



# The TARGET RANGER

TARGET RANGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1075

MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806

[www.TargetRangeHOA.com](http://www.TargetRangeHOA.com)

March 2012

The Target Range Area Homeowners Association, Inc. was formed pursuant to the Montana Nonprofit Corporation Act in 1980. The Mission Statement for the Association states the goals of TRHOA:

1. To promote the Target Range School boundary area of Missoula as a rural residential area of the first quality.
2. To maintain and improve the environment, esthetic qualities, property values, public improvements and facilities, and such other features of the Target Range area of Missoula County as are desirable to continuance of the area as a rural residential district of the first quality.
3. To sponsor and support public and civic projects and programs consistent with the other purposes of the corporation.
4. To engage in any other lawful activity.

Those new black angus calves standing in the high school vo-tech field announce the beginning of a new cycle. The flight of Canadian geese landing in the same field to feast on the leftovers from the morning hay feeding, the deer bedding down under my neighbor's big pine tree, my own horses standing with their tails to the wind patiently waiting for spring, add to these the neighborly waves and hellos from walkers on the trail, all these blend to create our rural atmosphere here in Target Range (which for TRHOA includes Blue Mountain, O'Brien Creek, and Big Flat).

All this flashed through my mind as I watched a hungry squirrel outside my window twitching his tail telling me the feeder was empty. I was having a difficult time coming up with an opening for my part of the Target Ranger. Imagine a squirrel giving me inspiration!

Our Target Range---we'd like to keep this atmosphere the same, but change is inevitable, as we all know from looking in the mirror each morning. While we can't prevent change, we can help guide it in directions that keep the flavor of Target Range alive and well. The Target Range Neighborhood Plan was created to guide the governing bodies in making decisions in keeping with our vision for our neighborhood.

Now we need to put energy into guiding the vision presented in the Plan by keeping up with events and happenings. Each of us can contribute something to preserving our rural atmosphere by paying \$15 (\$20 for families) for TRHOA membership, by encouraging our friends and neighbors to become members, by attending the four TRHOA meetings a year (even if you aren't a member, you may attend and learn about what's happening), by volunteering to help carry out a Plan recommendation, by receiving my FYI (for which I need your e-mail address). It doesn't matter how we show our support for Target Range. Each of us has something to contribute. Working together we can advocate for

our Target Range community. Its future will reflect the strength of our commitment to that future.

For those who yearn for a little action, there are two school board seats up for election, and one County Commissioner's seat will be on the fall ballot. If meetings are your interest, the Board of County Commissioners meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 pm in room 201 of the Courthouse Annex. (Check the Missoulian for the Board's daily schedule-remember all their meetings are open to the public.)

Stepping down from my soap box ☺--The Target Range Farmers Market grows ever stronger. Last summer during the hot season the Market moved onto the grass by the flag pole where it was much cooler than the pavement of the parking lot. (Thank you, Supt. Blaz) Several new vendors joined the "old" vendors and a traveling troubadour came to serenade vendors and customers alike. Many faces became very familiar as they returned Sunday after Sunday to purchase the wares set out.

Currently the Market is searching for a person interested in volunteering to be the Market Master for this coming season (May 13- October 14). Any one interested in this position please contact Patty Smigaj (327-6784). [See related article.]

Maclay Bridge is in the limelight. A consultant has been hired to conduct a feasibility study regarding the future of the bridge. In the not-too-distant future, the consultant will hold a series of public meetings seeking our input/concerns about the direction the County Commissioners should take. Stay tuned for more on this.

Reilly Subdivision on the southeast corner of Humble and Sundown will be presented for approval to the Missoula City/County Planning Board on March 20 at 7 pm in the City Council Chambers. The meeting is open to the public. Jennifer Long represents the Target Range area on the Board. If approved, the Subdivision will move on to the County Commissioners for approval.





**From the Target Range Superintendent:  
Levy March 27th**

Every school district works extremely hard to provide the very best for every student. This starts with good staff provided with appropriate materials, leadership, and professional development. Within the building envelop we must provide a safe, well protected environment. We must open and close our doors daily knowing that each child's needs are taken care of.

We at Target Range feel that we provide exceptional educational programs. With our dedicated staff, each student has a chance to achieve to his /her highest potential. Each classroom now has adequate usage of computers and technical programs with software to promote challenges. We employ various para-educators to help meet these challenges.

Our ancillary staff does a commendable job in providing support for all. The secretaries work relentlessly in providing services to students and parents. The custodial and maintenance department takes pride in making sure every area is clean and sanitary for student use and that all is running adequately and efficiently. The lunch program is second to none. The daily food offerings meet or exceed the state requirements.

Target Range is respected as a very sound educational school district. Our students who progress from our eight grades are easily identified in the surrounding high schools. In order to achieve these high standards it is crucial to ask the voters for help in maintaining our excellence.

By the end of this year we will have upgraded most computers in each room. We have added laptop computers for student access. We have also provided Promethean Boards for teachers to enhance methods and instruction. By the end of the fiscal calendar we will have replaced our entire roof. I am certain you are aware of the daily maintenance school buildings require.

In order for us to progress we must continue the upkeep of our building. We have classrooms that have no egress windows. Safety wise, each room should have at least one. Our phone system and communication system is old, antiquated, and on its last leg. In times of need we cannot communicate with certain areas of our building.

Our heating system is outdated and inefficient. Some rooms are too hot, where others are poorly heated. We need to provide a quality air exchange. A security system of cameras inside and outside would provide another form of needed safety.

The Little White School House is part of our school system. We must work to get it functional for students and public. At which time it should be kept up as any other building on our campus.

As in most school districts, there is only so much money to go around. In order to continue to maintain our progressive educational program, we need to go to the voters for support. A successful levy will allow us to provide an efficient, safe building and continue to provide our students with the very best 21<sup>st</sup> century education possible.

Please vote March 27<sup>th</sup>, call if you have questions.  
Gary Blaz, Superintendent, [gary.blaz@target.k12.mt.us](mailto:gary.blaz@target.k12.mt.us)  
or call 549-9239

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### **My first year on the Target Range School Board**

Did you know that collectively school boards are the largest elected body in the USA? I didn't. Something else I have learned: as a whole, the school board has considerable influence on guiding the direction and policies of a school, that part may be self-evident, but individual board members have no authority. Zilch. Nada.

Over the past year the school board has voted on many issues. Some are day-to-day issues, some very joyful, and some were tearful issues. Considering the many votes this past year, I can only think of two times when the vote was not unanimous. To me that really says something; every member of the board has the same ultimate goal – to continually improve the educational possibilities for the students in our school.

Target Range School and the board members are currently preparing for an election on the Target Range School Building Reserve Levy. The Building Reserve Levy is the way schools pay for items in a time frame that is not supported by state funding. This will replace a previous levy and bond that expired last summer, and this levy will cost less than before. Most of us will pay less than \$10 per month. The funds from this levy will focus on fire escape windows, heating & cooling upgrades, security, and phone systems. Many of these improvements pertain to both the Little White School House as well as the main building. (It pleases me to see the school district is once again committed to the LWSH.) Absentee ballots will be mailed

the first week of March, and the walk-in election will be held March 27<sup>th</sup> at Target Range School from 7am to 8pm.

If you have any questions about the levy election, please don't hesitate to contact me at (406)788-0089 or [Bob.Carter@Target.K12.mt.us](mailto:Bob.Carter@Target.K12.mt.us). This past year has been an interesting and enjoyable learning experience. I now look forward to the next two years!

Bob Carter

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## A Word from our Target Range Sewer & Water District

Did you know that as a homeowner **you** are responsible for maintaining your septic system?

Maintaining your septic system protects your investment in your home and provides long-term, effective treatment of household wastewater; however, if your septic system is not maintained, you may need to replace it, costing you thousands.

More importantly as a community, we want to think of our neighbors and our future by protecting our aquifer. Onsite *septic systems are mini water recycling plants* right in our own yard. They clean our wastewater and return safe water to the groundwater system. If a septic system is not functioning properly, clean water is not returned to the groundwater/aquifer.

Septic System Failure Symptoms:

- Toilet or sink backs up when you flush or do laundry.
- Pooling water or muddy areas around septic tank or drain field.
- Observing bright green grass over the drain field.
- Chemical or bacterial contamination in well water.

We recommend that you have a professional inspect your septic system every 3-4 years.

It was previously mentioned in a Target Range Sewer & Water District Newsletter that many experts advise a family of four with a 1,000 gallon septic tank to have the tank pumped every 3-5 years. Most homes would fall somewhere close to this range and category.

For your benefit and safe guard, the State of Montana provides a Septic Tank Pumper Program. This program provides training, certification and licensing of Septic Tank Pumpers. The following companies are currently listed by the State as licensed Cesspool, Septic Tank and Privy Cleaners in Missoula County.

**Licensed Septic Tank Pumpers in the Missoula area:**

- **Pulici Contracting, Inc.**, dba Sanitation Solutions, Missoula, S-915

- **Halsteads of Montana, Inc.**, dba Roto Rooter, Missoula, S-887
- **Sweet Pea Sewer & Septic**, Missoula, S-834
- **Aero Power Vac, Inc.**, Missoula, S-1044
- **Trusty Excavating**, Missoula, S-868
- **Missoula Septic Service, Inc.**, Missoula, S-362
- **Nash Enterprises, Inc.**, Missoula, S-823
- **Ostberg Fire Services**, Missoula, S-922
- **Wolf Septic Service**, Missoula, S920

For more information on the Septic Tank Pumper Program, go to:

<http://deq.mt.gov/SolidWaste/pumpers.mcp>

Please contact your Target Range Sewer & Water District if you have any questions.

Jim McDonald, chairman, 880-6117

Visit our web site [www.TargetRangeSWD.org](http://www.TargetRangeSWD.org)

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***Committed to Protecting our Aquifer ,  
serving our community***

Fred Jones, TRSW Board Member

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## IRRIGATION WATER

Be prepared for the ditch water, which comes in anytime from the middle of April to the beginning of May. Everyone in Target Range who pays for irrigation water on their taxes has a right to use it. If your water has been cut off by subdivision, you have the right to work out delivery. You also have the right to work on the ditch where it crosses other property to insure delivery.

Some points to remember:

- Although the ditch rider employs a crew to clean the ditches each spring, anything you can do to help is welcome. Clearing branches and leaves ahead of time aids in how fast they can get the work done.
- The ditch rider is only responsible for delivery of water down the main supply ditches.
- Most of the small laterals and supply ditches are private and maintenance responsibility is entirely up to the users.
- Coordinate with your neighbors for the yearly cleaning and maintenance work in preparation for the water coming in.
- Cooperate with your neighbors regarding regulation of flow. Flooding a neighbor or in any way polluting water with chemicals or trash is not acceptable.

- When mowing next to the ditches, please be sure to throw clippings away from the water.

Our ditch water is a valuable resource that grows crops better than colder and more mineralized water from our wells. Make use of it and help keep Target Range beautiful.

Mike Chandler



## Target Range Farmers Market Opens May 13, 2012 From 10 am to 2 pm

### *Market Manager needed.....*

I'm sure by this time you are getting tired of the dirty car syndrome, and you are getting excited for the green grass, blue skies, and fresh fruits and veggies. The Target Range Market will again be up and running this year, the only thing missing is you! We need a Market Manager...so if you are interested in helping out this wonderful group of people please consider taking this position. Some of the responsibilities are:

1. Setting out signs and banner
2. Sign vendors in/collect dues/and maintain the paperwork
3. Maintaining a relationship with the school...they are incredibly easy to work with.
4. Keep the area clean and tidy
5. Answer questions and enforce health code regulations.

These are the main items to be considered. I also took on doing some advertising on the radio, also very easy to do. Some radio stations do free spots, some are paid. I will try and get all this in order before the start of the market season. This job is great if you have a booth at the market, as you are already there.

If you are interested in this position (or even if you are interested in having a booth) please give me a call, I will be happy to answer any questions, and I will be around to help you in the beginning. Remember this is a volunteer position, you get paid in a job well done. Market will again be on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 pm (The Market Master usually sets up between 8:30 am and 10 am.), starting May 13 (Mother's Day) and ending on October 14 with a garage sale added to the Market.)

Patty Smigaj 327-6784

## Community Seed Swaps

Starting a garden in a new climate zone can be a challenge. It's a learning process to find out which flowers, veggies, trees and shrubs do best. Many people trade advice, plants and seeds with gardening friends and neighbors. Wouldn't it be a great to get local gardeners together at a community event and swap

seeds and experiences? At the end of the gardening season, most have extra seeds left to share.

How does a community seed swap work? To prepare for a seed swap, collect seeds of plants you would like to exchange and put them in small labeled bags and swap them at a community seed swap with the seeds of other gardeners. There is no money involved; the swap is a 2-way trade. The benefits are many:

- You don't need to buy seeds
- Gives you the opportunity to try out new varieties
- Preserves plant diversity
- Learn what grows best in your climate
- Great purpose for extra seeds from previous season

Organizing a seed swap is easy and rewarding and there are many resources online. At the seed swap, I recommend to show a picture of the actual plant and have planting instructions ready. A good time to have a seed swap is January and February, just before gardeners start their indoor seedlings. We had our first community seed swap recently at the Orchard Homes Country Life Club and are planning on having another seed and plant swap in May.

Share the bounty,  
Silke Jauck-Millett

*Nancy, thanks for all the work you do as our editor. Peggie*

## *We are pleased to introduce:*

**Future Agricultural  
Resources for  
Montana, F.A.R.M.**



Future Agricultural Resources for Montana, F.A.R.M., is a non-profit group with a volunteer board of directors committed to educating our children and our communities on the importance of local sustainable agriculture.

The realization we needed to do something proactive in the education and preservation of our prime agricultural soils and farming heritage came with the rush of subdivisions gobbling up precious agricultural soils in the Orchard Homes area from 2005 to 2009. Unfortunately, our city/county government is not in a position to see the long term value of this land without houses on it. Our local government said they would not be able to do anything to preserve this land, thus F.A.R.M. was borne.

We offer educational programs in the classroom. We provide hands-on learning opportunities on planting your own seeds and nurturing them into plants, food preservation methods, and planning a garden. We discuss the importance of local sustainable agriculture and the benefits for our health, our community and our world.

The permanent preservation of locally important soils for agricultural use is another goal of F.A.R.M.. In Missoula County, only 8.9% of prime local agricultural soil remains, and half of this soil exists in the Orchard Homes and Target Range areas. This is a startling statistic, with similar percentages statewide. We must retain as much of these agricultural soils as we can to enable future generations to produce food on a local level.

If you are interested in an educational agricultural presentation or to talk about permanently preserving agricultural land of five acres or greater for future generations, please contact the F.A.R.M. board of directors or drop us a note at [www.info@farmmontana.org](mailto:www.info@farmmontana.org).

The F.A.R.M. Board of Directors:

Kari Brittain	Bob Carter	Erin Turner
370-0375	406-788-0089	721-5678

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## MACLAY BRIDGE EMERGENCY CROSSING

Maclay Bridge has been a contentious issue in Target Range since October 2010. That was when a county engineer and state bridge engineers were discovered under the bridge discussing a replacement bridge. That incident occurred less than 3 months after the Target Range Neighborhood Plan was approved which specified that the existing bridge adequately served the area. Nevertheless, the Board of County Commissioners and the Director of Public Works quickly took a position that favored replacement of the bridge with a 2-lane span on the western extension of South Avenue. Last February, after several exchanges in the media, the Director of Public Works issued a letter to Missoula Rural Fire Department which denied them the authority to cross the bridge with overweight emergency vehicles.

Last June, Missoula County forwarded weight and wheel base information regarding the Missoula Rural Fire Department emergency response vehicles to Montana Department of Transportation. This information was used to evaluate Maclay Bridge for load capacity for emergency responses. MDT completed the evaluation and responded to subsequent questions by county engineers. MDT recommended that the inventory load limit (posted weight limit) be reduced from 14 tons to 11 tons, but the operating load limit (emergency weight limit) remained at 17 tons as it was prior to February 2011. We expected normal emergency response to resume. On February 6, we went directly to the county to inquire.

The Board of County Commissioners turned the matter over to The Director of Public Works, who in turn, passed it on to another engineer. A February 13, 2012 letter from Missoula County's engineer to Chief Bill Colwell of Missoula Rural Fire Department denied use of the bridge by fire trucks. The letter cited section loss (rust) or fatigue as the cause of their 'discomfort' with respect to their preferred level of safety. The

letter also cited the "No impact" requirement for overweight emergency vehicles as being unrealistic. "No impact" requirements were in place prior to February 2011, and MRFD had no difficulty in managing them at that time. They simply require the emergency response vehicles to slow down, and then enter the bridge centered on the roadway. They must cross without acceleration or braking to avoid impacting the structure with stress loads from inertia of the vehicle.

So what does this mean to those of us living west of the Bitterroot River? According to Fire Chief Colwell, MRFD will use a Type 5 or 6 engine with a 3-person cab which will be stationed at MRFD Station #1 located at South Avenue and Reserve. This engine with 300 gallons of water on board with foam capability and EMS equipment weighs less than 17,000 pounds. That does not exceed the expected 11 ton weight limit. Medical response times will not increase. Risk and impact to response will be increased for structural fire fighting assignments and auto accidents or rescues that require heavy extrication (Hurst Jaws) applications. That equipment is housed on Type 1 engines. Those pieces of equipment will be responded from Lolo (Station 5) or Mullen (Station 6) to support vehicle accidents in conjunction with a crew from Station 1 in a Type 5 or 6 engine. Chief Colwell says the bottom line is less water, less pumping capability, and less structure and extrication equipment arriving on scene with the first equipment.

Maclay Bridge Alliance requested a meeting with Erik Dickson, the county engineer, and our engineering consultant, Mr. Frank Muth. Following that meeting on March 8, Dickson reported to the commissioners that Public Works had decided to create a crossing agreement between Public Works and MRFD to be prepared within 2 weeks. The agreement will require fire equipment to cross Maclay Bridge at a minimum speed, drive down the center, and to return to the Fire Station via Highway 93. He also said that MDT will be doing an analysis on the school buses that cross the bridge since fully loaded buses may exceed the new posted limit. He thought a permit similar to the MRFD permit could be prepared and issued when that analysis comes back from Helena .

It appears that emergency response west of the Bitterroot River will soon be back to the same levels that prevailed prior to February 2011.

Bob Schweitzer (544-9066 )

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## *A Target Ranger's rambling...*

*Shortly after Christmas, I was busying myself with the usual after Holiday cleanup projects. While taking down the year's Christmas cards from the inside of the front door, one caught my eye again and I was reminded of an incident from the sender of this Holiday wish. It was from a long ago co-worker who stays in touch after all these years.*

*As we worked together one day, I noticed how he always walked from place to place rather slowly always looking down at his feet. I remarked to him that he was missing a lot in this beautiful world being so downcast*

and he should keep his chin up and his eyes open. He calmly commented back that having been raised in Dillon, he was always keenly aware of the possibility of rattlesnakes! I told him it was ok up here in Missoula, as far as I knew, but he continued to keep his eyes to the ground. I, on the other hand, always like to look up and out at the tremendous beauty that constantly amazes me living in Montana.

A few days later in early January, I was out taking my daily morning walk in the Equestrian Park, feeling fortunate that we had been so far spared the snowfall that had been promised. I was hoping for the appearance of the Quadrantid Meteor showers. It was pitch dark at 6:00 a.m. and there was no moon to be seen. As my eyes began to adjust, the "shooting stars" began to appear in the northwest just above the "Big Dipper". At the end of my walk, the most spectacular meteor was about to appear. The sky was just starting to lighten and an orange beauty went from directly overhead all the way to the horizon in the west and split apart in about a dozen pieces. I feel very fortunate to "keep my eyes open" and my head up and to live in an area that still has a somewhat reasonable patch of Dark Sky. There are many places on earth where the glow from the city lights overwhelms even the brightest of stars and no constellations can be observed.

I am reminded of a quote from National Geographic... "In a very real sense, light pollution causes us to lose sight of our true place in the universe, to forget the scale of our being which is best measured against the dimensions of a deep night with the Milky Way -the edge of our galaxy arching overhead." There is a tremendous resource for those of us who would like to maintain this Dark Sky presence. The International Dark Sky Association has a wealth of information and an incredible web site [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org). The Target Range Home Owners Association is a member and has currently made a recommendation to the County to make any lighting changes at the Maclay Bridge (as per their suggestion) as Dark Sky and/or City Lighting ordinance compliant.

Ed Taylor

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## Low Cost Radon Test Kits Available for Missoula County Residents

Radon is a radioactive gas which causes the death of over 20,000 Americans every year. It is naturally occurring, odorless, and colorless and seeps into homes from the surrounding soil and in some cases from well water. Because the air pressure inside a home is often lower than the pressure in the soil underneath and surrounding a home's foundation, a home acts as a vacuum and draws the gas through foundation cracks and other openings. Nationwide, 7% of buildings contain elevated

levels of radon. In Montana, 53% of buildings have elevated levels, over 7 times the national average.

### Health Risks

Once inside the home, radon and its decay products can be inhaled into the lungs, resulting in cellular damage that can lead to disease. Radon exposure is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer (tobacco smoke being #1) and it is estimated that in the U.S. > 20,000 deaths are attributable to radon exposure every year. Children may be especially sensitive to radon due to increased respiratory rates and decreased immune function. As with all carcinogens, an individual's risk of developing lung cancer as a result of radon exposure is related to four main factors: the dose, the duration of the exposure, any inherent genetic susceptibility, and co-exposure effects. As an example of the latter case, the combination of smoking or second-hand smoke exposure and radon exposure increases the risk of developing cancer.

### Radon Levels are High in Missoula County

Radon exists throughout the world, and in the US the average indoor radon level is 1.3 pCi/L. In Missoula County the average indoor radon level is 7.1 pCi/L. The EPA has established that a level of 4 pCi/L is the action level or the level above which homes should be fixed. Keep in mind that 4 pCi/L is an action level, not a safe level. There is no safe level of radon exposure. A family whose home has radon levels of 4pCi/L is exposed to approximately 35 times as much radiation as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission would allow if that family was standing next to the fence of a radioactive waste site. As another example, a radon level of 4.0 pCi/L is equal to 200 chest x-rays per year.

### Test

Testing your home is the only way to know if radon levels are high. Old homes, new homes, or your neighbor's radon results are not predictive of an individual home's radon levels. Inexpensive test kits can be obtained at local hardware stores or the Missoula City-County Health Department and are often priced at less than \$25. Test kits are easy to use and include instructions and a pre-paid envelope for mailing your kit to a lab for analysis.

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

Submitted by Todd Seib, Missoula County Environmental Health

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## Mountain Home Montana's Campus is Complete!

Mountain Home Montana completed construction in June 2011 on a 9,000 square foot expansion that includes Supportive Services and a Children's Center on the first floor, 5 Transitional Living Apartments on the second floor and a new playground and parking lot to serve the entire campus.

Mountain Home Montana is a nonprofit organization that has been providing a 6-bedroom group home for young mothers and babies since 2000 after local resident, Bonnie Hamilton, donated her home on one-acre to our organization. Now we are now able to serve a total of eleven families in our Transitional Living Programs and provide supportive services, Life Skills Classes and Parenting Classes to many other young mothers.

**Vision:** *We believe all children should have a safe, loving home where they can grow and learn.*

**Mission:** *To provide a safe, loving home where young mothers can discover their strengths and their children can experience the joys of childhood.*

The entire project came in under budget at \$1.4 million with funding support from Federal, State and County grants, foundations, individuals and fundraisers. We have \$300,000 left to reach our campaign goal and keep our new building debt free. If you would like to get involved, please contact us at 406-541-4663 or visit our website to donate at [www.mountainhomemt.org](http://www.mountainhomemt.org).

We would like to thank our neighbors in the Target Range Homeowners Association for your support and invite you to our monthly tour on the third Tuesday of each month at 1pm or call 541-4668 to schedule an individual tour.

Gypsy Ray, Executive Director,  
Mountain Home Montana, Inc.

size, detail, materials needed and time for each cake. Cakes may be picked up or delivered to the event on the due date. Serving services are also available. Cake options included sheet cakes, round cakes, 3D bear and lamb as well as any custom size. Pick the flavor of cake and frosting to custom match for your event. Please schedule your cakes a month in advance. I take great pride in making sure each cake looks as good as it tastes.

Ashley Smigaj\_327-6784

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## **Membership Update**

*The Target Range area has about 1065 households with a population of approximately 2500 folks. As of this writing in March 2012, we have a total of 213 active members (up from 159 at this time last year). There is a membership form included in this mailing with rates and address information to make it easy for those who would like to renew to do so conveniently. Please note the option to include an email address to receive President Peggie Morrison's FYI messages with information updates and goings on in the neighborhood. Any membership questions can be addressed to Anne Rupkalvis at 549-6689. Please send renewal checks to our PO Box 1075, 59806. Thank you so much for your membership in both person and dues.*

*Your interest in and support of TRHOA funds all of our projects, not the least of which is this newsletter. Each year in the late winter those who have something to contribute begin working on their articles.*

*If you would like to volunteer, you may contact your area representative who also serves as a TRHOA board member, or any officer of the board. Your interest would be most welcome and appreciated.*

The consultant hired to do the corridor study on Maclay Bridge will have 4 public meetings over the next 12 months. The first one will be either April 17 or 24. The exact date and location will be decided soon and notification will be made. Watch for the official notification for this very important meeting.

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## **CHANGES IN MOTORIZED USE ON RIVERS**

Changes to motorized boating regulations went into effect Nov. 26 for some Missoula area rivers, including parts of the Clark Fork, Bitterroot and Blackfoot.

On the Clark Fork, the new regulations prohibit motorized travel year-round through Missoula, from the old Milltown Reservoir area to just above the confluence with the Bitterroot on the western edge of town.

Other major changes affect the previously unrestricted stretch of river from Kelly Island Fishing Access Site (FAS) to Harper's Bridge FAS. Under the new regulations, motorized travel, except personal water craft (PWC), is allowed only from May 1-June 15 and 20 horsepower travel is allowed Oct 1-Jan. 31. The rest of the year is float-only.

Harper's Bridge to St. John's FAS, also previously unrestricted, is now open to motorized watercraft (except PWC) from Oct. 1-June 15 and to 20hp or less June 16-Sept. 30. The regulations remain the same as they have been below St. John's.

On the Bitterroot, the new regulations prohibit the spring unrestricted motorized travel that once was allowed below Florence Bridge. Under the new regulations, only 20 horsepower or less travel is allowed from Oct. 1-Jan. 31 for the entire river, and the rest of the year is float only. On the Blackfoot, the former Milltown Reservoir area is now closed to motorized watercraft.

A map showing the new restrictions on motorized use can be found at <http://fwp.mt.gov/fwpDoc.html?id=53308>

George Hirschenberger

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Got a Birthday Party coming up? Want to have a special cake for your Graduate's special day? With over 100 cakes decorated and enjoyed, *Cakes by Ashley* will finish any occasion with a custom cake. I meet with each client personally to discuss and sketch a cake that is custom fit for your occasion. Take a look at my photo album to get ideas, or if you have ideas and/or images please feel free to bring them. Prices are based on the

## **EQUESTRIAN PARK**

On behalf of the Missoula Horsemen's Council, we would like to thank the Target Range Homeowners Association for their generous donation toward landscaping the Park.

The Council has had a busy winter preparing for the 2012 season. The Western Events Arena excavation is underway. This new arena was approved by the Big Sky Stewardship Committee, the Missoula County Parks Board and the Missoula County Commissioners in 2010. The University Of Montana College Of Technology under the direction of Rod Frost prepared the base, fill was brought into the areas that were low, and clay has been brought in to complete the base. The last loads of sand/clay/silt will be the final stages of the footing materials. The WEA Committee is also looking at fencing. The Arena will have an amphitheater seating area and landscaping. Plans for opening the arena, depending on weather, should be May 15, 2012.

The Council is also hosting an array of non-horse events at the Park this year including the addition of the Dirty Dash. Bike

racing and high school cross country are just a few of the events the Park is hosting for the 2012 season.

Some of the projects the Park has for the near future include a new bridge crossing the ditch behind the Martin Briggeman 4-H Arena at the corner of North Avenue and 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, improvements to the Cross Country Course to start getting ready for Preliminary level jumps, enclosing the storage area near the existing "garage", improving the irrigation system for a greener Park and dust abatement, new landscaping in addition to the WEA landscaping, new bathroom system, and a new entry way.

As the weather improves, the Park is seeing numerous residents walking the 1.7 mile perimeter trail and enjoying a variety of wildlife that inhabit the area as well as getting some exercise and soaking up any sunshine that permeates the Missoula Valley in the wintertime.

Laura Bakker

### ***Packing and Equestrian Skills Expo***

***May 19, 2012***

### ***Missoula Equestrian Park***

*Fourth Annual Packing & Equestrian Skills Expo. 10am to 5 pm at the Missoula Equestrian Park. All events are **FREE** to the public! Parade of Breeds, Vendors, Food, Displays.*

*Educational events held all day will include Basic Horse Handling Safety, a Packing Demo with Smoke Elser, Veterinary Demos and a Kid's Area. Displays include a Leave No Trace Campsite. Call Ken Brown, 207-6067, for more information.*

*Sponsored by the Missoula Backcountry Horsemen*

## **PARKS & TRAILS**

Greetings Target Rangers. ....

Spring is just around the corner it seems, as the tulips are poking up through the sodden earth in our flower beds. Spring is when neighborhoods come alive with people beginning to explore and enjoy the outdoors again in the form of "passive recreation". Unlike skiing or snowmobiling or boating or baseball, passive recreation is not dependent on a place developed for that experience and equipment to do it. You just open the door and go for a walk to the river and hike along the trail along the bank or you hit the trail on your bike and wind up where your wheels take you or you pack some food and drinks and the family and some friends to have a picnic in the park and watch the kids kick a ball around.

We in Target Range are very blessed with many and varied recreational opportunities in the form of our county parks and trails system. Missoula county residents are an

active population! Among the most active in the state according to a 2008 study conducted by the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. Information found within the newly updated Missoula County Parks and Trails Master Plan (from a household survey conducted in association with this effort) revealed the top 5 amenities used most by county residents. These are hiking and biking trails (80%); river access sites (69%); natural area/wildlife habitat (69%); paved commuter trails (64%); and group pavilions/picnicking areas (62%). We in Target Range have all these available to us in our area!

We have two very large parks. Fort Missoula Regional Park "has the greatest diversity of recreational amenities of any county park. At 155 acres, Big Sky Park is the largest Missoula County Park". The Master Plan recommends that the County develop some form of park dedication or commitment to protect Big Sky Park as it is not dedicated park land but County land being used for park purposes. Big Sky Park has small mammal and bird habitat area where foxes are seen as well as at denning sites at Fort Missoula.

We have more trail mileage than other areas in the County park/trail system with the paved surfaces along 7th Street and Clements as well as the wonderful South Avenue commuter trail plus the natural-surfaced trails at Fort Missoula and Big Sky Park.

We have both the Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers. Their confluence is accessed by the fishing/boat launch site on Spurgin Road and the trail system to the river at the west end of 7th Street. The beach at Maclay Bridge is a well-used spot and the city conservation lands on Tower Street are newly available to the public.

Picnic opportunities abound, of course, in our neighborhood. Look for the new picnic pavilion at Fort Missoula this summer. The Missoula County Park Board purchased some Blackfoot River "sinker logs" from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for this project. (These logs became available as a result of the removal of the dam behind the former Stimson Mill at Bonner and the drawdown of the Clark Fork River as part of the Milltown dam removal project.) A fine looking pavilion based on the U.S. Forest Service design at the Charles Waters Recreation Area at Bass Creek in the Bitterroot is under construction and soon to be completed. Look for it near the new bathroom in the southeast area of Fort Missoula Park.

Outdoor opportunities abound in Target Range. Let's get out and enjoy our beautiful neighborhood in this Hub of Five Valleys.

Happy Trails, Target Rangers!  
Anne Rupkalvis

**Orchard Homes Country Life Club** potlucks will be held on March 25th, April 6th, and April 27th at 6:30 pm. Anyone in the Orchard Homes/Target Range area is welcome.

## TARGET RANGE HISTORY

Greetings to all from your neighbors at "Threads of Montana History"! As you may know, we are continuing research on the old Pomejavich ice house. We are gathering both stories and volunteers. Some neat stories are coming in and we are compiling them in preparation of sharing them with the family for their approval.

I do know that Matt Pomejavich helped to form Fire District 1 in 1961. His photo hangs as the first Chief in the firehouse today. More stories will come in this summer on this subject.

The firehouse received a quilt mural this past spring. Funny, the men's wives and kids make them use the front door now instead of the back! Makes a volunteer GRIN to hear that!

The calendars were a great success again this year! If you have not purchased yours, call Bonnie White (542-9355). They are \$15.00. Thank you for your participation in our fundraiser. This is paying for the paint for the quilt barn tour.

Only 6 weeks away until you see new murals pop up in the area! Keep an eye out as you drive up Spurgin Road this summer, possibly one in Lolo and one on Mullan Road on the way to the old Mill towards Frenchtown.

Contact us if you can help paint or have a historic barn in mind! We hope to paint 10 murals per year for 10 years on 100 barns here in the State of Montana. Success depends upon community involvement. Please contact us. So far this has been a delightful project for all of Missoula! We hope to share our passion for rural living and "art for the heart!"

"Dairy farms in Western Montana" research continues. Research is one year into the project. This is one thick list that we will be working on for the

next two years. We will share more as it transpires. Thank you to all who have shared dairy stories!

Have a great March and get yourself all warmed up to join us at the Target Range Farmers Market this spring!! Ask your friends and neighbors to join us too!

Kris Platz-Crawford, Threads - President

## WEBSITES

[www.targetrangehoa.org](http://www.targetrangehoa.org)

[www.mthistory.us](http://www.mthistory.us) (Kris Crawford)

[www.maclaybridge.org](http://www.maclaybridge.org)

[www.targetrangeswd.org](http://www.targetrangeswd.org)

Dates to remember:

**March 27**- Deadline for School Board applications.

**VOTE ON SCHOOL LEVY**

**April 17 or 24** - Maclay Bridge public meeting

**April 25** - TRHOA Meeting, 7 pm Target Range School Library. Meet the school board candidates.

**May 8** - Vote

**May 13** - Mother's Day. First TR Farmers Market, school east parking lot, 10 am- 2 pm

**May 30** - TRHOA Meeting, 7 pm Target Range School Library. The last meeting of the year will feature the election of next year's officers and executive board.

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

“Rural by Design”

**TRHOA  
BOX 1075  
MISSOULA, MT 59806**

Presort Standard  
US Postage Paid  
Missoula, MT 59806  
Permit # 569

**Or CURRENT RESIDENT**

## TARGET RANGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dues are \$15 per year for an individual and \$20 per family (September 1 through August 31). Please fill out this membership form and mail it to TRHOA, P.O. Box 1075, 59806, along with your dues. Thank you for supporting TRHOA in its efforts to maintain our rural environment.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME ADDRESS

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

\_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE WORK PHONE CELL PHONE

\_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL DATE