



# The **TARGET RANGER**

August 2021

Target Range Homeowners Association  
P.O. Box 1075 Missoula, MT 59806  
[www.TargetRangeHOA.org](http://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](http://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 ...*

Thank you for patiently awaiting the 2021 **The Target Ranger** newsletter.

Looking forward, I'm eager for the first TRHOA meeting in over a year. We hope to be back to having meetings on the last Wednesday of September, October, April, and May at 7:30 pm in the Target Range School library. The big item on the agenda is the update of TRHOA by-laws. They are on the [TargetRangeHOA.org](http://TargetRangeHOA.org) website. Please take a moment to look them over.

Target Range is waking up. The Maclay Bridge is on the table. I've heard a rumor that the folks who purchased the old Fort Missoula Hospital have put forth some additional information. Construction is starting on those two lots behind the Holiday Gas Station. (Has anyone heard what is going to be built there?) There is some big equipment working in the Spurgin Ranch Development area.

The pandemic is not over, but I feel as if life is back into gear once again. It's invigorating talking to people's faces once again and not just their eyes.

Please take care of yourselves in this smoke and heat.

*Peggie Morrison, TRHOA President*

## **TRHOA Executive Board & Area Representatives**

**President** Peggie Morrison

**Vice-President** Anne Rupkalvis

**Secretary** Bob Carter

**Treasurer** Carol McQuade

### **Area 1: near Big Sky HS and Equestrian Park**

**Rep** Elizabeth Stegmaier

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

**Reps** Ed and Laura Taylor

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

**Rep** Carol McQuade

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

**Rep** Fred Stewart

### **Area 5: Blue Mountain and O'Brien Creek**

**Reps** Daphne Herling and Steve Seninger

### **Area 6: Big Flat**

**Rep** Willis Curdy

*To contact your representative, visit [www.targetrangehoa.org](http://www.targetrangehoa.org)*

# TRHOA News

## 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 updated 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](http://TargetRangeHOA.org).

## MEMBERSHIP

Greetings Target Rangers,

Wow! What a year (and counting) it's been... families and friends experiencing prolonged separation and an inability to gather together. TRHOA is no exception to that scenario. Out of consideration for one another we chose to discontinue meeting for the time being. Not at all what the executive board wanted but the clear choice.

In the meantime, our member numbers have taken a hit. Down to 105 active members! This newsletter you're reading is where our dollars go and you may notice we cut it back this year.

I encourage you to renew your membership now in order to keep this outreach to the neighborhood in print. Call 549-6689 to check on your status if you're uncertain or return the enclosed form to our PO box if you're new to the area.

We welcome you (back) and look forward to seeing everyone in person again.

*Anne Rupkalvis, Vice-President*

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## 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](http://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**

Information on Maclay Bridge can be found at **maclaybridgealliance.org** and **maclaybridge.com**

## O'Brien Creek in the Old Days

*by Steve Seninger*

Named after 1880's rancher David O'Brien, today's O'Brien Creek Valley of modern homes and ranchettes gives little hint of its heyday as a logging community complete with a sawmill, railroad, family's houses, and a schoolhouse in the early 1900s. The Baird and Harper lumber company was the economic base with a sawmill and railroad roundhouse near Haggerty Gulch and a town site for workers and their families located a short way east of the Gulch where the valley broadens out into wider meadows.

Logs were sent out of the hills on log chutes with younger, nimble footed workers greasing the chutes to keep the logs sliding down and other workers near the log yard throwing dirt on the chute to slow the logs down. The mill employed about 30 mill workers, 30 loggers in the woods and produced about 30,000 feet of lumber when it was going full blast around 1906. Lumber was loaded on a six-car narrow gauge railroad; remnants of the old rail bed can still be found in some backyards along the valley. The railroad connected with the Bitterroot Branch of the Northern Pacific with loading taking place south of present day Buckhouse Bridge. Occasional derailments of the Shay engine, driven by gears rather than pistons and rods, was dealt with by a crew of men using heavy timbers to pry the train back onto the tracks.

The town's schoolhouse evolved from a log cabin to a regular wood structure that offered, for the times, the most current, up to date improvements and innovations. These included a brand-new world globe, a dictionary on a stand, four reflector oil lamps and a new water bucket for the school plus a new well that eliminated student bucket trips to nearby O'Brien Creek. Classroom discipline was pretty much abandoned during out of school activities when some of the kids would push a small handcart up a grade just above the mill, let the cart free-ride using a thick stick thrust against the roadbed to slow the cart down. Occasional failure of this primitive technology resulted in some dramatic cart-timber bumper-train engine collisions.

Ticks and spotted fever, later formally identified as Rocky Mountain spotted fever, were a problem in this early O'Brien Creek community. One death in 1907 and another in 1912 caused a number of residents to move out of the valley. The town site eventually was abandoned. The Baird and Harper lumber company continued to produce lumber at other western Montana sites.

Not much remains today of what was once a bustling little community although, to this day, the woods in upper O'Brien Creek are notorious for ticks, especially during early summer.

[Memories of the old days come from interviews of former residents and students and reported by John Forseen in an October 1958 issue of the *Missoulian*.]

# Community News

## Target Range School District #23

Hello Target Range Community,

I'm Dr. Heather Davis Schmidt, the new Superintendent for Target Range School District. I'm excited to be part of the Target Range community and delighted to be back home in Missoula!

Jumping into this role mid-pandemic on July 1, 2020 has been both challenging and rewarding. Our new Business Manager/Clerk, Jessica Pyette, also began her role with the District on July 1. Both of us look forward to meeting all of you face to face!

Our Board meetings are currently online via Zoom and everyone is encouraged to attend. You can find the Zoom link on our website a few days before each meeting. The Board of Trustees spent the spring developing a strategic plan to carry the district forward over the next five years. Our next step is for administration, teachers, and support staff to develop action steps for 2021-2022 to work toward meeting the District's five strategic goal areas, including learning and teaching, knowledge building, learning environment, connections and relationships, and fiscal responsibility.

Spring 2021 brought lots of opportunities for our students to get out into the Target Range and broader Missoula area through field trips. We also piloted a project with Writing Coaches of Montana in our eighth-grade English classes. Keep your eyes open for more information on how you too can serve as a volunteer Writing Coach in Target Range School. It's an incredibly rewarding experience getting to know our articulate, motivated, and creative young students. No teaching or writing experience needed and all coaches will get to participate in training in advance. We hope you will join us as we expand on these opportunities! We are also planning a community service day for 2021-2022 where we will get our TR students out into the TR community to help our neighbors and keep our neighborhood looking great.

Thank you for all of your support of Target Range School District over the years and thank you in advance for your continued support of this amazing school in our community!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Heather Davis Schmidt*

*Superintendent, Target Range School District*

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## Meet a Target Ranger

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Hello neighbors! I am so happy to be back to my home town and Target Range. I was born and raised in Missoula. My job at the Missoula Job Service took me to our home office in Helena, and then 26 years later my husband Kirk Stetson accepted an active-duty assignment managing dental offices for the Air Force so we have moved every 2 years until our retirement in 2019.

We thought if we found a place we enjoyed more than Target Range we would retire there. Needless to say, we did not find a place. We feel so very blessed to have been able to purchase my family home in Target Range. Such wonderful neighbors, who care, share and are so supportive.

Shortly after I moved here one of the barn doors came off its track. Soon the smiling face of Mike Chandler was at my

**TRHOA meeting dates in the Target Range School library:**  
September 29th at 7 pm  
October 27th at 7 pm

## 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.

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.

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 available at the Health Dept. in Missoula.

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

*Missoula County Environmental Health*

**TRHOA is now on Facebook!**

front door. He fixed the barn door in minutes. This act of kindness affirmed we had made the right choice to move home.

Thank you so very much for welcoming us. As we get settled after remodeling and making the huge move, we are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Target Range provides a strong network for living the quasi-country lifestyle that we enjoy. Kirk looks forward to golfing with those so inclined and I am looking forward to horse riding with fellow equestriennes.

You may have noticed the addition of a front patio with plenty of seating for sipping lemonade and sharing stories with our neighbors who stop by on lovely summer evenings. We hope to see you soon.

*Lori Williams Stetson*

# Community News

## TARGET RANGE SEWER & WATER DISTRICT

*Committed to Protecting our Aquifer, Serving our Community*

TRSWD Board is proud to announce that we have added 220 new members to the District, all located in the Orchard Homes area. We began with 80 members back in 2000 and have over 1,400 today. We greatly appreciate their willingness to become part of the District and its mission "Preserving our quality of life through planned management of our water resources".

The District is planning another expansion in the River Pines Rd, O'Brien Creek, Blue Mountain Rd and Big Flat areas. We are asking TRHOA members living in these areas to contact the District expressing your opinion on our planned expansion. Contact us at [www.targetrangeswd.org](http://www.targetrangeswd.org), at our office at 1705 South Reserve, by mail at PO Box 5484 Missoula, MT 59806 or call Larry Nagy, our Business Manager, at (406) 218-8627. The District looks forward to your response before we launch our planned canvassing of these areas.

*Larry Nagy*

My name is Scott David and I am both an active board member of the Target Range Sewer and Water Board and an involved Target Ranger. I first was introduced to the TRSW board in 2019 when they held an open meeting for community members to attend at the Target Range library.

Nancy, Fred, Peggie, Norm, Mike, Kari and Larry were very welcoming and offered me an opportunity to be an active board member in 2020. Being a board member has offered a lot of opportunities to learn "how things work". I came to understand the influence of the TRSW board as a voice in responsible community growth as I became educated on the causes and effects of how water and sewer, when responsibly managed, can work together. Becoming a member of the TRSW board has been and will continue to be a great opportunity for me to support the Target Range community. Knowing that when we have concerns, questions or comments on water and sewer, they will be answered and we can also be an influence in a positive way.

I would strongly encourage ANYONE to attend a meeting and become an actively-involved member in what we hold dear to our hearts, the preservation of clean water. The meetings are open to anyone and we encourage people to attend and be involved.

Thank you, *Scott David*

### **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.

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 your own backyard.

*Ed Taylor*

## **Meet a Target Ranger**

I have had the pleasure of living in my new home for almost a year now. My route to Target Range has been rather circuitous over the years and I am very thankful to have landed in this special area.

This former Okie and my Texan husband of less than a year packed everything we owned in the Jeep Cherokee and headed north to Alaska in 1974. Twenty-five years later when our sons graduated high school, we moved to Camas Prairie, Idaho. The boys attended U of M as do many Alaskan kids, and we made the trip along the river to Missoula whenever possible. We made the move to the Bitterroot in 2009 and enjoyed our bounty of apples, plums and cherries along with our annual cider pressing. Our oldest son and his wife returned to Alaska to raise their family. Our younger son, an architect here in Missoula, is a newlywed!

After losing my husband suddenly, I downsized and moved to town. Planning to rent while looking for a home, I had the good fortune of finding a great duplex here in Target Range. I rapidly became a fan of the neighborhood. I realized all the beautiful areas to walk, new routes which I explored daily. One of my favorite walks this time of year is to check on the osprey Lena. I'm so glad she's back on her nest now.

I found my house on one of my daily walks. I'm eager to learn about the area and have felt welcomed by those whom I have met. I look forward to meeting more folks as time goes by.

It's a privilege to live in this beautiful area, and I plan to be here for the duration. Who knows? Maybe my grandchildren will come to school here, too, and be Griz just like their parents.

*Judy Bundy, a new Target Ranger*

# 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.missoulacfac.org](http://www.missoulacfac.org) and [www.farmlinkmontana.org](http://www.farmlinkmontana.org)

We hope you will join us and get involved in preserving the rural character of our agricultural neighborhood.

*Bonnie Buckingham*

## TARGET RANGE FARMERS MARKET

**Sundays 10 am to 2 pm  
through September 26, 2021**

The Market is in the east parking lot of the Target Range School on South Avenue with ample and easy parking. Our regular vendors offer homemade cookies, produce, plants, crocheted gifts and housewares, laundry soaps, herbs, woodworking and other goodies. We are a small market, with friendly vendors and even friendlier customers.

Come meet your neighbors who frequent the local Target Range Community Market every Sunday, from 10-2, all summer long.

*Marsha Steinweden, a vendor*

### 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.

**August 20** (post fair)

**September 10** (Spaghetti cook-off)

**October 8** (Indian tacos)

**October 18** (Book Sale 18th-24th)

**November 5** (Veterans Day Pancake Dinner)

**November 13** (Sat. 9-3: no potluck. Donate a pie or volunteer to help)

**December 5** (Christmas: Sunday@ 6)

**January 14, 2022** (Install new officers, chili cook off)

## Rocky Mountain Gardens & Exploration Center Ground Breaking

The Missoula County Weed District and Extension Office and the Missoula Butterfly House & Insectarium, along with other community partners, celebrated the groundbreaking of the 29,000-square-foot Rocky Mountain Gardens & Exploration Center Friday, May 14, at the Missoula County Fairgrounds.

The Exploration Center will be the first major new building in the fairgrounds' revitalization efforts. The project is a public-private partnership funded by both privately-raised funds and public funding. The year-round destination will be home to Montana's first tropical butterfly house, premier education gardens, demonstration kitchens, a greenhouse, plant lab and classrooms. “The Rocky Mountain Gardens & Exploration Center will be an invaluable resource to our community for generations to come,” said Missoula County Commissioner Juanita Vero. “A place of education, exploration and wonderment, teaching people how to understand, respect and cultivate the rich resources throughout our region.”

The Weed District and Extension, the Butterfly House & Insectarium and the Missoula Conservation District will share the space and cost of the center. Jerry Marks, Weed District and Extension director, and Jen and Glenn Marangelo, Missoula Butterfly House founders, have collaborated with their teams since 2018 to solidify their public/private partnership and create a center that welcomes people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. The center is anticipated to open early 2023.

*Sandy Perrin, County Extension Agent*



# 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.

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**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](http://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 fifth U-Pick harvest in 2020. 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.

2020 was also the fifth 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 2021.

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 Summer 2021. Check it out at [GreenBenchOrchard.com](http://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!

Along with their vegetables, the Turners also raise chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, peacocks, lots of goats, pigs, cows and sheep. Please call 544-6600 or email: [turnerfarms406@gmail.com](mailto:turnerfarms406@gmail.com). Learn more about our farm from our website: [www.turnerfarms406.com](http://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](mailto: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, which 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](http://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. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **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*

TRHOA  
PO BOX 1075  
MISSOULA, MT 59806

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## 2021 General Meetings

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

***All are welcome to attend!***

**September 29, 2021**

**October 27, 2021**

### **TRHOA Amended By-Laws**

Please check out the  
amended TRHOA By-Laws  
on our web page  
[www.TargetRangeHOA.org](http://www.TargetRangeHOA.org).

## **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