

Summer 2019 Ridge Rambler • Saddle Ridge Property Owner's Association Newsletter • Volume 26, Issue 2

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The
Ridge Rambler



SRPOA Annual Meeting - July 20

10:00. At that time, the retiring President, Steve Foster, asked newcomers to stand and introduce themselves. In a change from past meetings, all property owners were then asked to stand and introduce themselves as well. Steve spoke first about a few issues that included the purchase of the new trash barn and the creation of a new equipment committee to oversee equipment purchased with Firewise Grant monies. He ended by thanking everyone for their support during his tenure. Smitty followed by giving his report on the previous fiscal year. Following Smitty, the rest of the board members spoke about their committees. Three board members were leaving their positions, Ken LaValley, Tom Braun and Steve Foster so new board members were voted on. The new board members are Beth Koella, Paul Lazenby and Mary Glarner. There was then a question and answer period and the meeting concluded.



President's Message

Hello to All!

I am excited, nervous, and humbled to have been selected to be President of the Saddle Ridge POA Board for the upcoming year. I look forward to a great year and to getting to know those of you that I haven't spent time with yet. In a community like Saddle Ridge, I think most of us "sort of" know each other, at least — we've seen faces, or names on a list or article in the Ridge Rambler, but we can't always put those names and faces together. I hope to be able to do that soon!

One of the reasons I'm looking forward to this year is the great board members that I'll have the pleasure of serving with. They are:

Connie Evans, Chair of the Events Committee
Alane Wyss, Chair of the Environmental Committee
Beth Koella, Chair of the Architectural Committee
Mary Garner, Chair of the Communications Committee
Paul Lazenby, Chair of the Equipment Committee

Most of these committees are probably familiar to you, but you will notice one new one. Thanks to the diligent work of Betsy Smith and the Firewise Committee, we not only have a safer neighborhood, we have a lot of new equipment that was purchased from the proceeds of a major grant. If you wish to borrow any of Saddle Ridge's equipment, Paul is the person to reach out to. He will teach you how to use the equipment, how to maintain and clean it after use, and will check it out to you and back in when you are finished. This equipment is a big asset within our community, and we want to keep both the equipment and our neighbors safe! We thank Paul for taking on this new and important role.

Any one of these Committee Chairs will be happy to work with you on issues within their area. They would also love to have your help! If you are interested in any of these particular areas, please let the chair know. They all have committees which work with them, and would love to have new members. And if they call upon you to help, please say yes! Being on a committee is a great way to serve your neighborhood while getting to know a new group of people with interests similar to yours.

The Board meets quarterly, and our next meeting will be in October. Notices are sent out prior to the meeting by email, on the Facebook page, and by post in the kiosk. Anyone who would like to address the Board before a meeting may arrange to do so by sending me an email in advance. My email is jankolarik@gmail.com. You may, of course, also email me at any time with community news or issues.

Once again, I am looking forward to working together with you to make Saddle Ridge the very best neighborhood it can be. Thank you for the faith you have put into your Board members, and please know that we will all be doing our very best for you. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, including the Fall Cookout, the Fall Cleanup Day, and just getting our mail at the kiosk. See you soon!

Janet



We have some additions to the barn area. A new trash barn with plenty of room to accommodate our ever growing "piece of heaven". Thank you to all who worked hard on this project. Also we have a bit of a mystery. A sweet little sharing library that appeared one day. Thank you to whomever made that happen.

Firewise Update

Fire season starts in October. Now is the time to get your house ready. Ideally you want **30' of defensible space**. You might find the video at the bottom of the BurnSafeTN page helpful. Bill Landry narrates. The focus is making your home safe using examples from the 2001 fire in Sevier County. It's a very informative video:

<http://burnsafetn.org/firewise.html>

Barbara Clinansmith and Karen Richardson are in charge of home inspections. Contact [Barbara](#) if you would like them to walk around the outside of your house and offer suggestions for improving your defensible space.

assignments. Among the assignments are cleaning East Millers Cover Road, cleaning the barn area, conducting home inspections, cleaning flower beds, and more.

We have a backpack blower and trimmers purchased with Firewise funds that you can borrow. If you need help with blowing leaves and other debris from your house, let us know.

Reporting Volunteer Hours and Expenses

The link to the survey covering your July/August Firewise activities was emailed September 1. You can also follow the link here [link to survey](#) to report the time and money spent to improve your home's defensible space.

Treasurer's Report

The annual financial statements for Fiscal Year 2019 (for the year ended June 30, 2019), along with the FY 2020 annual budget, were emailed to you in early July. These same reports were distributed and discussed at the SRPOA Annual Meeting on July 20.

For the year, our total operating inflows were \$87,871.93, roughly 77% of which was from current annual assessments. The balance came from delinquent annual assessment collections, road impact fees, and other payments.

Our total operating outflows were \$81,363.03, giving us a net operating inflow of \$6,508.90. A few of our operating outflows, though, were significantly over budget. The equipment account was 58% over budget, but we purchased some new hydraulics for the tractor to enable us to operate our new bush-hog mower, which was paid for through a Firewise Grant. Special Projects were 166% over budget. We had several significant expenditures this year, including a major repair of Waters End at the dam which was caused by the over 10 inches of rain we had in February. We also did some major repair work on both Waters End (other than the dam repair) and Oakwood. Significant work was done on Chilhowee Loop, but this work was funded by our Firewise Grant. Finally, we purchased a new, larger trash barn for the community. Gate operations, while a smaller amount of money, were 69% over budget due to some work required for the electronics that operate the gate. Other expenditures were within acceptable variances.

For FY 2020, we are budgeting for a deficit of \$8,700. We have sufficient resources in our reserves to fund this deficit. The deficit results largely from significant road maintenance and culvert work throughout Saddle Ridge. Other budgetary items are comparable with past years.

If you have any questions about the results for FY 2019 or the budget for FY 2020, we encourage you to send them to us at our email address: saddleridgepoa@gmail.com.

The Wild Side of Saddle Ridge



2019 Has Been a Great Year for Viewing Wildlife on Overlook View

By Roxanne Clapp

Safety first: DO NOT FEED THE WILDLIFE! You can watch natural sources of food for them. Berries! They LOVE those berries, whether they are blue, black, or rasp. Be sure to keep the berry bushes a distance from your house and frequented yard space. If you want to see the wildlife and you have an outdoor security camera, or you like to sit quietly in one place for a very long time with a huge camera lens, focus on a berry bush!



This year we have had many bear families visit. A family of 5 (mom and four cubs), another family of 4 (mom and three cubs), a different mom and a cub, one big male, and Decker. Never at the same time! Whew! This is the third season Decker has come to visit. We nicknamed her Decker because when she (he?) was a cub, she jumped up on our deck, and continues to do so on occasion. We always scare her off. We've had four of those moments, so it isn't frequent, thankfully, even though her visits are.

You must be bear-aware and be vigilant, so they don't take up any bad habits. All the other bears don't seem to be interested in the deck and keep a safe distance as they pass through the yard. Decker's gender is yet to be determined. I'm leaning more toward female because of the shape the head and placement of the ears. (Check with us next spring!) Bears aren't the only critters in our woods that have made an appearance this summer. Deer, raccoons, and bobcats too. Enjoy watching! From a distance.



It's summer and bears and other wildlife are still active! Make sure your house and property are [Bearwise!](#)

- Never Feed or Approach Bears
- Secure Food, Garbage, and Recycling
- Remove Bird Feeders When Bears Are Active
- Never Leave Pet Food Outdoors
- Clean & Store Grills
- Alert Neighbors to Bear Activity

Be kind to our reptile and amphibian friends. Drive slowly and watch for wildlife.

Road Report

Now that the dog days of summer are nearing an end, and the snakes and pollinators are winding down, you will see more road and roadside maintenance taking place. Due to a number of factors including a very rainy summer, Alcoa Utilities cutting in the right-of-ways last spring, and a broken mower last year, we have some extra cleanup to do in the road shoulders, ditches and culverts this fall. The cleanup needs to be completed before November when the roads will be graded and gravel placed in preparation for winter. Note that in the meantime, Lamar has been in Saddle Ridge grading and placing gravel as needed to repair summer damage and will continue to address problem areas.



A crew of volunteers hooked up our new mower attachment and will be mowing the shoulders soon. Before they can mow we need to make sure the shoulders are clear of anything that will damage the mower, such as large branches or logs fallen or left by the utilities work, or large saplings.

A lot of our community maintenance is done by volunteers, often unseen and never applauded enough. Volunteers walk and drive along the roads and clear debris from the roadsides that will damage the mower, making sure the road shoulders are clear for mowing at least 5 feet back from the road. Small branches can be tossed back into the woods or brought down to the barn for chipping (from October 1 -15.) Pine cannot be chipped or used for firewood so toss that back into the woods. Large hardwood logs

make good firewood. If you need help, volunteers will help chainsaw larger trees and branches.

We also have volunteers who will be going around spot-treating the many invasives (ex. mimosas, Russian olive) that have been thriving along the roadsides and cutting down the larger saplings. Finally, after the shoulders are mowed and leaves fall, we will need to blow the leaves off the roads to prepare them for grading. So there's plenty of work to do this fall! Please volunteer when and where you can. We will have a community Fall Cleanup and

Murphy heads to a new home



We will all miss seeing Murphy down at the barn. Murphy has been a resident of the Saddle Ridge barn since March 2012. He's moved to a very nice 'retirement stable' in Maryville. As his age has advanced so has his need for special care. He'll be living at a friend of the Tedford's farm in Maryville. They offer full-care boarding and will get the increased level of attention he deserves in his twilight years. Jim sent this note. "He was behaving oddly (walking funny) when we loaded him to move him to the new barn. Turns out he had contracted EPM which is a protozoal disease carried in possum poop. It can be life-threatening, especially in older horses. He has been under the care of his vet for the past three weeks and is showing signs of improvement. He has become very attached to his pasture mate, another 29-year old gelding named Mishka. He seems really happy to be in the company of other horses. His appetite is great and he's getting lots of exercise exploring the farm." I know we all wish Murphy a happy life.

Welcome to Saddle Ridge

New property owners:

Robert & Shannon Lydic, 2203 Turkey Roost

Mile & Paulette Smith, 2044 Walnut Flats

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,

Contact Mary Glarner at Mglarner@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: Janet Kolarik - 865-805-0348

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

Secretary: Judy Pearson - 865-982-5729

Board Members:

Alane Wyss - 865-977-1533

Connie Evans - 865-304-2267

Sue DuBois - 865-307-2532

Mary Glarner-865-982-3432

Beth Koella-865-705-0455

Paul Lazenby-336-687-3334



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