



The TARGET RANGER

TARGET RANGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1075
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806
www.TargetRangeHOA.com
April 2010

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.

Welcome once again to the Target Ranger, the annual newsletter of the Target Range Homeowners Association. We've tried to gather together news from around Target Range so everyone is informed about the goings on in our neighborhood. Please contact us at TargetRangeHOA.com and give us suggestions about improving this newsletter for next year. If we've overlooked something, tell us and we will put it on the website. Our next General Meeting will be Wednesday, April 28, at 7 pm in the Target Range School library. The agenda will include making nominations for next year's officers, the upcoming school levy, meeting school board candidates, neighborhood plan update, update on the Target Range history project, and meeting the new owners of Dale's Dairy.

As TRHOA president, I have requested the Executive Board to think about removing the words "homeowners" from the name of our organization and now I'm seeking your input. 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. The "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. Additionally, TRHOA has come to include all residents (property owners and renters) 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 to receive informational e-mails. If you have a suggestion, please go to our website at www.targetrangehoa.com and contact us.

Peggie Morrison, President

Neighborhood Plan

For over a year the Neighborhood Plan Working Group has worked diligently gathering information and data, and writing the sections of the Target Range Neighborhood Plan. The Working Group identified two basic areas of concentration: 1) Natural environment which includes water resources; soils, irrigation, & agriculture; air; natural vegetation & weeds; and wildlife; 2) Human environment which includes population & growth; economy; transportation infrastructure; water infrastructure; other utilities; community facilities; local services; and land use/zoning.

Beginning with the Kick-off Meeting on February 18, 2009, the Working Group has hosted four public meetings; attended 24 working group meetings which are always open to anyone; had individual, one-to-one conversations with property owners affected by the rezoning from 2 dwellings per acre to one dwelling per acre; and made presentations to the City/County Planning Board (3) and the city Plat, Annexation, and Zoning Committee (with another yet to be scheduled).

The Target Range Neighborhood Plan passed the City/County Planning Board with a positive recommendation to both the Board of County Commissioners and the Missoula City Council. Now the Working Group is looking ahead to formal presentations before the Board of County Commissioners and the City Council. Each governing body will hold the required public hearings and decide whether or not to agree with the Planning Board's recommendation to include the Target Range Neighborhood Plan in the County Growth Plan.

But, we aren't finished even then. The Growth Plan is only advisory to the governing bodies. To implement the Plan's recommendations, the Board of County Commissioners must approve zoning regulations that speak directly to the recommendations.

The Plan may be viewed at www.Neighborhoodplan.net or www.targetrangehoa.com or OPG website.

The Neighborhood Planning Working Group

MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Peggie Morrison was raised in Missoula, is a 39-year Target Range resident and a 36-year English teacher recently retired. Peggie has grown irrigated hay on her thirteen acres for her horses and those of her neighbors for thirty years. She shares the produce from her garden with her son, the squirrels, and resident deer.

Vice-President - George Hirschenberger is a land management consultant with 39 years of experience in forest and rangeland management. He and his wife have lived in Target Range for 14 years and greatly enjoy their neighbors and the neighborhood.

Co-Secretary - Anne Rupkalvis has been a 26 year Target Range resident and is still raising her family here. Following her very active tenure as a Target Range School parent, she became an employee there. Passionate about trying to make the world a better place for now and the future, she has been a Target Range Home Owners Association member and officer for many years and is currently serving as a member of the Missoula County Park Board.

Co-Secretary - Laura Taylor (see Area 2 Representative)

Treasurer - Carol McQuade was born and raised just outside Manhattan, NY, Carol McQuade moved to Montana in 1983 and became a Target Ranger in 1985. Formerly a NYS Paramedic, she now in her retirement years works as a "lunch lady" at Cold Springs School. Raising her own vegetables every summer and training dogs in agility, tracking and therapy work keeps her pretty well occupied. One of her Australian Shepherds is the top-rated Aussie in Agility in the US and Canada (ASCA). Two of her dogs are certified therapy dogs, visiting at CMC, Hospice and nursing homes around the area. She has been active for many years in the TRHOA.

Area 1 Rep - Laura Bakker is a 4th generation Missoulian and grew up in the Target Range area, graduating from Target Range Grade School. Wanting to raise their children in Target Range, Laura and husband Ron re-located to and have lived in the area since 1977. Laura has been a Real Estate Appraisal Research Assistant for the past 20 years. Laura is also a professional horseback riding instructor specializing in teaching children. Laura was one of the co-founders of the Missoula Equestrian Park and is currently serving on the Big Sky Stewardship Committee for the Tower Street Park.

Area 2 Reps - Ed and Laura Taylor, have been organic food farmers for over 40 years, 29 of which have been in the Target Range/Orchard Homes neighborhoods, supplying produce for the Missoula Farmer's Market, the University of Montana Farm to College Program, area restaurants, and other local food markets. As active participants of the Missoula Way to Go Club, Envision Missoula, Nature Conservancy, Montana Natural History Center, Missoula Cultural Society, Ed and Laura enthusiastically contribute their time and energy to maintaining a rural atmosphere in the Target Range area.

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

Area 4 Rep - Fred Stewart, having lived in Missoula for 35 years, 25 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 Impact Statements. Following his retirement, he carved out a second career for himself as a wealth manager.

Area 5 Rep - Bonnie White lives on O'Brien Creek Road with her husband, Travis and two children. Bonnie is a Missoula local who graduated from Big Sky HS and the University of Montana with a BS in Geology and a minor in Physics. She received her master's degree in Geophysics at the University of Utah. Bonnie worked for British Petroleum in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico. Bonnie is the Vice President of Finance for a company that installs computer systems and Audio Visual Equipment in school systems around the US, and recently installed the new AV equipment at Target Range Elementary School. She is currently running for one of the vacant seats on the Target Range School Board.

Area 6 Rep - Willis Curdy, a retired, thirty-year Hellgate High School social studies teacher who spent his summers as a smokejumper, is a 42 year resident of the Missoula area and a 28 year resident of the Target Range/Big Flat area. Besides raising hay and cattle in the Bitterroot, he has been involved in a number of planning issues affecting the Target Range/Big Flat areas. He is currently a candidate for HD100.

Welcome to our two newest area representatives, Laura Bakker and Bonnie White.

Big Flat Road Issues

Beginning in November 2009, several Big Flat residents began collecting signatures to present a petition to the Missoula County Commissioners requesting a maximum 35 MPH speed limit on Blue Mountain and Big Flat Roads. Petition gatherers collected signatures from land owners adjacent to those two roads from the junction of Blue Mountain and Highway 93 to the junction of Big Flat and Kona Ranch Roads. Also the petition gatherers focused on roads which joined Blue Mountain and Big Flat Roads as well as Target Range residents.

Over 250 signatures were put on the petition. Signature gatherers reported a 95% plus success rate when asking individuals to sign.

In early February, the petitions were presented to the Missoula County Commissioners along with a letter of support from the Target Range Homeowners Executive Board. The Commissioners stated that they would take the petitions under advisement and will contact Big Flat residents with their decision.

Petition gatherers would like to extend their thanks to all who signed the petitions. Their commitment to road safety on Big Flat and Blue Mountain Roads is greatly appreciated.

Willis Curdy

Allied Waste and the Big Blue Dilemma

Allied Waste started the New Year off with higher rates and a decline in services. Before the start of 2010, individuals were able to place up to four 32-gallon garbage bins and recycling blue bags at the end of their driveway or at a common area at the end of their roads. Now 95-gallon-blue-bin eyesores are the new method of trash pickup by automated garbage trucks. Given the size of these gargantuan bins and the large driveways in the Target Range area, people are forced to leave them out by their driveways or common areas unless they possess super-human strength and an open bed pickup truck.

The days of bagging your grass clippings and other lawn debris along with your household trash are gone unless you want to pay an added charge for each additional yard of debris. All bags of garbage not in the blue bins must be marked with the address to whom they belong or they will not be picked up!

An option is taking your lawn debris to Eco Compost which takes yard waste. Other options include renting an additional container, hauling debris to the dump, or obtaining a permit for burning. However, please contact the Rural Fire Dept. before you burn and monitor your burn continuously.

O'Brien Creek, Blue Mountain, and Big Flat are at even greater disadvantage with these new bins. People in these areas have either very long gravel driveways or steep hilled driveways covered with snow, ice, and mud through most of the year. These large bins are cumbersome for these people, unlike households in subdivisions with short paved driveways.

People often leave the bins out all week long in a known bear inhabited area. These bins are not bear-proof and given time they will attract more animals. The bus stops for our children are often in these specific areas. Not only are the new bins possible animal hazards, but they are also an eyesore on our beautiful rural landscape.

Before Jan. 2010, people seldom left their garbage cans at the end of their driveways or common areas since the smaller cans were more portable. Missoula City-County Health Code (<http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/envhealth/EnvHealthDiv/Regulations/RegulationIndex.htm>) states that all people are required by law to put their cans out on the day of service and take them back to their home after pick up on the same day (per REGULATION 3 of the SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT under STORAGE AND COLLECTION). Leaving bins out on the road all week is in violation of the health code ordinance!

Responding to the negative outcry about the new services or lack thereof, Gail Gutsche, the Public Service Commissioner, set up a meeting with Allied Waste, the public, and city officials on March 10th. The purpose of the meeting was to allow Allied to explain their new rates and services; to allow the public to express their concerns and ask questions about the changes; and to explain what jurisdiction the PSC has over Allied.

The gentlemen who spoke for Allied appeared genuinely concerned for our situation. However, there is no going back to the old method. Allied will take blue bags/used oil at their West Broadway location for no charge. As for the bear problem, Allied offered numerous suggestions including bear proof bins, bear-resistant cages around the blue bins, or large commercial-sized bins that neighbors would share. Allied will customize their services to suit the needs of their customers.

The meeting was informative. We learned Allied Waste currently flares methane gas produced at the Missoula landfill, but plans to either pipe it to a natural gas line or to the electronic grid in Missoula to help light over 900 homes. They will also start using solar panels at the landfill to run their power at their facilities.

By the end of the summer, the new blue bins will be seen throughout Target Range.

Bonnie White

Little White School House Update

The Target Range School Board and administration are currently studying the next steps needed to be taken in addressing the renovation of the LWSH. Essentially, the district is approaching the project from the perspective of "what must be done in order to allow use of the facility by members of the public?" Currently, input by an engineer is being sought to

determine the structural integrity of the building, and what procedures would be needed to appropriately respond to identified deficiencies and/or problems in order to meet applicable building codes. Also, because of considerable suspect asbestos-containing materials in the building, the district is getting input from qualified asbestos abatement personnel to determine what course of action will be needed to appropriately respond to those conditions. As the district receives information and direction regarding the items noted, the public will be updated as to the findings and the district's response to those findings. Many of our local residents, along with those from afar, have expressed their support for continuing to pursue the vision for restoring the LWSH that the Crawford family and supporters began several years ago. Please be assured that those messages have not fallen upon deaf ears. Thank you for your support of Target Range School District!

“The Tree”

Tree specialists have determined that the old cottonwood tree that has stood guard in front of the original Target Range School building for nearly a century needs to be removed due to age-related deterioration. We will be contracting for the removal of the tree in the near future, probably before it begins to leaf-out in the spring. Realizing that the tree has been a landmark for many generations of Target Range residents, we would like to provide interested individuals an opportunity to share their thoughts regarding saying “farewell” to the tree, and the use of its wood once it is taken down. If you have any ideas you would like considered in association with the tree's removal, please let either Superintendent George Linthicum or Principal Luke Laslovich know of your thoughts. At this time, we have received only one suggestion regarding what might be done with “The Tree” as we prepare for its removal.

Both articles by Supt. Linthicum



May 4, 2010 is your opportunity to vote on the TARGET RANGE TECHNOLOGY LEVY AND GENERAL LEVY

The Target Range School Board of Trustees is asking voters to consider two levy issues. You may not be aware, there are many operating expenses incurred by a school district that cannot be covered by revenue received through standard funding sources. Because of this potential for shortfall, a district may ask its voters for additional local support through voted levies. This election will be a mail-in election. Ballots should arrive at your home near the end of April.

TECHNOLOGY LEVY

The district is requesting voter approval of a **one-time** \$60,000 levy (approximately 6.69 mills) for the 2010-2011 school year. Existing funding falls far short from covering routine maintenance and licensing requirements. As a result Target Range's computer technology is in major need of replacement and upgrading. Funds would be used toward purchasing equipment and software for the library/media center and computer labs and upgrading and replacing computer technology in the classrooms. This will not cover all of our technology needs, but would be a major leap forward from where we are presently. Passage of this proposal will increase the taxes on a home with a market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$11.41 and on a home with a market value of \$200,000 by approximately \$22.83.

GENERAL LEVY

The district is requesting voter approval of a **one-time** \$42,000 levy (approximately 4.69 mills) for the 2010-2011 school year. Funds would be used to upgrade the library/media center facility including books, audio materials and furnishings, replace and upgrade instructional materials, and upgrade classroom furnishings. Passage of this proposal will increase the taxes on a home with a market value of \$100,000 by approximately \$8.00 and on a home with a market value of \$200,000 by approximately \$16.00.

For additional information contact:
George Linthicum, Superintendent
george.linthicum@target.k12.mt.us
Tammy Tulberg, Business Manager
tammy.tulberg@target.k12.mt.us
School office – (406) 549-9239

Tammy Keck, School Board member

Additional information will be provided at the general TRHOA meeting on April 28.

Thanks, George!

The Target Range Homeowners Association would like to express our appreciation to George Linthicum, outgoing superintendent at Target Range School.

George has been very supportive of and interested in our organization since he began his work at school. He's been most generous with making available meeting space for us. He's been known to chase down equipment needed to complete our requests and unlock many doors. He most graciously sat through an open house held last fall to kick off the Neighborhood Plan.

Thanks so much, George for your help and support. Best wishes to you in the future!

The Target Range Home Owners Association

Target Range Sewer and Water District Update

This past summer, the Target Range Sewer and Water District (TRSWD) presented the district's annual budget for 2010 to the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners approved the \$23.90 per dwelling unit to have been placed on the November 2009 tax roll. The budget enables the district to accomplish some very tangible goals in preserving our aquifer.

The TRSWD is in the process of hiring an administrator for our district. This person will take the district's goals of preserving our ground water to a new level. The TRSWD has been guided the last ten years by volunteers with goals to conserve, preserve and protect our aquifer through education, and monitoring ground water, and waste water systems. Our new administrator will pursue grants that will assist in the replacement of the estimated 150 cesspools within the district with technologically improved septic systems at a reasonable cost to the homeowner.

The TRSWD has developed and is sending out an informative newsletter a couple times a year describing the status of the district, providing educational information on waste water systems and preservation of our aquifer. Let us know if there is a topic you would like included in any future newsletters. If you live within the sewer district, and do not receive a TRSWD newsletter, be sure to let us know.

The TRSWD Board meets the second Tuesday of every month at Target Range School at 7:00 p.m. during the school year. You are invited to attend any meeting.

Website: www.targetrangeswd.org

Have a great summer!

Kari Brittain

What does “RIPARIAN” mean?

A **riparian zone** or **riparian area** is the interface between land and a stream. Riparian zones occur in many forms including grassland, woodland, wetland or even non-vegetative. The word "riparian" is derived from Latin *ripa*, meaning river bank.

Riparian zones may be natural or engineered for soil stabilization or restoration. These zones are important natural biofilters, protecting aquatic environments from excessive sedimentation polluted surface runoff and erosion. They supply shelter and food for many aquatic animals and shade that is an important part of stream temperature regulation. When riparian zones are damaged by construction, agriculture or silviculture, biological restoration can take place, usually by human intervention in erosion control and revegetation. If the area adjacent to a watercourse has standing water or saturated soil for as long as a season, it is normally termed a wetland because of its hydric characteristics.

Research shows riparian zones are instrumental in water quality improvement for both surface runoff and water flowing into streams through subsurface or groundwater flow.

Particularly the attenuation of nitrate or denitrification of the nitrates from fertilizer in this buffer zone is important. Riparian zones can play a role in lowering nitrate contamination in surface runoff from agricultural fields, which runoff would otherwise damage ecosystems and human health. The use of wetland riparian zones shows a particularly high rate of removal of nitrate entering a stream and thus has a place in agricultural management.

The riparian zones also provide wildlife habitat, increase biodiversity, and provide wildlife corridors, enabling aquatic and riparian organisms to move along river systems avoiding isolated communities. They can provide forage for wildlife and livestock.

They provide native landscape irrigation by extending seasonal or perennial flows of water. Nutrients from terrestrial vegetation (e.g. plant litter and insect drop) are transferred to aquatic food webs. The vegetation surrounding the stream helps to shade the water, mitigating water temperature changes. The vegetation also contributes wood debris to streams which is important to maintaining geomorphology. From a social aspect, riparian zones contribute to nearby property values through amenity and views, and they improve enjoyment for footpaths and bikeways through supporting networks. Space is created for riparian sports including fishing, swimming and launching for vessels.

From Wikipedia



Update on Target Range Farmers Market

"To forget how to dig the earth and to tend to soil is to forget ourselves." Mahatma Gandhi

I have some good news for all those planning on growing a garden, cutting flowers, or picking fruit this season: there will be a market at Target Range School for you to showcase your efforts!

As many of you may know, in order to hold a market at the school we needed to write a proposal that outlined how we intended to use the space. Thanks in large part to the feedback we received following the newsletter and requests for interested market vendors by the TRHOA last spring, we were able to submit a proposal for the school board to review. In July of last year the proposal was rejected in part because we did not sufficiently address the issue of liability. Like the frost we had last fall that zapped the remainder of our unpicked tomatoes and apples, we thought this market was dead on the vine. However, just as some of those green tomatoes were transformed with vinegar, salt, sugar, and garlic into a tasty pickled snack, the extra effort by the school board to meet with us, explain their concerns, and reexamine the updated proposal has led to a sweet deal for the Target Range community. In February the school board gave their approval for the market.

We now need volunteers to assist us in making this project a reality. Like the grasshoppers proved on the lilac bushes last summer, many mandibles (or volunteers in this case) make for light work!

Scheduling a market is a bit of a catch-22. People will only come to shop for produce if there are vendors. Vendors only want to set up a stand if they know there will be potential buyers. To all the interested vendors and buyers out there, the Target Range Farmers Market will run from Sunday, May 2nd through Sunday, October 10th. Operating hours will be 10 am to 1 pm in the east parking lot of Target Range School.

Right now we need people who are willing to:

- set up our corporation paperwork and get insurance quotes
- set up a business bank account for us
- help advertise and find sponsors (Dale's Dairy?, TRHOA?)
- field vendor calls and put together a registration form
- look into port-o-potties quotes
- register vendors at the market
- work on providing EBT and senior coupons to those at the market

Luckily, the other markets in town have been very helpful and we won't have to recreate the wheel to complete many of the above-mentioned tasks. There will be an organizational meeting in the near future to flesh out ideas and assign tasks. If you're interested in attending or can commit to being a vendor

please email me at tseib@hotmail.com, or George at gnhberger@msn.com and we will put you on the list!

Land Link Montana

Due to the enthusiastic feedback I received in relation to the Land Link program mentioned in the last newsletter I've decided to include more thorough information about the program.

Our Mission : Land Link Montana is a farm and ranch transfer program. Our mission is to see agricultural land remain under the stewardship of farmers and ranchers, as generations come and go. We do that simply by working with interested landowners, farmers and ranchers.

Our Challenge: As western Montana houses a growing population, farms and ranches are being subdivided and developed. The agricultural land that remains in tact carries a price tag reflecting its development value, far exceeding what a producer can afford by growing food. Meanwhile, the average age of farmers and ranchers in Montana has reached 55 years. Retiring farmers and ranchers need to be able to weigh all their options and plan the future of their land--including keeping it in agriculture even if their kids do not return to the farm. Beginning farmers and ranchers need access to agricultural land, as well as the resources and expertise to plan a business, get a loan, and establish a transfer arrangement. Non-farming landowners are also an important piece of the puzzle, as any want to see their land in production for tax purposes, weed management, or personal satisfaction.

Our Services: To assist landowners and farm/ranch seekers in establishing successful land transfers, Land Link Montana offers the following services:

- Our matching service connects landowners with farm and ranch seekers, based on their compatible interests. Each party makes all the decisions, of course. The matching service helps gather the relevant information, distribute that information to enrolled landowners & farm/ranch seekers, and facilitate the transfer process.
- We are in the process of setting up an on-farm and ranch employment opportunities listing service, to help agricultural operators find labor, while also providing aspiring farmers and ranchers with the opportunity to gain experience before starting their own business. This service will be free. If you have any ideas as to how it can be most useful to you and others, now is a good time to contact us with your suggestions.
- A referral network is also underway to connect you with professionals who can assist you with your farm and ranch transfer needs. As you know, a successful transfer is multi-faceted. Beginning farmers need to know how to get a loan, plan and form a business, etc. Landowners need to know all of their options about how they might transfer their land, plan their retirement, or consider conservation mechanisms. If you have ideas about individuals or organizations who might be a good resource for beginning and retiring growers and non-farming landowners, please contact us.

The above information was taken directly from the Land Link Montana website. This information and more can be found on www.landlinkmontana.org. To learn more visit the website or contact the program coordinator Paul Hubbard: pfhubbard@gmail.com

Todd Seib

Gardening tip: You can get a jump start on the gardening season by starting seeds indoors. Besides the obvious needs of planting medium, seeds and water, this requires a combination of heat and light. For germination it is best to provide steady bottom heat and a clear cover to help in keeping the surface moist. This will also allow you to witness the "birthing" and you will know it is time to remove the cover and add the most essential element... light. A full spectrum florescent grow light would be best. Although, if you have a south facing window, Mother Nature could give your starts the light they need, providing you willing to rotate them several times a day so they will grow straight. If this sounds like just a bit too much, you can always support Missoula area growers and buy your starts as bedding plants.

The Taylor Green Thumbs

Irrigation Water

We are fortunate to be a part of the Missoula Ditch Co., which takes water out of the Clark Fork near the University and delivers it through the ditch system with the unused remainder flowing into the Bitterroot River in Target Range.

Historically water has been turned into the ditch system the first Saturday of May. However, the past two years the ditch rider, Tim Supola (544-5040), has been getting the water in a week or two earlier. Last year it was April 21st. Everyone using the ditch system or having part of it on their property should clean or dig the ditch out before that date. Tim has a cleaning crew each spring, but they can use all the help they can get. The ditch rider is only responsible for delivering water down the main supply ditches. Nearly all the small laterals and supply ditches are private, and consequently maintenance and water delivery in them is entirely up to the users. Delivery disagreements on private ditches are also private legal matters and not up to the ditch rider to settle.

Everyone in Target Range who pays for water on their taxes has a right to use it. If your water has been cut off by subdivision, you still have the right to work out delivery. You also have the right to work on the ditch where it crosses other property to insure delivery.

The work of cleaning out ditches can be much easier if you get together with neighbors and arrange a time to work together or at least coordinate the work to be done. If ditches are not properly maintained, higher volumes of water are needed which often result in flooding a neighbor. Flooding a neighbor or in any way polluting the water with chemicals or trash is not acceptable and can result in legal costs.

Our ditch water is a valuable resource that grows crops much better than colder and more heavily mineralized well water. Make use of it if you can and help keep Target Range beautiful.

Michael Chandler

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

Along with the joys of rural living come the problems of living with wildlife. Most of the time, we thoroughly enjoy seeing the birds, squirrels, and deer. Not quite so often do we enjoy the skunks and raccoons, but yes, they live here too. The MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has some good tips on their website about dealing with wildlife

(fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/livingwithwildlife). Probably the most problematic issue we encounter is living with the deer. Everyone has heard a number of wives tales of "proven ways to keep the deer away" I even read about one in one of the gardening newsletters and decided to try it after the deer completely ate all my patio petunias in several nights. As I was putting stakes with Irish Spring soap tied to them in my planters, a neighbor happened to stop by and said, "oh yes, I have tried that and it didn't work!" I think we have all tried numerous things.

To quote FWP, "The deer were here first; they have been displaced from their natural habitats by man, and are now living around our homes and towns. Deer are creatures of habit. They may visit the same food sources and select the same cover to hide in every day, unless humans or other predators interrupt these patterns. Deer are highly adaptive; they soon learn that a dog is on a chain or fenced, that scarecrows are not so scary, that repellents are not really that bad, short fences are easy to jump, and holes and gaps in fences are easy to find." We love seeing them, but hate having them eat our gardens and shrubs. At certain times of the year they are on the roads and can cause costly accidents.

Some good information shared by FWP includes the following. Feeding is a big temptation, but it is illegal. Feeding can cause the deer to become dependent on us as a food source. Creating this dependency on your property could cause problems for your neighbors and a person can be held liable for problems and damages to neighboring properties. Different types of fences can deter the deer, but remember they can jump 5-6' fences quite easily. A number of options are discussed in this section on the website. However, the most successful appears to be fencing with an electric fence. Suggested is stringing two electric wires at 18" and then at 40". FEP even suggests smearing peanut butter on the wire to give them a little lesson. (Be sure the fence is off when you do this!). We have found the electric fence to best solution for our vegetable garden, but certainly it is not practical for every situation or for many people to use.

Take some time and peruse the information FWP offers. As spring approaches, I still look forward to seeing the deer and fawns in my pasture and am more than willing to do a little damage control in order to enjoy the pleasures of living in our area that we call "Rural by Design".

Nancy Chandler

Membership Update

The Target Range area has about 1065 households with a population of approximately 2500 folks. TRHOA currently has 76 active members for 2009-2010.

We also have 68 members who have not renewed their membership for 2009-2010. Many of these people attend TRHOA meetings, so they are still interested and engaged in neighborhood goings on.

The TRHOA welcomes any and all interested people to our meetings. An informed citizenry is able to make beneficial decisions. A large membership strengthens the organization and our neighborhood. The organization benefits by obtaining adequate financial capability to conduct its business-- mailings, signage and printing. And the residents benefit by being a full-fledged member of an organization that is working to represent the interests of the majority of those fortunate enough to call themselves Target Rangers.

We look forward to seeing you at our April 28th meeting. Bring your ideas and your checkbook to renew your membership, as well as your community spirit. You can contribute to the health and well-being of Target Range. Feel free to mail your dues in if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Anne Rupkalvis

Target Range History

The Target Range history research team is working hard to gather history from our neighborhood. Over the past 2 months we have been diligently working with the Kelley/Kelly family of Kelley Island & the Pepperpot house. If you have any photos or old stories please contact Kris Crawford @ 546-6412. Last summer we did Maclay family and are still gathering info and stories.

We are also doing milk Dairies of Target Range. Any stories, photos and memories would be greatly appreciated. Dale's Dairy will put them on their history wall to do honor to the early rich agriculture of our neighborhood. This spring and summer we will research the old Missoula eateries. As you have seen in the Dale's bathroom, there are quilt blocks made of 1951 Missoulia ads which have sparked stories about Bugs Bar B Q, the Whistle Stop Cafe, 93 Stop & Go and more. Remember the Kings Hat in Lolo? And what about the little drive through on 3rd across from Grizzly Fence that was torn down last summer? I could kick myself for not getting pictures! My kids loved their milk shakes! Old menus would be cool! It would be nice to display them at Dale's during the hot weather season of grilling here in our neighborhood!

The goal of these folks gathering this old info and these stories is to share them with our community. Target Range has a rich, rich history over 100 years old. So if you have any type of stories and photos please contact me and we can get together!

Kris Crawford

Threads of Montana History (volunteer group)
546-6412

Dates to remember:

April 28th - TRHOA Meeting, 7 pm

Target Range School Library

May 2nd - First TR Farmers Market,

school east parking lot, 10 am-1pm

May 26th - TRHOA Meeting, 7 pm

Target Range School Library

TARGET RANGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dues are \$15 per year for an individual and \$20 per family (September 1 through August 31). Please fill out this membership form and mail it to TRHOA, P.O. Box 1075, 59806, along with your dues. Thank you for supporting TRHOA in its efforts to maintain our rural environment.

1. _____
NAME ADDRESS

2. _____
NAME

_____ HOME PHONE WORK PHONE CELL PHONE

_____ E-MAIL DATE