



Neskowin Community Association

Neskowin Village Voice



October 2020

NCA President's Letter

By Robin Crowell

Hello Neskowin Neighbors,

What a crazy summer we have experienced. We hope you are managing, remaining healthy and wearing your masks!

Summer zoomed by and even without the planned community events and socializing we had a great time. The weather was fantastic. There was outdoor yoga on the beach. The golf course was very busy and there were many wild berries to pick and bake or freeze for later. The Farmers Market held at Neskowin Valley School was an amazing effort as the farmers and organizers made shopping easy, safe and fun. We hope you were able to visit and purchase the great produce, bread, cheese, mushrooms and more.

Oh, and the magnificent flower gardens made our outside walks a happy experience.

Lots of wildlife visited in the hills, on the golf course, and in the garbage ... bears, coyotes, herons and deer. Several golfers had their balls taken by coyotes much to the amusement of the players. Hard to hit a ball while laughing hysterically. Reminder to make sure raccoons and bears can't get into your garbage cans as many community members ended up doing garbage pickup on the streets. We thank you if you were ones who cleaned up.

The weather caused a crashing end to summer with wind, power outages, and the devastating fires. We hope there has been recovery and the community sends all who were affected our very best wishes.

As we head into the rainy season, please be safe. Remind family and friends to watch for sneaker waves. Please stay diligent, wear your masks, and keep an eye out for each other.

What will summer 2021 look like? We don't have a crystal ball but we do hope some fun can be arranged safely.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays and see you around our wonderful Neskowin,
Robin Crowell, NCA President

PS: IDEAS WANTED!

The NCA is looking for event ideas for 2021. The board has discussed having a Plan A and Plan B if it becomes necessary.

For example: The Cottage Walk might become a garden walk with music, wine tasting, raffles and more.

What ideas might you have to help us? We are looking for committee organizers and volunteers beyond current board members. This is a great opportunity to become involved in our community.

Please offer up some fun event ideas that can happen with or without social distancing. Currently we have an event chair for Golf Scramble weekend but need community volunteers.

The NCA Board appreciates your participation in enhancing our community activities.
Send ideas or outline to: robinrcrowell@icloud.com

Neskowin Regional Water District Update

By Troy Trute, General Manager

It has been a very productive year for the NRWD this year.

Our water continues to exceed all State and Federal regulations pertaining to drinking water.

The District has completed a major project expanding higher pressure and better fire hydrant flow to the Viking Estates subdivision. At the same time, the District installed a second line feeding the east side of Highway 101 near the Hills of Neskowin subdivision.

The District's current projects include: installing new advanced radio-read meters, refurbishing our chlorine generating equipment, installing a new chemical-dosing system in the water plant, instituting a new GIS system, and our normal maintenance of buildings and infrastructure.

In the interest of keeping up with needed infrastructure improvements and the ever-increasing costs of doing business, the District has instated new rates and rate structure.

For more information about our rate increase or any past, present, or future projects, please visit the District's website at www.neskowinwater.com or call us at 503-392-3966.



Alex Sifford, Mike Wynand (Tillamook County Road Dept.) and Ran Koch installed 18 sets of tsunami signs in the village this fall and Bill Busch is installing more around Neskowin.

An Angel of the Pandemic

By Joanie Blum

In this fall season, we're still settled into our pandemic mode even though Neskowin has returned a bit from the summer influx of visitors and vacation homeowners, back to its regular self. Many of those traveling folks revel in what they perceive as a close community here, but I think you find out that in these months of isolation this little hamlet is pretty isolated within itself with people huddled in their homes, getting out mainly for market visits and pharmacy pick-ups. It has been even more solitary than normal for us families of one.

One person over these past almost-8 months of isolation has been a true angel ... Genie Ullrich. Genie organized her own version of meals-on-wheels during the early months of the lockdown. She reached out to people to offer them a selection of gourmet dinners from the Cafe on Hawk Creek and deliver them herself to these people's homes, sometimes a few times in a single week. Burgers, pork chops, pastas, Caesar salads with grilled chicken ... pretty much a full menu.



Genie Ullrich

I was one of those lucky recipients of this bounty, a stunningly-generous offering she extended to me a few times a week over a month or so. I was incredulous at this outreach as I have never been a regular customer since I'm not much for eating alone in restaurants. I do not know how she chose me, picking my name out of a hat maybe? Or seeing my sad-sack face when I walked by the Cafe to the post office? Who knows but it was a true joy to have a break in each of these weeks from trying to configure suppers-for-one every evening, something that an older person is already tired of even in good times.

Now I see a sign the Ullrichs have posted outside the Cafe thanking all of the customers for sustaining them through these months of the pandemic. And I wish to raise a glass to them, for helping some of us truly isolated Neskowin citizens from feeling a little less alone, and to thank Genie for her special care and thoughtfulness in delivering these delicious meals to me. May good health and good fortune visit them through this difficult year in this season of thanksgiving and cheer. Thank you for all time.

South Tillamook County Emergency Volunteer Corps (STCEVC) Fall Updates

By Marge Jozsa

As to the recent wind storms, forest fires, 2-day power and internet outage, trees blocking roads, and little to no information getting to Neskowin residents, this was a real world “drill” and there is no doubt we need to do better. After a series of meetings with neighborhood captains, CERT members and other Neskowin and South County residents, the STCEVC Board of Directors will be working on the following:

- We will hold quarterly Neighborhood Captains’ meetings. We are urging EVERY neighborhood to have a Captain. If you are interested in becoming a Captain, please email me.
- Each Captain will have contact information for all other Captains in order to facilitate communication.
- Our Emergency Communications Committee will develop an emergency communications protocol for South Tillamook County, including a list of radio bands for accessing information. We continue to urge residents to get a GMRS radio and/or become a Ham operator.
- We will better publicize the STCEVC website as the place to go for emergency preparedness information.
- We are developing and will launch a public information campaign focusing on emergency preparedness utilizing the STCEVC website, the Nestucca School District, the Community Advisory Committees and the Pacific City Sun.
- We will reach out to North Lincoln County’s Emergency Manager, HAMs and CERTs to develop better cross-county communication.
- We will meet with Tillamook County Emergency Manager, Gordon McCraw, Nestucca Fire Chief Jim Oeder, Commissioner Mary Faith Bell and Sheriff Jim Horton to improve emergency communications.

Additionally, the Tsunami Way-finding signage project for the Neskowin area took a big leap forward on October 7th when Randall Koch and Alex Sifford worked with Mike Wynands from the Tillamook County Public Works Department to install tsunami evacuation route signs in the Village of Neskowin. Bill Busch from the STCEVC had also worked with Ran and Alex to provide them with the signs, hardware and posts, as Bill is doing for all the target way-finding signage areas. Gary Dunn and Roger Wicklund, also members of the STCEVC, are installing signage on Neskowin Crest (one of the designated tsunami assembly areas) that will indicate where folks are out of the tsunami zone and where to assemble. Evacuation route signs have been installed at the Neskowin Creek RV Park, at Camp Wi-Ne-Ma, and in the Hills of Neskowin. Remaining locations where signage will be installed include Hawk Hills, Rose Bauer Road, Winema Road, Slab Creek Road, North Neskowin, South Beach, and the Proposal Rock neighborhood. South Beach was hit hard by the Labor Day storm, so signage installation had to be postponed until all downed trees are removed.

Finally, CERT has developed its FEMA approved online training program which will launch in January 2021. Please stay tuned to our website for more information! www.southcountyevc.org

The STCEVC is committed to implementing changes that will better prepare our community for any future natural disaster. If you have any ideas, please do not hesitate to email me at margejozsa@gmail.com.

SAVE the DATE for future [Neskowin Community Plan](#) Informational Town Halls:

Tuesday, November 17, 6pm - Topic: Our Watershed

Tuesday, December 15, 6pm - Topic: Natural Resources

Tuesday, January 19, 6pm - Topic: How Can Neskowin Get The Public Services It Wants And Needs, (Service Districts, Incorporation, Contracting, Volunteering.)

Tune in to these informative and important events for Citizens of Neskowin!

You can find live links to register to attend these meetings at neskowincommunity.org

If you miss it a recording will be posted on **The Neskowin Community Channel** on **Youtube**:

You can find a live link to the youtube recordings at neskowincommunity.org

Emergency Egress Becomes Reality

By State Representative David Gomberg

Neskowin residents are one step closer to having a completed emergency access for emergency vehicles from the golf course clubhouse to the State Wayside parking lot. In 2019, I fought for \$1 million in state funding so that neighbors could have a safe alternative evacuation option in case of floods or a Cascadia event. To avoid prohibitions for spending state money on local roads or bike paths, we designed the project as an “emergency egress”. But it should also work fine for walking or biking.

My office pulled together Tillamook County, State Parks, and ODOT to make the project a reality. I’m pleased to say that final permits were signed in early October. Contractor advertising is scheduled for November 16th to allow time to process the contracting documents through the courthouse.

This egress will provide a much-needed evacuation route for residents and tourists alike and could also be used in situations where the Hawk Creek Bridge floods or is otherwise unusable. I’d like to specifically thank Guy Sievert for his tireless advocacy on behalf of Neskowin friends and neighbors. It’s been a pleasure to fight for such a worthy project that has the potential to save lives.



Hawk Street in this image is the emergency egress running from the Golf Course to the State Wayside

Carlton Avenue Beach Access

By Ran Koch

This update is regarding the Beach Access Improvement project at the west end of Carlton Avenue, which is being funded by a \$75,000 grant from the Tillamook County TLT Fund secured last spring. The Neskowin Community Association provided a \$5,000 match of funding in addition to the grant. The total budget addresses the existing stairs located at Carlton Avenue, maintenance of the McMinnville and Mt. Angel Avenues beach access ramps, and re-grading of Carlton Avenue from Breakers Blvd. east down to Hawk Creek to accommodate runoff from Breakers Blvd., and any waves running up Carlton in a storm surge.

At a meeting October 6th on site at the west end of Carlton Avenue, where a ramp for emergency vehicle access to the beach was proposed, a group including Jay Sennewald from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), Chris Laity (Head of Tillamook County Public Works), Fire Chief Jim Oeder, Dan Kauffman (excavator), local neighbors, and Randall Koch (board member from the Neskowin Community Association) walked through the proposal for the engineered emergency access ramp. Design features and their locations on the ramp were marked in white on the road and explained one by one, all within the right of way of Carlton Avenue. After a number of questions were addressed, Jay Sennewald from OPRD brought up a letter written by a neighbor who owns the property just south of the proposed ramp who objected to the ramp’s proximity to his house and its potential threat to bring wave water closer to his building.

While the proposed ramp was engineered to disperse and decelerate waves and turn them back down the ramp and because storms can at times come over the top of the riprap, the neighbor was concerned that wave water would get into his crawl space. OPRD felt that the concern was legitimate and acknowledged that the neighbor had also required a hydraulic engineer’s stamp on the plan to increase his confidence in the current design. Such a stamp of approval could be pursued along with a newly engineered curb design to better handle wave surge water. Chris Laity from the County suggested he may be able to get a hydraulic engineer to take a look and inform us regarding a stamp approving the design, but the Fire Chief indicated that an improved stairway could be functional for his crew to reach the beach and get emergency victims off the beach.

Given the limited budget for the project, the concern for the expense of hearings, and the threat of lawyers being involved by one of the neighbors, the group came to a consensus that improved stairs with handrails would be a safer way to get to the beach than the existing riprap stair access.

The new stairway design is in the works and after the OPRD application is accepted there will be a new 60-day comment period. The one neighbor who had objected to the design and was on site Oct. 6 indicated no objection to new stairs as a solution as long as it remained at the height of the current riprap.

Yoga on the Beach

By Susan Linman

A new activity offered this year by Neskowin Beach Golf Course was Yoga on the Beach. Two mornings a week a group gathered with yoga teacher Dawn on the beach off of the Mt. Angel access. The sound of the waves, wind and birds added to the serene atmosphere. Also encountered were visiting dogs, watchful sea lions, and a sneaker wave that caught everyone by surprise. The group was as large as 16 and included people who had never tried yoga, as well as those with previous experience. All were welcome. The group enjoyed a lot of laughs, a lot of sweat, a lot of relaxation, and a really delightful hour on the beach. If you think yoga is just a bit of stretching, you haven't tried it. Just ask the group that attended NBGC's Yoga on the Beach if they were ever sore the next day and you'll learn more about the exercise benefits of doing yoga. The feedback from attendees was enthusiastic and we will continue next year in the spring, summer, and fall as weather allows.

In the meantime, for those interested in continuing yoga with Dawn, there are classes offered at the Pacific City Kiwanda Community Center at 9am on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Namaste!



NBGC Season Comes to a Close

By Jeff Linman, Board Member

2020 presented Neskowin Beach Golf Course with a significant challenge, but the staff and the many volunteers who helped on the golf course, in the clubhouse, and all around NBGC made for a good season. We are eternally grateful to everyone who has volunteered at NBGC.

Even though we started very late this season due to weather, and were then faced with the challenges of COVID 19, we had a fabulous July and August! The greens have never played so well and we had many enjoyable events (socially distanced) and people had a good time.

We are now looking forward to the 2021 season ... hopefully being able to start a little earlier with the help of the weather.

We will have our annual 'Members Meeting' on Saturday, November 28 at 1pm via ZOOM. We will be posting that information on our website and on Facebook, in addition to emailing it out to members. Stay tuned for more information.

Golf course news will continue to be available at neskowinbeachgolf.com and on our Facebook page.

Thank you all for your continued support of Neskowin Beach Golf Course. And thank you to all our staff and volunteers.

Shop Locally

By Representative David Gomberg (House District 10)

[Excerpted from Gomberg's Oct. 12 Newsletter:]

The combined effect of COVID, unemployment, and fires have hit us harder than other parts of the state. And recovery may be slower here as well.

I've been working this past year through the Emergency Board to bring benefits here. As I once famously said during a Board meeting, we need to apply our limited resources not where there are the most people, but where there is the most pain. I will prioritize helping all those affected by wildfires and the COVID-19 crisis as we work to aid this economic recovery.

That's what I'm doing in Salem. You can help here at home by spending locally whenever you can.

If every household in our district shifted just \$40 of the discretionary spending they already pay online or out of the area to a local business, roughly \$20 million in additional funds, \$8 million in additional wages, and over 200 jobs could be brought into or remain here. Keep in mind that the \$40 is per household, not per person.

Yes, we have challenges ahead. I know we are up to them. Thanks as always for reading my newsletters and for all you do to help and support this special part of Oregon.

email: Rep.DavidGomberg@oregonlegislature.gov

phone: 503-986-1410

website: <http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/gomberg>

Neskowin Valley School on Hiatus

By NVS Board of Trustees

As you probably know by now, we have decided to suspend classes for this school year. This decision came at an emotional and historical cost to everyone involved. However it is important to know that the school remains open for administrative duties as we plan and prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

The NVS Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to share further insight into our decision:

The safety and welfare of students, staff, and parents was foremost in our minds. Despite a detailed plan of scrupulous cleaning protocols, the daily gathering of children in the classroom posed such a high risk of virus spread, we remained concerned over the impact of yet another forced closure during the school year.

The alternative of remote teaching doesn't offer an NVS-style education. As NVS values a joyful and creative educational experience with emphasis on the place in which we live and learn, we agreed that an online education model simply couldn't deliver the NVS spirit our families seek.

The financial impact of re-opening with reduced enrollment and reduced tuition. In the long term, it made more sense to accept the difficult reality of suspended in-class teaching for this coming school year, and look forward to resuming next year with a more financially-sustainable budget.

We invite you all to support our efforts to make the most of this unfortunate turn of events. We hope to implement as many positive improvements as possible moving forward, including:

- A Sharing of Reading Lists for interested continuing students
- Asking George Thompson to conduct Gather Rounds in an outdoor setting
- Updating/Strengthening NVS Curriculum
- Recognizing our 'Graduating' 8th Graders with a Spring Event
- Deep-Clean the school building
- Repaint/Refresh classrooms
- Make improvements to Library, Science Lab, and Drama Closet
- Make any necessary exterior repairs/improvements

Volunteers help make NVS a successful non-profit, independent school. As we approach our 50th anniversary, we hope to see a continued commitment from those who believe in the NVS mission of offering a unique perspective on education ... with an emphasis on place-based, experiential learning.

If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please give us a call at 503-392-3124.

And thank you NCA for your continued support of our programs!

The NVS Board of Trustees
Cameron Nagel, Board Chair
Patti Soens, Vice Chair
Lynne Wintermute, Secretary
Richard Hook, Member
Donna Jose, Member
Gary McClain, Member



Chad Muller, Parent Volunteer preps NVS for fresh paint.

The Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee/Community Plan Survey Committee invites your participation in a Town Hall on

Emergency Management, Local Response and Citizen Involvement
Tuesday Night, October 27th, moderated by Sarah Absher.

When: October 27, 2020, 6-8pm

Where: Remote via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86559526740?pwd=STA4WStpNmR3ejhTbGxLdVNIQW1odz09>

Meeting ID: 865 5952 6740

Live links also at neskowincommunity.org

Passcode: 021818

The Town Hall will be approximately 2 hours, split up into two one-hour segments:

- First segment – each of the panelist will have approximately 5 minutes to share about her or his involvement and comments on the topic. (6-7pm).
- Second segment – an open Q&A session will occur where hosts will field and forward questions from the citizen attendees about the topic of emergency management response in Neskowin. (7-8pm).

Confirmed Panelists:

Jim Horton, Tillamook County Sheriff

Marge Jozsa, Coordinator, STCEVC

David Helmricks, Permanent Forest Office, ODF

Gordon McCraw, Tillamook County Emergency Management Director

Jim Oeder, Fire Chief, Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District

Erin Skaar, Tillamook County Commissioner Elect

Joanna Stelzig, Tillamook PUD, Public Relations Manager

David Yamamoto, Tillamook County Commissioner

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NESKOWIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Password: fish

Annual Membership Dues \$30 May to May

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Cameron Nagel, Voice Editor; Cover Photo

Ran Koch, Voice Publisher

Jeff Linman, Webmaster

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee (NCAC) will hold a meeting via ZOOM on Saturday, December 12 at 10am. More details are on the NCA and NCAC websites with links to the zoom so you can register, tune in and make comments, vote on agenda items, etc.

Options for making comments etc. are listed on the sites as well.

www.neskowincommunity.org
or in mid-November neskowincac.org

If you have questions please address them to Ran Koch, 541-921-7216



Neskowin Community Association

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