



**McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce**

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**NEWCOMER'S GUIDE  
TO  
LIFE ON THE  
MCKENZIE RIVER**



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# Newcomer's Guide to Life on the McKenzie River

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# Welcome to the McKenzie

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Welcome to the McKenzie River. You may have moved here because the natural beauty of the area that cannot be found in urban areas.

This means that “life is different here”. The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce has put together this guide to help you get acquainted with life on the McKenzie River. In it, you'll find tips, techniques, resources and valuable insider survival tricks from residents who love the life here.

Have questions? Don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help. And, we encourage you to join the Chamber. You'll find a great way to network and meet new friends, get acquainted with the community and find new avenues to wonderful events, benefits and more!

Here's to a great new life and a fantastic future!

Nadine Scott, President

[McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce](#)

P.O. Box 297, Waltherville, OR 97489

541-896-3330 [info@McKenzieChamber.com](mailto:info@McKenzieChamber.com)





## Basic Facts

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### Where you are:

**You are in Lane County, Oregon.** The County offices are in Eugene. You are also near the McKenzie River. Local people often talk about locations along the river valley in terms of directions (north, south, east, west), or as “upriver” and “downriver”. The communities of McKenzie Bridge, Rainbow, Blue River, Vida, Finn Rock, Leaburg, Walterville, and Cedar Flat are all unincorporated and are all located within four zip codes and Mile Post markers. Vida Post Office represents the Zip Code 97488, Walterville is 97489, Cedar Flat is 97478 and Blue River is 97413.



### Environment:

**The McKenzie River** is a unique and special river. Residents love it for many reasons. We do not take it for granted. As more people live in the area, the risks of water pollution and over-use along the river increase. There are many ways and places to learn about its special beauty. We encourage you to find out more about it.

The forest is a source of local beauty. Take time to learn the names and characteristics of the main forest plants. Much of the land east of Blue River is within the McKenzie River Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest.

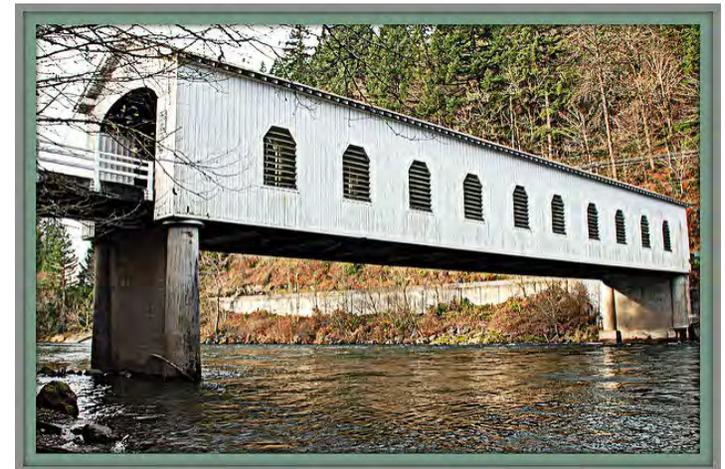




# Environment

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- **Winter weather** can start in November. Be prepared for snow and ice. Some years, there is none but other years there may be snow on the ground and we see daily freezing temperatures for several months.
- Another hazard is “rain-on-snow” events, when warm rains melt snow rapidly. These conditions cause landslides across the highway. The rivers and streams can rise high enough to inundate some shorelines and flood roads. These conditions can cause the electrical lines to break, so be prepared to live without electricity for a few days at least. The Red Cross recommends being prepared to be self-sufficient for three weeks.
- Watch out for black ice on the roads, in shady areas and in the early mornings! If you have never driven in these conditions, it's no shame to take a few lessons!
- Spring-time – get out and enjoy the wildflowers along the trails and river!
- Summer is wonderful but be prepared! August can see temperatures as high as 100 degrees.





# Housing

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## Housing:

**Houses** are built to be more self-sufficient than in urban areas, usually by having their own water supply (wells) and waste-water (septic) systems. Maintaining these is a new experience for many people, so take time to understand them. Learn about heating with wood stoves and fireplaces if they are new to you.



## Wood:

**Get your wood early** (in the springtime), so it will be dry by autumn. Did you buy property with large beautiful trees on it? If so you might soon worry about them falling on you, so get some expert advice on the health of the trees. Rotten ones can be dangerous, but healthy ones can be safe for years. Don't put nails in the trees because that will cause rot to develop. Lime up dead limbs. They can be dangerous in wind storms.





## Services

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### Garbage

**Lane County** provides a “Transfer Station” near McKenzie Bridge and in Leaburg. You can haul your own garbage and recycling to these places, (check the schedule first) or sign-up for service with the local commercial garbage hauling company.



### Telephone & Cable

**Cell phone service** is good in most areas along the river, but there are exceptions to be aware of. The most reliable coverage on the River is with Verizon. There is spotty service for AT&T. No coverage is available along most of East King Road and other side roads. Land-line service is provided by CenturyLink and Charter. Dish and Direct TV provide satellite TV service.





## Services

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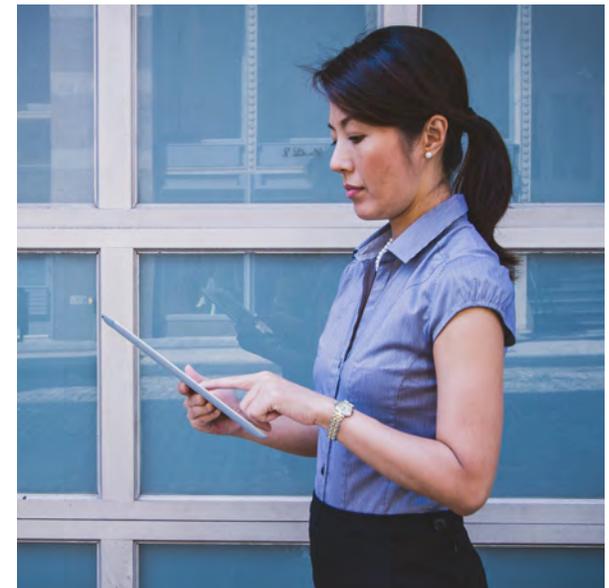
### Public Transportation

**Public Transportation** is available between McKenzie Bridge and Eugene on the Lane Transit District (LTD) Route #91. This bus runs round-trips several times a day. Driving “to town” on the highway can be both enjoyable and challenging.



### Internet

**Internet services** are available. Slow-speed Internet is available from CenturyLink in most, but not all locations. Satellites dishes are used by many people, but there are locations where these don't work because of trees or ridges obstructing the signal. Hughes and Excede provide high-speed Internet that seems to work fine for many residents.





## Services

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### Law Enforcement

**The area** is within the jurisdiction of the Lane County Sheriff. There is very little “on the ground” patrolling due to low-budgets and the large size of Lane County. The best prevention is to know your neighbors, and help out making a healthy community. The main crime is burglary. Leave the lights on when you leave your house.



### Organizations

Over many years, local residents have created a network of **non-profit organizations** to provide services and improve their quality of life. Living in unincorporated areas means you don't wait for City Hall to do this. The organizations rely on volunteers for long-term and short-term help.

These organizations are the core of the community. So lend a hand, and get to know your neighbors through these groups. A list of these non-profits is provided by the Chamber.





## Well Water and Quality

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### You have to preserve good water quality

Listed below are some actions you can take to preserve your good water quality:

- Keep a buffer strip of native trees and shrubs along the river or creek.
- Do not install rock, rip-rap or gabions along your stream bank.
- Preserve the natural features of the stream beds.
- Keep pasture and animal pens away from streams.
- Do not allow livestock to graze in riparian areas.
- Do not divert a spring or creek to build a pond (even for irrigation use) without a permit.
- Avoid filling ravines or slopes above creeks with dirt, grass clippings or other debris.
- Remove noxious weeds with mechanical, rather than chemical means.
- Remember, water flows downstream.

How you treat the section of stream on your property affects water quality on your neighbors' property downstream, just as the actions of your neighbors upstream affect you and your property.

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

For more information on this plan, please visit:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD>





## Well Keeping

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### Because your well pump runs on electricity

- You still need extra water for drinking and to flush the toilet if the electricity goes out.
- Stock up on 5 - 10 gallon bottles of water - plenty for 3 weeks!
- One resident keeps orange juice containers filled with water just in case the electricity goes out. She brings the OJ containers into the bathroom. Convenient and ready to go!
- Make sure your pump house is insulated in the snow. You can even line it with a blanket or get pipe insulators very inexpensively.
- Leave a light bulb burning in the pump house to keep it from freezing.
- Be sure to change the filter every 2-3 months at least!





# People

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Some residents were born and raised on the river, while many have moved here from other places, often after retirement.

People who chose to live here for many years often do so because they appreciate living close to nature, accepting both the rewards and challenges it brings.

They have learned that life here is much easier when neighbors cooperate and get involved. They are a wealth of information that they will share with you when they feel confident that you will contribute to the well-being of their community. Get involved. Don't hibernate!

Enjoy!





## It's Snowing Out There

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**If you've just arrived from one of the states that doesn't see snow, you'll appreciate these tips!**

### What to keep in your car

- A shovel – at some point, you're going to get stuck in the snow. You'll need to dig yourself out.
- A blanket - you might get stuck. Good for emergencies.
- Non-perishable food.
- A flashlight and extra batteries.
- Flares.
- Water.
- Kitty litter - good for when you get stuck on snow.
- First Aid kit.
- Extra shoes.
- Always take your cell phone.
- You'll need an ice scraper.
- Maps or GPS.





# It's Snowing Out There

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## Car Tips

### More tips.....

- Put duct tape in your key holes to keep the locks from freezing over.
- Use WD40 and wipe it around the inside of the doors to keep the doors from freezing shut.
- Leave your windshield wipers out to keep them from freezing onto your windshield.
- When you start your car, let it run for a few minutes.
- Back your car into the garage so it faces outward. (That way, you don't have to try to back out in the snow.)
- Be careful about mice getting into your garage and particularly into your car. They have been known to eat your electrical wiring. Sad, but true.
- Keep your gas tank filled. If the electricity goes out, gas stations will not be working either!





## It's Snowing Out There

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### Keep your house from freezing

- **Keep a fire going.** It will help keep your electricity bills down and help keep pipes from freezing.
- Line your pipes with pipe insulation. You can pick these up at any hardware store.
- Keep your outside vents under the house closed. You can buy insulation to fit or just put sheets of wood over the vents. This will help keep pipes from freezing over.
- Keep your faucets dripping. The flow of the water will help keep your pipes from freezing.
- You might be living on a road that does not get plowed regularly. Find out from your neighbors.
- Reach out and find out who you can call to get out of your driveway if necessary.
- Keep cabinet doors to sinks open to allow heat in.
- Remember to uncover vents in Spring to allow air flow.





## Not So Small Stuff

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### If you live in Blue River or above

#### Emergency Services

**If you live in Blue River** or above, you might want to join FireMed. Since the nearest hospital might be 45 minutes to an hour or more away, FireMed is a good investment for full ambulance and LifeFlight emergency services. It's a helicopter that will land in the Willamette and bring you into the Eugene/Springfield hospitals. The cost is only about \$100 per year. <https://eugspfd.firemed.org>



#### Have things to donate?

The McKenzie Schools in Blue River welcome your donations! Just drop off your clothing and other donations to the McKenzie School. There are young families that can use second-time-arounds and are most appreciative!



# That Nasty Beautiful Moss

## What to do about that moss on your roof:

Oregon State University Extension Service; Master Gardeners say:

### Removal:

1. Broom or Wash with water using minimum pressure to avoid damaging roof covering
2. Chemicals
  - a. Cryptocidal Soap
  - b. Safer Soap; Moss & Algae Killer
  - c. Zinc Sulfate fertilizer (buy at feed or garden store)

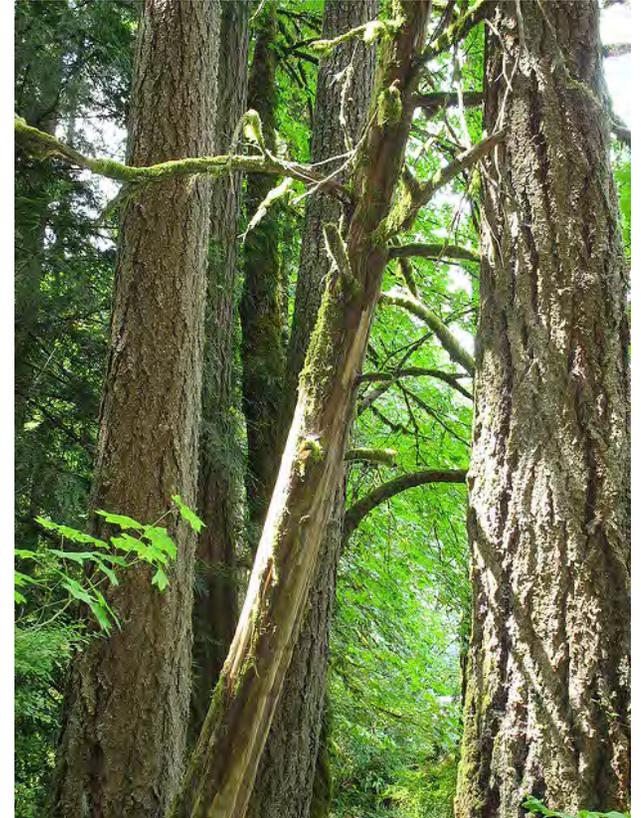
### Prevention:

- a. Zinc or Copper ribbon mounted along roof ridge

Oregon State University Extension Service; Ross Penhallegon, Extension Agent Emeritus says:

**“There is really no best answer”**

Discussion on Room Maintenance from OSU Web site:  
<http://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/pathogen-articles/nonpathogenic-phenomena/care-and-maintenance-wood-shingle-and-shake-roofs>



3/15-20 LEABURG  
 1 TILDIE EMERICK 4 EMMA (FOUNTAIN) KINNERLY 7 FRANK MOORE 10 GLADYS MOORE  
 2 EMILY SNIPES 5 JIM KINNERLY 8 IN FRONT OF KINNERLY HOTEL  
 3 WORTH IN SNIPES 6 EMMA MOORE 9 IVAN MOORE



## That Nasty Beautiful Moss

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The bigger issue is keeping materials out of the McKenzie River. KEY – keep as many chemicals out of the river as possible.

- Clean the roof yearly so there is no organic matter on the roof. This can be dangerous depending on the roof steepness.
- Typical – sweep the organic matter off of the roof. Physical removal of moss. But may be dangerous to the person on the roof.
- Power washing can be done – but BE EXTREMELY careful of the roofing materials. Power washing can damage the roof.
- Remove overhanging branches. Any shaded area = moss.
- Full sun on roof – for moss control.”

### Protection after the moss is gone:

- Zinc and copper strips – slow decomposition and keeps the moss under control nicely.
- Zinc and copper roof strips – does a great job. Where does the roof water with the heavy metal go? (Does the roof water make it to the McKenzie River?)
- Safer’s soap – kind of works. Potassium of fatty acid product. Still has the potassium in the materials. Potential potassium build up if many people use the Safer’s type soap product.
- Tide – has had the bad phosphates removed but there are a lot of other chemicals in Tide.

[http://www.pgproductsafety.com/productsafety/ingredients/household\\_care/laundry\\_fabric\\_care/Tide/Tide\\_Pods.pdf](http://www.pgproductsafety.com/productsafety/ingredients/household_care/laundry_fabric_care/Tide/Tide_Pods.pdf)





## Join Community Centers

A great way to meet new people is to join our local community centers. There, you will find events, classes, artists fairs, 5K's, parades, holiday festivals, potlucks, Sunday brunches, Spaghetti Feeds, Bingo and much more. A terrific way to meet new friends and get the kids integrated into the community!

Here are three in the McKenzie River area:

### **Upper McKenzie Community Center**

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

Monthly Potlucks and Speaker Series, Ice Cream Social, plays, Spaghetti Feeds, classes, Farmers Market and lots of events!

54745 McKenzie River Drive, Rainbow

### **Vida Community Center**

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

Artisan Faire, Holiday Festival, Bingo, and tons of fun!

90377 Thomson Lane, Vida

### **Walterville Grange**

<http://www.grange.org/waltervilleor416>

Chili Feed, Easter Egg Hunt, Mother's Day Breakfast, Walterville Waddle and Parade and much more!

39259 Camp Creek Road, Walterville

MEET NEW FRIENDS!





## For Fun and Recreation

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See all the brochures the Chamber provides. Just a few things you might want to check out:

**McKenzie River Guides Association** was established over 80 years ago. Take a tour down the McKenzie by experienced guides!  
[www.mckenzieguides.com](http://www.mckenzieguides.com)

### **The McKenzie Frenzy**

This free one day event sponsored by the Chamber takes place at the Tokatee Golf Course . There are outdoor demos, vendors, food trucks, music, info booths and more! Check out  
[www.mckenziechamber.com](http://www.mckenziechamber.com)

### **Travel Lane County**

Visit this website for nature events, wine country, covered bridges, cycling, sports, recreation, plays and lots more!

[www.eugencascadescoast.org/things-to-do/](http://www.eugencascadescoast.org/things-to-do/)

### **Chamber of Commerce Events**

Keep checking the Chamber's calendar for exciting new events! [www.mckenziechamber.com](http://www.mckenziechamber.com)

### **Wooden Boat Festival**

Every year the River Guides put on the Wooden Boat Festival. Check the Events Calendar!

### YEAR-ROUND FUN!





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## Join the Chamber Today!

# Become a member!

**Contact the Chamber today and join!**

**You can join in on terrific events!  
Promote your business! Meet people!**

**[www.mckenziechamber.com](http://www.mckenziechamber.com)**

**We Speak McKenzie.**

THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO!



**McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce**

**P.O. Box 297, Walterville, OR 97489**

**541-896-3330**

**[info@McKenzieChamber.com](mailto:info@McKenzieChamber.com)**

Monthly meetings are held every third Thursday of each month  
at 12 noon.



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# Just a Few of Our Members

Visit our website for a complete listing



**Belknap Hot Springs, Lodge and Gardens**, 59296 Belknap Springs Rd, McKenzie Bridge, OR Phone 541-822-35B12 [www.belknaphotsprings.com](http://www.belknaphotsprings.com)



**Caddisfly Resort** 56404 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413 Phone 541-822-3556 [www.caddisflyresort.com](http://www.caddisflyresort.com)



**Eagle Rock Lodge** on the McKenzie, 49198 McKenzie Hwy, Vida, OR Phone 541-822-3630 [www.eaglerocklodge.com](http://www.eaglerocklodge.com)



**Horse Creek Lodge**, 56228 Delta Drive McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413 Phone 541-822-3243 [www.horse-creek.com](http://www.horse-creek.com)



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## Just a Few of Our Members

Visit our website for a complete listing



**Nadine Scott, Broker FACS, ABA** - *Move to A Place That Moves You* -  
Windermere Real Estate 1600 Oak Street, Eugene,  
McKenzie Hwy, Vida, OR 97488 541-915-0807  
nadine@windermere.com www.nadine.mywindermere.com



**McKenzie River Mountain Resort** 51668 Blue River Dr. Blue River Phone  
541-822-6272 [www.McKenzieRiverMountainResort.com](http://www.McKenzieRiverMountainResort.com) . 1668 Blue  
River Dr., Finn Rock



**McKenzie River Reflections** McKenzie Bridge Phone 541-822-3358  
[admin@mckenzieriverreflectionsnewspaper.com](mailto:admin@mckenzieriverreflectionsnewspaper.com)  
[www.mckenzieriverreflectionsnewspaper.com](http://www.mckenzieriverreflectionsnewspaper.com)



**McKenzie River Lavender** 40882 McKenzie Hwy Springfield  
caroltan@q.com 541-736-8575 [www.mckenzieriverlavender.com](http://www.mckenzieriverlavender.com)



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## Brought to you by.....

### **Editor:**

Chere B. Estrin

### **Contributors:**

Margaret Beilharz

Gerry Aster

Edie Blair

Ray Blair

Allen Brody

Theresa Burnett

Marilyn Cross

Chris Donaldson

Christine Landerholm Miller

McKenzie River Clearwater Coalition

Will Rutherford

Nadine Scott



