MAY, 2025 ISSUE 1.1

# ROW RIVER REVIEW

Our Voice, Our Valley, Our Future

## *WELCOME TO THE ROW RIVER REVIEW*

*Your local hub for stories, updates, and events in the heart of the Row River Valley.*

This free newspaper is a project of the **Row River Valley Community Partnership (RRVCP)**—formerly known as Row River Fire Response. While our name has changed, our mission remains the same: to keep neighbors informed, inspired, and connected—especially as we work together to create a fire-adapted, resilient community.

Delivered directly to Dorena households, The Row River Review ensures that everyone has access to timely, meaningful information—no internet required. It's a consistent way to strengthen awareness, share resources, and celebrate community life.

What You'll Find:

- **Local Projects & Progress:** Updates from RRVCP and highlights of our Community Partners
- **Events & Gatherings:** From school concerts to fire trainings and neighborhood potlucks
- **Valley News & Notices:** Meetings, school news, services, resources, garage sales
- **Community Stories:** Local voices, historical reflections, and shared experiences
- **Online Extras:** QR codes connect you to extended content, forms, videos, classes, and more

Thank you for being part of this growing effort to keep the Row River Valley informed and connected—one story at a time.

More info on page 9

# *COST-SAVING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!*

Row River River Valley Community Partnership (formerly known as Row River Fire Response) has secured funding to help Row River area residents with creating Defensible Space around their homes. They have already begun the process with 30 homes, an impressive endeavor in under a year!

This funding pays for crews to come to your property and support your mitigation plans. One you complete our assessment process we will schedule a team to come work with you on your property.Row River Valley Community partnership (RRVCP) has been able to provide chipping, tree thinning, branch removal, and more. These chips can be used in your garden, and the wood is sawn into rounds for firewood.

RRVCP is offering free defensible space clearing for interested homeowners.

This program is voluntary, and filling out a Homeowner Interest form places you on our list to be considered for for funding, we cannot guarantee funding for all applicants this year, your information will be kept for future opportunities.

*How it Works*

- Complete the Interest Form. There's no obligation, and it takes just a few minutes.
- We'll Contact You. Once selected, we'll reach out to schedule an assessment.
- Stay on the List. If we can't assist this year, you'll remain on our list for future funding.

**This service is available now** and RRVCP is available for more information:
via email at communications@rowriver.com
by snail-mail, PO Box 4, Dorena, OR 97434

## *Q: WHAT IS WILDFIRE MITIGATION?*

A: Wildfire mitigation is a set of actions taken before a wildfire to reduce its impact.

### These actions include

**Defensible Space:** Maintaining the landscape around on a property to reduce the risk of fire.
**Home Hardening:** Making a home more resistant to fire.
**Fuel Reduction:** Reducing the amount of fuel available fore fire
**Fire Resistant Materials:** using fire resistant materials in construction.
**Ladder Fuels:** live or dead vegetation that allows a fire to climb from the ground into a tree.
**Fire-Safe Landscaping:** Designing landscapes to minimize the spread of fire.

# COMMUNITY GATHERING

February 2, at the Dorena School, around 90 community members gathered to learn about defensible space, emergency services, and home hardening initiatives in our valley.

Reta Cochrane, RRFR/RRVCP Board President, introduced Kelsey Hunter, a Fire Reduction Specialist from the Oregon State Fire Marshall, who shared an informative presentation about ways to make our homes safer in the event of wildfire.

Row River Rural Fire Protection District (RRRFPD) Board President Sue Brown let us know all about the new tools available as a part of the new fire district, such as a defibrillator. She also congratulated the community on the new sign marking the home of the coming fire station.

Kathleen Istudor, the RRFR/RRVCP Executive Director, encouraged community members to sign the Homeowner Interest form getting people on the list for Defensible Space funding. The RRFR board is pleased with the growing list of people, an encouraging sign for improved fire safety in our valley.

## *Raffle: everyone's a winner*

Thanks to donations from the Book Mine, Log House Plants, Cascade Home and more, the community meeting was also able to offer prizes to attendees. Full size fire extinguishers, fire blankets, emergency lights, creosote packs, and hand-cranked radios were just a few of the items people won in the raffle.

Delicious cookies and a variety of pizzas were also given out, making for a warm and friendly event.
The RRFR board, Row River Rural Fire Protection District, and OSFM for hosted this community meeting.

**Kelsey Hunter**, Fire Reduction Specialist (pictured, right) from the Oregon State Fire Marshall taught us ways to make one's home and property less susceptible to wildfire.

She informed us that embers are an important consideration, as wind can cause embers to come to rest under porches, and in gutters, so it is important to keep those areas free from fuels. It is also important to keep fuels, suchas woodpiles, away from ones home. We learned about ladder fuels, and the volatility of certain trees.

The OSFM has an informative website and Kelsey is available to answer questions about defensible measures that can help defend one's home from wildfires.

Check them out at:
**oregon.gov/osfm/wildfire**

# AMICI IS ITALIAN FOR FRIENDS!

In a special visit to our community, Chamber Music Amici brought the joy and inspiration of world-class chamber music to the students of Dorena School. The performance, held in the school's gym, captivated young listeners and filled the space with warmth, laughter, and curiosity. These internationally acclaimed musicians, known for their friendly approach and inclusive spirit, invited the children into a world where music becomes a shared language — one that transcends age, geography, and background.

Music Amici's mission — to create community through great music — was beautifully embodied in this visit. As the ensemble played a range of lively, emotional, and imaginative pieces, students listened with wide eyes and eager expressions. Many had never experienced...

Continued on next page

## Survey Teams Coming Around

RRVCP and Lane County are applying for a Community Development Block Grant **to build and outfit a new fire station for firefighters, firetrucks, and all equipment for Row River Rural Fire Protection District.**

**As a part of the application,** we need to provide the State of Oregon with a current estimate of the average income of the residents in our service area. Row River Fire Response is working with Portland State University (PSU) to train local community members who will be going door-to-door to obtain this information.

**What will happen?**

- PSU has randomly selected a subset of residents for efficiency.
- PSU has been training interested local volunteers in how to confidentially collect information.
- Trained volunteers from the Row River community will visit the selected households so everyone selected has a chance to participate.
- The survey is voluntary and will only take two minutes to complete.
- **The survey is completely CONFIDENTIAL.** That means your name will not be tied to your answers in any way and you don't write your name on the survey or the return envelope.

Your participation in the survey is extremely valuable and important so we can support everyone in our community.

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Kathleen Istudor**
Executive Director of Row River Fire Response
541-946-2068. info@rowrivervalley.org

**Deb Elliott**
Portland State University
503-725-5198 elliottd@pdx.edu.

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We're excited to share some updates from our organization. As many of you know, our nonprofit was **originally named Row River Fire Response (RRFR).** To better reflect our broader mission and to avoid confusion with the new fire department we have officially changed our name to **Row River Valley Community Partnership. (RRVCP)**

**Our organization remains committed to supporting the Row River Rural Fire Protection District (RRRFPD) by securing funding for vital resources** such as fire stations, large equipment, and other essential needs.

Thanks to a generous private donor, we now have a centrally located property on Row River Road near the Little White Church designated for the district's main Fire station. Several necessary permits and studies for the site have already been approved.

In addition, we are working on a second property donation in Disston. This site has successfully passed rigorous land use studies and is well-suited for a future secondary station.

We're also making strides in wildfire mitigation. Several of our grant applications focused on this critical issue have already been accepted, and we continue to actively pursue additional funding opportunities from both government entities and private foundations.

**Our mission is thriving, and we are grateful for the continued support of this community.**

## AMICI IS ITALIAN FOR FRIENDS!

Continued from page 4

live classical music before, and the enthusiasm of the performers made it an unforgettable experience.

The Amici ensemble, whose name means "friends" in Italian, sees its audiences as part of the musical family. That spirit was clear as they engaged with the children, spoke about their instruments, and shared their love for chamber music. Made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Woodard Family Foundation, this Amici performance wasn't just a concert — it was a moment of connection, encouragement, and discovery for Dorena's students. It planted seeds of curiosity and creativity that may grow into a lifelong love of music.

Learn more: chambermusicamici.org

## WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR PARTNERS

# GOOD NEWS!

*YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR INSURANCE SAVINGS*

During a recent Public Protection Classification Survey in the Row River Valley area, ISO (International Organization for Standardization) has completed its analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided in your community. The resulting classification is indicated below:

**New Rating: 8B**

**Effective June 1, 2025**

**The fire department can provide effective fire suppression through tanker shuttles, drafting from static sources, or other alternative water supply methods.**

Each insurance company determines the premium it charges their policy holders. The way the insurer uses ISO's information on public fire protection may depend on several things – the company's fire-loss experience, ratemaking methodology, underwriting guidelines, and its marketing strategy.

**This new rating means all residents located within 5 miles of our temporary main fire station** (located at: 75976 Booth Kelly Camp Road), **will have the opportunity to shop for lower rates.** This will cover over 80% of the fire district. The district, along with community members, are working hard to reach the remaining 20%. Follow our ***Row River Rural Fire Protection District*** **Facebook page** to stay up-to-date on the latest Fire District news.

## ISO Ratings Improvement Map Details

Temporary Main Station:
The "center" of ISO Improvement Zone

This ISO Map graphic is an *approximate* range only.
The Five mile radius extends BY ROAD from the Temporary Main Station Address. To find out if YOUR home is within this range contact your insurer.

**Area highlighted in purple** is the Row River Rural Fire Protection District.

# HOT OFF THE PRESS: FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

## New Temporary Fire Station is Complete!

**Our new 5-bay fire station on Booth Kelly Camp Road is up and running** — and it passed ISO inspection! Read more about ISO ratings, insurance, and how the rating may affect you on page 8.

### New Equipment Update:

We're now equipped with:

- **5 Fire Engines**
- **3 Water Tenders**
- **3 Brush Rigs**
- **1 Utility Vehicle**

### Training & Certifications Approved:

*The Fire District is investing in training to strengthen our team*:

- **15** firefighters will complete Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training
- **8** firefighters will earn their Pumper/Operator certifications

We're growing stronger and better prepared — thank you for supporting your local fire district!

## ROW RIVER RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**MAY 20,2025**

Dorena Oregon

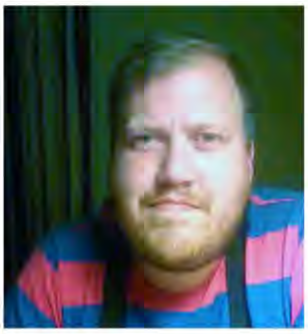
The Row River Rural Fire Protection District will have 2 Board Director positions open for the 2025 May Election. The term of service is 4 years, per ORS 478. There are 3 candidates running for the two positions. We appreciate the commitment of our community members willing to serve on this important public agency committed to safety for our valley.

**Please read on to find out more about the candidates and remember to vote in the upcoming election!**

Continued on the right >

Some insurers request a document confirming the formation of our new fire district. The Lane County Board Order for Fire District formation shows that the **RRRFPD was created effective June 30, 2024**,
Visit us at RowRiverFire.org, click the link ***Contact Us*** or ***Contact the Fire Chief*** *to let us know if you would like us to* email a copy of the District formation order and district map to you.
This information will soon be in available for download on our website.

# RRRFPD Officer Candidates



## Ian Lounsbury

I've called the Row River Valley home for over 30 years. For the past 8 years, I've worked as a small engine mechanic, and before that, I gained experience in retail, customer service, and software development. Over the years, I've witnessed numerous house and wildfires in our valley, and I'm deeply grateful that a formal fire district has been established to provide much-needed protection.

I'm running for the position of Director of the Row River Rural Fire Protection District because I believe my years of research and problem-solving experience can help strengthen our firefighting and fire prevention efforts.

My goal is to improve these services in a way that is both financially responsible and in alignment with our unique way of life upriver.

## Kirk Reinecke

I am excited to run for a board position with our new fire district and bring important skills to help our community.

Previously, I owned and managed a construction firm building homes and small commercial projects. This will help with many aspects of planning the new fire stations.

As an organic hazelnut farmer, I helped create and lead the Oregon Organic Hazelnut Cooperative, serving one year as their president.

In September 2018, my son and I assisted ODF firefighters along the Row River Trail, with our watering trailer, to contain the fire that destroyed three homes and numerous outbuildings. I also assisted in wildland firefighting in Colorado.

I look forward to providing leadership and skills to our fire district and community.

## Alan Adesse

I am a 50-year Oregon resident living in Culp Creek. As a career wildland firefighter, forestry technician and business owner, I am offering my time and skills to serve on the Fire District Board.

I have extensive experience with fire management and firefighting; I led 10 crew-member initial wildfire attack crews and had 7 seasons as a forest firefighter, so I have extensive experience to add to District abilities. I was one of the initial members of the Row River Fire Volunteers as they started firefighter training for our new District in 2023. My son is a current member of the crew, and I keep up to date on the volunteer training and activities

.

I am a good listener, fair minded, and a good communicator.

I am currently a semi-retired organic farmer, seed grower, and medicinal plant propagator and have the time and skills to commit to the District needs. I would love to be of service to the Up-River community by serving on the Fire District Board.

**Vote by Tuesday May 20th**

**Al Kennedy High School is making a big difference with its hands-on program, the Kennedy Conservation Corps — and now they're bringing their energy and expertise to the Row River Valley!**

You may have seen these hard-working students out in the Wildland Urban Interface across South Lane. From environmental restoration to fire fuel reduction, they're putting in real work where it matters. They've already built strong partnerships with the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, the City of Cottage Grove, and Lane County Waste Management.

Now, they've chosen to support our valley helping residents reduce fire risks and restore the natural environment. Their work is impressive, from restoring wetlands and planting trees, to raising salmon, keeping bees, building trails, and teaching younger students.

We're proud to welcome them as a partner in creating a more sustainable and fire-resilient community. You can expect to see crews run by team leaders, Matt Hall and Jennifer Powell, this late spring and into summer, helping to clear driveways and improve emergency access to homes.

When you see them out there — give them a wave and a smile. They're doing incredible work for our valley's future! To learn more about their program, please contact Matt Hall at **Matt.Hall@slane.k12.or.us**

WELCOME TO THE ROW RIVER REVIEW

*Cont. from page 1*

What We Cover:

**Local Initiatives & Announcements** –Stay informed on important developments in the Row River Valley.

**Wildfire Preparedness** –Our current primary focus is Defensible Space and Home Hardening, helping residents strengthen their homes against wildfire risks.

**Upcoming Events & Community Highlights** -Find out what's happening and how to get involved.

**Community Voices -**We may be able to feature your business, organization, or story.

Whether you're looking for news, inspiration, or ways to engage with your neighbors, The Row River Review is here for you.

## Easy Submission Process

- online submission portal or email
- Or, if you'd like, write to us:
  PO box 4, Dorena, OR. 97434
- **submit content by 20th of the month *before* issue release date**
- 2025/2026 Issues Released: June, August, October, December, February, April
- Easy Image Uploads

**All details and protocols are clearly explained on our website:**
**RowRiverValley.org**

**QUESTIONS? Email:**
**Communications@RowRiverValley.org**

# MAY CALENDAR

**Saturday, May 10th, 9am-2pm**

**Sunshine Club Bazaar! Sale!**

Row River Community

*Everything is .25 cents.*

*BBQ burgers, hot dogs & Baked goods.*

*Looking for donation items and baked goods*

***Donation Drop Off** Friday May 9th, 10am-12pm*

**Monday, May 19, 5:30-6:30pm**

**Row River Grange Meeting & Potluck**

Row River Grange, 34360 Row River Rd. CG

Followed by Potluck Supper

*Prospective members*

*Potluck dish not necessary, but welcome*

**Tuesday, May 20, 6PM**

**Row River Rural Fire Protection District (RRRFPD)**

**Public Meeting**

Dorena School Library

*Public welcome*

**Friday, May 23, 6:30-8pm**

**Row River Grange May Birthday Partyz**

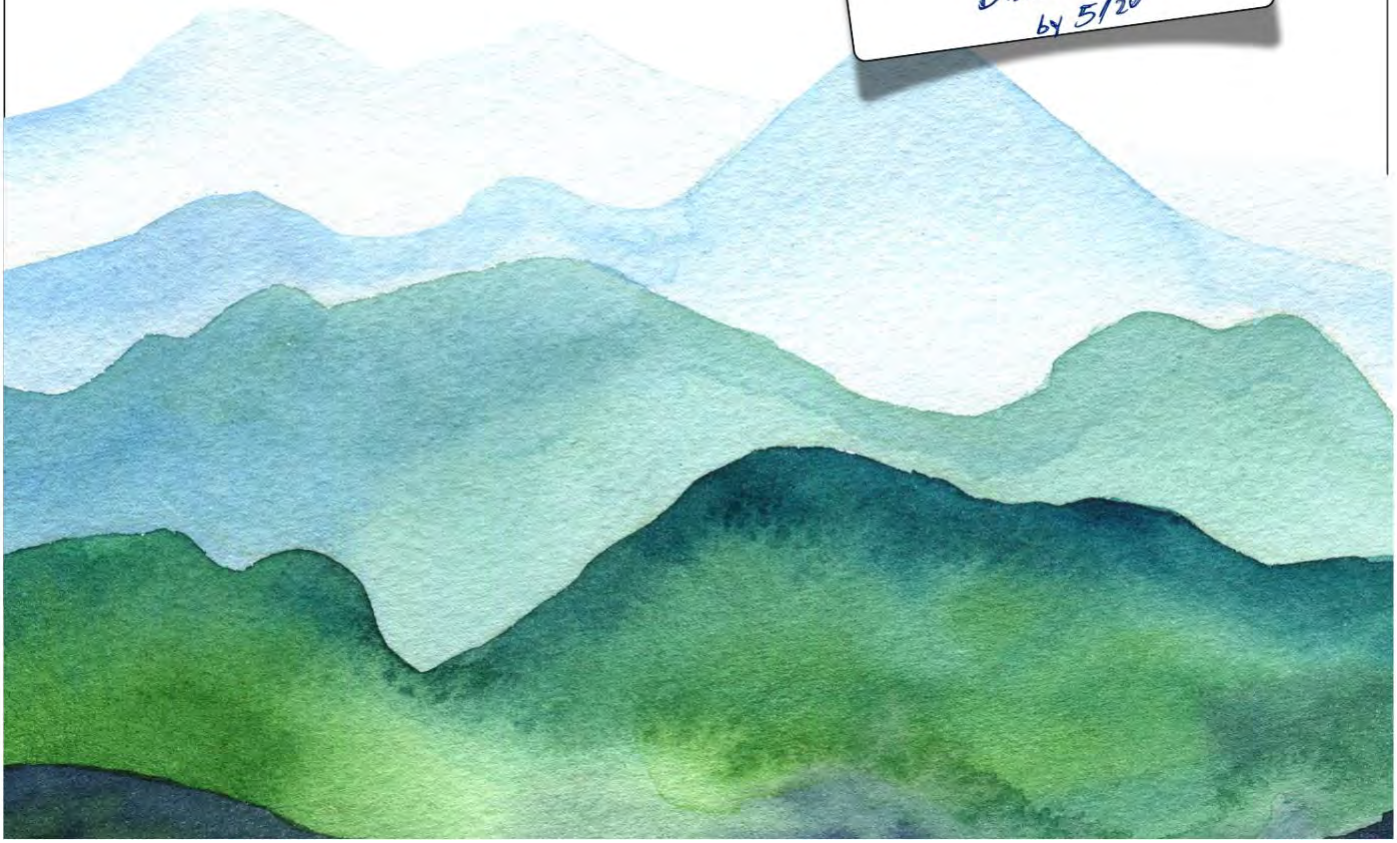
Row River Grange, 34360 Row River Rd. CG

Row River Grange Celebrates YOUR Birthday!

*Everyone welcome!*

**Election Day is Tuesday, May 20th, 2024.**

Candidate's Letters for RRRFPD Board Positions pg 7



# SUNSHINE CLUB

**The community of Dorena has a special little organization that has been in existence since 1943. (That's over 80 years!) The Row River Valley Sunshine Club is dedicated to spreading Sunshine and Cheer to its residents.**

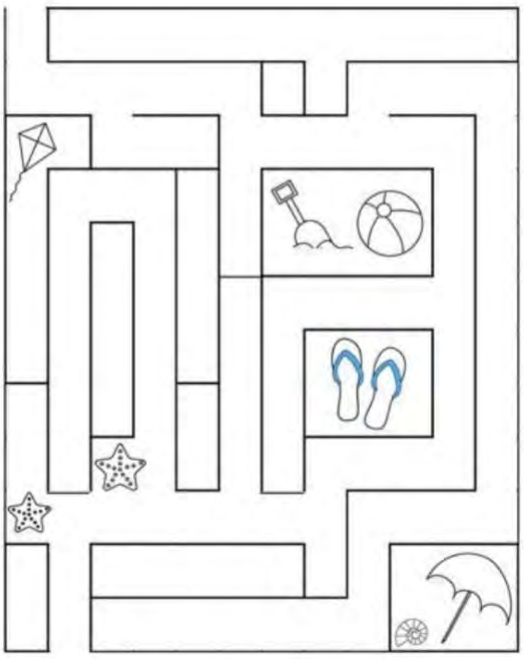
The Club's projects include Cheer Baskets, filled with goodies and distributed during the holiday season to shut-ins and residents who have suffered a loss during the year. The Club also sends cards and checks to residents who have been hospitalized or suffered a loss to help with unexpected needs.

Other projects are, The Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Books for Babes (every newborn gets a book) money to the local schools to help teachers and students with special projects, a twice yearly community rummage/bake sale and a free ice-cream social for the community is coming up in July at the Row River Community Church. A new project for 2025 is just being planned, in which the Club will award each high-school graduate for 2025 $50.00.

**The Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month, at 10 am at the Row River Community Church. All are welcome.**
You can contact us on our Facebook page (Row River Sunshine Club) or
PO Box 124, Dorena OR 97434.

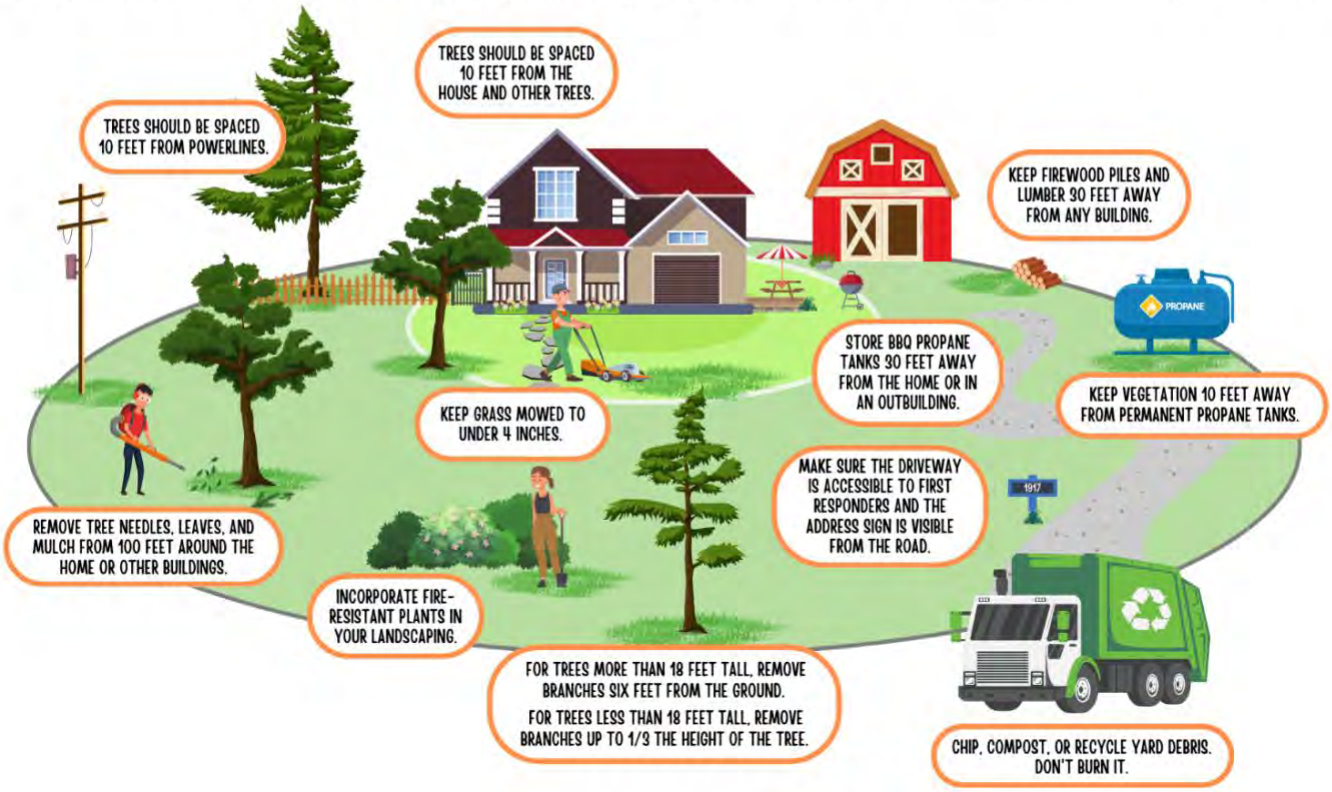
## Row River Valley Fun Facts

- The Row River area has **500 homes and 1,200 residents**
- **The Row River, a vital tributary of the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed** supports the drinking water supply for Cottage Grove and contributes to the broader Willamette Watershed, which serves major cities to the North of us.
- **Animals** including elk, deer, black bear, and cougar, as well as smaller residents like squirrels, fox, raccoons, and bats **are supported by the valley's diverse habitat.** 236 bird species, including raptors such as owls, eagles, osprey, and even peregrine falcons, can occasionally be seen soaring above the trees.



# DON'T GIVE EMBERS A PLACE TO CALL HOME.

Create **defensible space** and give your property an increased chance of surviving a wildfire.

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Your Community News

Row River Valley Community Partnership
P.O. Box 4, Dorena, OR 97434

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