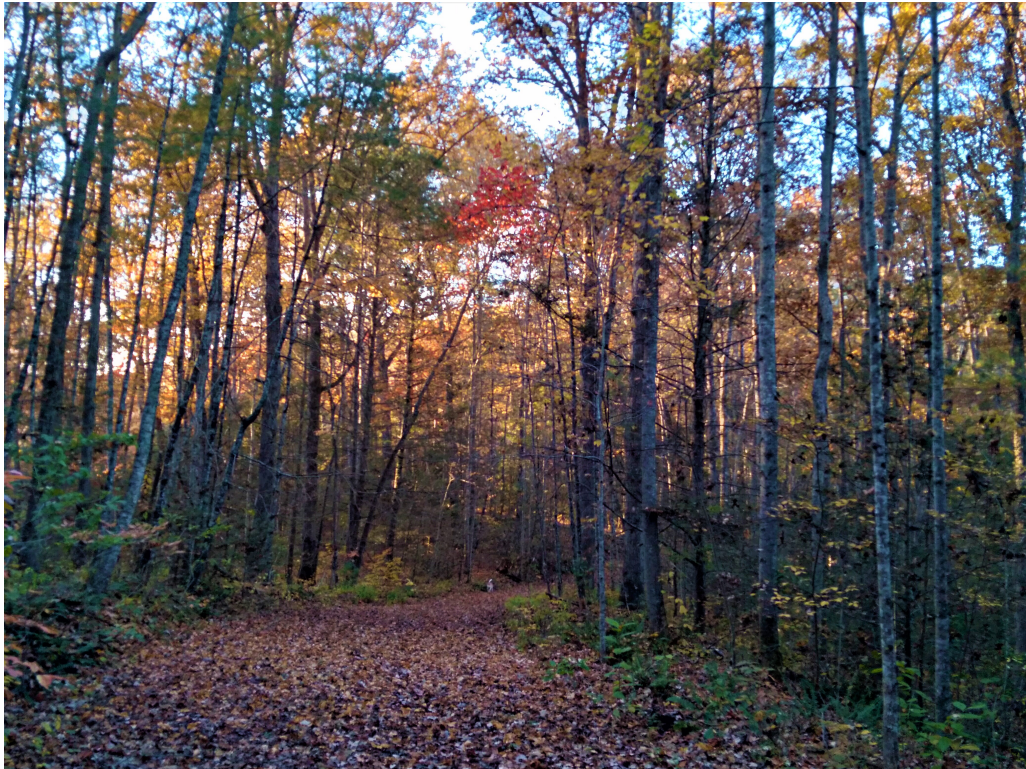


---



*The*  
**Ridge Rambler**

---



---

## **President's Message**

Why is it always hard to believe that the holidays are already here? Every year they seem to come quicker, which means the end of a year and a new beginning just ahead. I love fall and the end of the year. The changing of the leaves, crisp sweater weather, and the holidays — Halloween, Thanksgiving, and then Christmas! I love them all, but they do seem to follow each other very fast. We went out of town the day after Thanksgiving and came home after dark on December 2. What a surprise to see the fall decorations gone and the beautiful Christmas lights up on the gate and fence! Many thanks to Connie and Tim Evans, Mary and Dave Glarner, and Judy and Hugh Pearson for making our entrance so festive and welcoming.

It's always easy to think of things I'm grateful for, and this Thanksgiving was especially so. Being with our larger family group and being able to travel again were two big things, and there were many more. I have to mention my gratitude for living in this beautiful place that we share, and for neighbors who pitch in whenever there's a need. I would also be remiss not to acknowledge and thank the dedicated people that I am privileged to serve with on our POA Board.

And now it's December. I'm going to use one of Charles Dickens' quotes from A Christmas Carol, which I think speaks well to what we all experience at this time of year. It's Scrooge's nephew's answer to one of Scrooge's many Bah Humbugs. "There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say, Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round — apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that — as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time,.....when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely..... And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

I wish you all the joys of the season, with all the things that will make you happiest. And not to overwork A Christmas Carol (one of my all time favorite books), I'll end with Tiny Tim's famous quote, "God bless us, every one!"

-Janet Kolarik, President



Thank you to everyone who came out for the Fall Gathering. We had a great turnout. It was nice to meet new members to the committee and visit with people who hadn't been together in quite a while. The weather was perfect and I think everyone enjoyed the box dinners from Lee's Chicken. Thanks to Barbara, Connie, Karen, and Theresa for the delicious desserts.



Beth Koella  
Events Chairperson



## Treasurers Report

SADDLE RIDGE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2021 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2021

	ACTUAL (5 months)	BUDGET (12 months)
Assessments	\$63,750	\$71,000

Interest	4	
Total Operating Inflows	\$63,754	\$71,000
Road Committee	20,141	52,500
Environment Committee	5,270	14,000
Equipment Committee	181	5,000
Events Committee	466	500
Legal	11,170	10,000
Utilities	1,170	2,400
Accounting	279	500
Miscellaneous	202	500
Insurance	0	1,650
Property Taxes	397	450
Total Operating Outflows	\$39,277	\$87,500
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$24,473	(\$16,500)

## Roads

I'm here today to talk about something that, as Road Committee Chair, has become near and dear to my heart. That's right, I'm talking about washboard roads.

Washboarding is the phenomenon where vehicles traveling over a flat but non-solid surface, like a gravel or sandy road, will gradually make ripples in the road.

Googling around a little, opinions differ a bit over the exact cause of washboarding. My favorite article is one called "What causes washboard roads?" at [howstuffworks.com](http://howstuffworks.com), which likens the physics of washboarding to the physics of a stone skipping on water. Everyone does seem to agree that if you drive slow enough, you don't get any washboarding. (Just as a stone has to be going over a certain speed to skip on water.) Unfortunately for us, that threshold speed is about three and a half miles per hour. I don't see any of us making a habit of driving that slowly any time soon, so washboarding on our roads is pretty much here to stay.

That said, it's still true that the slower you go, the slower the washboarding forms.

There are ways to reduce washboarding, and I'm looking into them. I get a reminder every time my way home gets a little too bumpy.

Thanks for reading!

— Larry Clapp  
Road Committee Chair



# Christmas Decorations

The elves have been at it again. Here is a message from one of them.

## What A Year

by Judy Pearson

Well, here we are in December, which for me means 2021 is almost over. Whew – what a year it's been – vertigo, shingles (not jingles), COVID, and lastly a lost voice (to husband's delight) virus. No, not lastly ... on Dec 31 I'm another year older. Ugh! Hey, 2022, hurry and get here - you've got to be better! December is "not just another month as another state of mind" to quote Harold Kohn author of "Tinsel & The Hay". I always like reading the first passage in this book at the beginning of December and would like to share a few random thoughts from the book and then one of my own.

"For 11 months of the year, some folks suppress their best impulses, sentiments and attempt to hide their best selves". But in December they seek ways to reveal their hidden feelings and dare to be tender and kind in ways that would seem awkward at other times". "Many of them had hidden warm friendliness, kindness, and generosity away all year in some dark attic of their soul". Then " Dec. suddenly creates open-hearted moments and actions which should distinguish all of our months of the year". "We do not give according to the merits and worthiness of our children, friends, or spouses". We don't count the number of times kids misbehave, friends or neighbors irritate us, or a spouse disagrees and argues with us (thank goodness – I'd be in trouble). Our hearts suddenly open up and swell as we try to help, share and give what expresses our love.

Well, folks, the Pearson's have experienced December's kindness and generosity from the people of Saddle Ridge all thru 2021. While I was down with shingles for 4 months, friends and neighbors reached out. Meals were given, groceries were brought in, someone helped Hugh weed the whole garden, in the heat of July, 16 beds for those of you who don't know how large it is. One neighbor answered my call for help since Hugh was in Maryland. That special someone got me to a doctor, then delivered me to the hospital for admittance. We sincerely believe and experienced the people of Saddle Ridge's December open-hearted moments and actions all year long. We know many other residents who received and shared those same actions. People here care less about what they receive and more about what they give.

As I read my favorite passage "Open Hearted Moments" again this Christmas time, I had what some might call an epiphany. Wouldn't it be a great 2022 in our country if the Christmas spirit broke its December bonds, flooded and saturated the year 2022 with the same spirit of our friends and neighbors of Saddle Ridge? The Pearson's are deeply grateful for our folks. May each of you have a wonderful holiday and, like us, a much better 2022.



Thanking all, Judy





---

## Firewise

Congratulations! Our Firewise [certification](#) has been renewed. The hard work of community members makes us a safer community and allows us to apply for grant money to purchase equipment and tools.

Thank you to Barbara Clinansmith for serving on the home inspection team. Michael Gass will join Karen Richardson on the home inspection team.

Thank you to Margaret Akers for her work on the Firewise committee—particularly this year with the updating of the Community Wildlife Protection Plan.

Chipper- Saddle Ridge is renting a 12” chipper to help with the clean-up of dead wood and debris in the community with Firewise funds.

The staging area will be behind the equipment barn. You are welcome to bring debris with logs no larger than 12” to the marked off area. The chipper will be available for 2-3 days in early February. We will firm up the dates in late January. Watch Facebook for updates.

New Owners- If you plan to build, please review the Firewise materials you should have received and also Saddle Ridge website. You will find suggestions for

- building materials
- planning a driveway that allows room for emergency vehicles to turn around
- incorporating 30' of defensible space around your house

Betsy Smith, [tennsmith@gmail.com](mailto:tennsmith@gmail.com)

---

## Environment

Update on the Environment Committee to-do list:

- Gate Area.
  - The flower beds at the entrance have been weeded and will be ready for Spring flowers.
  - Sanding and painting the gate will wait until Spring/Summer 2022.
- Duck Inn. Thank you to the Martinez family for building a new Duck Inn!



- **Fall Clean-up.** We have made good progress on community clean-up—but there's always something that needs work. Don't hesitate to volunteer!! I'll be happy to identify task(s).
- **Kiosk.** A group of volunteers is working to repair the kiosk and expand the package box. We are addressing a couple of issues before work can begin. No changes will be made to the package box before the holidays so please pick up packages promptly—thank you.

**Trash Barn.** Please bag all household garbage and recyclables. Only place cardboard larger than a 12-pack soda box in the cardboard bin. Thank you.

**Betsy Smith,** [tennsmith@gmail.com](mailto:tennsmith@gmail.com)



## Welcome Home - The “Duck Inn”

In the Fall of 1999, as I rode in the back of my family's truck, I got my first glance of the Duck Inn. It was the same trip where my parents, Doug and Janie Shaffer, discovered the little cabin built over the creek on Chilhowee Loop. Our family couldn't resist the pull that these mountains placed on our hearts, and the Duck Inn will always be a part of that special memory of that first visit to SR.

Now, as my own family escapes to our "home away from home" and drives through the SR gate, we always know we have arrived when we see the Duck Inn. It is a welcome home for us. Over the years, we have watched the wildlife in the pond and been privileged to see some of the duck families enjoy this heartfelt shelter. As time and weather started to take their toll on the Duck Inn, we wondered what would happen, then it hit me, who better to rebuild this special SR symbol than our family. As we live in Nashville, we don't get to give back to SR as we would like, so we felt this was the perfect opportunity.

When we received the go-ahead from Smitty, we initiated operation "Duck Inn" on Sept 5th. Because we wanted to make sure we saved the exact essence of the Duck Inn, we first created a handwritten template with measurements and took many photos. Then the disassembly began. Although the structure was dire, it was harder to take down than imagined. (Maybe it was because it was all done by boat) We disposed of the entire Duck Inn except for the "wall of windows,"

which now resides at our SR barn. Once back home in Nashville, we rebuilt the replica and then disassembled and transported it back to SR. On Nov 24th, we reassembled the Duck Inn with the original "Duck Inn" sign. An additional goal will be to add a tin roof and build a ramp for the ducks. We will return in Jan 2022 for this final work.

While working on this project, we have wondered who the original person/family was who built the Duck Inn. In speaking to my Aunt Kathy Wilbanks, prior SR resident, she stated she only knew that Jim and Barbara Clinansmith (Oakwood) had rebuilt the Duck Inn. A very grateful thank you from our family to Jim and Barbara for the effort it took to create such a memorable shelter for our wildlife. I hope this article might bring out the additional history and close the loop. Until then, our family hopes the renewal will bring the residents of SR as much joy as it brings to us every time we drive through the gate and are welcomed home.

Stephanie, Michael, Mason, and Mia Martinez  
1844 Chilhowee Loop

---

## Walland School

After a year and a half, I finally was able to visit with Mrs. Sullivan – principal at Walland Elementary School. For all our new residents, Saddle Ridge has adopted the school for about the last 10 years and helped meet many of the school's needs financially. I've volunteered for the last 15 years with the 3rd grade to encourage reading fluency and improve their reading skills. Before the pandemic stopped me I was working with a 3rd grader who had just started at Walland. He had – due to nonexistent parental care – only attended 3 weeks of school in his whole life. The same applied to his 2 siblings. When we talked, I learned that "no" reading material existed in his home. Many of the children at the school have some kind of the same circumstances. And as all of us know if one cannot read one cannot get anywhere in life. So hopefully at school, I thought the library could help. But it was very depressing to me. The library lacked reading material that boys and girls would be drawn to and excited to read. It was dark and dreary in the daytime, and many books still were on the shelves from the days when the school went from first to twelfth grade.

But now take a second look at the pictures of the newly remodeled library. It is now bright, cheerful, and inviting. Mrs. Pitt tells the boys and girls to wander through, pull out a book and even sit down, look at it to see if they want to dive deeper and learn what the book is about. As you can see, though, many of the shelves are empty. Money is needed to replace what was removed.

The librarian is compiling a list to purchase. I will be receiving a copy of the list to share or purchase for them. As in the past, residents may contact me for books to purchase. Money may be donated which I take along with the tax-free number for Blount County Schools and buy what is needed. Checks may be written to Walland Elementary School and designated for books for the library. I am willing to pick up and deliver for you or you may deliver to the office. Mrs. Sullivan just had two requests. First, that you are willing to wear a mask. Mrs. Sullivan has just returned to the school herself from a very severe case of COVID (3 months). Second, that you please share your name and let them know you're from Saddle Ridge.

As we all know the season for giving is here. And for all of our new residents I've learned that all year, every year has been a season of giving for Saddle Ridge to the school. So if anyone wants to join us and play Santa again this year please contact me!

Judy Pearson



## Just a recommendation

If you have not already signed up with UPS and Fed Ex for delivery notifications, you may want to, especially during this season. Our box fills up quickly during this time of the year. As mentioned previously, people are working to remedy the situation.

## Saddle Ridge Trash Barn Rules

### Allowed

**Only household trash that is bagged and tied. Please place in the back of the trash barn where the floor is painted gray.**

### Not Allowed in Trash

- Construction waste
- Yard waste
- Large batteries bigger than size D
- Wet paint (even if contained)
- Motor oil
- Household oil-based liquids
- Large electronics or TVs
- Medical waste
- Tires

### Recycling:



## **GLASS IS NO LONGER ALLOWED in recycling**

Please place bagged recycling in trash bins at the front of the shed. Plastics, aluminum, cardboard, paper, and tin are all accepted. Make sure all cardboard is collapsed.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE TRASH BARN IS CLOSED UNTIL 1PM ON MONDAYS FOR CLEANING**

---

## **New Owners**

John & Cynthia Bates  
Ted & Valerie Wyman  
Trace & Deidre Palmer

---

## **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, 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 Mary Glarner at [Mglarner@gmail.com](mailto: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**

**President:** Janet Kolarik 865-805-0348

**Vice President:** Mary Glarner 865-982-3432 Communications Committee

**Treasurer:** Sally Whelan 508-847-9140

**Secretary:** Joan Jackson 803-257-2649

**Board Members:**

Betsy Smith 615-631-1173 Environmental Committee

Judy Pearson 865-982-5729 Architectural Committee

Larry Clapp 813-765-5537 Roads Committee

Beth Koella 865-705-0455 Events/Hospitality Committee

Keith Kennedy 512-716-5059 Equipment Committee

---



*Copyright © 2021 Saddle Ridge POA, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

