moved to

Missoula to work for the Missoula City and County Planning Office when it served both the city and county. He retired in 2011 primarily to raise granddaughter Ella when she started at Target Range School. He and his wife, Beverly, were married almost 55 years when she passed away in December, 2021. They raised five children. He has been a member of the City-County Planning Board for over two years now. This is his second year on the TRHOA Executive Board.

Area 6 Rep – Willis Curdy is a retired, 30-year MCPS social studies teacher. He served as a wildland firefighter for 38 years. He is a 54-year resident of the Missoula area and a 42-year resident of the Target Range/Big Flat area with his wife, Gloria. Besides farming in the Bitterroot, he worked professionally as a commercial pilot. He has been involved in a number of planning issues affecting the Target Range Neighborhood Plan. Willis is currently serving his first term in the Montana Senate after serving eight years in the Montana House of Representatives. He represents the Target Range, Lolo, Orchard Homes, Ft. Missoula, Mullan Road areas. Later in 2024, Willis will represent the Orchard Homes, Grass Valley, Mullan Road, and the Missoula Westside. He is involved in expanding agricultural tourism opportunities to local and statewide farmers and supporting our neighborhood schools.

Who is my Area Representative?

Area 1: near Big Sky HS 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

TARGET RANGE SEWER & WATER DISTRICT

Committed to Protecting our Aquifer, All Other Water Resources, Serving our Community

🔧🔧🔧🔧🔧🔧🔧 Do not forget the **FREE WATER TESTING** for our members 🔧🔧🔧🔧🔧🔧🔧

From Larry Nagy: TRSWD announces a major effort to increase our monitoring of all water resources that affect our way of life. TRSWD is creating a board of individuals with extensive knowledge in water resources. The following is an extract from one of the upcoming articles for our TRSWD Newsletter:

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE ... JUST BENEATH MY FEET!

by Terrance McLaughlin

Longtime residents of the Orchard Homes and Target Range districts (OH/TR) have been blessed with an aquifer that has for decades provided the water necessary for their homes, farms, ranches and other businesses. Long term viability of this resource should not be taken for granted.

Sometime in the 1970's the Geology Department of the University of Montana embarked on an effort to quantify the amount of water available for consumption by withdrawal from the Missoula Aquifer. This study looked at the geology of the Missoula Valley and the different sources of water that recharge the aquifer; including the Clark Fork River and tributaries that discharge directly to the Clark Fork. One of the main conclusions from this assessment was that the aquifer does not have as much volume readily available as was previously assumed.

Much has changed in the Missoula Valley since the 70's. The increase in population results in an increase in housing in many areas of the valley that were previously dominated by agriculture. This "Urban Creep" comes at a cost to all who live in OH/TR, not only monetarily through taxes and connection fees, but in loss of control of the water resource.

Target Range Sewer and Water District Benefits

Many people may bemoan the Sewer & Water District charge on their taxes, but there is a very bright side if you run into septic problems and need to replace or improve your system.

We personally had had some problems in the past couple years with our system backing up when used heavily. We finally faced the reality that we had to replace our old system. After obtaining the required permits, we contacted several good, approved contractors for bids and selected a great one who lives in the neighborhood.

The bright side of this very disruptive project was that we were able to receive a grant from the TRSWD for \$5000 towards our expenses.

The District is still offering free water tests. Everyone should take advantage of this service. It is worth at least two years of the TRSWD tax!

Mike and Nancy Chandler

Big Sky Park Update

For the first time in recent memory, the Big Sky Park had a skating rink open to the public this winter (a dream of many which became reality). It was just to the east of the main arena.

Many people worked hard to both make the rink a reality, and to help keep it maintained. Special thanks to the Horse Council for allowing us the space and use of the well. Thanks to the Missoula Rural Fire Department for helping us fill the rink (it was Lorna Richardson's idea). County Parks, Trails and Open Lands (PTOL), especially Nick Zanetos, helped expedite and facilitate the process. Finally, the biggest thanks to all the volunteers who helped construct the rink and maintain the ice throughout the winter. We are already planning for bigger and better next year!

Spring is in the air and that means renewed activity throughout the park. Soon we will hear the crack of the bat at the Little League, Mavericks, and Fast Pitch fields. Summer will also bring Cyclocross events and, of course, equestrian camps, clinics, and competitions. The Horse Park's season officially kicks off on May 4th with a fun Pet Run.

Finally, with the help of Jackson Lee and PTOL, the Stewardship Committee has secured a Trail Improvement Grant. These monies will be used to construct a proper trailhead at the new parking lot. It will include maps and signage and an ADA compliant connector trail to the main trail. Other trail improvements throughout the park are included. Please remember if you're in the horse area of the park, horses have the right of way.

Hope to see you out in the park! It is there for everyone.

Mitch Ferm, President

Big Sky Park Stewardship Committee

Big Sky Horse Park

The 2024 season for the Big Sky Horse Park is off and running with its first event, the Western Montana Quarter Horse Show, on April 27th. This is a one day event and like ALL events at the park, it is FREE to the public.

This will be followed by the Big Sky Horse Park Pet Run May 4th. This is a great event for horse and NON-horse folk to come to the park for a fun day of running the park trail. On top of these events, we will be hosting events, sometimes two, every weekend.

We encourage everyone to consider our "Friends of the Park" membership. This is a simple way to help support the park in a non-horse way.

Spring Fling Clean-up Day is also on the list of events. We are watching the weather and will announce with a short window. Many hands make light work. We appreciate any-and-all community help.

Please check out our website - www.bigskyhorsepark.org - for details and to stay up to date with un-announced events that might pop up throughout the summer.

Scott David, Big Sky Horse Park

Attention!! All walkers and runners, especially those with dogs!!

Big Sky Horse Park at 3500 North Avenue will have its annual **Pet Run on Saturday, May 4**. Details are on the website which is bigskyhorsepark.org and posted in metal display cases at the park. This year there are 3K, 6K, 10K options. Last year was cancelled due to low registrations so please do not wait until the day of the event to sign up.... prizes, vendors, swag, etc

LEARNING WITH MEANING

There is a wonderful educational organization that moved into your neighborhood and we would like to introduce ourselves!

Learning with Meaning, Inc. (LWM) is an educational non-profit offering several experiential learning programs for youth. eNDVR, our homeschool enrichment program, offers classes for students from K-5th grade. Aspire, our accredited 6th-12th grade school, focuses on experiential and self directed learning. Our K-12th grade summer camps bring hands-on STEM and outdoor learning experiences to local children and youth.

We currently run our programs out of both our downtown location and on the LWM Land, located behind Target Range school on McCauley Butte. With tribal permission, we call the butte Smlk^wsšna (sml-kwil-shih-nah). The LWM founder and LWM Land owner allows LWM to lease this 140 acres of land for our school programs, home school support classes, community programs, and summer camps.

Would you like to use the LWM land for your group, class, program, school, organization or business? LWM offers a land use program where you can utilize our land for a base fee depending on group size. The LWM Land is not currently open to the general public and requires advanced planning.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Carrie Harper, LWM Director of Outdoor Education, at 406-493-6886 or via email at carrie@learningwithmeaning.org

Carrie Harper

Dark Sky International

On our recent trip away from Missoula, we were joined by one of our daughters' family which included two of our grandchildren. Every evening, we watched beautiful sunsets as the sun disappeared into the Pacific Ocean, followed by a shorter period of dusk due to being located closer to the equator. The children asked why the moon and stars looked different and in new and strange locations compared to home. For instance... why the moon, in its quarter stage was upside down instead of horizontal, and why Orion, which could be easily seen, had stars coming down from the angular group of three from his belt. I explained that number one: we had changed our location on the globe, and two: there are fewer people where we were and thus less distracting light casting a glow upwards that lessens our view of the night sky.

As a member of Dark Sky International, I am constantly reminded of our decreasing view of the night skies over our Missoula valley. As I sit on my back porch at night hoping to view my favorite constellations, meteor showers, super moons, and occasional aurora displays, I am dismayed by the restrictive glow washing out those images. As a child, I remember being amazed when trying to spot passing satellites.

What can you do to keep our skies dark? We can find solutions. Also TRHOA has access to programs through DarkSky. Let's work together! Please visit DarkSky.org

Ed Taylor

MISSOULA RURAL FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

The Missoula Rural Fire District (MRFD) hopes this message finds you well. Recently MRFD has undergone a change in leadership, as Chief Chris Newman has retired after 27 years of service to the Missoula community. Former Assistant Chief, Paul Finlay, is now the Fire Chief. Kirk Paulsen has been appointed to the role of Assistant Chief, and Cory Horsens is the new Deputy Chief.

We have been busy! Last year MRFD saw a 4.3% increase in calls compared to 2022. We've already (through January 2024) responded to 29.6% more calls than last year at this same time.

MRFD is continuing to pursue international accreditation with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, which would make us the first department in Montana to achieve this goal.

We are continuing to research and determine the best location(s) for new station(s) to better serve the communities we serve. Station #1 at South Avenue and Reserve Street is 61 years old and we have drastically outgrown it. Moving forward, we will continue to assess the needs of the residents we serve and continue to work to meet the growing needs of the community.

Lastly, we at MRFD encourage all members of the public to sign up for reverse 911, as this will alert neighborhoods and members of the public of emergencies in their area.

Chief Finlay

Mountain Home

Mountain Home (MH) was started in 2000 by a labor and delivery nurse, Laura Snyder, who was alarmed by the number of teenage mothers without a safe place to live with their newborn babies. Laura brought together a group of local philanthropic women to address this crisis. One of these women, Bonnie Hamilton, generously donated her home on South Avenue to answer that need. From these humble beginnings 23 years ago, MH has steadily built upon the passion and vision of our founders, growing in breadth and depth to respond to increasing demand for our services.

Today we offer a Residential Program in that same 6-bedroom home with an additional 5 supportive living apartments; an onsite licensed mental health center with case management and therapy for both mothers and children; a supportive education/employment program that ensures mothers can support their families and establish stable careers; a community center that offers 200+ events ranging from financial literacy to family wellness and parenting support; and an onsite trauma-informed childcare center for youth ages 0-3. Through this holistic model of care for mothers and children, MH strives to strengthen community, two generations at a time.

To better serve our community, MH recently purchased the former Hillside Manor Health and Rehabilitation facility off 23rd Street in Missoula. This five acre property provides MH the opportunity to expand our childcare for up to thirty-two kiddos, serve up to fifty families through our residential program, and increase our compassionate care for mothers with a history of substance use disorder, helping families remain secure and in recovery. All of this while offering beautiful green outdoor space to encourage development through play in our children's programs and further facilitate healthy and holistic mental health for the whole family.

Kelsie Severson

Target Range Birds - Common and Rarer

One of the things that makes watching our feathered friends so interesting in the Target Range neighborhood is that no two years seem quite the same. Starting a few winters after the soccer fields were installed, geez, did the Canada geese discover it! This winter it was often visited by flocks in excess of three hundred birds foraging through the shallow snow for the blades of grass below. Canada geese enjoy a meal of lawn about as much as any dairy herd, and offer the same benefit of rapidly releasing comparable nutrients back to the landscape. The soccer fields were probably particularly crowded with geese this year because our mild winter often left but a skiff of snow, plus plenty of open pond and river water nearby for the flocks to loaf on at other hours.

But we also sometimes host extremely rare visitors. About five years ago a single male Baikal teal, a Russian-bred and obviously confused duck, showed up in the ditch system near Blue Mountain Road, causing a sensation amongst avid "Twitchers" (as the British like to call bird watchers). Hundreds of people from across the nation made a pilgrimage in hopes of spying the clownish little two pounder that had previously only been found four times in the lower 48. I even got a glimpse of him before he flapped off to somewhere else (probably still going the wrong way).

Ben Deeble

ORCHARD HOMES COUNTRY LIFE CLUB POTLUCKS

Open to all

All potlucks are at 6:30 p.m.

2024

April 12 Easter

May 10 Mother's Day (meatloaf cook off)

June 14 Father's Day: Dogs 4 Dads

July 12 Past Presidents (All club effort)

August 16 Summer BBQ!

September 13 Spaghetti cook off

October 18 Indian tacos (All club effort)

November 1 Veterans Day Pancake
Dinner

November 9-10 Christmas Bazaar
(9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) *not a potluck*

December 13 Christmas

2025

January 10 Chili cook off
(Install new officers)

February 14 Valentine's Day

March 14 St. Patrick's Day

Target Range School Update

My name is Jeff Crews and I am honored to introduce myself as the Superintendent of Target Range School. It is a privilege to join this vibrant community and contribute to the legacy of excellence that our school represents. I've lived in the Missoula Valley for almost 50 years and feel fortunate to call it home. My wife Micki and I raised three amazing daughters and will someday, hopefully in the not-too-distant future, enjoy the thrill of being grandparents.

Target Range School has always prided itself on educational excellence and community spirit. This year, we have embarked on new initiatives aimed at enhancing our students' learning experiences while fostering a supportive and inclusive environment. Our dedicated staff are continuously seeking out professional development opportunities, ensuring that our educational practices remain at the forefront of effective teaching strategies. We strive to create a safe and nurturing environment for all.

In our commitment to provide exceptional education and retain our highly qualified teaching staff, we find ourselves in need of additional resources. Thus, we are proposing a small mill levy to ensure our school continues to thrive. This mill levy is not just an investment in our school; it's an investment in our children and the future of our community.

I look forward to meeting you at our upcoming school events and community meetings. Your support and involvement are invaluable to us, and I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for our school and community. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Jeff Crews, Superintendent, Target Range School

Target Range Foundation Seeks Support in Rebuilding Target Range School Basketball Hoops

Target Range Foundation's mission is to create an awareness of and encourage private financial support for funding opportunities at Target Range School.

This spring we have partnered with the Target Range School administration to demolish the current six basketball hoops in the court closest to 40th Ave and replace them with four high-quality hoops and poles that are at regulation height. We will also reseal the asphalt and install inserts in the grass area nearby so our students can enjoy a volleyball net during recess. The current hoops, backboards and poles are worn out and the pole heights vary between 9.5 – 10.5 feet. The current asphalt is wearing down and causing safety hazards. The school has secured an excavator and paving company to help with this work. We plan to finish the project in September 2024.

This project will positively impact our Target Range students and families who recreate at Target Range School outside school hours. The total cost for the project is \$30,000 and we have raised \$14,550. We'd like to offer our sincere gratitude to our gold-level sponsors – Tom & Amy Frandsen with Missoula Family Medicine, and Sweet Pea Sewer & Septic – for their generous support.

If you would like to help support this project, please reach out to Paige Judnich at paigepatricia@gmail.com or drop a donation at the school with the check made out to the Target Range Foundation. Thank you all!

Paige Judnich

Reading Opens your World

Hello, my name is Lauren Markovich. I am the founder of a non-profit called Reading Opens your World (ROW).

ROW is in its second year and is active at Lewis & Clark Elementary, Target Range School and Russell Elementary. ROW connects volunteers with students who can benefit from one-on-one reading attention. The students are selected by the teacher, mainly in grades K-3. The volunteer-student pair remain the same for the entire school year to help create a bond. Reading sessions are done once a week ranging from 15-30 minutes per student during school hours. Times and days vary. If you are interested in volunteering or inquiring further please contact me at laurenmarkovich2@gmail.com or (406) 531-1211.

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, located at 3803 Spurgin Road, is owned by Julianna and Greg Peters. Our farm raises fruit, garlic, and a few veggies using organic and resource-conserving practices. Our sweet little roadside stand boasts of all types of berries and tree fruit picked at peak ripeness - specifically, strawberries, raspberries, apples, peaches, plums, blueberries, apricots, and lesser-knowns such as haskaps, currants, and gojiberrries. We also sell plant starts early in the season, and consult people on growing fruit in the backyard and garden.

Check out our website and social media sites in order to discover u-pick opportunities throughout the summer. Our farm stand is self-serve, open every day (almost) once strawberries are in season. We also hold a variety of learning opportunities and experiences at the farm.

Contact us at 240-3813 or redhenfarm.net or on instagram and facebook @MontanaRedHenFarm.



Missoula's premier apple and raspberry U-Pick orchard, **Green Bench Orchard**, is located near the end of South Avenue West at 4701. Fred and Geri Stewart had their eighth U-Pick harvest in 2023. 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 USDA Certified Organic fruit available.

2023 was also the eighth year for U-Pick raspberries, with Boyne and Nova summer red varieties. Harvest usually begins early July running until August. Due to the increased demand for raspberries, we expanded our beds by 50% in 2018, but it is still hard to meet the demand for U-Pick raspberries.

Green Bench Orchard is 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 at GreenBenchOrchard.com for picking hours and events at the orchard. Please stop by for a family-friendly outing!



For 18 years **Turner Farms** has been deeply rooted 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 also host 6 weeks of summer farm camps for children ages 6-14 years old.

Turner Farms is a diversified farm offering a wide array of vegetables and fruits and their sustainably-raised, grass-fed beef, pork, and their signature lamb meat. (All raised between 3rd and 7th Street.) Jon and Erin (Eisenman) Turner began the farm in 2006 with their three young sons. Today, their sons all have a role in the farm. Their oldest has come back after college to manage the livestock operation.

TURNER FARM STORE, a renovated 1930's barn (original to the property), is open year round providing in-season produce, farm-raised meat, and chicken, duck and geese eggs. New this year, Turner Farms has farm-made bone broth made from animals and vegetables all raised at the farm! The store also offers lots of other local or small batch 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!

Turner Farms hosts various Farm Markets with other local vendors at their farm and, of course, they open their farm in October to the entire public for their annual Pumpkin Festival. The farm also offers an event-space for the public to rent for meetings, parties, and gatherings.

Follow their social media to stay up to date on all the goings-on at the Farm: Facebook and Instagram: Turner Farms 406 or their 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 of 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.



Tower Gardens, (Kari Brittain) located on the N.E. corner of Tower & 7th Streets, is busy preparing for the 2024 growing season. The year-round Farm Store is located in the barnyard of 3340 S. 7th Street W., featuring local organically grown in-season produce, eggs, and items made from the gardens/farms of your neighbors (Fruits & Vegetables, Jams, Honey, Pickled Foods, Wool, Photo Cards, Plants, etc.). It's open dawn to dusk. Follow the Tower Garden sunflower signs to the farm store door! Contact Kari at 406-370-0375 for details. Eat well, Eat local!



Frank's Little Farm is run by Sean McCoy, Prairie Wolfe and their two children, Cassius and Orlagh. This will be our eleventh season of urban farming in the River Road neighborhood. We are proud to be one of the farms continuing to uphold the agricultural traditions of the Target Range area. For decades now the western portions of Missoula have been growing food and hay in the nutrient rich soil along the river.

Frank's Little Farm strives to offer a wide variety of produce using sustainable agricultural methods. We sell plants and produce directly to the public through our roadside farm stand on the corner of Curtis and Wyoming, just off Third Street. The farm stand is open every day of the week beginning in May, and closes on the first of November.

We can also be found at the Missoula Farmer's Market at the XXXX's in the spring, selling garden plants.

For more information, visit our website frankslittlefarm.com or Instagram or Facebook at Frank's Little Farm.



Orchard Homes Icelandics and Organics on Seventh Street is run by Brooke Martin and Kent Sugden along with their daughter Adelaide.

Operating on one of the remaining historic farmsteads, they grow Icelandic sheep, chickens, and heritage- and open-pollinated produce from a ~3000 square foot irrigated garden and small orchard. Orchard Homes Icelandics uses a conservation farming model to maximize healthy organic practices and restore the land using native plants for erosion control, and managed grazing and irrigation for weed control. They have spent close to 20 years selecting open-pollinated, Native and heirloom seeds for cold hardy and Missoula hardy stock including the tomatoes "Sugden Gold" and "Sweet Adelaide", as well as Montana selected Painted Mountain corn and Missoula selected hardy peppers.

Produce is now seasonally available through Orange St. Food Farm (grass-fed lamb), Joseph's Coat (wool), Orchard Homes Farmers Market, and the Spurgin Farmstand (hours vary).

We love meeting everyone though the annual Bike to Barns tour. Like us on Facebook at Orchard Homes Icelandics (the best way to get hold of us!).

TARGET RANGE FARMERS MARKET

Sundays 10 am to 2 pm
May 26 to September 29

Contact Peggie Morrison (728-5302)
if you wish to set up a table.

The Missoula Valley Growers

The scattering of old barns and hay fields reminds us that not long ago, family farms inhabited the cul-de-sacs and subdivisions of our neighborhoods. There are those of us who continue to work the land and honor the traditions of our heritage.

Early in the spring of 2023, neighbors of the Target Range, Orchard Homes, and greater Missoula Valley convened to establish what is now known as the Missoula Valley Growers. We are a group of farmers, ranchers, agencies, growers, producers, and anyone interested in or involved with the success and growth of the Missoula agricultural community.

The group meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 9 a.m.. In the winter months, meetings take place at the newly-constructed extension office or the Orchard Homes Country Life Club where we host guest speakers who lend expertise on agricultural topics. Throughout the growing season, the group tours local operations, like Green Bench Orchard and Turner Farms, to see first hand the variety of agricultural practices flourishing in our valley.

We are a group of people who care deeply about our community. We extend that love through the landscapes we steward and the food we produce. All who are interested in the climate of our local agricultural community are invited to attend meetings by contacting either Justis York (Justis.York@usda.gov) or Ethan Turner (ethanpturner22@gmail.com).

Ethan Turner

Local Food & Farm Opportunities in Target Range

The Community Food and Agriculture Coalition (CFAC) is a nonprofit that supports local farmers, farmland conservation, and food access for all Montanans!

As summer approaches, CFAC is gearing up for our 6th annual Bike to Barns tour, traversing through Target Range, Orchard Homes, and Big Flat areas. This unique self-guided bike tour not only showcases Missoula's vibrant farming community but also allows participants to immerse them-selves in the food and flavors of the region. It's a delightful event that fosters community engagement while championing the local farmers and family farms along the tour route.

In other news, CFAC moved our offices into the historic LaLonde Ranch during the summer of 2023! Keep an eye out for exciting summer and fall events as we embark on our first full season in this new space!

In addition, this spring marks the launch of Tool Connect LLC, a farmer tool library aimed at supporting farmers and ranchers through affordable access to essential tools, workshops, and technical assistance!

Curious about LaLonde Ranch? Schedule a tour with Jenny by reaching out to jenny@cfacmontana.org. Interested in learning more about opportunities with CFAC? Visit our website at cfacmontana.org

Claire Grisham

Missoula County Department of Extension & Ecology New Building

What an incredible journey it has been! On December 5th, we marked a significant milestone in the history of our community with the official Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony of the Gerald W. Marks Exploration Center & Rocky Mountain Gardens.

The 2.5-acre hands-on education space, Rocky Mountain Gardens, became a reality. Over three days in late October, more than 2,400 bulbs were planted in the Color Garden.

The Montana Native Crevice Garden, a unique showcase of native plants arranged in resource-wise and small-space configurations, started to take shape.

We are excited about the opportunities that Rocky Mountain Gardens will bring for education, engagement, and volunteerism throughout 2024. All community members are encouraged to get involved and explore the educational wonders that our new Exploration Center has to offer.

Sandy Perrin, County Extension Agent

TRHOA
PO BOX 1075
MISSOULA, MT 59806

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Target Range Homeowners Association 2024 Membership Form

Dues are \$20 per year for an individual and \$25 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!

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Do you want to receive email updates? ___Yes ___No

Open for information about local farms and agricultural organizations, community events, as well as updates from Missoula Rural Fire District, Target Range School, Big Sky Park, and more! Bios of your Area Representatives inside, too.

2024 General Meetings

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

All are welcome to attend!

April 24

September 25

May 29

October 30

MEMBERSHIP

continued from p. 2, Vice President I see the TRHOA as being a means by which we can work together to keep our larger neighborhood tended as well. We have some very smart and dedicated people working diligently to guide our future with that in mind. Thank you to our active and recently re-activated members. Not a member or uncertain of your status? Please give me a call. 406-549-6689. Together...well you know...we can make our little part of the world a better place.

Anne Rupkalvis