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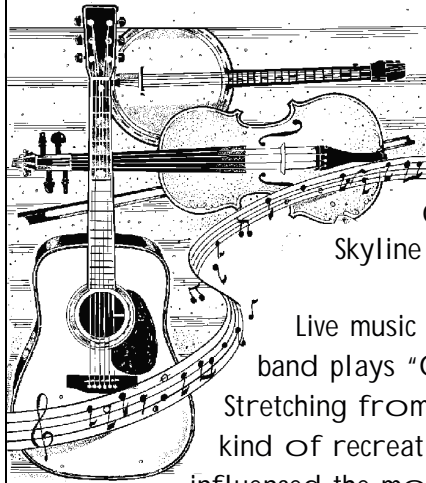
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SSA Mountain Barn Dance

Saturday October 25, 7:00-10:00 pm

Las Cumbres Community Center



Join the South Skyline Association in this fun evening of square dancing and music for the whole family.

Our dance caller for the evening will be South Skyline resident Dick Jaqua.

Live music will be provided by Harmon's Peak. This band plays "Old Time" traditional American music. Stretching from the Civil War to about 1930 or so, this kind of recreational folk music has formed and influenced the modern bluegrass, country, contra and square dance music of today. Harmon's Peak plays with a bright, uplifting style, in an authentic manner, with voices, guitar, two fiddles, a banjo and occasional tin whistles or accordion. Old Time is appealing to adults and children. The melodies and songs convey a kind of natural woodland charm, and can transport you to a simpler time when homespun music was a major source of fun for generations.

Bring a potluck dessert.
SSA will provide beverages.

We request a \$5 donation to go to the band.

Directions to Las Cumbres:

The Las Cumbres entrance is located on Skyline Blvd., between Highway 9 and Black Rd. (5.5 miles south of Highway 9; 1.5 miles north of Black Rd.) Look for a small Las Cumbres sign and turn into the entrance on the west side of Skyline Blvd. Follow the road just past the long row of mailboxes and into the Community Center parking lot on the right. Look for SSA signs.

Parking is limited, so please consider carpooling,
and please leave your pets at home.

What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

It may seem to many as if the SSA doesn't do much other than organize four fun and interesting general meetings per year, but the Board of Directors and a handful of active members are constantly at work researching and acting on a variety of topics which are of concern to local mountain dwellers. This is the first appearance of a column that will tell you what the SSA Board has done during the last quarter.

At the July, August, and September Board meetings, the following action items were authorized:

- South Skyline Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department Support Committee was formed to work with SSVFRD to alert the community about the lack of firefighters and to help recruit new volunteers through Skyline's flyer and personal contact; to develop a scholarship program to aid volunteers through CDF volunteer training; to seek remedies to the present training procedure that CDF requires; and to research new regulations preventing professional firefighters from being volunteers in order to see how to influence change in this policy.
- Work with SSVFRD and Emergency Preparedness Organization to facilitate donations.
- Committee was formed to draft a questionnaire to submit to members asking about the direction and activities that the membership would like SSA to focus on.
- Contact the Public Utility Commission regarding complaints about the performance of PG&E in the Skyline area.
- Begin research into viability of a Community Center; assess need/want.
- Final arrangements made regarding the July Picnic at the Jaqua Ranch; arrangements made for venue, caller, and musicians made regarding October Square Dance.
- Correspondence authorized regarding closure of State Parks.
- Correspondence drafted in response to letters received.

In addition to major issues on the agenda each month, the Board has a number of committees and individuals that report at each monthly meeting. These are some of the ongoing topics:

- Skyline Propane Users Group - prices and negotiations.
- South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization - programs and financing.
- Communications - matters concerning the Skyline Newsletter and the Website.
- Feral Pigs - monitoring pig activity, facilitating depredation efforts among private landowners and public agencies.

- South Skyline Septic User Group - working toward group discounts with specific septic system maintenance providers.
- High-Speed Internet - research into high-speed options in the mountains.
- Yellow Star Thistle - methods of eradication, local eradication efforts.
- Sudden Oak Death - new information as it is available.
- Roads - Communication with CalTrans regarding problems on local roads.
- Weed Management Area - new invasives and approaches.
- United Neighborhood of Santa Clara County - membership provides event insurance and helpful community oriented workshops.
- San Mateo County (SMC) Mosquito Abatement District - monitoring expansion effort as well as advance of West Nile Virus and discussion of mosquito control efforts.
- Skyline Historical Society - financial aid and co-operation.
- SMC Environmental Health Advisory Committee - wrote letters to county environmental health and our member of Board of Supervisors protesting water well metering program; received replies from each.

Any SSA member is welcome to attend a board meeting; check the meeting schedule on the website. Meeting minutes and agendas are also on <http://www.southskyline.org>.

~Kristen Smith, SSA Secretary

SPUG Quarterly Report

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed as a benefit for SSA members. For information about joining the SPUG, or for members wishing to have current information on the Amerigas contract with SPUG, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request to Ruth Waldhauer, SSA Membership Chairperson, 22400 Skyline Boulevard, Box 35, La Honda, CA 94020.

Recent SPUG prices are:

July	\$ 1.159/gallon
August	1.129
September	1.129

Prices are subject to changes as frequently as wholesale prices change. Reported here are usually prices for the first week of the month. See www.southskyline.org for recent updates. Members 55 years of age or older qualify for a 5 cent/gallon discount on the SPUG group price. Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not "will call" service. *~Ruth Waldhauer*

SSA Board Nominations

The SSA Bylaws state that the President shall pick a nominating committee of three people to select nominees for next year's Board. This is to be done by the October Board meeting. I have chosen to pick the committee a month early so this announcement can be included here. These three are: Kris Smith (current SSA Secretary, at northern area), John DeLong (former President, central area), Larry Myers (former President, southern area).

They are to present their proposed nominations to the December Board meeting for approval. These are published in the January Skylines and voted upon at the January general meeting. Normally the committee presents a progress report at the November Board meeting. Essentially half of the 13 board members are elected each year, with typically two-thirds of those being present members whose terms are expiring.

This job is often a thankless task. The nominating committee must find candidates they believe will be productive members of the Board (that means volunteering to do many tasks) and plan to keep a good area distribution of members. If you are an SSA member (paid dues this year), and have suggestions for a Board member nominee, contact Kris Smith by phone 650/851-3155, or better, by email, <mailto:kas@datatamers.com>

~Dick Schwind, 2003 President

LAFCo Approves Annexation of San Mateo Mosquito Abatement District

We have a chance to vote Yes or No on obtaining service from San Mateo Mosquito Abatement District in our area!

LAFCo approved the annexation conditioned upon formation of the benefit assessment. The next step is a LAFCo protest hearing required by law and then the District holds their benefit assessment process with ballots mailed on October 31 and final hearing on December 17.

What is the plus side of a YES? Halt the spread of West Nile Virus transmitted by mosquitoes; halt other mosquito- and rodent-borne diseases.

What is the minus side of a YES? The cost of the service in the amount of \$15 a year.

~Eva Blum

Editor's Note: **The SSA Board is NOT taking a position on the Mosquito Abatement issue.** Readers are encouraged to investigate more about the programs before voting. Call MAD at 650-344-8592 or visit the website at <http://www.smcmad.org/>.

See "Letter to the Editor" regarding this subject on page 6.



Sunset in Hills - Photo by Dana Pitchon

Neighborhood Mapping

The Portola Heights neighborhood launched a mapping project last year that has resulted in a comprehensive map and identification sheet that local emergency responders have found immensely helpful in being able to locate 911 callers when their physical address does not match their mailing address. Even if your neighborhood does not have this problem, many of the maps currently used (i.e. USGS, Thomas Bros. CDF Run Books, Sheriff's Run Books, etc.) do not show all roads correctly. You should also make sure 911 has your correct address listed (see 911 Emergency Response Information in this issue).

The map indicates roads, site address numbers and landing zones only. Although it is tempting to put additional information on the map, this map is actually used in the patrol vehicles, so clarity is important for them. It needs to fit on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet. The Sheriff Department and CDF were extremely grateful for this map.

The identification sheet lists names for those who wished to be included (otherwise only addresses were used), physical and mailing addresses (for cross reference), phone numbers, GPS coordinates for driveway location on road, and GPS coordinates for nearest helicopter/lifeflight landing zone. GPS (Global Positioning System) is the wave of the future for location, and we strongly urge any neighborhood that plans to map their area include this information. If your neighborhood wishes to insure quick response for 911 calls, we have an information sheet available that outlines how the mapping was done, how landing zones for helicopter/lifeflight were identified, the criteria used for the identification sheet, etc. Contact Sherry Niswander at 650-559-0677 or email <mailto:ssemergencyprep@yahoo.com> so that we can forward this information to you for your mapping project.

~Sherry Niswander

A Reminder About 911 Emergency Response

Several incidents have occurred recently in the area where I live in which 911 emergency responders were unable to locate the home from which the call was made. Most mailing addresses are various box numbers at the same Skyline Boulevard number. The call to 911 brought the emergency responders to the gate that leads to the network of private roads, but without the physical address, 911 had no way to determine from which of the 30 homes the call originated. In the South Skyline area our mailing addresses, street addresses, and phone prefixes do not always uniquely identify the physical location of our homes.

Use the instructions below to insure that emergency services will know how to find you if you call them. Since South Skyline includes portions of three counties, use the information for the county in which you are located.

1. Post your county assigned address so it is visible from the roadway. This is the address associated with the tax assessor's parcel number. This is the most important and valuable action you can take to help the emergency responders find your location.
2. Notify the office for your county (shown below) of your name, address, phone number and any additional information that will help emergency responders find your property. Often billing or mailing addresses differ from physical addresses. 911 needs your physical address. Do this for each phone line you have (fax, modem, office lines, etc.) Note that this office does not share your information with any other agency, organization, or person.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center
Phone: 831-471-1170
Emergency Dispatch: 831-471-1170
From cell phones use the above number rather than call 911.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Santa Clara County Communications
2700 Carol Drive
San Jose CA 95125
Attn: Renee Pinder
Phone: 408-279-3151 ext 173
Fax: 408-275-1064
E-mail: <mailto:renee.pinder@gsa.co.santa-clara.ca.us>
Sheriff dispatch: 408-299-3233
County fire dispatch: 408-378-4010

SAN MATEO COUNTY

San Mateo County Public Safety Communications
400 County Center, Suite EPS-103
Redwood City CA 94063
Attn: Robert Bustichi
Phone: 650-363-4342
Fax: 650-366-5773
E-Mail: <mailto:rsb@smc911dispatch.org>
Web: <http://www.smc911dispatch.org/>

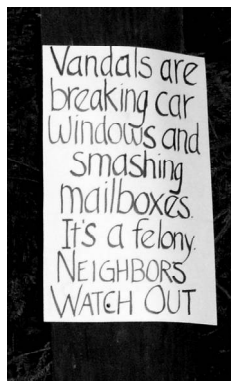
Caution For Calls to 911 From a Cell Phone

In an emergency, call 911 first. If there is a busy signal or long hold time, hang up. Calls from cell phones to 911 go to a California Highway Patrol (CHP) dispatch center. With the proliferation of cell phones, the system is seriously overloaded. These calls can be put on hold for lengthy periods of time. One solution is to use the cell phone to call someone nearby you know to be home, and have that person place the 911 call from a land line. Calls to 911 from stationary phones go to a separate system.

For Santa Cruz County place cell phone calls to Dispatch at 831-471-1170 in an emergency. For Santa Clara County use 408-299-3233 for Sheriff dispatch or 408-378-4010 for Santa Clara County Fire. We don't know a dispatch number for San Mateo County, but MROSD has a dispatch number for calls from cell phones only: 650-903-6395. Sometime within the next year the 911 system for cell phone calls will be changed and improved. We will post information in SKYLINES when the change is completed.

~Ruth Waldhauer

Vandalism Continues to be a Problem Along Skyline



Sign on Gist Rd.

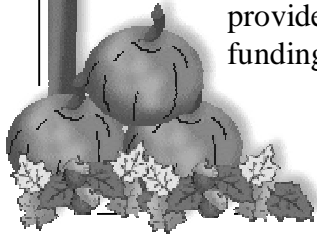
Vandals not only continue to bash mailboxes along Skyline and connecting roads, but this summer they also broke car windows. A Santa Clara Deputy Sheriff told one resident that the vandalism seems to coincide with events at local High Schools. For law enforcement to make arrests, the vandals must be caught in the act. Call 911 if you see this kind of activity in your area.

There are also rumors of road racing and "sideshows" (doing doughnuts in the turn-outs) in the Highway 9/Skyline area. Groups of cars have been seen gathering late at night in The Gap parking lot. Call the Sheriff's Department if you suspect there are people gathering for this purpose. Obviously, this could be a very dangerous activity if this is the case.

~Patti Begley

Pumpkins for Sale Lakeside Elementary School Black Rd.

PUMPKINS
FOR SALE



All proceeds go to the Lakeside PTA to pay for school assemblies, and other school enrichment programs that are not provided by state funding.

Pumpkin seeds can be toasted on a cookie sheet in the oven at a low temperature. Be sure to stir them often and watch for burning. Some prefer to soak the seeds in salt water before toasting. Shelled pumpkin seeds can be used as a less expensive alternative to pine nuts in recipes.

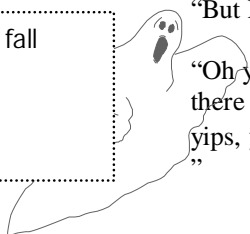
Skyline Kids Connection

Are you a family that would like to meet other families in our mountain area? Gail Work, mother of a 10.5-year-old daughter, has compiled a list of contact information for families that live in the Skylonda and South Skyline areas, to better connect the children here in our mountain region. This is a private list called "Skyline Kids" and is open to participants with children. If you would like to join the list with your family information, please contact her at mailto:g_work@earthlink.net or (650) 559-0450.

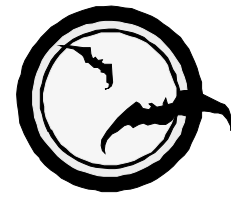
Free Workshop Offered on Erosion Control

Join us November 2nd in a free workshop on erosion control. Topics addressed will be culvert alternatives, swales, and stream restoration. For more information please call Jikoji Zen Retreat Center at (408) 741-9562.

Look on our website for future local events that fall between the "Skylines" distribution dates:
www.southskyline.org



A Mountain Halloween Checklist



Halloween is coming and it's that time of year when the kids want to start decorating the house and yard with all the spooky critters and noises that make Halloween so fun.

First on the list...

Paper bats? We don't need no stinking paper bats!

I only need to go out and open up our patio umbrella and 4 or 5 furry little rodents will flap out into the night. They are just the little California Brown Bats, not bloodsuckers, and they are kinda cute, but they are guaranteed to bring forth a squeal of fright from unsuspecting victims.

Next on the Halloween list... plastic owls with eyes that glow in the dark. Pu-lease. In these mountains we have amazing owls that silently swoop through the midnight skies sending out haunting hoots, and best of all - no batteries required.

Then there is the traditional black cat and witch. We have a very fine black feline named Chance who's always lurking somewhere about the house. As for the witch - well, let's not go there.

Vultures are always a nice gruesome touch, and Turkey Vultures have been a pretty common sight along the southern end of Skyline. Not long ago I had two of them dive-bombing my car as I drove between Las Cumbres and Highway 9. That was scary!

The traditional pumpkins... Last year we had several pumpkins growing along our front walk, but we just didn't get around to planting this year. So we will have to run down to Lakeside School and buy a few of those.

There's more ... Spiders, rats, ravens, short masked marauders looking for treats? Got em all. We don't even need a fog machine most nights.

"But Mom," my daughter declares, "We don't have *ghosts*."

"Oh yeah?" I say with a grin, "Just what do you think is out there in the woods after dark making those spine-tingling yips, yowls and howls; coyotes? I don't think so."

~Patti Begley

State Threatens to Close Portola Redwoods State Park

California faces the worst state budget crisis in its history, and all state agencies have been asked to cut their support budgets. State Parks System has already absorbed a \$35 million cut for fiscal year 2003 without closing parks. Now with a proposed additional \$10 million cut to its support budget, some parks will have to be closed, perhaps as many as one-third. Portola Redwoods State Park in our area is on this list, as well as nearby Fall Creek, Wilder Ranch, and Nisene Marks. Some neighbors fear that fire danger will increase without the presence of park staff.

On behalf of our members, SSA has sent a letter to legislators asking them not to make the addition \$10 million proposed funding cuts. SSA urges you also to write a personal letter. See the website (www.SouthSkyline.org) for a form letter you might send. Letters get more attention than emails. Letters should be sent ASAP to the Speakers of the State Senate and State Assembly, and the legislators in your district.

Speakers:

Senator John Burton, Speaker pro Tempore State Capitol Room 205 Sacramento CA 95814	Assemblyman Herb Wesson, Speaker State Capitol Room 291 Sacramento CA 95814
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Choose your legislator from this list:

Senator Jackie Speier State Capitol Room 2032 Sacramento CA 95814	Assemblyman Joe Simitian State Capitol Room 5119 Sacramento CA 94249-0021
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Senator Byron Sher State Capitol Room 2136 Sacramento CA 95814	Assemblyman Gene Mullin State Capitol Room 2170 Sacramento CA 94249-0019
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Assemblyman John Laird State Capitol Room 2196 Sacramento CA 94249-0027
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Letter to the Editor...

Mosquito Abatement

I am concerned that the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) has not made clear what they would really do. West Nile Virus has yet to make its appearance here. Will MAD spray large areas? With what "safe" pesticide? What about the parkland areas? Will MAD commit to using only materials approved by the Organic Materials Research Institute (OMRI) when spraying on or near organic farms, in order to avoid having those farms

contaminated and subject to loss of accreditation as organic farms? So far, MAD has not made that commitment. Find out more about the programs of the Mosquito Abatement District before you decide how to vote. The phone number for MAD is 650-344-8592. More information is available at <http://www.smcmad.org/>.

Ruth Waldhauer



TURKEY VULTURES, Nature's Clean Up Crew

Big bird, soaring, wings in a V pattern, rocking back and forth. Red head, black T made by lower wing and body. All ways of identifying a Turkey Vulture in the sky, which is how most of us see them. They do roost in trees and tend to nest on the ground in dense thickets or inside hollow logs, but most people only see them soaring above.

What's truly amazing about these birds is their diet...Dead things. Not terribly pleasant sounding but certainly necessary. Their head is featherless. It's red and leathery, very much like a turkey's, hence the name. Since they put their heads into some pretty gory places at least they can clean up more easily than if they had feathers.

Except for some pelagic birds, Turkey Vultures are the keenest avian smellers. A facial feature that makes their head distinctive is the nose hole that goes through their head. They also have a large olfactory bulb that detects the odor of a chemical, ethyl mercaptan that comes from rotting meat. In the video, *Amazing Birds of Prey*, a segment shows how gas companies use this same chemical to track gas leaks. Crews follow the pipeline and look for the circle of Turkey Vultures. That's where the leak is. Turkey Vultures soar on the thermals using their keen sense of smell to locate food.

These birds are very sociable and communal with tens of birds sharing a roost in tall trees during the night. As the sun comes up, they stir and spread their wings to collect the rising sun so that they can warm up for a day of flying

So once again, nature has made a bird and it's environment dependant on each other. The vulture eats dead animals and the environment needs it's clean up crew.

~ Freddy Howell

Freddy Howell and her husband John, Skyline residents, own and operate The Wild Bird Center in Los Gatos. They organize many bird walks, field trips and special events throughout the year. You can visit their website at <http://www.lovethebirds.com/>.

Sensing Vinegar Weed Along Skyline

Vinegar weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*) is a native annual that is often smelled before it is seen. The intense odor has been variously described as a mixture of vinegar and camphor, strong sage-like, unpleasant, or dreadful. However its small light blue flowers are quite lovely – it is one of the few plants along Skyline still blooming in early Fall.

Vinegar weed, also known as camphorweed or blue curls, is a member of the mint family, Lamiaceae. It grows 1-3 feet tall from a simple stem, or with branching at the base. Opposite leaves are ¾"-2 ½" long, narrow lanceolate, with short or absent petioles. The leaves have prominent veins and are covered with short hairs.

The light blue to lavender-blue flowers bloom from the leaf axils along one side of the stem. The corolla has 5 lobes and is bent upward near the base. Four long, thin stamens curve back toward the flower, then arch upward and forward far beyond the corolla. Plants flower from August to October. As late bloomers, they are an important source of pollen to bees.

Early Native Californians used vinegar weed medicinally as a



treatment for a number of ailments. As a cold remedy, they

made a poultice for the chest or a tea. Chewed leaves were stuffed around an infected tooth to reduce inflammation. Vinegar weed was also used to treat headaches, stomachaches, nosebleeds, and infected sores. Placed in a bath, it was used to prevent smallpox and ague. Depending on the ailment, and perhaps the time of year, vinegar weed leaves or flowers and leaves were used fresh or dried. The plant was so highly valued it was sometimes used in trade as a kind of money.

Some tribes also used vinegar weed to stupefy fish. Whole plants were crushed with rocks and thrown into slow streams or pools. The intoxicated fish were then easily caught by hand or with shallow sieve baskets.

Vinegar weed grows from southwest Oregon to Baja California below 3,000 feet on dry slopes, in fields, and in disturbed areas, including the middle of some trails. Assuming the plants have no interest in curing colds or killing fish, the less than pleasant odor has the evolutionary advantage of repelling herbivores. This helps to allow vinegar weed to thrive at a time of year when many other annuals have turned to seed.

~Sarah Schoen

The Woolly Distaff Thistle is Cause for Concern in Our Area

A relatively new invasive non-native plant in our region, *Carthamus lanatus* ("woolly distaff thistle") is both causing concern for its aggressive behavior, as well as providing the opportunity to treat it before it becomes locally naturalized. This plant, like yellow starthistle, creates problems for native habitat as well as for farmers, ranchers and recreationists. Therefore, the practice of "early detection, early removal" is very critical. To that end, the San Mateo County Weed Management Area (SM/WMA) is once again providing grant money to private landowners in the form of a cost-share program specifically for the use of Transline in treating this plant. The form for applying for grant money is available from SSA member and SM/WMA participant Georgia Stigall by emailing her at <mailto:gstigall@aol.com> or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Georgia Stigall, 17287 Skyline Blvd - PMB 102, Woodside, CA 94062-3780. You may also request the forms from John Beall at the San Mateo County Ag office at (650) 363-4700.



Information about and photos of this plant are available on the SSA website and other locations on the Internet; as well as in various texts. You will also see flyers about this plant posted around our region, including at Skywood Market. For additional details contact Georgia via email or phone 650-941-1068. Or contact John Beall as shown above.

~Georgia Stigall

Correction... In the July issue of Skylines, a photo of Patrick Landeza was credited to Dana Pitchon. This was an error. Dana has provided us with many other beautiful photos, but this was not one of them.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Bowling-Alley section. 6ft. length. Official. Dance/Hang/use. Heavy. \$75 650-851-3181

Mirrors: 2 at 48" X 79" and one at 36 X 79", also four sliding mirrored doors, with all hardware 48" X 94 1/2". Selling for \$1.50 to \$2.00/sq ft.

20" Color Flat screen Monitor for PC computer. Like new condition \$50. Also **filing cabinets** all sizes, call for info. Call Joe Davis 650-948-6424.

FREE

Free fir rounds for this winter's fires. You can even split them on my log splitter. Dick 408/867-9422

Free-Beautiful Antique Upright Piano (tuned 1/2 step down) Craig or Lisa 408-872-0609

FOR RENT

Ocean View Cottage West Skyline: Available November 1 rent free for 25 hours work / : week small ranch maintenance. Pay partial rent for less work. One bedroom, living room, full bath, all electric kitchen and study, security gate. Ideal for couple with country savvy, sense of humor when PG&E fails and generator has to be made do. Call Eva (408) 867 1722, mornings or evenings

WANTED

Novice Gardener seeks to learn which salvias the deer usually avoid browsing. So far my list includes Salvia clevelandii, S. leucantha, S. greggii, S. officinalis, S. pachyphylla, S. spathacea, S. sonomensis. Deer gobbled up S. uliginosa, S. buchananii. Please let me know what you have learned. I will share info with Skyliners. Ruth 650-948-1466

SERVICES

Personal Housekeeping: Honest, Reliable, Thorough, Flexible. 17 years exp. Call Debbie evenings 408-267-8122

Skywood Trading Post
Groceries, DVD rentals
Full Deli - Sandwiches, burritos, and more Try our new breakfast menu, featuring breakfast burritos, bagels & a new espresso machine
M-F 7:30AM - 7:00PM
Sat 8:30AM - 7:00PM
Sun 8:30 AM - 6:30PM
For information call 650-851-0914



Skylines Is Published Once A Quarter

Skylines invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

Policy on Classified Ads: Ads are free to SSA members. No continuing ads will be accepted. They must be resubmitted for each issue. Deadline dates are July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1.

Skylines News Articles: The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is December 15, 2003.

Send all ads and articles to: Patti Begley, 26160 Highway 9, Los Gatos, CA 95033, or SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. We assume no responsibility for omissions, incorrect information or personal opinions.

SSA Calendar

General Meeting – October 25,
7:00 pm at Las Cumbres Community
Center

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:

Thurs. Oct. 16 – Bo Gimbal

Thurs. Nov. 20 – Bill Fowkes

Thurs. Dec. 11 – Ken Broome

(Call Dick Schwind for location and
directions)

President Dick Schwind 408-867-9422

Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973