



Neskowin Community Association

Neskowin Village Voice



October 2024

President's Message

By Robin Crowell

Hello Neskowin Neighbors

Happy fall! We hope your summer was fun and filled with family, community, golf and fresh farmer's market food.

While enjoying our neighbors is always great, our newest visitors are a challenge. Some of us continue to offer tasty appetizers and meals to these visitors. You may be wondering- who are these new arrivals? Oh papa bear, mama bear and baby bear minus Goldilocks. Please secure your trash cans with bear-proof straps or locks. Or, purchase bear proof cans. If you see unsecured cans at a short-term rental house, please contact the property manager and let them know. Secure your empty cans too. Bears are destroying garbage enclosures even when there is nothing in unsecured cans. Thank you for helping us encourage these visitors to move on!

Enjoy the quiet fall. Check out the 3 little libraries and the new little art gallery in the village. And, don't forget to vote.

All participants had a great time at the NCA's Tourney Weekend. The Flaminguys team won the Golf Tourney! Congratulations to all winners and participants whose donations help us support nonprofits in our community.



Tournament Weekend 2024

By Susan Linman, NCA Treasurer

The Neskowin Community Association hosted our annual Tournament Weekend the last weekend in July, featuring our golf scramble at the Neskowin Beach Golf Course. The weekend was packed with golf, a pétanque (bocce) competition, a putting contest, our wall of wine, raffle, silent auction, live auction, great food and beverages, community and fun with friends, family and neighbors.

The NCA sponsors this weekend as our primary fundraiser for the year. In fact, our net profit from the 2023 tournament weekend funded all 2023 NCA grants awarded to organizations serving the area around our community. The generosity of our golfers and community members makes this possible. Thank you for participating in the competitions. Thank you for bidding on and purchasing wine, art, and other auction items. Thank you for donating our auction items. Thank you for joining us at our Sunday afternoon lunch.

This event is a lot of work! A group of your Neskowin friends and neighbors work throughout the year to plan, prepare and manage all the event activities. We need more volunteers! Please consider joining NCA's event team. We're already planning the 2025 Tournament Weekend. Send an email to ncainfo@neskowincommunity.org or call Susan Linman at 503.703.5330. We can assign tasks that fit your abilities and your schedule! My mom always said, "many hands make light work". Help us make lighter work of this fabulous event. Our current team of volunteers needs your help so we can continue to offer this FUNdraising weekend!

Mark your calendars! The Tournament Weekend will be held July 25-27, 2025.

Tillamook South County Commissioner Update

By Doug Olson

As usual, there are many public policy issues on the agenda at Tillamook County. Among the more significant and far reaching challenges are the reduction in harvest levels in the Tillamook State Forest, issues with long-term funding of the County's General Fund, various housing-related matters and, of course, short term rentals (STRs). Discussions of these topics and more will continue.

I have listened to several discussions of the Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee (NCAC) over the past months related to STRs and land use issues. I continue to be impressed with the work of the leadership, dedication, and attention to detail by NCAC volunteers. It's truly grass roots democracy at its best!

One significant financial issue on the November ballot is Measure 29-180. This Measure is a request to consider a \$24.4 million General Obligation bond to replace the county's aging public safety radio system. Tillamook County has received a \$2 million grant for this project. The total estimated cost of \$26.4 million includes all radios and supporting equipment for the Sheriff's office, all city police departments, all fire departments, the 911 Center, Tillamook Adventist ambulance and the Tillamook PUD, and the addition of a new remote tower (we currently have 12), remote microwave backhaul equipment and Tillamook County public works.

Our current system is failing across the County. The system was almost ten years old when iPhones and similar devices were introduced to America in 2007, nearly 20 years ago. When equipment fails, parts are often unavailable or must be found and purchased on eBay or Craig's List. Certainly this is not how a public safety radio system should be managed and maintained. The current system is mostly analog while the new system will be entirely digital.

The new system, designed by Federal Engineering, a national firm specializing in the design of public safety radio systems across America, will extend service to an estimated 95% of Tillamook County and provide the ability for GPS tracking, recording, texting, data services and encryption. In addition, the new system will improve communication with State Police and the Coast Guard.

After a two-year warranty period, all the equipment will be owned and serviced by several agencies including police, fire, medical, 911 Center, Tillamook PUD and public works.

The cost is estimated at \$.33 per \$1000 of assessed valuation with a 16-year bond payback. That's about \$96 per year for the average household in Tillamook County. Of course, all taxable real property owners will help pay for the project, including the nearly 40% of property owners who live elsewhere and place a burden on local emergency services.

Nearly all of us have a family member, neighbor or know someone who needed emergency services. Public safety is perhaps the most basic responsibility of local government. Please consider Measure 29-180 carefully when you receive your ballot in mid-October.

Neskowin Regional Water District Update

By Troy N. Trute

The Neskowin Regional Water District continues work on its long-term vision of acquiring Hawk Creek Watershed lands around the community's drinking water source. We last reported the November 2023 purchase of 51.18 acres of forested property from Mike and Lana Kowalski, private landowners in the middle of the District's watershed. Current projects include developing a timberland management plan for the entire watershed, appraising additional lands for future purchase, discussing purchase options with landowners, and seeking funding from multiple sources.

Thanks to the generosity of the Neskowin community, the District is attempting to fund these purchases through grants and donations. So far, we have received and used both funding sources, grants, and donations, to acquire and appraise property. If you want to donate to protecting Neskowin's precious water source, please visit the North Coast Land Conservancy's website at <https://nclctrust.org/> and donate specifically to the Neskowin Watershed Project. Every dollar donated will go directly toward acquiring property within the watershed.

With the community's help, we can protect our drinking water source in perpetuity.

Troy N. Trute, General Manager

Neskowin Regional Water District
PO Box 823
Neskowin, OR 97149
Phone: (503)392-3966
Email: tnt@neskowinwater.com
Web: www.neskowinwater.com

Better Roads for A Safer Life in the Village of Neskowin

By Randall Koch

At the Labor Day Weekend Fire Hall Meeting of the Neskowin Community Association (NCA), a presentation was made by Ken King, one of two community members who have, for many years, gathered with other volunteers and assembled equipment and materials to fill Neskowin Village potholes. For the past ten years, a crew of volunteers, all over 60 years old, led by Ken King and Mike Morse (affectionately called the Midnight Pavers) have shoveled and compacted more than 36 tons of asphalt and gravel.

Ken's presentation at our Labor Day Weekend meeting detailed a proposal to bring together local volunteers, 636 tons of asphalt to be provided by Tillamook County Public Works, and a road contractor with paving equipment to resurface the roads in five chronic trouble spots. Volunteers will handle prep work and flagging, and lay gravel next to the new asphalt to protect the edges of the resurfaced road.

The resurfacing work on five areas identified in Ken's presentation will consist of two layers; a base layer leveling the road, and a top layer crowning the road so water does not sit in depressions. The 1-1/2" and 2" layers, bonded together, will make for a 3-1/2" surface. In many other places in the village, where this type of road surface work was done by paving contractors, the work has lasted ten to twenty years.

Details of the presentation are available on the NCA website (see link below). With donated labor and the County's asphalt contribution, together with a matching \$25,000 challenge from the NCA, we are looking for the community to meet that challenge with donations totaling \$25,000. An appeal at the meeting, where all hands went up in support of the project, resulted in donations totaling approximately \$11,000. That leaves a balance of \$14,000.

Please consider a donation to this community-driven project. Even if you live in another neighborhood, you come to the beach and use these roads in the village.

Hats off to Ken and Mike for taking the initiative to prove we can take care of our fellow community members. Also, a tip of the hat to our County for stepping up to provide more than \$47,000 in materials for this initial work. The work is planned to occur in June 2025. The County's commitment, made in this fiscal year, will have to be approved as part of the 2025 budget in January. They are committed to the project and also to the budget process enabling the project.

Here is how to get more project details and how to donate!

Select address below and feed it to your browser for the presentation.

<https://www.neskowincommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Neskowin-Road-Proposal-2024-NCA-copyUSE.pdf>

The NCA has established a separate designated bank account for this project and will accept checks or credit card donations. If the project does not proceed as planned, contributions will be returned. Please help us save money and make your donation by check to save us the 3% credit card processing fee. Mail your contribution (checks payable to Neskowin Community Association; "Roads" on memo line) to NCA PO Box 820, Neskowin, OR 97149 or contact Susan Linman, NCA treasurer, (susanlinman@gmail.com, 503-703-5330) to make a credit card donation.

Thank you!!

Photo courtesy of Peggy King



NCA Grants Program

By the Neskowin Community Association Board

Funds raised by NCA provide resources for our grants program. In 2023, the NCA awarded grants to the following non-profit organizations:

Neskowin Chamber Music Program - \$2500
Food Roots - \$2500
Tillamook County Lions Club Christmas Baskets - \$500
South County Celebration of Language and Literacy - \$3500
Nestucca Valley Backpack Program - \$2500
Neskowin Valley School - \$10,000

So far, in 2024, the NCA has awarded grants to these non-profit organizations:

Nestucca School Backpack Program \$2,500
Food Roots \$2,500
Neskowin Chamber Music \$2,500
South County Celebration of Language and Literacy \$3000

Grant program guidelines are posted at the NCA's website.

We are introducing a new feature of our Village Voice Newsletter. In each issue, we will highlight the work of an NCA grant recipient. Our first featured grant recipient is South County Celebration of Language and Literacy (SCCLL). Below is an abridged version of comments submitted by Nancy Whitehead on behalf of SCCLL. NCA gladly partners with SCCLL to bring books to children throughout nearby communities.

South County Celebration of Language and Literacy provides books to children all over the county, books of their very own, to have in their homes and read over and over, books all parents can share with their children because as many as possible were purchased in Spanish and English. Recently, SCCLL began providing books to Tillamook County Community Health home visitors to share with children ages 5 and under in low income households. Recently, Nancy located and delivered books in Japanese to a grandmother she met at the Pacific City food pantry. The grandmother is teaching Japanese to her pre-school grandchild. NCA's goals of fostering education, shared vision and fun are met with providing books for children to keep in their own homes. Additional NCA goals of inclusion, acceptance, belonging and social justice are met with bilingual books and by opening vistas for the most challenged of our communities' children.



One child shares a book with another when the Celebration of Language Program gave books away at Neskowin's Farmers Market

Neskowin 'Found Photos' Book Project

By Cameron Nagel

We are pleased to announce that the committee responsible for the Neskowin historic photos book project has formed Neskowin Historical Foundation, Inc., an Oregon non-profit corporation. With significant support from Dave Benneth (CPA) and Gary McClain (Attorney), we now operate with a Board of Directors in accordance with our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Furthermore, we have applied to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status.

Our objective is to collect and preserve Neskowin's historic imagery, and to ensure the complete archive is accessible to the broader community. This will be accomplished by publishing a book with curated images across approximately 300 pages, complemented by a searchable online platform. If we generate profits from these efforts, we will pursue the publication of additional historical resources, and offer grants to support other charitable community organizations.

We anticipate a print run and book launch by mid-2025. We will keep you updated and make pre-orders available as soon as possible.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those individuals who have donated photos and memorabilia and provided financial support, making this project a reality. Your participation, generosity and trust in our mission are truly valued.

If you have a pre-1970 photograph of Neskowin you want to share, please contact any member of the Neskowin Historical Foundation Board: President Jim Affolter, Secretary Michael Schlichting, Treasurer Jody Stager, or at-large Board Members Cathy Carver Benneth or Cameron Nagel.

Bears in the Village

by Jeff Linman

As most of us already know, bears frequently hunt for garbage and they leave messes all over the place. Bears have been seen on the Point, on Breakers, on Corvallis, on Hillsboro, pretty much everywhere in the village. They were seen on the 9th hole of the golf course two weeks ago at two o'clock in the afternoon. Clearly the bears in Neskowin have become more comfortable with being in the village.

Recently, one of my neighbors joined me for a meeting with Austin Reeder at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in Tillamook. We discussed strategies to mitigate the growing problem with bears in the village. Austin said the most effective tactic is to make sure garbage and food is not around and accessible to the bears. He said the best way to accomplish this is to inform the community and get our neighbors and rental property owners and management companies on board with taking action to reduce bears' access to garbage and food waste. These actions include-

- purchasing bear-proof trash cans, and
- soaking cloths in ammonia and placing those in our cans (bears don't like that aroma), and
- cleaning up food messes in our barbecue grills and on the beach, and
- removing all food, snacks, and food waste from vehicles (bears have opened car doors or broken car windows to reach food left behind)

Many homeowners already have purchased bear-proof trash cans or found very reliable ways to lock or secure the lids on their cans. Trash can enclosures do not deter bears.

Rental properties present unique challenges. Bears frequent the cans at the rental house next to ours and we frequently find garbage strewn all over our street. The management company for that property has been responsive and they do clean up the messes these destructive furry visitors leave behind. If you see a mess at a rental property, please call the contact for that property immediately. You can easily find contact information for managers, owners, or agents responsible for short-term rental properties posted at these properties.

Austin also requested that community members report property damage to ODFW. His contact information is below.

Austin Reeder
Assistant District Wildlife Biologist
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4907 Third St. Tillamook, OR 97141
Office: (503) 842-2741 ext. 18622
Cell: (971) 977-9312

He shared numerous relevant documents on this topic, which you can find posted at the Neskowin Community Association's website.

Let's all work together and encourage these bears to search for food elsewhere. Remember, it takes a Village!

Neskowin Community Plan Steering Subcommittee

By Ran Koch, Chair Lynne Saxton, Tom Siep, Laurie Kovack, Guy Sievert

Neskowin's needs your time and attention! Join us to help determine the future of our community!

Let's put our collective love of this community to work. Join with your neighbors to articulate Neskowin's Vision and Values. Help us define how the County applies ordinances, takes action for our safety and spends its money.

Our community is in the later stages of defining our Vision and Values. Please read the current draft to better understand the development of these important concepts. Join more than 140 of your neighbors who have provided input over the last nine months. Please share your perspectives. This is the time to respond.

— The committee is now developing recommendations for changes in our current Community Plan based on the feedback we receive from our NCAC members. Some of these recommendations may impact land use ordinances, building standards, and how we define the uses listed in our current plan.

— The Vision and Values and the Ordinance Recommendations are interdependent as each ordinance recommendation is tied to a Value Statement.

— Sarah Absher of the County's Community Development office will share her knowledge of the ordinances and their impacts on Neskowin this fall/winter. We are working with Sarah to schedule Land Use 102. We will let you know by email when the schedule is confirmed.

— There is no guarantee that our recommendations will be approved by the county government, and we do not want to submit changes that are unrealistic. But whatever we submit should be the will and wishes of our community. At a minimum, our recommendations for change will be memorialized in this Plan with the county, whether they approve them or not. "Long journey's start with a single step."

The next scheduled meeting of the Community Plan Steering Subcommittee is **Monday Oct. 14 at 7pm**. This will be a Zoom meeting. Join us e!

The Community Plan Steering Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee (NCAC).

Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee Update

By Mark Everett, Chair

The Neskowin Citizen Advisory Committee (NCAC) is an organization dedicated to promoting communication between citizens in the Neskowin area and governmental bodies on topics and issues involving land use, safety and other related matters.

NCAC's officers and subcommittee members are volunteers who are responsible for listening to and reporting the opinions of residents, property owners, and business owners in our area. When the full NCAC membership, through open public meetings, makes a decision, the NCAC advocates for those decisions to governmental agencies.

The last twelve months have been a busy time for the NCAC. Activities undertaken and issues considered include:

- Installation of a Community Plan Steering Subcommittee.
- Creation of a Communications Task Force and an Outreach Task Force.
- Publication of County land use actions on the NCAC website and at NCAC meetings.
- Revision, review and adoption of revised NCAC Bylaws.
- Ongoing work to review and revise the Neskowin community plan.
- Ongoing work on NCAC's Policies and Procedures as a part of the revised bylaws.
- Hosted a meeting to discuss the short-term rental (STR CAP) and facilitating a discussion among Neskowin residents, property owners, businesses and the County, and
- Held annual elections in June 2024. Please note: NCAC's 2025 elections will be in April 2025

We moved into the 2024-2025 year with several changes. Jeff Weitzel resigned his position as NCAC's Secretary. Gary Billingsley was voted in as Secretary at the August 10 meeting and is now working in that role. We all appreciate the work Jeff undertook as Secretary, especially as the NCAC shifted to full compliance with Oregon Public Meeting laws and rules. We welcome Gary who already is working in his new role.

The following individuals were appointed by the Executive Committee at the July and August meetings.

Communications Task Force: Derek Dollahite, Richard Keller, Candice Miller, Jeff Weitzel

Outreach Task Force: Susan Schomburg

I'd like to extend a sincere note of appreciation to those people who were directly involved with the NCAC over the past year. Your commitment and dedication to the organization and the community is applauded. I extend that applause to the larger community as well. Many of you attended some or all of the more than forty meetings this past year to observe and/or comment. Your comments and feedback continue to help insure that the actions of the NCAC and the membership reflect the best work, and the community's wishes.

NCAC membership is open to all property owners, business owners and residents of Neskowin. All past meetings can be found on the NCAC website at "Reference/FAQ". There you will find agendas, minutes, videos and chats for each meeting. NCAC meetings are held on the second Saturday of every other month. Our next meeting is October 12. Meetings are held via Zoom. To participate in the Zoom meetings you must register in advance at the NCAC website: neskowincac.org.

We hope you will join us!

Mark Everett, Chair Alex Clark, Vice-Chair
Chris Silkowski, Treasurer Gary Billingsley, Secretary



Cascade Head Sitka Spruce

Photo: Ran Koch

A Great Year Ahead for Neskowin Valley School!

By Kelsey Leatherman

What's buzzing at our little school?

We are revitalizing our roots and welcoming families for our 2024/25 school year. We have hired teachers, welcomed new board members, redesigned our programs, and are off to a fantastic school year.

With the significant changes that have taken place over the last six months, here is the update: we are now stewarding a program that will thrive in the future, bringing everything that made NVS special in the past.

Neskowin Valley School's goal is to provide the highest quality of education. Rooted in the Integrated Day School philosophy, the program focuses on developing children's pleasure and excitement for learning through an experience-based program, increasing their problem-solving ability, and fostering an awareness and enjoyment of their unique capabilities. Concentrating on the arts and sciences with a three-year rotation of humanities and science topics, the integrated curriculum encourages curiosity and the drive for students to do their best. NVS also concentrates on helping each child develop a positive self-concept, respect and empathy for others, the ability to become constructive and contributing community members, and an appreciation for the natural world. Life-ready. Whether moving from kindergarten to first grade or high school to what is beyond, we team with families to empower students to succeed in their endeavors. Our commitment to student success is unwavering, and we are here to support them every step of the way.

Our "grades" Lower School Pre-k and K-3 Middle School 4-6
Upper School 7-12

Our team has been working hard with NVS's long-time and new supporters to build and design a new strategic plan that strongly focuses on development and advancement, including our new Financial Aid Program. The leadership at NVS is committed to making education accessible to families who embrace the school's mission, regardless of economic background.

Neskowin Valley School is an accredited K-8, a licensed preschool, and piloting a specialized High School program.

We continue to hear from our families about our school's life-changing impact on our students, which profoundly inspires us to keep showing up for them in every way we can. Our community is a big part of that as we walk hand in hand with the village that raises our children.

We are excited to welcome our community back to the campus for fall fun. Please join us at our annual Harvest Festival on October 5th, 2024. For more information, please visit www.neskowinvalleyschool.com, email info@neskowinvalleyschool.com, or call us at 503-392-3124.





Neskowin Community Association

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NESKOWIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PO Box 820 NESKOWIN, OR 97149

Web: www.neskowincommunity.org Password: fish

Annual Membership Dues \$40 May to May

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Patti Ihnat, Voice Editor

Ran Koch, Voice Publisher

Jeff Linman, Webmaster

contact us: ncainfo@neskowincommunity.org

Get Your Favorite Foods from Our Farmers Market Vendors at FOOD ROOTS MARKETPLACE

(Complete with home delivery!) online /in store

The season is changing as our daylight hours become shorter, more rain starts to fall, and farmers markets come to a close. Even so, you can get cozy in the kitchen with your favorite foods from your local farmers and food vendors through Food Roots. Our online Marketplace (<https://foodrootsmarketplace.localfoodmarketplace.com/>) features local and seasonal fruits, vegetables, meats, fish, dairy, honey, teas, jams, skin care products, and more.

Stay cozy, connected, and local!

Submit orders from Wednesdays at 5 p.m. to Saturdays at 11:30 p.m. to receive your order the following Wednesday.

Contact us:

marketplace@foodrootsnw.org

503-815-2800

Follow us: @foodrootsnw.org