

OCTOBER, 2007 ISSUE NO. 1

Today, we launch Issue I of the Mosier Valley News. Ideally, we would have printed a newspaper and that remains our goal but we thought it best to start small (and affordable). We hope to provide copies at the Mosier Market for those who don't get email. We are accepting donations that would help us print copies so those who don't get email can read the news. Please, forward this to all your friends in Mosier and tell them to let Suzi know if they want to be on the email list.

In this issue we write about many things Mosier: The Townhouses along Highway 30, The Proposed Cellular Tower, The Gravel Pit, Pears, A Funny Thing that happened in some Orchards this Summer, Visitors, Local History, A poem or two, The American Legion, Aging. More will come in months ahead.

Our intent in writing this newsletter is to help the community of Mosier remain just that, a community. Everyone in this community shares the goal of keeping Mosier Mosier but we have to remember that Mosier has many faces. Also remember, Mosier has one heart and it is with heart that we live here. It is also with heart that Celyne, Hollie and I (Suzi Conklin) embark on this, often daunting, task of trying to coordinate communications in our little area. In our issues we hope eventually to bring you the Metro news, social news and features, entertainment, give you space for your opinions, sports, a comic now and then and whatever YOU wish us to include. We will try to produce a monthly and sometime in the future if we find we can sell advertising and subscriptions, we hope to print this as a newspaper. For now, let's hope this serves us all and gives everyone a chance to communicate with each other in this wonderful community of ours.

Please pass this newsletter on to anyone you can. We have a very small email address group at this time so the only way we will get YOUR email address if you haven't received this directly from Suzi is for you to send her your address directly. Send it to s1conk@gorge.net And PLEASE contribute to our November issue by sending us your news.

Editors: Suzi Conklin, Celyne Camen, Hollie Lund

Contributors to this issue: Glenn Bartholomew on the volunteer fire department, Brent Foster on the gravel pit, Glenna McCargar on family history, Sam Seskin's poetry, Monica Reid on the Kid's First Committee

by Suzi Conklin

When you think about it, all of our orchards not surrounded by 8 ft. fences are susceptible to theft, but I can't imagine anyone having the nerve to just drive up and start stealing fruit. That is until this summer. It seems that one such woman did arrive, with her 12 year old son in tow no less.

Annie's daughter, Sara, was the first to encounter the thief when she told the woman the routine; "Go down to the orchard, pick

Annie Maslen

what you want of the RIPE fruit then bring it back here for weighing and payment." I guess the woman forgot the latter part because she picked her apricots then proceeded to drive across the drive-way to Brian McCormick's orchard to pick cherries. When told that she wasn't supposed to pick Brian's cherries, the woman lied that he had told her it was OK and had given her a price. (one quick call to Brian was enough to squash that excuse.) Brian went one step further, however, and drove down to the woman's car to take back the cherries she'd picked. She drove away, toward the Fairy Dell Store with only the stolen apricots.

In the meantime, Sara had driven down to the Fairy Dell Store to help out. She was telling Gay Jervy about the fruit thief when the woman and her son drove up. "That's her!" Sara shouted. Gay said "Call your mom, I'll stall her." While Annie was being called, Gay stood behind the woman's car. Meantime, the woman was picking over the cherries in the Fairy Dell, swapping the best cherries from one container to the next and not at all endearing herself to the cherry sellers. Gay was getting nervous that Annie was taking so long to get down there so she walked across the street and talked a truck driver into backing his truck up behind the woman's car. Annie, in the meantime, was being held up by construction on the Mosier Creek Bridge.

Just about the time the woman was catching on that she was being blocked, Annie arrived and proceeded to explain, through interpretation of the poor 12 year old son, that the woman owed her money for the apricots. Annie took the apricots, carried them into the Fairy Dell and weighed them. She got her money and the woman was released from Gay and the truck.

A day in the life of Mosier

UPCOMING EVENT

MOSIER COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S FALL CARNIVAL

Sat October 25th 5-8 p.m. at the school

This Parent Teacher Organization sponsored event includes carnival booths, costumes, Bingo and

lots of good eats. The money raised will be used for special assemblies and field trips.

MOSIER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

If you are interested in what goes down at Mosier City Council meetings, they are held at the Senior Center 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. The agenda is posted at City Hall the Monday before the council meets. You can also find agendas and council hearing minutes on the website www.community.gorge.net/mosier.

By Dr. Hollie Lund

Dr. Lund lives in Mosier and teaches sustainable urban development for PSU Extended Studies

Shortly after the first Mosier Creek townhomes were completed—I'm referring of course to the wall of townhomes stretching between the old highway and the railroad tracks—I walked down the street to take a tour. My curiosity had finally gotten the best of me: would the townhomes actually *shake* as the train rolled by? Or would it simply be deafening? (Frankly, I half expected the tour to be carefully timed so as to avoid any train passings; I was ready to put up a fight, tie myself to the Energy Star-rated refrigerator if necessary.)

Not only did the property manager not try to shield me from the trains, he actually announced its' arrival—and didn't even protest as I began opening windows. (Although maybe he should have.) I have to admit, though, that the ground level was surprisingly quiet. A raised embankment between the townhomes and the railroad tracks provided a natural noise buffer and also blocked my view of the railroad and interstate below. The second floor, unfortunately, was not nearly as protected, and as a train rumbled past I was reminded of my initial question: who in the world would spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to live on top of a railroad track?

Then again, I'm not part of their target market. According to Bill Irving, the sales representative for Copper West Properties, the townhomes were built specifically for the seasonal resident: homeowners who would value the low maintenance requirements and the accessible location and who wouldn't be overly bothered by the noise because, well, they don't plan on spending much time indoors anyway. And (for the most part) that's exactly who they've been attracting.

As of mid-September, twelve units (out of 34) had sold, with the large majority of those (8 or 9 units) going to weekenders from Portland and Seattle. Two others were bought purely as investment properties (possibly to be rented out as vacation homes), and another one or two were bought by year-round residents. Due to their smaller size (and smaller price), the one-story flats have been particularly appealing, suggesting that project may have come even closer to its target

market if it had gone with fewer townhomes and more flats rather than the other way around. (Five of the 22 townhomes have sold, compared to 7 of the 12 flats.)

When I asked Mr. Irving about the rumored mold problem, he was surprised that I had even heard anything about it since the problem had been addressed before the units were even completed. He confirmed that the wrong type of insulation had initially been used in the ceilings of the flats and—*had it been left there*—may have caused a mold problem. The problem was detected during a routine architectural inspection, though, and the insulation quickly replaced.

While I have concerns about any project that focuses entirely on seasonal and part-time residents (What happens when it empties out for the winter? Who keeps an eye on things?), and while I certainly wouldn't want to see the Gorge lined with them, at least the townhomes are providing an outlet for part-timers who might otherwise be buying up Mosier's main housing stock, and doing so in a way that doesn't destroy our environment or eat up our surrounding hillsides. (Plus, they work great as a sound buffer.)



by Suzi Conklin

The American Legion has received a nice face lift with lots of work by members of the Legion and volunteer work by Kathy Crow and others. Even though rumors were spreading that the Legion was putting in a bar to offset the sudden high cost of water in Mosier, Steve Kennedy confirmed that the “bar” being referred to was simply the improvement of the “counter” that is bar height and too wide to be practical.

The Legion owns the property Mosier's former library building sits on. When the Legion found it could not afford to pay the water bills that exceeded their dues, they proposed the city lease the library for the same amount as the water bill. The proposal was turned down so the Legion vacated the building until they could decide whether or not they would have to sell the property or find another source of income from it.

As of this writing, the Legion was considering reinstating the library but was still working on a solution to the water payments.

By Celyne Camen

Verizon's proposal to cite a 60-foot cellular tower on the Fruit Growers' property – a parcel across from the Mosier Community School playground, bordering the river just north of the Historic Highway – is likely to be defeated, according to Mayor Mark Berry. The Mosier City Council heard testimony by Verizon on September 19th and ended the hearing asking Verizon to submit additional information substantiating analysis that there is no alternate site that would meet their needs. When asked, most of the council members said they would deny Verizon's application based on the visual impacts of the project on downtown Mosier. The next city council meeting addressing this issue will be held October 17th. The citizen input portion of the hearing is still open.

Approximately 40 emails and letters were received by the council from concerned citizens. Only three correspondences supported the project. Many communicated their concerns of river views being blocked and the unsightliness of the station at the entrance of Mosier. And although federal law prohibits denying the citing of a cell tower on the basis of "actual or perceived health affects" (as long as the facilities comply with the Federal Communications Commission's regulations concerning such emissions), many people in the community voiced their concern about the implications of radio frequency radiation (RF) emitted from wireless technology. They mentioned a plethora of research linking RF to leukemia, miscarriage, cardiac disruption, sleep disturbance, chronic fatigue, headaches, vibroacoustic disease, etc. and quoted such noted experts as Dr. Andrew Weil, Henry Lai, a bioengineering professor at the University of Washington in Seattle and Dr. Gerard Hyland a physicist twice nominated for the Nobel Prize in medicine who said that "existing safety guidelines for cell towers are completely inadequate."

Carole Schmidt, principal of the Mosier Community School, is also worried about placing cellular towers so close to the school.

"There is quite a lot of research which raises concern about the association of various ill health effects on children, who are within the proximity of cellular towers. While I understand that the Fruit Growers and the City of Mosier can use the revenue generated from allowing Verizon to place a tower in Mosier, I would hope that they would consider the health of the schoolchildren before the financial benefit ." she said.

Should the project be approved, the Fruit Growers plan to use the revenue earned from leasing to Verizon for the renovation of the packing warehouse which is in its 100th year of operation. Fruit Growers Board member Ken Hudson said he really didn't feel the tower would be a blight to downtown Mosier as it would be hidden in the trees. As far as any health threats posed by cell towers Mr. Hudson said he only "knew what Verizon told me: that a government agency (FCC) establishes safety guidelines for cell towers." When asked if he felt Mosier as a community would benefit from the cellular tower, Mr. Hudson showed his sense of humor in the face of this complicated and controversial issue. "I don't even have a cell phone," he laughed.

is the largest single cause of property loss in the United States. In the last decade fires have caused direct losses of more than \$120 billion and countless billions more in related costs. Every year fires injure more than 20,000 people. And every year more than 3,000 Americans die in building fires.

A community committed to saving lives and property needs trained firefighters, proper equipment, and adequate supplies of water. The Mosier Rural Fire Protection District and the Mosier City Council work hand in hand to provide effective fire protection for our community. The District and the Council each receives a portion of your tax dollars and are responsible for investing those dollars in the proper equipment, training and infrastructure necessary to provide our fire protection. Money alone, however, does not put out fires. **We Need More Volunteers**, and not everyone must train to be a firefighter. Areas where we need help include:

- Administrative Support
- Facility and Equipment Maintenance
- Vehicle Mechanic
- Training Coordination
- Firefighter Candidates

We also need your support within the community to help raise fire protection awareness and with our continuing efforts to raise additional funds to further improve our firefighting capabilities. Please contact Glenn Bartholomew at 478-0143 if you feel you can contribute in any way.

How important is a properly functioning fire department here in Mosier? Beyond the obvious, a well staffed and trained fire department can literally put money in your pocket each and every month. Here's how. Within the next two months our fire department will be evaluated by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to update our fire insurance classification. This insurance classification number is one of several elements used by insurance companies in developing insurance premium calculations for properties in our community. A community's investment in fire

protection is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Insurance companies use the ISO information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance — generally **offering lower premiums in communities with better protection**. On the flip side, if we lose our current rating, all of **our insurance premiums could double**.

One last and very important note is, if you ever do **need fire or emergency medical assistance please call 9-1-1**. In the past Mosier residents called a local number (478-3333) in case of an emergency. That number has been changed to the universal number 9-1-1.

You may have seen marigold and butterscotch clad men in hats walking along State Road and hiking trails this summer. They are 2 monks on Summer Hermitage from Abhayagiri monastery.

Summer Hermitage is a Thai Forest tradition in which monks take time out from teaching and traveling to settle in one place for 3 months resting, meditating and taking personal trips to see the sights. They have walked the Tom McCall preserve, visited the Steens Mountains, the beach, and other northwest areas.

Abhayagiri monastery's focus is peace.



Suzi Conklin

Pears are in and beautiful they are. I thought it might be interesting to dream up a total pear menu. Purees can be stirred into soups and sauces. Pears can be caramelized and placed on everything from pizzas to tarts.

One pear dinner may include:

Mini Pear Pizzas

Pear, Gorgonzola, Candied Hazelnut, Smoked Salmon salad with Pear Vinaigrette

Pear & Winter Squash Soup with Toasted Fresh Sage

Pear Dressed, Chicken Roulade

Pears Caramelized in Cream & Clear Creek Pear Brandy

Space doesn't allow me to include all recipes so in this issue of The Mosier Valley News I include the pizza recipe. Look for the remaining recipes in subsequent issues.

Mini Pear Pizzas.

This recipe calls for a semolina pizza crust. Semolina flour is most often used in making pasta. This crust is eggy and light. You can find Semolina flour locally at Rosauer's and other stores that sell Bob's Red Mill flours and grains.

FOR THE CRUST: Makes about 8 mini pizzas

6 Cups milk
1/4 tsp salt
1 1/2 cups fine semolina
2 eggs, beaten
freshly ground pepper
2/3 C freshly ground parmesan cheese
1 Tablespoons olive oil

Bring the milk to a boil with the salt. Sprinkle the semolina over the hot milk, stirring constantly. Reduce heat to low and cook for 20 minutes stirring frequently. Let cool to lukewarm. Beat the eggs with freshly ground black pepper and a pinch of salt. Add to semolina with the grated cheese and mix well.

Your mixture will be paste-like rather than dough.

Coat a cookie sheet with olive oil (or pre-heat your pizza stone and sprinkle it with dry semolina) Spoon 8 mounds of the mixture onto the sheet and spread each out to a 4" round using the back of the spoon or using your oiled fingers.

TO MAKE TOPPING

1 cup Ricotta Cheese
4 leaves finely chopped fresh sage, plus 16 whole leaves,
1/2 tsp. dried sage,
pepper to taste
1/2 lb. grated mozzarella cheese (left over can be frozen)
3 Pears, sliced, peel left on.
powdered sugar (no more than 1/2 cup)
16 slices Bacon, hickory smoked
1/2 large onion, sliced

Place Ricotta in bowl and add chopped sage dried sage,
Add pepper to taste.
Set mixture aside.

Cook bacon to desired crispness.
Drain off all but 1 tablespoon bacon fat.

Lightly coat pear slices with powdered sugar, dusting the sugar over the slices on both sides using a sifter or small hand sifter.

Add to pan with bacon fat and cook without stirring, turning carefully until pears are very tender

and a bit browned. Remove from pan.

Add onion slices to the pan that the bacon and pears were just cooked in and cook until caramel in color (this should take at least 10 minutes of cooking time if not more. Set aside.

TO ASSEMBLE PIZZAS

Divide ricotta, pears, onions into eight portions.

Spread a portion of the ricotta cheese on each round of dough.

Next sprinkle on grated Mozzarella cheese,

Arrange pears around pizza like flower petals.

Arrange caramelized onion slices around pizza

Dot bacon around or criss-cross two slices.

Top it all with two whole sage leaves

Bake in hot 400° for approximately 15 minutes.

The pizza crust for this recipe came from “ITALY The Beautiful Cookbook” by Lorenza De’ Medici
the Topping by Suzi Conklin

There is no question that our generation is reaching “old age” and with it, we will each take it on in our own very personal way. As a community we can do many things to help ourselves and those around us to cope better with aging, loneliness and fears that go along with becoming lost whether physically or emotionally.

I recently witnessed a woman in Mosier who clearly was not of sound mind. She is not a resident here but something has drawn her to our town occasionally. Maybe it is that she sees other women her age who are able bodied and of seemingly sound mind. Maybe there is something comforting about a small town, something that touches her and connects with her sentiments. Just two minutes with this woman tells you she is not of sound mind. That she is slipping into that fearful place the mind goes that no one truly understands. What we call dementia or Alzheimer’s or senility. This woman has one foot deeply into one of these three. Imagine if she were you. How would you want to be treated? Who would you want someone to contact to find out if you had someone looking out for you? Who is there to turn to help protect someone like her? Maybe the only thing you can do is show compassion. Maybe you are connected to some social service that can be called to follow-up on the woman and see whether or not she has a home, a loved one worrying about her whereabouts or just maybe this troubled woman has a troubled husband at home who’s deeper into mental decay. Who to contact then?

We have many hurdles to jump when it comes to helping each other out. Most are fear based; fear of invasion of privacy, fear of embarrassment, of feeling a fool, fear simply from not knowing what to do and often that fear manifests itself in anger. Anger that we have to be bothered to see that which we don’t want to see.

I don't have any answers to these questions. Each of us chooses to do what we can or not based on who we really are inside. But in our community we do tend to look out for each other. Through our friends and families we talk, we discuss and we act when the need arises. I do hope the lady I saw has a community somewhere that's keeping an eye out for her and I hope our community will do the right thing for her if the need arises. She is not far from being a danger to herself and others by the way she spoke of driving the freeway and she is one example of someone who could enter an on-ramp the wrong way in a moment of distraction. To her I dedicate this poem and to her I promise that if our paths cross again I will attempt to find out who else is in her life that I may be able to connect with to make sure she has a support system.

DEAR LADY LOST

Dear lady lost to all
but expectations
Bend, diminutive mind

in another world
Consciousness black hole
turning into itself filling
with fantasies extracted
from dimensions long gone
Where are the eyes to truly see you?
Where are the compassionate hearts to cushion you?
To give you a steady hand as you gradually
sink into your own abyss?

Suzi Conklin

Good River Restaurant has off-season hours now.

They are open Wednesday through Sunday. Weekdays open 11 AM – 3 PM then 5 PM for dinner. Saturday and Sunday they open at 9 AM.

Check out special discounts on food and/or drinks Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The Fairy Dell Store will be open 10 am to “5ish” until Christmas Friday – Sunday.

The Fairy Dell donates all profits to The Mosier Community School so if you are a parent of a child attending MSC drop in now and then to shop and show your support. The store is run completely by volunteers and many wonderful people from the community, including some of the artists selling their works there, put in time. It is a great opportunity to meet the artists. The Fairy Dell supports the community in many ways just by being there; it attracts tourists to the area, which helps other businesses, it provides downtown with a beautiful landscape, it provides all of us in the Mosier community the opportunity to pick up gifts, cards and delicious specialty food items and it supports our precious school. Show your support and shop Mosier first.

THE GISMO STUDENT SCIENCE MUSEUM OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

The GISMO Science museum (located at the Mosier Community School) will be open Saturdays throughout the school year. From 10 a.m. until 11:50 a.m. guests will be free to view and use the exhibits currently on display. From noon until 2 pm Hands-On Labs will be offered for third grade students to adults. The fee for these classes is \$20. Pre-registration is encouraged as classes are limited to eight students. The October schedule is as follows:

Oct. 6 Native Plants of the Northwest
Oct 13 Geology of the Pacific Northwest
Oct 20 Microscope Lab
Oct 27 Investigations with The Private Eye

Don't miss this opportunity to participate in this exciting learning environment.

For more information visit www.gismo.org

