



# Newsletter



AUGUST 2011

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Let's hope that you have enjoyed a great summer in Neskowin. We were blessed with some terrific weather that made for comfortable outdoor activities. I know that I enjoyed my moments outside reading a good book (and a few losers), gardening, entertaining friends, walking on the beach, and strolling around the village.

In September I will end my three year tenure as the president of the Neskowin Community Association. I want to thank all of you for your support, encouragement, and volunteer efforts for the community of Neskowin. I have benefitted so much the last three years. I have especially appreciated the chance to meet so many of you and create new friendships. Your support and encouragement have made the job of being the NCA President a positive experience for me.

I will continue to organize the newsletter for one more year. Keep those articles, photos, poems, and cartoons coming. Putting the newsletter



together is truly a team effort. The next deadline has been moved to October 15th to accommodate my trip to Europe. Smile!

Lastly, please come to the Labor Day Community Meeting on Sunday, September 4th at 4PM. We will have a short meeting and then go directly into an update from the Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee (NCHC). Out of respect for your time on a holiday weekend, we have consolidated these two meetings. There will be a short break between the two meetings somewhere between 4:30 and 5:00PM.

Again, thanks for your support and friendship!!!  
See you around Neskowin!!!

Best regards,  
Christi Clark  
President NCA

## NESKOWIN HOODIES AND T-SHIRTS

Neskowin Hoodies and T-shirts will be available for sale at the NCA meeting on Sunday, September 4th. The Community Meeting starts at 4PM, so come early to make your purchases!



## KUDOS TO KAT

By Meri McLeod

Thanks so much to Kat Gerrish who designed and took on the sweatshirt and tee shirt project for the NCA. She ran with the idea after we had discussed the platting of Neskowin anniversary at one of our board meetings and wanted to commemorate that in some manner.

The product is fantastic: good colors, simple and direct design, and comfortable. She has also handled the ordering and delivery of the items. I know this is time consuming, yet Kat has generously donated her time. The project has also generated additional income to our NCA treasury.

Just wanted Kat to know I appreciate her hard work and wanted everyone to know that she is the one who made this all happen. Thank you Kat for the terrific job!

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## FOURTH OF JULY 2011 SPECIAL THANKS

By Kacey Joyce

We celebrated another wonderful Fourth of July in Neskowin, thanks to the many hard working volunteers who made the day a perfect one.

The sunny morning began with the annual “Bake and Book Sale”, hosted by the Nesko Women’s Club. Those of you who arose early found some delicious sweet treats and excellent summer reads. Evie Harris reported that the service club made more than \$5,000. The funds raised will be donated to The Good Neighbor Program, scholarships for Nestucca High School, and other worthy charities in South Tillamook County. We thank you all for your hard work and generosity, which benefit so many.

By 9AM, the parade was forming. Big thanks to Joe and Debbie Sweeney for organizing the event, as it is no small task. They managed to get everyone in a row by 10AM - and the parade was off! Leading the festive array of decorated floats,

festooned bicycles, marching families in creative costumes, waving flags, twirling umbrellas, fluffy dogs and other delights, were our beautiful fire trucks. Three cheers for Fire Chief Kris Weiland, volunteer Neil Marquis, and the crew. We so appreciate all you do for our community.

After the parade made its rounds, KK Burell Monaghan - with her unrivaled wit and humor - gave out the coveted award plaques, artfully made by Lyle Rowland. Great job KK and Lyle! Next year KK’s shoes will be filled by Megan Jensen, (this year’s “intern”), who will be warmly welcomed to the podium. The flag raising, sing-along, and patriotic speech were, as always, very moving. Thank you to our host John Eshleman, and to speaker Col. David Wiles of the Army National Guard. John also arranged for the 142nd fighter wing of the Air Guard to thrill us with the F-15 fly-by jets. Thrill us they did!!

It was the perfect afternoon for “Kites and Castles” on the beach. This year’s event was chaired by Shawn and Cliff McDonald. They had a lot of walking to do, as the castle sculptures went quite far north. Thank you both (and your team of judges) for your stamina, tracking the high flying kites, and your good eye for fine sand art. Everyone reported having a marvelous time.

This year our night sky was crystal clear - perfect for fireworks. Once again, Craig Healy is to be credited for putting together a truly spectacular show. Kudos Craig! Huge thanks also goes to Kitty and John Forsythe at Proposal Rock Inn for donating three rooms to house our pyrotechnic team. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

The beach and town clean-up started early on Tuesday morning. Three cheers to everyone who combed the beach and streets with SOLV bags in one hand and a coffee cup in the other. Lyle Rowland did more than his share of work by collecting the full bags of debris and depositing them at the wayside. He cheerfully roused a few sleepy beach campers too, making sure their sites were ship-shape. Thank you Lyle - and to everyone who pitched in - also to Officer David Woody of The Parks Department who picked up the bags of litter for no charge.

Hats off to ALL of you - hope I haven’t forgotten anyone - who made this year’s Fourth of July truly special and memorable. You are the BEST!! See you again next year, for more fun in the sun.

“  
*4th of July  
Volunteers*

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## SPECIAL MESSAGE

By The NCA Board

The board members of the Neskowin Community Association would like to take this opportunity to express thanks and appreciation to our departing president, Christi Clark.

Christi brought many attributes and skills to this leadership position, but we feel her most important contribution was elevating communication within the organization and the community. As Editor of the newsletter Christi inspired more community members to contribute stories and news, thereby increasing the value of each issue's content. And as President she lead well-planned community meetings, enriched the agendas with guest speakers, and kept us all on schedule.

Organized and professional, Christi also fostered increased interaction with other community action groups as well as with local government representatives.

Creative, fun, and most importantly calm, Christi has solved problems with grace, recruited community-active and capable board members, and leaves a legacy of a more open and involved community association.

Thank you Christi!

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## TILLAMOOK PUBLIC UTILITY UPDATE

By Doug Olson, Director

You no doubt noticed a rate increase on your August bill from PUD. All rates increased an average of five percent effective August 1, 2011. That includes residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

It's the first general rate increase in ten years. Your PUD has been able to hold the line on costs over that period as new customers came on line and existing customers added to their power requirements.

But sooner or later the overall cost of doing business can't be ignored or absorbed. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) raised

its wholesale rates in October 2009 and plans another general increase in October 2011.

BPA furnishes nearly all the power consumed by the customers of Tillamook PUD. While there are some minor local generation facilities such as windmills, the methane digester plant at the Port of Tillamook Bay, and some trial solar panels, it's basically BPA which sets the rates for public power in the Pacific Northwest.

And that's not a bad thing. Public power rates throughout the eight western states served by BPA are among the lowest in America. Federal legislation provides that consumer-owned utilities such as Tillamook PUD receive preference power from the region's 31 dams. BPA serves 146 separate entities with some or all of their power.

The cost of wholesale power and transmission services represents nearly half of your electric bill. Local rates will be reviewed again next year as costs from BPA and elsewhere continue to increase.

The hydro system is basically at its maximum capacity during times of peak demand. Since more dams on the Columbia system are not likely, wind generation is becoming a key resource for the future. There will be about 6,000 megawatts of capacity online in the next few years. That's equivalent to about five Bonneville dams. A lot of juice for sure.

This past winter saw a regional snowpack of over 200 percent of normal. That caused a lot of runoff over the dams. Because of the new wind power and other sources of generation, the region had to curtail production so the river system could be managed for fish, irrigation, navigation and flood control as well as power generation. It was quite a balancing act for sure. And not everyone was pleased.

Some Pacific Power and PGE plants received free power from Bonneville during the curtailment as did wind generators. However, the business model for profitable wind generation includes federal and state tax credits, plus electricity generation. Curtailing production from wind limited tax credits and some wind generators are quite unhappy. So the lawyers at BPA are on alert and we're all watching closely. Free wind power is, of course, not free at all. But it is clean and plentiful most of the time. Stay tuned.

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*Thank you  
Christi Clark*

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## DEBT REDUCTION DONE RIGHT!

By Sara Baker-Sifford

When I wrote this article, Washington was paralyzed over our nation's debt and deficit situation. So the Neskowin Regional Sanitary Authority (NRSA) Board of Directors thought you might like to hear some GOOD news about the Authority's debt reduction effort.

In 2007, the NRSA owed four creditors more than \$2.2 million dollars. As of June 30, 2011, the Authority had paid off two of the four loans and reduced its debt to \$716,600, including interest. The Authority has also reduced the amount of interest owed on the remaining debt.

While reducing the Authority's debt load, the board also undertook several projects. One of the paid-off loans financed a major overhaul of the computer "brains" of the sewage treatment plant, creating efficiencies in the plant operation. This Fourth of July, the "peak" of the sewer year, these improvements handled the heavy load flow extremely well.

In fiscal year 2011-2012, \$169,096 is budgeted for Debt Service, including an additional \$52,048 payment to principle on NRSA's original loan from the US Department of Agriculture. This further reduces our long term interest payments. The NRSA has budgeted \$93,000 in Capital Outlay for various projects including riprap to protect the lagoon from erosion by Neskowin Creek, line replacements, new pumps, and workplace improvements at the plant.

NRSA Board members are Sara Baker-Sifford, Fred Haruda, Esther Nelson, Lyle Rowland, and Shelley Stoll. The NRSA Office Manager is Annis Leslie and the Head Operator is Roger Noble. NRSA's office is located on the second floor of the Neskowin Marketplace. Pictures of certain NRSA projects/repairs will be displayed at the upcoming Neskowin Community Association meeting.

## NESKOWIN REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT NEWS & REMINDERS

By Jean Cameron, President

Dick Warner, Joe Texter, and Jean Cameron were re-elected to the Water District Board of Commissioners in the May elections. Alex Sifford and Reggie Pratt were re-elected last year. The Board re-elected Ms. Cameron as President, Mr. Warner as Secretary, and Mr. Texter as Treasurer at their July meeting.

The North Marshland Crossing project is moving forward and work is expected to take place this fall. Development is also moving forward on the Ocean Ridge reservoir.

Feel free to contact the Water District office (503-392-3966 or [nrwd@embarqmail.com](mailto:nrwd@embarqmail.com)) to request an emailed copy of your water bill in advance of the mailed copy.

REMINDER: In order to reduce our operating costs, the District does NOT accept credit card payments.

## IS SOMETHING BUGGING YOU?

By Kacey Joyce

I have discovered, the hard way, that deferred maintenance on a house is never a good idea. Both of my homes in Eugene and Neskowin were found to be riddled with nasty wood destroying bugs. The discoveries were made quite by accident, while doing small remodel jobs. Damages were severe, and the repairs costly. All of this could have been avoided had I just had my homes inspected every now and then. Our costal climate is a favorite of many types of wood loving termites and beetles - nice and damp! It might be a good idea to have your house inspected during these dry-ish summer months. There are many local companies which offer "crawl" services. Orkin, Pest Tech, Terminix, Swanson's, and FireFly are among them. I chose FireFly because they use the least toxic chemicals to get the job done, and offer solutions for prevention of further infestations. Whichever company you choose, I suggest you invite a pro to crawl around under and around your house to check things out. As they old saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

## NESKOWIN'S CHARLIE WALKER HONORED

The South Tillamook County Library Club (STCLC) recognized Charlie Walker at their June 11th meeting with the unveiling of a plaque in the entry area of the Library (located at 6200 Camp Street in Pacific City). Charlie was a central figure in fund-raising activities for construction of the Library building in 1995, and he established an endowment fund for the future needs of the Library. He served on the STCLC Board for several years and served as president in 2005 and 2006.

Sara Charlton, Library Director for Tillamook County Library, unveiled the plaque and shared stories about how Charlie had taught her some of the essentials of good grantsmanship. Charlie encouraged current STCLC members to continue their support of the Library because it is a "special place".

During these festivities, Fran Madachy played several Debussy piano selections while members enjoyed coffee and refreshments.

The Tillamook County Library System provides the books, computers, tapes, DVDs, and the librarians' salaries for the South Tillamook County Library. Through a unique agreement, all other costs for maintenance of the Library and Library Thrift Shop buildings and grounds are the sole responsibility of STCLC. Proceeds from the Thrift Shop (located at the intersection of Brooten Road and Ferry Street in Pacific City), a spring Book-Bake and Plant Sale, STCLC memberships and donations, and other fund-raising activities support the continued maintenance of the Library.

For more information about the history of the South Tillamook County Library go to [www.pacificcity.org/library/history.html](http://www.pacificcity.org/library/history.html)

For more information about how you or your family can become STCLC members, please pick up a membership envelope at the Library, download the membership application at [www.tillamook.plinkit.org/about-us/donation-forms/south-tillamook-county-library-club.html](http://www.tillamook.plinkit.org/about-us/donation-forms/south-tillamook-county-library-club.html) or contact Jeanette Miller ([jbmiller@pacifier.com](mailto:jbmiller@pacifier.com)) or Dorothy Godett ([oz@oregoncoast.com](mailto:oz@oregoncoast.com)), Membership Committee Co-Chairs.

## A "FRESH" START IN NESKOWIN!

Saturday, July 23rd marked the beginning of a new event here in Neskowin: the first-ever Farmers' Market. Opening day was a smashing success with a large crowd of locals as well as tourists. Everyone enjoyed gathering in the sunshine and viewing the products displayed by local vendors. Due to the enthusiastic community response, look for the market to continue through the summer. Each market day will feature fresh produce and other locally-grown/locally-made products. Offerings will vary each time, so don't miss your chance to shop! Many thanks go to Kent Poelman, owner of the Neskowin Marketplace, for allowing the Farmers' Market to take place on the lawn in front of his store. Farmers' Market Manager Nancy Hadley is also thankful to other members of the Neskowin community who have encouraged her efforts to bring this together. Let's all help the Farmers' Market grow! Watch for posters and flyers in the village announcing upcoming dates.

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*Neskowin  
Farmers'  
Market*  
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*Farmers' Market  
Photos by Vicki  
Amussen*



FEATURED MEMBER: GALE OUSELE  
NATURE LOVER EXTRAORDINAIRE  
By Christi Clark

Gale had an idyllic childhood. Raised on an apple orchard outside of Watsonville, California, her father had been a part of the corporate world on the East Coast before he saw the light and decided to be a farmer in California. As a child she could ride her bike everywhere and feel safe and be safe (sound like Neskowin?).

” In the early 80’s Gale and her husband David made a conscious decision that they wanted to raise their baby girl, Cedar, in a rural community. They scouted and looked all over the West to find just the right spot, found a perfect piece of land, were on the way to seal the deal with a realtor, and then friends turned them on to Neskowin where they rented a house and wondered what they had gotten themselves into. This was especially made clear when Gale had to leave Cedar with a babysitter while commuting from Portland to Neskowin four days a week to work on the rental house to make it livable. Did I mention that Gale is very handy? This long commute was really difficult because Gale hated leaving Cedar in Portland all day while she fixed up the house in Neskowin.

As part of their exploration of the area, Gale and David went to events at places like Neskowin Valley School (NVS) and Sitka. After living here a short time they too discovered the magic of Neskowin and so in 1987 they moved to their own property that is a part of the “Slab Creek Farm” where they now live among trees at the edge of the forest. The Ousele’s house was built of old growth fir sourced from Mount St. Helen’s Spirit Lake. The house is non-rectangular and when inside you can look in any direction and see outside. Builder David Berry used Timberline Lodge as a model for this house so it features a central hexagonal tower and wings.

Gale says that even though she never went to Spirit Lake, she is surrounded by stories from people who did. These stories and the architecture of her home make it feel “alive like a big sheltering animal”.

Gale seems proudest of her career as a full-time mom. Daughter Cedar is now 27 years old and a Lewis and Clark College graduate. She is holding down two jobs and studying to be a nurse. Cedar’s hobby is surfing.

Gale enjoys many pursuits, including teaching drama at Neskowin Valley School as well as being in charge of maintenance. She was a professional artist’s model, ran a water quality lab (and still runs a water quality monitoring lab), and also works as a gardener. Gale says that she likes to both “make it and fix it”!

Many of you probably know Gale because she gives so much back to our Neskowin Community as a volunteer. Presently, Gale is on the Neskowin Coastal Hazard’s Committee and told me how proud she is to be a part of this group, “Everyone brings their best to our meetings. It is a marvelous learning experience.”

Both Gale and David had 12-year stints as volunteer firefighters with the Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District. They also became certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and lived for many years on-call with pagers. Gale says hats off to all who volunteer for this vital service!

Another diverse group that Gale volunteers for is the Tillamook County Planning Committee. She is also on a Portland nonprofit board that promotes senior and handicap access and hopes that this work will evolve into an influence here at the coast.

In her free time Gale likes to be outside and make stuff, so you might find her out bush whacking on elk trails or working in her garden ... and she gets a lot of peace balancing rocks along river banks.

If you have a chance to meet Gale, introduce yourself. I so enjoyed my afternoon getting to know this peaceful person!



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Meet  
Gale  
Ousele

## COMMUNITY UPDATE: NCHC COMMUNITY MEETING, MAY 29, 2011

The mission of the Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee (NCHC) is to: (in priority order) plan ways to maintain the beach and protect the community through short term and long term strategies; recommend to state and county agencies and officials ways to maintain the beach and protect the community; and explore ways to plan for and adapt to the potential future changes in the Neskowin coastal area.

**The Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee (NCHC)** completed their second public meeting on May 29th with about 90 members of the community present. The purpose of this meeting was to ask the community for their sense of priority on the following 4 issues the Committee is talking about:

- 1) Short Term Options for Active Protection
- 2) Long Term Options for Active Protection
- 3) Land use Options
- 4) Preserve the Beach or Protect the Property

The 90 people present weighed in through a voting process after a briefing on the items. On behalf to the NCHC, we thank you for your attendance and consideration. As a group, we are encouraged by your participation. These votes were advisory to the NCHC for consideration as they continue their work on a wide range of issues. Here is what we learned:

### Short and Long-Term Options for Active Protection

These include engineering and structural approaches to protect the beach and community from the impact of ocean waves, surges, and flooding.

The community members present felt very strongly that the **highest short-term option should be the protection of the Hawk Creek bridge** as it is a key ingress/egress out of the community and contains sewer and water lines.

After that clear priority, votes tended to cluster in equal priority around three options: **continuing maintenance of the current riprap, increasing riprap height and uniformity**, and continuing to **investigate options to protect the beach and community**. The last item includes but is not limited to innovative structures and near-shore devices that might reduce wave intensity.

### Land Use Options

These are legal incentives and regulations to protect property from the impact of ocean waves, surges, and flooding. Seventeen different options were presented to the community for consideration.

The community zeroed in on **identifying coastal hazard areas** and **exploring possible restrictions in these high hazard areas** as the top two land use options. The Land Use Committee will continue its work in July and August and ask for more community input at our next public meeting in September.

### Preserve the Beach/Protect Property

The Committee wanted to know what those present felt should be the higher priority as they consider the range of options presented: preserve the beach or protect property? The citizens present were asked to vote on a scale of 1 to 6 with 1=preserve the beach, and 6=protect property. The votes were nearly evenly split, indicating they **want to protect both the beach and property**.

### What next?

The Committee wanted to first get the word out to the community about what we heard from those present at the May 29th meeting. This update serves that purpose. Please share it with your friends and neighbors.

Our agenda for the September meeting will be refined over the summer, and sent out well in advance of the Labor Day weekend meeting. It will include sharing the latest information and recent developments, and soliciting your input.

There are meetings in late June with the Corps of Engineers, US Fish & Wildlife, the County, and the Fire District, on possible bridge options.

We are contacting marine engineers about options for continued maintenance, height and uniformity of the riprap revetments, and near shore options to reduce force of waves on the beach.

The Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee is made up of local community members, county and state agencies. If you have any input or comments, please contact our Committee Chair, Commissioner Mark Labhart. He can be reached at 503-842-3403 or email him at [mlabhart@co.tillamook.or.us](mailto:mlabhart@co.tillamook.or.us)

## NESKOWIN VALLEY SCHOOL UPDATE

By Julie Fiedler

“ We had a wonderful graduation at NVS in June, sending three 8th grade students off to three different high schools, Nestucca, Taft, and the Sheridan Japanese School in Sheridan. That range of high schools reflects the directions from which those students traveled to come to NVS: Otis, Pacific City, and up in the hills above Blaine. Our graduates will be missed; one of the most touching parts of the ceremony are the gifts all the other classes devise to express their affection. This year those gifts included student portraits of the graduates and a video of little clay portrait heads of Middles’ students dialoging about what they liked about each of the 8th graders, which sent the audience roaring. Summer has been happily busy, with summer classes, weddings, and visits by prospective students and NVS alumni alike. Patsy and I are in the building each weekday from 9-4 if you would like to come and visit—we are holding an Open House all summer, and welcome prospective families and anyone who would like to see the school. Work is being done on bridges and culverts on upper Slab Creek Road, so you can’t follow the road all the way to Otis, but it’s open up beyond NVS.

” We also enjoy summer visits from visiting and NVS families who come up the valley to use the playground. This spring we received a lovely description of such playground visits from Portland author Brian Doyle, who recently published a novel about a small coastal Oregon town called Mink River (you may have seen him read at Rowboat Gallery in July). With his permission, I’m including that here:

*“I have admired the School for more than twenty years, since the first time I wandered into the playground with my small children, marveling at the Mark Madenski handiwork, and nailed by the wealth of salmonberries and thimbleberries along the fence, and addled by the plethora of creeks and creeklets, in which my kids like a thousand others chased crawdads, and built little dams and waterworks, and giggled at the water-striders, and startled when ouzels and jays rocketed by, and gaped at the croaking ravens and aloof hawks and occasional epic eagle, and nearly fainted when a heron rose here and there from the creek like a huge gray ghost, and of course we played hoop endlessly on the courts, and dunked ten thousand times on the little basket by the swings, and goggled at the*

*towhees and swallows, and we also saw plays inside the school, and basked in the fitful sun on the back deck, and borrowed balls from the ball shed, and tried to catch fingerlings in the larger pools in the creeks, and surfed the teeter-totters, and played soccer and wiffleball on the field, and harvested a little wood sorrel here and there for salads, and saw a really big snake one time by the path from the field to the creek, and in general made so much use of the school’s generosity, an hour or two at a time, over twenty years, that I try to send along ten or twenty dollars every year as sort of a parking fee, but also as a vote of confidence in a school that matters enormously to its community, as you well know. You have to grin and celebrate a school which started with nothing, gets nothing officially from official officialdom, runs on love and respect, stimulated the hearts and brains and souls of thousands of kids, and continues to be a cheerful verb, a little dewy green jewel of a place.*

*In the months since this novel was published, lots of readers have asked me what town it is based on, at the Oregon coast. I am careful to avoid answering this question, and I have taken great pleasure in the fact that I have letters from readers in twelve Oregon coast towns who are delighted that Mink River is based on their town. In a real sense it is every Oregon coast town; but if there is one school I had drifting in the back of my mind when I wrote Maple Head’s burbling classroom, it was the Neskowin Valley School. I’ll never be able to pay the school properly for all the hours of shouting laughter and interest my kids and I had there, but maybe the fact that it will always be somehow in this book is a sweet thing, a sort of small salty prayer.”*

I look forward to letting you know how our school year begins—it will be a poignant and celebratory one since 2012 is the 40th anniversary of the school’s founding. Please mark your calendars for October 8th, when we will throw open our doors for our annual Harvest Festival, with music, art, food, baked goods and gifts in our wonderful silent auction.



## NEWS FROM NESTUCCA VALLEY

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Nick Gelbard, Principal

Summertime at Nestucca Valley Elementary School is much quieter than during the school year – except on some days. We are in the middle of remodeling the school office area with the goal that our office manager, Barb Daggett, has a better view of the lobby for improved safety and security. The classrooms are getting some deep cleaning, too. So, at times, one can hear the sounds of nailing, sawing, and vacuuming. Our hallway and our gymnasium have new wax finishes. Walls are being cleaned and repainted. Outside, our grass is being cut and our playground swing set will be repaired and back in action.

Our three week summer school started on July 18th. Thirty children participated and received an extra boost in reading and math skills. This program is funded by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (formerly No Child Left Behind). Ruth classrooms and the Grub Club provided free lunch. The atmosphere at summer school is somewhat more relaxed than during the school year, but the instructional sessions are important so these children maintain and/or advance their skills.

Connie Kennedy, our superintendent for the past three years, has retired (perhaps) and returned to Hood River. She is now involved with a community effort to develop a charter school in Cascade Locks.

Our new superintendent, Kathryn Hedrick, arrived July 1st and has been very busy learning about our school district and our community. Kathryn comes to us with 25 years as a public school educator in Oregon. She is committed to helping the Nestucca Valley Schools continue their path of school improvement. Kathryn told me that she is delighted to be joining a school where the community is so clearly active and supportive of their schools. She was born in Southern Oregon and grew up in Winston, Oregon. After attending Willamette University in Salem and earning her master's degree from the University of Oregon, Kathryn taught high school language arts, social studies, and speech. Kathryn has been a school administrator at South Albany High School and was principal of Junction City High School before serving one year as Student Services Director for Linn

Benton Lincoln ESD. Kathryn welcomes the opportunity to move to South Tillamook County with her daughter, Patricia, who will be a junior at Nestucca High School.

As we get closer to the start of school – the first day for students is Tuesday, September 6 – the pace will pick up considerably. Our building and maintenance projects will be complete and we can focus on planning our yearly school schedule, enrolling new students (August 22 to 25) and making sure everything is set for 2011-12. We anticipate about 25 new Kindergarteners and a school total population of approximately 250 students. This is about 15 fewer overall from last year and certainly a much smaller number of Kindergarteners. But some new students always enroll in the late summer and some students move away. As of now, the average class size in 4th grade though 6th is 25. We are very pleased to have an average of only 20 students in our Kindergarten though 3rd grade classes, a number that teachers elsewhere would envy.

As always, the beginning of school is the result of hard work and focused teamwork. We all can remember when we were children and how exciting it was to return to school – new supplies, seeing old friends, and maybe just a little nervousness as we wondered what our new teacher would be like. I know that we will be ready when the children arrive in September.

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### GOLF WIN!

Congratulations to our own Kat Gerrish for winning the Oregon Coast Invitational (Championship Flight) at the Astoria Golf and Country Club. The July tournament win is a real feather in Kat's cap. This is a very competitive tournament that draws golfers from all over the Northwest.

We are proud of you Kat!





Neskowin Community Association

PO Box 820  
Neskowin, OR 97149

**NCA Community Meetings**  
September 4, 2011 4:00 PM

Web: [www.neskowincommunity.org](http://www.neskowincommunity.org)

Password: fish

Annual Membership Dues \$25 - May to May

**NCA Board Officers & Members**

Christi Clark, President [cclark@oregoncoast.com](mailto:cclark@oregoncoast.com)  
Craig Healy, Vice President [cdhealy@comcast.net](mailto:cdhealy@comcast.net)  
Meri McLeod, Secretary [scottmcleod164@msn.com](mailto:scottmcleod164@msn.com)  
Nancy McClain, Treasurer [nancy@nmclainco.com](mailto:nancy@nmclainco.com)  
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Susan Linman, Newsletter Publisher  
Cameron Nagel, Newsletter copy-editing  
Jeff Linman, Webmaster

**NCA 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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*Dates to  
Remember*

**September 4th (Sunday):**

NCA Community Meeting from 4-5PM  
At the Fire Hall.

” Neskowin Coastal Hazards Committee Update  
to directly follow the Community Meeting at the  
Fire Hall.

**PLANNING AHEAD FOR 2012  
COTTAGE WALK**

The next Neskowin Cottage Walk will be Saturday, July 28, 2012. This special event happens every other summer. Nancy and Bryan Arneson will be the organizers, so if you would like your cottage/home featured in the walk, please contact them.

Bryan: [BryanArneson@reachone.com](mailto:BryanArneson@reachone.com)

Nancy: [momnano@aol.com](mailto:momnano@aol.com)