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Spring 2018 Ridge Rambler • Saddle Ridge Property Owner's Association Newsletter • Volume 25, Issue 1

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Board Announcements

Annual Meeting

The Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association (SRPOA) annual meeting is July 21, 2018 at the Walland United Methodist Church. The gathering starts at 9:00, breakfast at 9:30, and the meeting at 10:00. At that meeting, the Association will elect three members to the Board of Directors.

Each family attending the meeting should bring a covered dish for the meal. Orange juice, water, coffee, plates, and all utensils will be provided.

Blackberry Mountain Rezoning Request

Blackberry Farms has a proposal before the Blount County Agenda Committee to rezone all Blackberry Mountain land holdings from Rural 2 & 1 to Planned Rural Resort District (PRRD). PRRD allows a variety of commercial activities such as resorts, restaurants, hotels, spas, recreational facilities and others. The SRPOA Board emailed a detailed letter to all Saddle Ridge properties owners on June 29 explaining the proposed change, potential impacts and the Board's concerns about the rezoning.

Here are 3 opportunities to learn more about the proposed rezoning and make your voice heard:

Monday, July 2, 6 PM - Informational Town Hall, Rocky Branch Community Center 4632 Rocky Branch Rd. Walland

Saturday, July 7, 9-11 AM - Blackberry Farm Informational Session, 5324 Old Walland Highway

Most Important Meeting:

Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 PM, Room 430, Blount County Courthouse. Blount County Agenda Committee Meeting where the decision will be made whether to move forward with rezoning. We hope to have a

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There was also an article in *The Daily Times* on June 30, 2018: "[Blackberry rezoning prompts competing town halls](#)"

Treasurer's Report

Annual assessment invoices for FY 2018/19 will arrive in late June or early July with a due date of July 31, 2018.

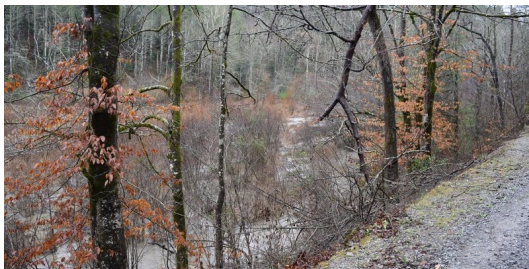
The Board provides financial updates four times a year. These updates are provided to keep members better informed about the financial status of our Association. This year, updates were emailed in November 2017, January 2018, and April 2018. The final update will be at the Annual Meeting, held this year on July 21, in the meeting room at the Methodist Church. This final report will be emailed to all members soon after the meeting. If you have any questions about the financial reports or our financial position or are not receiving the updates, please contact the Board at this address: saddleridgepoa@gmail.com.

Alcoa Electric Trimming Trees

Alcoa has started up East Millers Cove Road trimming trees with a helicopter tree saw. We don't know exactly when they will be in Saddle Ridge but they do plan to also trim trees back from the utilities along our roads. There may be some delays getting out East Millers Cove as they trim and clear brush over the next few weeks.

Spring in Saddle Ridge

Yes, it is technically summer already, and this issue is way behind schedule due to a very busy Spring, so here a just a few photos to recap Spring in Saddle Ridge. We had a lot of rain in February and March. A pair of Canada Geese nested in Duck Inn (which almost flooded) and raised one gosling. We had a great turnout for Firewise and Spring Cleanup Day on April 14, which was followed by a delicious BBQ picnic graciously sponsored by Frank Akers and Margaret Saunders. Thank you! The bears came out, the hummingbirds returned and the flowers bloomed! Another beautiful Spring in Saddle Ridge.



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Firewise Day / Spring Cleanup

Vegetation removal and home assessments were the focus of the Spring CleanUp / Firewise Day on Saturday, April 14. The Firewise Committee borrowed a chipper from the TN Division of Forestry.

3 home assessments were performed.

Firewise Grant

Saddle Ridge received a \$20,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Program in March. Here's an update on how the funds are being spent:

- Signage. We have driven all the roads in Saddle Ridge 3 times and identified the road signs needed as well additional signs. For example, we will add signs to point the way to the exit. We are preparing to order the signs and contract with an installer. We plan to have the road signs in place by early Fall—before fire season.
- Fire Break Maintenance. A backpack blower and safety equipment (head, ear, and eye protection and gloves) were purchased. Saddle Ridge residents may borrow the blower and safety equipment any time. Contact Betsy Smith tennsmith@gmail.com.
- Vegetation Removal. Before the Fall fire season begins in October, we will trim back problem areas—around phone poles, for example.
- Community Bulletin Board. The bulletin board has been ordered.

Investing Time and Expenses in the Community for the Firewise Grant

To maintain our designation as a Firewise community, we must invest the equivalent of one volunteer hour (\$24.14/home) in fire mitigation activities. As of June 3, 2018, our investment is \$1,510.62; the total investment needed is \$1,762.22. We will have no problem meeting the time and expenses investment for 2018.

Recent Fires

the fires were out.

The risk of fire is part of living in a wooded community – stay alert, call the Fire Department, and let your neighbors know.



Spring Brings out the Wildlife



Upcoming Events

2018 SRPOA Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 21, 2018

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Keith & Cynthia Kennedy, Bluff View
 Paul & Stephanie Lazenby, Walnut Flats
 Justin & Tasha Hoque, Poplar Bluff
 Kenny & Pam Needham, Chilhowee Loop

In addition, we welcome the following new property owners:

Tim & Tina Bass, Oakwood Road
 Joel & Martha Peak, Grouse Top/Walnut Flats
 Dennis & Kathy Terrell, Elks Point/Eagle Pass

SR Facebook Group

The Saddle Ridge members [Facebook group page](#) continues to be a great source for information within our community. We regularly post messages, alerts, concerns, and needs to this page. Living in this rural community, we don't often see each other, especially during the winter months, so the Facebook page is a way to communicate timely news such as power outages, fire alerts, wildlife sightings, events coming up, lost pets, or even suspicious traffic.

Contact Sue DuBois sodubois@gmail.com, to be added to the group. Please remember, this page is strictly for people who own property in Saddle Ridge.

Contact your SRPOA Board:

Email: saddleridgepoa@gmail.com

Board members and committee chairs are listed below and also on the [Saddle Ridge website](#) - www.saddleridgepoa.com

President:

Steve Foster
859-494-7299

Vice President:

Hugh Pearson
865-982-5729

Treasurer:

Smitty
(G. Robert Smith, Jr.)
615-631-5836

Secretary:

Alane Wyss
865-977-1533

Get Involved

Join one of our Saddle Ridge POA committees and contribute to the community. There are five standing committees: Architecture, Communications, Environment, Events/Hospitality, and Road.

Check out the [Charter](#) for each of the five SRPOA standing committees or contact the Committee Chair:

Architecture - Ken LaValley
 Road - Tom Braun
 Communications - Janet Kolarik
 Environment - Sue DuBois
 Events/Hospitality - Ann Tedford

[Saddle Ridge's Facebook](#) page is a great place to read and share up-to-the-minute news of the community. If you are not already a member, contact Sue DuBois, sodubois@gmail.com, to join the private Facebook group.



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Board Members:

Janet Kolarik
865-905-0348

Sue DuBois
407-758-8275

Tom Braun
225-281-3889

Ken LaValley
865-970-6410

Sue DuBois
sodubois@gmail.com

Layout & Design
Roxanne Clapp
roxanneclapp@gmail.com

Send information and photos for future Ridge
Ramblers to jamkolarik@gmail.com.



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