



Serving the Mohawk Valley and Its Communities

SPRING EDITION • MARCH, 2021

24 Years of Publication! Thanks Mohawk Valley!

*"We don't win by attacking what we hate,
but by strengthening and protecting what we love!"*

OUR MARCOLA ROADHOUSE HAS A NEW OWNER!

WOW, I just met someone you will want to know! She is **Carol Hicks-Pearson** and she is the new owner of



the Marcola Roadhouse. She moved to our valley, bought a home on Hill Road, and became the official owner of our local restaurant just last month!

Carol is a single mother of 4 mostly-grown up kids. She moved here from Scappoose Oregon. Scappoose is a Sweet Home-sized town in the northwest corner of our state. Carol raised her kids there while working as a bartender for 32 years. She always dreamed of owning her own bar after she retired.

Carol chased her dream for several years looking for just the right place. That dream included owning a bar in a small town with a tight and loyal community surrounding it..... then she found the Roadhouse, Marcola, and fell in love. We are so glad she did! Arrangements went slowly because of Covid19 -- the financing took 5 months! Also, Covid is causing the lottery to drag its feet, but she hopes that will be



available soon. Her son-in-law is working with our local accountant/notary, Teresa Hill to set up their accounts, banking etc.

Carol is so happy with the Roadhouse and, except for some welcome additions to the outside eating area (heaters, lights), she's not planning on changing anything at this time. She's hopeful that the pandemic and its restrictions will be over soon. She wants to see lots of community members happily enjoying her new adventure with her. She wants to get to know as many of her new neighbors as possible.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FOOD? The menu could be challenging. She must be able to please a very diverse group of folks from the vegan-organic-white wine group to the burgers-fries-beer group.... and everyone in between! She believes that the menu does that now quite well and so isn't changing anything at this time, with one notable exception-**BETTER COFFEE!** (Editor's note: I am thrilled with the better coffee idea)

And now we have **HOME DELIVERY OF FOOD!** A young man named Jared will be the delivery driver. He will be driving a black 4 door Chevy. The delivery service is only available on Friday and Saturday nights from 5pm till closing. The last delivery order will be taken 30 minutes prior to closing time. The open hours are still in a state of flux. They hope to have them set and published on their

Remember when you call for a delivery to give your address, phone number, and any special instructions on finding your house. If you need to pay with a credit card, please do so over the phone when you call in your order. There is a \$25



minimum for delivery. They also have beer to go. Domestic will be \$12 for a six pack, micros will be \$15. *But, but-what about that white wine??*

IMPORTANT: Don't forget to treat Jared generously. He is doing this service on his own time. He just wants to help the community, especially those who cannot leave their house easily.

SO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, YOU ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO COME SUPPORT CAROL HICKS-PEARSON IN HER DREAM OWNERSHIP OF OUR BELOVED MARCOLA ROADHOUSE AND ENJOY YOURSELF!!!

website soon.



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FROM LINDA MOONEY, EDITOR:

Greetings Friends and Neighbors here in our valley and elsewhere!

SPRING IS NEARLY HERE! I have crocuses and daffadils up and buds on the Spirea and Fuchsia bushes! There's hope, my friends!! Spring always gives me hope for the future.

Of course the promise of a COVID-19 vaccine helps to boost that hope. I miss gatherings with friends and family, parties, meals at the Marcola Roadhouse, Festivals and camping!!

Let's hope by our June issue, things will be safely opening up!

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Kay Allen: Financial Director

Our SUPER Publisher: Western Oregon Web Press

All checks **FROM NOW ON must be made out to Kay Allen, our treasurer.** She will be invoicing all advertisers and sponsors by the 15th of the month in which the paper comes to you, currently by March 15, 2020

In the memo slot of your checks, please note Mohawk Messenger, Summer Ad.

Please mail checks to: MOHAWK MESSENGER, P.O. BOX 1133, MARCOLA, OR 97454 THANK YOU!

NEED CAREGIVERS

Caregivers needed for a 90 year old man, who lives here in Marcola. He hopes to leave the McKenzie Willamette Hospital in a couple of weeks. He will need Home Health Care for 24 hours to begin his journey. If you would like to join this caregiving team to help this man gain his confidence and health back. Call 541 915 9392, ask for Julia M.

Nature's Miracle Grow

The Little Brown Bats of Mabel are living in the attic of the Mohawk Valley Community Grange. The little critters are paying their way by eating 1500 flying insects every summer evening in our community.

These bats have another unique way to benefit our community with bat guano. Bat guano is Nature's Miracle Grow. When mixed with water, it makes a wonderful fertilizer tea. Your plants will thank you!

Bat guano is imported from Indonesia at \$20 per pound on Amazon. The Mohawk Valley Community Grange still has a limited supply of 1 pound bags of this locally grown fertilizer for only \$15 per pound.

We even include a recipe for brewing up your own special tea. The Bats will thank you for helping to remodel the human kitchen at the grange.

Please call Teresa Hill at 541-912-1933 to pick up your bag!

It's spring and your plants need their guano fertilizer!

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HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY

2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

92170 MARCOLA ROAD

(in front of the Marcola Community Market)

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10-12 Doors open

Michele Freese, Manager

541-517-7499

POETRY

WRITTEN AND SHARED BY
FORMER RESIDENT, PAUL MACKENZIE

TO LIVE AGAIN...

Once as a youth
Can you deal the truth?
You have aged so well
Oh the stories you tell
To watch you wither in my eye
Little did you know I hide and cry.
Eight years old my thoughts so real
Time is near, how should I deal?

A child's love is forever.

• • • • •

Liver and onions

Smelling irony off putting to most
Adding allium we tend to boast
Twist the word for said meaning
Try telling one you are no being
Laugh so sweet on most occasions
Character is brunt of one's abrasion

Empathy is not clear.

Meetings (Alphabetical) in the Community

DUE TO COVID PANDEMIC, CALL ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT WHETHER MEETINGS ARE IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL

- **Boy Scout Troop 51**

Meetings: 6:30pm Thursdays at McKenzie Church of Christ, 250 51st St, Springfield, Contact Jim Smith 541-933-2256

- **Marcola Christian Church**

8:15am & 10:45am Sunday Worship Services

9:30am Sunday School

7pm Thursdays Youth Group Meetings (Grades 6-12) -

Contact Brenda 541-933-3040

- **Marcola School District 19 Board Meetings:** 2nd Monday of every month in High School library at 6PM

- **Marcola Water District Meeting**

6:00PM @ the Marcola Fire Station

3rd Wednesday of every month

Contact: Jill Lindsay

Rainbow & Marcola Water Districts

541-746-1676

jill@rwdonline.net

- **Mohawk Community Church**

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

- **Mohawk Valley Community Grange**

Regular meetings on the 3rd Sunday of every month. 6PM

More information, check website or call Linda Mooney 541-933-2511

- **Mohawk High School Booster Club:** 1st Monday of every month.

Check with HS for specific times and locations. Members needed.

- **Mohawk Valley Lions Club Meetings**

Business Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7PM at the Mohawk Valley Lions Club Hall.

Social/Dinner Meeting 4th Tuesday of the month, dinner at 6:30 PM, program/speaker/games/ fellowship at 7:00. Contact Bob Leeper @ 541-515-6907.

Eugene Mission Items collected at every meeting, contact Kathy Downing at 541.933.2553

Everyone is welcome, let us know if you are coming for dinner, we like to serve full plates.

- **Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District -**

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM at Fire Station #1

- **Open Art Evening CURRENTLY NOT HAPPENING**

6:00-9:00PM Wednesdays

Work on your own projects in miscellaneous media FREE

Tables and chairs available. Model at cost for those wishing to draw or do sculpture.

Facilitator/contact Erica Shetzline 541-933-2568

- **Tai Chi Classes AT SHOTGUN PARK**

11:00 - Mondays & Thursday mornings

Contact Julia Mooney 541-915-9392

- **Valley Yoga Classes???**

Monday 11:00 to 12:00pm.; NEED TEACHER!

Thursday 11:00 am to 12:00; NEED TEACHER!

First class per week is \$10.

Second class in the same week is \$5.

Your first class is free--so give it a try!

Contact Julia at 541-915-9392 for information!

Editor's note: Organizations - please check these times and let me know if there are changes.

lindamooney39361@gmail.com

Wild Game Recipes

By Constance Bockelie (*Editor's Note: Thanks, Connie*)

I have heard some of you say that the wild turkey is not very tasty. All I can say is it probably wasn't prepared correctly. Wild turkey must be plucked and cleaned as soon as possible after it is harvested. To enhance the flavor the turkey should be brined. Here is a brine recipe that Paul and I have found that gives the bird wonderful flavor.

Brine: In a large cooler (24qt for a 10-18 lb bird) add water (about 3 gallons) to cover bird. Add 2 cups of brown sugar, 2 cups of sea salt (must be sea salt), 1/4 cup rosemary, 1/4 cup thyme, 1/4 cup ground sage, and 1/4 cup garlic salt. Toss in about 12 whole cloves for good measure. Add a bag of crushed ice and stir the concoction. Throw in the bird and let it sit for 24 hours. Stir it occasionally. You can keep it in the brine mix up to 48 hours and it will enhance the flavor more.

After the bird is brined take it out and drain thoroughly then pat dry inside and out leaving on as much of the herbs as possible. It can be smoked or roasted. I have found that roasting it in a roasting bag keeps more of the moisture in it and it takes less time. If you have a grinder the following recipe is really good!

NEW JERSEY CHILI

Serves: 2-4

Prep Time: 1 hour, 30 minutes

- 2 lbs ground wild turkey
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 large green pepper, chopped
- 2 16-oz. cans kidney beans
- 2 chili peppers, chopped
- 2 Tablespoons chili powder
- 1 Tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 1 16-oz. can tomato sauce

Brown turkey meat in skillet. When meat is half-cooked, add onion and green pepper. When done, drain and put in soup pot. Add kidney beans, chili peppers, spices and vinegar. Stir in tomato sauce until desired thickness. Cook on low heat for at least 1 hour.

This recipe is from the 1994 NAHC Wild Game Cookbook, contributed by Joseph DiGaimpaolo.

As always if anyone has a recipe they would like to contribute or have questions about any of the recipes or preparation of game you can contact me at cbockelie@centurylink.net.



Western Pond Turtles

(Excerpts from the Southern Willamette Watershed website)

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/swwd.html>

By Jared Weybright, MWP/MWC Coordinator

Most people think of turtles as aquatic species, and most turtles are. However, Oregon's western pond turtle uses both land and water for its life cycle. It spends much of the year in water, living in slow-moving parts of rivers and streams or in ponds, lakes and wetlands. But it spends some of every year on land, in grassy, sunny areas for nesting; and in wooded or brushy thicket for winter hibernating.

As a quick aside, one of the Mohawk Watershed Partnership Board members spent an afternoon clocking the velocity of a western pond turtle crossing his property last spring. The distinguished gentleman noted in his not-quite-ready-for-publication study that this particular turtle moved at a rate of 100 feet per hour. Just thought we'd share that bit of interesting



local goings-on. Now back to the regularly scheduled life history summary.

Turtles emerge from hibernation in the spring and move to their aquatic homes. Here, they spend a great deal of time searching for food. Turtles locate their food by sight and smell, and are often seen cruising along the bottom or banks of a water course. They primarily eat small aquatic insects, crustaceans or carrion. All of their food is eaten underwater because they are unable to swallow in air. Pond turtles can remain underwater 60 minutes or more, but during warm weather they generally rise to the surface every few minutes to breathe and survey their surroundings.

Since water temperatures are still cool in the spring, turtles often haul out of the water to bask in the sun. Like all cold-blood animals, their environment and sun basking allows them to warm. Turtles bask on logs, rocks, banks or even floating vegetation. If basking sites are limited, turtles can be seen lined up or even stacked on top of each other.

Eggs are laid in the summer once the weather warms, and only by larger females, typically 10-12 + years old. Nests are dug by females on banks often in very compact dry soils. Females soften the soil by urinating on the ground prior to digging. Once the eggs are laid the mother returns to the water and the eggs are incubated by the summer sun. If nests do not have maximum sun exposure during incubation the eggs will not hatch, so nests are usually dug where there is short, sparse, grass or weeds on south facing slopes.

Eggs hatch out in the early fall, with exact timing dependent



upon temperature and exposure of the nest site. Upon hatching, young turtles remain in the nest and absorb their yolk sac for nutrition. As the weather cools, hatchlings enter a state of hibernation without ever leaving the nest. They remain



in the nest through the winter, emerging the following spring when the temperatures warm again. This is an important factor in managing for turtles because the nest sites must be undisturbed from early summer when the eggs are laid

until late the following spring when hatchlings emerge and travel to water. When hatchlings leave the nest, their shells are still soft and they are only about the size of a quarter. They will live in shallow water, hiding among vegetation, so they can avoid being eaten by predators such as bullfrogs, herons, and fish. It takes about 3-4 years for them to grow large enough, about 3 inches long, that most predators can't eat them. As they continue to grow, eventually they become sexually mature and mate. Females may return to the area where they hatched to lay their own eggs and continue the cycle of life.

During the winter, turtles hibernate in mud at the bottom of ponds or move onto land to hibernate. If they hibernate on land they bury in decomposing vegetation and soil. Some turtles travel more than one-half mile to over-winter on land though many select the nearest wooded or shrubby area they can bury in. Turtles emerge from hibernation in spring to start the yearly cycle again.

Biologists in the Willamette Valley are concerned about the survival of the western pond turtle. Research has shown that most western pond turtle populations are "adult-biased" which means they are primarily large, old turtles. Few small juvenile turtles are surviving to replace these aging adults. Most Willamette populations are small and isolated. Barriers such as roads, development and drained wetlands increase isolation. Because of this, genetic diversity is being lost as these small populations become increasingly inbred.

Turtles are declining for a variety of reasons but the most important problems in the Willamette Valley are the loss of nesting habitat, loss of hatchling habitat and predation of hatchlings by nonnative predators, primarily bullfrogs and bass.



Landowners can help by preserving a variety of key habitats that turtles rely upon. The most important habitats in the Willamette Valley are:

- Permanent water bodies with slow moving waters for foraging
- Shallow, near-shore water with aquatic vegetation of hatchlings to hide from predators
- Nearby, accessible, undisturbed upland sites with sparse vegetation and south facing slopes
- Aquatic basking sites for temperature regulation
- Movement corridor (streams, rivers and riparian areas) that turtles use to move between habitat areas.



The Mohawk Valley Lions are still meeting once a month via Zoom meetings. The club anxiously awaits the Covid-19 vaccines for our members and a relaxing of restrictions. Then, we can meet face to face and get back to our normal

meeting schedule, fund raising activities, and community service projects.

The Lions continue to maintain the Veterans' Memorial Park. We continue to raise funds through our Bottle Drop Project, which gathers bottles and cans for deposits through the "Blue Bag" non-profit program through Oregon Bottle Drop Centers. This fund raising has allowed us to continue our donations to Canine Companions for Veterans and Oregon Honor Flight for Veterans. Our club also continues to support the Oral Hull Foundation for the Blind Camp in Sandy Oregon. We also continue to support the Marcola Helping Hand Pantry.

We hope, in the near future, to hold another road clean up in time for spring, as well as a dedication of our newly installed Veterans Park stone pillar memorial. We look forward to organizing an outdoor gathering for the community as soon as health restrictions are relaxed.

The Mohawk Valley Lions Club strives to serve our community with a smile. If you would like to join our Lions Club or learn more about us, please feel free to contact me at bobwea73@gmail.com.

**Bob Weaver, President
Mohawk Valley Lions**

**THE MOHAWK VALLEY
COMMUNITY GRANGE**

is very anxious to return to serving the community and having fun together! Sadly, due to the Pandemic, we are still closed to rentals and we aren't hosting any of the events we have all enjoyed in the past - Bingo, Open Houses etc.



We do though, have hope because of the arrival of the vaccines. Many of us have had our first shots with the second

one on its way soon. With these shots and the county and state metrics trending to a better healthier place, we have hope that by this summer, we will be able to get back to our lives!

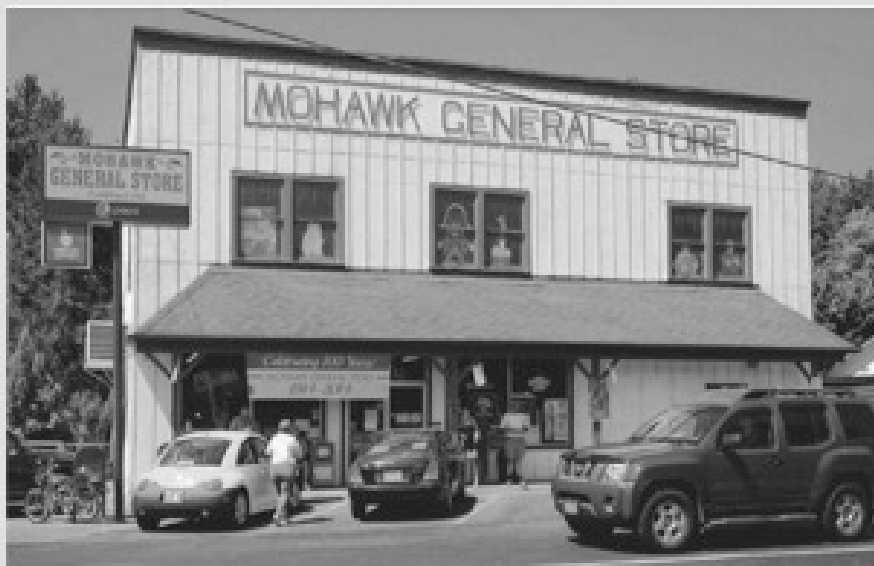


The pictures are of our cleaned and spruced up Grange. Our wonderful caretakers, Thorp McClaren, with help from wife, Kelly, have been babying our beloved building. The floors in the main hall were stripped, sanded, and refinished to a gleaming shine. New flooring looks beautiful in the front hallway and the new kitchen cupboards along with a soon-to-be built rumored replacement of the island (anonymous donor) are going to make those potluck dinners so much fun!



So, Community, get your vaccinations when they are available, wear your masks, wash your hands and stay healthy. Our lives as we want them to be shall return soon!

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KANDIE'S BIRDS

By Kandie Diskin

Photos by Kandie

We live in the upper Mohawk Valley on 5.5 acres. Mostly timber, with about an acre that we call our "yard." When we travel and stay places for a week or more, we purchase a bird feeder and black oil sunflower seeds to attract birds of that area. When the week is done, we bring the feeder home. In doing this, we have accumulated (and kept) about a dozen feeders.

In summer, we keep them all full. Right now, in winter, we keep the feeders full that do not get rainwater in them. As you can imagine, we have quite a few visitors each day to our yard.



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Winter months, our primary visitors are Black-capped Chickadee, Dark Eyed Junco, Mourning Dove, Stellers Jay, Spotted Towhee, Anna's Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, American Robin, Northern Flicker and our newest addition, just this past year, Red Breasted Nuthatches.

We just had a flock of House Finch stay a day or so and move on. Some years we have a Quail family and enjoy watching their chicks grow. Same for the neighborhood Wild Turkeys. Earlier this



EVENING GROSBEAK

month, we had a not-so-welcome visitor fly through and hunt our feeders ... the Red Tailed Hawk. He missed the Mourning Dove that he was after, however! Score one for the Dove!



HOUSE FINCH

Starting in March, typically, and all through summer months, we have many different "seasonal" birds come visit our yard feeders. Some just come for the bugs and tree seeds but most visit the feeders. We purchase approximately 4 - 40lb sacks of black oil sunflower seeds per month during the active bird season. The pure enjoyment of watching them and taking photos, makes it worth the investment.

Our summer flocks are American Goldfinch, House finch, Black Headed Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Western Tanager, lots of Sparrow that we hear their song but haven't identified which we are hearing and Tree Swallow. Some that have come for short times that we were fortunate to see; Lazuli Bunting (once,) Night Hawks flying overhead in quite a show, Cedar

Waxwing (they come when the Mountain Ash berries are ripe.)

We are fortunate to have such a variety of visitors to our yard each day! I have grown to enjoy birds of all variety and appreciate their contribution to the environment.



RED BRESTED NUTHATCH



WESTERN TANAGER

A REDHEAD CAME TO VISIT

By Juanita Turner Paslay



He decorated our holly tree, but I never

observed him at work. What an intriguing, precise design! This pattern appears strange work for a woodpecker since they drill holes. Who is guilty of making long rows of squares?

I barely contained my excitement this week when I finally recognized him near the path to the old barn. Wow! He can peck fast and move quickly around the tree, making it difficult to take a satisfactory picture. He wasn't in the mood for posing. He preferred dining on holly sap.

Yesterday as I read in the library, he flew into the large picture window. Wham! Scared me, and him too I imagine. I opened the window to get a better look and there he lay on the ground, not moving. I feared he broke his little neck.

That usually happens when birds try to come in without asking me to open the window first. My husband and I stared down at him and exclaimed together, "Ooh!" We were so sad! My new discovery looked dead.

We stepped outside for a closer look. The bird's eyes blinked, so Craig gently lifted him up. He didn't struggle—probably nursing a headache. What a colorful red-breasted sapsucker! Craig held him and



I stroked him.

We enjoyed talking to him for a minute, then the bird flew away, pooping as he went.

Your friend and bird watcher,
Juanita

KARREN LANSKY'S PAGE

SOME VISITORS TO MY YARD!

Although I can think of many things I actually enjoy about winter in the Mohawk Valley being able to observe the various birds and squirrels that are easier to see in the leafless trees and shrubs is one of them. Some of the most common birds that visit our backyards belong to the family Corvidae. This area of the Pacific Northwest has many of the very best conditions available to attract large numbers and varieties of birds. There exist varying types of both food and shelter to encourage birds to remain in our region.

Steller's

Jay – This jay is slightly larger than a Robin, crested and a showy blue and black: it is the only bird in the Northwest so marked. This bird is the western equivalent of the Blue Jay so familiar to the eastern half of the continent. It has many of the characteristics of its powder-blue-and-white eastern counterpart, including a combination of both boldness and caution and a variety of noisy, raucous calls and screams. Steller's Jays imitate hawk calls, interestingly; they also imitate the mew of a cat. Unknown to most people, these Jays have a seldom-used soft, sweet song. Biologists frequently cite this jay as the bird symbol of the coniferous forests of the West. It ranges from sea level to timberline, but also comes readily into farm and city yards if an abundance of trees is present for cover. Its appetite for suet, hotcakes or nuts seems boundless. Steller's Jays sneak about as if they have a guilt complex and quickly move away if a human appears. It eats the fruit and seeds of many berries, pine seeds, acorns, and nuts. For the animal part of its diet, it eats insects [beetles, wasps, bees, grasshoppers, caterpillars, moths, sow bugs], spiders, eggs, and young of small birds, frogs, snakes, and carrion.

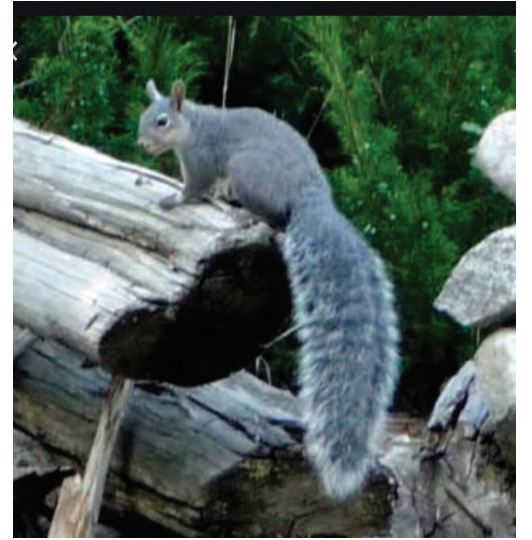


Common Crow

This bird hardly requires an introduction because it is universally known species that gathers around cities, agricultural areas and lowlands along rivers. It gives the distinctive and well-known "caw-caw-caw" call. Crows usually nest in deciduous trees along streams but wander about in the fall and winter in loose flocks. During this time they congregate at night in roosts with much noise and commotion. The same roost sites are used night after night and serve many square miles.

Squirrel activity varies with the seasons and by region. The **gray squirrel's** strenuous calendar provides a good example. The year begins with a mating frenzy in mid-winter, when small groups of males will chase a female. Many female gray squirrels raise two litters a year: one in spring and one in late summer. Reproductive success often depends upon the year's nut crop.

But as autumn approaches, squirrels kick into "hoarding gear". Acorns and other nuts come into season, and gray squirrels furiously collect and bury them for the lean winter months.



The Western Gray

squirrel thrives in forests of oak and pine, spending much time on the ground and in trees seeking acorns and pine seeds. It can be found along the West Coast from Washington south to Baja. The western gray, when not at feeders, dines on pinecones, acorns and other tree nuts, berries, some insects, and fungi.

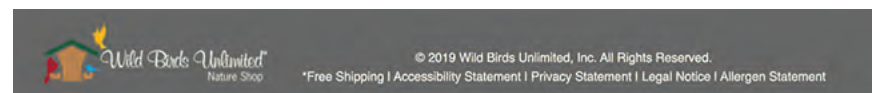
Another member of this species that can be found in our area is the **Douglas' Squirrel, or Chickaree**. This noisy, small squirrel of the Pacific Northwest generally has two types of nests: a summer one made of shredded bark, moss, and twigs



and a winter nest situated in a hole. These forest sprites feed mainly on the seed-bearing cones of conifers, snipping them from their branches and stuffing them in moist areas, where they may be kept intact for as long as three years. During the harsh winter, Douglas' squirrels consume their stored larders and any other conifer cones they find lying around.

Douglas' squirrels can have two litters, but short summers in their cold habitats usually allow for only one. Mating generally occurs in early April, followed by young a little more than a month later. The average litter size is four, and the young are on their own-without territories- at two months of age.

I don't know how many of my readers have problems with birds flying into windows, but I wanted to pass on a solution I recently found.



Window Alert Hummingbird Decal

Every year, millions of birds are injured or die after colliding with windows. Window Alert is a decal that reflects ultraviolet sunlight, a light that is invisible to humans but very alerting and harmless to birds. Easily apply decals to your home or office windows and help prevent dangerous window strikes. We recommend placing decals two to four inches from one another and replace decals every four months as the UV coating will fade over time.

Size: approx. 3.25" x 4.25". 4 per package.



M FRIENDS OF THE MARCOLA SCHOOLS MEDIA CENTER

What's New: Friends of the Marcola Schools Media Center, Spring 2021

THANK YOU, MARCOLA!

Pilcrow grant matched!

Our fundraising campaign for the 2.5 times matching grant from the Pilcrow Foundation was a complete success, due to the generosity of the Marcola Community. Thank you!!! We raised the \$400 needed to qualify for the maximum grant. The new children's books will arrive this Spring. We'll hold a reception, when circumstances allow, at the Media Center, to honor all donors, to celebrate reading, and to peruse the books acquired with this Pilcrow Foundation grant.

FREE Monthly Books for Newborns through Age Four

For the youngest residents of the Mohawk Valley: A FREE book mailed monthly to ALL Marcola area children, newborns through age four! Thanks to a recent partnership with United Way of Lane County, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is now providing this free service to Marcola and other rural areas of the Mohawk Valley and Lane County. (Have a Springfield zip code? You're covered, too! See the LaneKids website for your sponsor agency.) Register online or by mail for this splendid service: www.lanekids.org/imagination-library or call United Way of Lane County at 541-741-6000.

Book Donations? Once the Media Center Re-opens...

We wish we could accept your kind donations of gently used books at this time. If you can hold on to them for a while, we'll happily be accepting book donations after the Media Center re-opens to the public.

If you need to donate books now, here are some suggestions:

- Friends of Eugene Public Library: <https://www.friendseugenelibrary.org/donate-books/>
- Friends of the Springfield Library: call 541-726-3766
- St. Vincent De Paul : call 541-345-0595
<https://www.svdv.us/what-we-do/retail-thrift-stores/what-can-i-donate/>

Note: Q Street is not accepting donations now, but Main Street still is.

Public hours? Programs? Book and Vinyl Sales?

When will we restart these community services? Due to the pandemic, the entire school campus, including the Media Center, has been closed to the public since Spring 2020. We know the district will re-open the Media Center as soon as it's allowed. Perhaps the Media Center will be available for community use this Summer or Fall? We're looking forward to it. Stay tuned.

Contact the Friends

See our Facebook page: [facebook.com/friendsofmarcolamediacenter/](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmarcolamediacenter/)
E-mail us: friendsofmarcolalibrary@gmail.com, or call Sally Leete at 541-933-2141.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I am Tracey Zerr and I help to run the **VALLEY VIEW CEMETERY** on Hill Rd.

I'm announcing our **ANNUAL SPRING CLEANUP** in the lead up to Memorial Day.

HELP NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS TO COME HELP US!

**SATURDAY MAY 22ND,
9AM -12PM AT 90614
HILL ROAD.**

People don't need to commit to the whole 3 hours. Any little bit helps.

If you have questions, I can be reached at tszerr@hotmail.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND THE COMMUNITY

Dear Editor,

Chips

What Else?

by Gail Weathers

I have been thinking about the Mohawk Valley and how lucky we are to be living up here. We get all the privacy we want and have scraped by with natural events. The fires didn't get any closer than Wendling Road. The latest ice, snow, and freezing rain stopped just north of here, despite weather predictions. I haven't met anyone who has gotten Covid-19 and everyone I've seen in the Mohawk public has been wearing masks, for which I am grateful. On Rural Health Matters, they addressed the issue of stress brought on by the pandemic. While acknowledging minimal Covid distance, Dr. Bernstein emphasized cultivating relationships, even though it may have to be at a distance. Having a professional acknowledge the stress we undergo is reassuring. She advised that we do what we enjoy to feel better. She pointed out the benefits of having to stay home: fewer of the stressors associated with traffic and work, and having a slower pace of life. This is a topic about which I am heartily weary and have paid more attention to it than I wanted to. I have one more piece of information, which I feel that people have not heard: two masks worn at the same time are more effective than one.

Some have considered that this is a sign of worse times to come, but I am confident that, while times will be different, I don't see them being worse. I am reminded of the plagues in Europe that lasted more than a lifetime. I recently saw

a piece about the T.B. sanitariums and how like prisons they were. We now have much more humane ways of dealing with the chronically ill. In times past, people were kept illiterate on purpose. Most of the educated who could chronicle contemporary events and their significance had an agenda (politics or power) and their reportage could be suspect. Sometimes a rare diary has survived that seem to be more accurate chronology of what actually happened.

The traffic on Marcola Road is lighter than in the past and there are fewer cars. Traffic is mostly commercial trucks, pickups, and SUVs. Sometimes I see something startlingly large, and I wonder where they are setting up another logging operation. I was wondering about all the gravel trucks, but was told that someone on "Our neighborhood," praised a gravel company, so someone local is using some of the gravel. So far I have seen only one snow-covered load of logs.

While wandering around, I have noticed that hyacinths, tulips and daffodils are coming up. Bleeding hearts are developing their root systems, Irises are getting a leaf, the hazelnuts are almost through blooming. The violets have been blooming all winter, but now there are lots more of them in bloom.

Nadine on Larry's Country Diner was telling about finding out that her husband had picked up a hitchhiker. She pointed out that the person could have been a serial killer. He said that the hitchhiker had pointed that out, too. He replied that he wasn't worried. What were the odds of there being two in the same car?

DO YOU HAVE A DEFENSIBLE SPACE AT YOUR HOUSE?

Though we have had a very wet winter, the thoughts of last September's wildfires and the evacuation we all had to endure are foremost in this editor's mind. As I hear friends speak of mowing lawns and clearing weeds, I noticed the sign on our local fire station's reader board. It reminds us about the need to create a defensible space against wildfires!

The following article is a part of an article written by Fire Chief Steven Wallace back in 2015's summer issue of this Mohawk Messenger. As editor, I thought we all should read this excerpt again:

Here are a few things we need to be looking at around the house.

1. *Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors along with daylight savings. (March 14, 2021)*
2. *Trees and other plants will be blooming here in a couple of months. Make sure your house is accessible to fire trucks and ambulances.*
3. *Clean out clogged run offs and drains*
4. *Start to prepare for a wildfire situation by giving yourself a defensible space around your home.*

More and more Oregonians are living in what is known as the wildland-urban interface - where homes and other structures are built in or near forests. This population expansion into rural areas has increased the risk of human-caused fires in the forest and has also placed more lives and property in the potential path of fires from forestlands. Today, more than a quarter-million homes in Oregon are at high risk from wildfire. Out of the 15.8 million acres of private and public forestland protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry, 3.5 million acres are considered wildland-urban interface.

You might ask what a defensible space is. Well, the answer is an area around your home that will act as a firebreak in order to protect your home in such an event. Many times homes are lost in wildfires due to the condition around the homes. There are improvements that you can make to your home in order to increase the chance it will make it through.

Creating defensible space around your home is the best way to protect your home from wildfire. The first 30 feet surrounding your home - referred to as the primary ignition zone - is the most critical - and there are some simple actions that a homeowner can take

to help protect their home from wildfire that are easy, quick, and relatively inexpensive, such as:

- *Removing dead and dying debris - particularly from places that it piles up near the home such as in gutters and planters, any "valleys" that can catch debris that embers and sparks can blow onto - the most common way for a wildfire to damage or destroy a home in the wildland-urban interface.*
 - *Storing firewood at least 20 feet away from the home or completely covering it to protect it from those same blowing embers and sparks.*
 - *Properly maintaining the plants that are in the area - pruning, removing dead and dying materials, and keeping them well-watered and green.*
- A defensible space also allows room for firefighters to fight the fire safely.*

Protecting your home from wildfire falls into three categories:

- *using fire-resistant building materials (such as roofing)*
- *reducing fuels around your home (such as wood piles)*
- *planting fire-resistant plants in your landscape*

While these steps do not ensure that your home will survive a wildfire, they substantially increase the chances that it will. In addition you can use fire resistive plants around the house during your landscaping projects. Some examples include:

<i>Carpet bugleweed</i>	<i>Cranberry cotoneaster</i>
<i>Rock cress</i>	<i>Orchid rockrose</i>
<i>Yellow iceplant</i>	<i>Oregon grapeholly</i>
<i>Kinnikinnick</i>	<i>Creeping holly</i>
<i>Wild strawberry</i>	<i>Vine maple</i>
<i>Japanese pachysandra</i>	<i>Rocky Mountain maple</i>
<i>Yarrow</i>	<i>Dwarf burning bush</i>
<i>Sea thrift</i>	<i>Amur maple</i>
<i>Columbine</i>	<i>Bigleaf maple</i>
<i>Basket-of-gold</i>	<i>Mountain alder</i>
<i>Delphinium</i>	<i>Eastern redbud</i>

These are just to name a few. If you would like more advice or would like us to come take a look, just gives us a call here at the station. (541-933-2907) In addition, please make sure that your drive way is clearly marked at the road with reflective numbers. If you need an address marker, please contact Captain Steven Wallace at the fire station and we will get one out to you.



Need a Surveyor?

FINDING PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

Your boundaries may have been surveyed and the corners marked in the past.

Find surveys at the County Surveyor website.

Get the link from my website:

WWW.DONNROWE.COM

PROPERTY LINE ADJUSTMENT

You can move a boundary line between any two legal lots you own or with a neighbor.

PARTITION

Divide your property.

Find out the possibilities.

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Donn Rowe LLC Surveying

(541) 953-7778 746-2520

Fax: 736-3171



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Lane County Park Passes
Propane Exchange
Lottery-ATM-EBT

THE MARCOLA/MOHAWK VALLEY SANDWICH TEAM IS EXPANDING... And we could use your assistance!

By Ellen Furstner

As of this writing, **the Marcola Sandwich Team** is on the 4th week of making sandwiches for Breakfast in the Park in Eugene. Each week we make about 200 sandwiches, usually peanut butter and jam, and 100 Butter Breads to go with the hot breakfasts.



Eugene Catholic Workers (ECW) serves the hot Breakfast in the Park on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings, and at that time they also give out the sandwiches, along with fruit, a treat, and water. Much of the food is supplied by Food for Lane County (FFLC), although they run short once in a while. Sometimes the sandwiches have other toppings; this week it was turkey and cheese (it depends on donations). The Marcola team makes the sandwiches for Fridays and Saturdays.

I started organizing this here with the hopes of expanding something like it to Marcola. Since things have gone so smooth, we are ready to go for it **IF** there are more people willing to help out. We are in no position (right now) to serve any kind of breakfast, but we could provide sandwich lunch bags one or more times per week.

I'm just brain storming here, but these are some ideas/thoughts of what we need and what is possible (I am willing to organize this, but people may want to take on a certain segment, please!):

1. For now, we will just be Mohawk Valley community folks doing good deeds on our own. We are not an official organization. We may, at some point, become part of, or partners with, organizations. But that gets complicated and we can figure that out later.



2. Eugene Catholic Workers will help provide food. But we will probably need more, since Food for Lane County sometimes runs low. We will need food and/or money.

3. There is no particular religious belief or non-belief requirement to participate. "Love Thy Neighbor"

goes a long way.

4. Through ECW and FFLC, we get a waiver (due to Covid 19 situations) to prepare the food in our own homes.

5. How many people will want/need sandwiches? In Eugene the need grows by the week. I'm assuming adults only in the Mohawk Valley since kids get lunch at school here.

6. How many days can we provide this? Which days? Right now, the Sandwich Team is busy on Wednesdays and Thursdays, so we need more folks for those days if that's what we want to do. On Saturdays we can/should include kids.

7. We need sandwich makers (easy job) and a few people to hand them out in Marcola in a public place. Masks, gloves, etc. are a must do.



8. Do we want to go to people's homes if they are not

able to come to us (elderly, disabled)? We would need drivers for that. And an organizer.

9. We also need drivers for pick up and deliveries of food, supplies, etc.

10. We need at least two people who will keep track of money and food donations, so it will be 100% transparent. Donations will not be tax deductible (at first, anyway) and need to be cash for now (a receipt will be given out).

11. Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to participate.

12. Supplies that are needed besides sandwich foods are: sandwich bags, paper lunch bags, napkins, fruit, snacks, juice (?), gloves, masks (some will be provided). Bread and jam are often low. Connections to anything like this for donations are needed.

13. Gas money for some volunteers.

14. None of the jobs are difficult or time intensive if a good number of people are committed to volunteering. Commitments can be for a certain job, a certain day, a certain week of the month, being a substitute; whatever suits your life. Money and/or food commitments on a regular basis would be great. Just \$10 per month from several people will go a long way. Life happens to all of us, and that will certainly be taken into account, but commitment is the key word.



I'm sure there is lots more that can be added to this list, but it's a start.

If you are interested in helping out in some way, no matter how small, or have questions, please contact me at 541-933-2246 or ellenf@hotmail.com (Subject: "Sandwiches" because you will go into my junk mail) or Facebook message.



Are you worried that
you can't afford to
stay home if you have
COVID-19?



Oregon.gov/covidpaidleave



THE COST



"For even the Son of Man
came not to be served
but to serve, and to give His
life a ransom for many."
Mark 10:45 NKJV

Jesus understood the cost of His earthly mission. He told His disciples that He would pay the ultimate price—His life. Jesus instructed His followers to count the cost of their dedication to Him. By the end of the first century, every apostle but John experienced a horrific death as a martyr for their Lord and Savior.

The cost of our devotion to Him includes reaching out to needy people as Jesus did. The scribes and Pharisees did not want to associate with sinners and they condemned Jesus for eating with the undesirables of His day.

Lord, help me look for and use my opportunities to show compassion to people without hope for their daily needs. Most importantly, I desire to show others the way of salvation, so they will live with You in eternity.

Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.
Psalm 37:5 NKJV

Excerpt from As The Deer ©2018 by Juanita Turner Paslay

ANTICIPATION OF SPRING

Hurry home my friend, my evasive spring!
I beg of you please on soiled knees!
You waken slowly from your long dark sleep,
Then you abscond, you fickle tease!

Buds erupting on bare dormant limbs
Yield smiles on a sunny March day.
Then old man winter returns with frost
And thrusts my plans in disarray!

When to plant is a risky venture;
On the forecasts I may rely.
Kale and peas are a good early bet;
Corn and squash, when the ground is dry.

While I wait and hope, spent plots of earth
Get thrice tilled and once amended.
Nursery plants and packets of seeds
Will soon be faithfully tended.

Elusive vernal requires patience,
A virtue God wants us to be.



For 'as we sow
shall we reap', gardens
Are gifts from Him
to you and me.

~ Dianne S. Stewart, 2018 ~

Mohawk Community Church Come and Check Us Out!



Sundays, 10:00 AM

**91190 Hill Road.
Springfield, OR 97478
541-741-3867**

Pastor - Sam Whittaker
**"We help you Discover Jesus, Cultivate Faith,
and Thrive on Mission"**

Website: www.mohawkchurch.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MohawkChurch/

VAN TIME

By Barry Rogers, former resident and now our traveling correspondent

It's 7:40 a.m. I've pulled into a rest stop on I-5 to have some coffee and do some writing. Amazingly, the sky is clear and the van is full of light from the rising sun. Van of the Rising Sun? Hmm, maybe not...

The coffee water's boiling, I've finished grinding the beans with my little manual grinder, the pot's ready to go and I just have to wait until the coffee's finished brewing.

I've been living in my van since the beginning of the year. The adventure started a couple of years ago. I'd sold the Roadhouse to my friend, Laurie, was back working at the consulting firm that I had joined 16 years earlier, but I was tired of it. The time at the Roadhouse had been fun. I was glad to have done it, but I wasn't really cut out for it and finally decided to let it go. In the end I decided it was time to retire, sell the house and do something completely different. After thinking about Costa Rica



for a while, I decided that buying a van, having it built out into a camper and hitting the road for a few years would be fun. I ordered the van from Mercedes in the fall of 2019, found a conversion company that I liked and got started just in time for COVID. It delayed everything by about eight months, but on December 31, 2020, the van arrived in Eugene ready to go.

The first week with the van, I camped at the Grange as I learned how everything worked, flushed the systems, filled up the fresh water tank, got the heater going and figured out what I needed to bring with me. I had rented a storage unit in Springfield and was able to grab those things I thought I'd need and store those that I didn't.



After the first week, I hit the road, heading over to the Coast. I'd been reading online posts and watching hundreds of YouTube videos on van life (#VANLIFE), but it really got to the point of information overload. My first stop was a Forest Service campground north of Florence. It was nice, and relatively inexpensive with the lifetime Senior Pass I'd acquired several years ago. I was able to hook up to electric, as the dark skies and pouring rain weren't going to provide much of the solar power that I'd been looking forward to.



Over the next several weeks, I traversed the coast, south to Brookings, north to Fort Stevens (west of Astoria) and in between, learning the ins and outs of dispersed BLM and Forest Service camping (no services, but free), State Campgrounds (more expensive, but includes hot showers) and a number of in between Forest Service campgrounds (in between on cost and services).

As I am now living on my Social Security, I also started watching



where my money was going. What I learned was that I needed to stay places longer so that I wouldn't be filling the van up with diesel every three days, needed to cut down on groceries (and by that I mean beer), and maximize my use of free camping. The electric system is a balancing act. The batteries recharge while I'm driving, but that uses diesel. The batteries also get charged up when I can plug in, but that costs money as well. I think I'm starting to get it dialed in.

I've spent time at the coast over the years that I've lived in Oregon, but never quite as much as I have over the last couple of months. It really is absolutely amazing. I've camped near the beach at several spots and been able to hear the roar of the surf all night, particularly during some of the storms we've had. I also find I need to force myself to stop, take pictures, and enjoy. I'm still a little too used to making time on the road in order to get somewhere. Being retired and living in the van, that's not the point.

I've included some photos, and will update my adventures for the next issue of the Messenger.



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Call Cory today for more information 541-746-6440.

January Residential Highlights

New listings (343) decreased 19.3% from the 425 listed in January 2020, and increased 30.9% from the 262 listed in December 2020.

Pending sales (348) decreased 2.2% from the 356 listed in January 2020, and increased 18.0% from the 295 offers accepted in December 2020.

Closed sales (288) increased 18.0% from the 244 listed in January 2020, and decreased 35.3% from the 445 closings in December 2020.

Inventory and Market Time

Inventory increased to 0.8 months in January. Total market time decreased to 34 days.

Year-to-Date Summary

Comparing the first month of 2021 to the same period in 2020, new listings (343) decreased 19.3%, pending sales (348) decreased 2.2%, and closed sales (288) increased 18.0%.

Average and Median Sale Prices

Comparing 2021 to 2020 through January, the average sale price has increased 17.0% from \$328,000 to \$383,700. In the same comparison, the median sale price has increased 16.3% from \$305,000 to \$354,700.

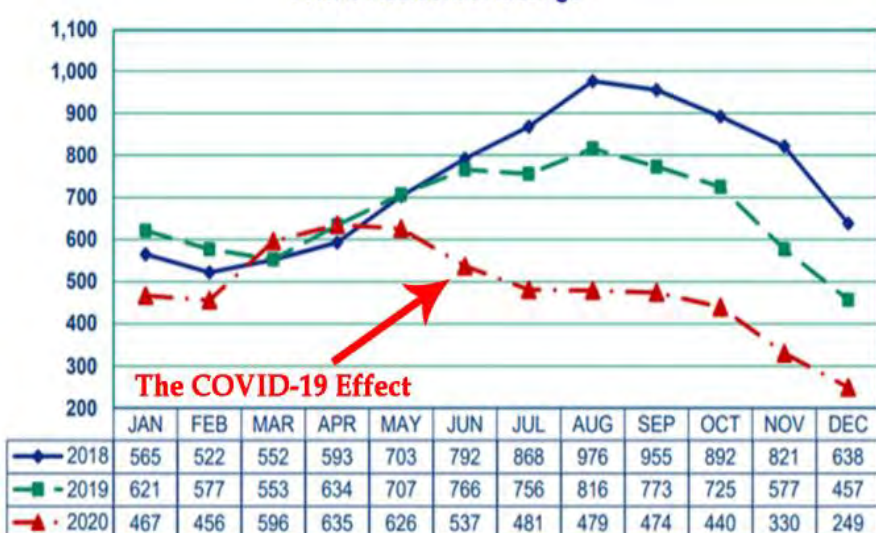
Inventory in Months*			
	2019	2020	2021
January	2.2	1.9	0.8
February	2.0	1.6	
March	1.8	1.7	
April	1.7	2.0	
May	1.5	2.0	
June	1.6	1.3	
July	1.5	0.9	
August	1.6	1.0	
September	1.8	1.1	
October	1.8	0.9	
November	1.7	0.8	
December	1.4	0.6	

*Inventory in Months is calculated by dividing the Active Residential Listings at the end of the month in question by the number of closed sales for that month. This number includes proposed and under construction homes.

Percent Change of 12-Month Sale Price Compared With The Previous 12 Months

Average Sale Price % Change:
+12.4% (\$368,600 v. \$328,000)
Median Sale Price % Change:
+13.7% (\$340,000 v. \$299,000)

Active Residential Listings



Average and Median Sale Price



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