
The
SADDLE RIDGE

Ridge Rambler



President's Message

As president of the Property Owners Association, I get a lot of phone calls from people who are

looking at houses or property in Saddle Ridge. They have many questions, some of which have very definite answers, and some of which are asking more for my opinions. When there's a factual answer, I give it to them or sometimes refer them to someone else who has more knowledge on the subject than I do. If it's an opinion they want, I give them mine, while making it clear to them that it is my opinion only. For example, I am frequently asked about snow, especially in late summer and fall when that is on people's minds. And I tell them the truth from my perspective: it's beautiful here when it snows, but our gravel roads cannot be plowed or salted, so we are sometimes stuck at home during bad weather conditions. That is sometimes due to a tree down across a road, and often just because of slick, icy roads. We also sometimes lose power when the snow causes trees or limbs to fall on power lines. A generator is a great thing to invest in for those times. But I always add that when those things happen, one thing we can count on is that people will be offering to help. People with chain saws will cut and move trees. People who can get out will offer to bring food or gasoline (for generators) for people who need it but can't yet get out. People offer to let neighbors come stay at their house. So although it is inconvenient to be stuck at home for however long it lasts, we are fortunate to have the neighbors we do who offer to help.

And if I had to choose between loving Saddle Ridge for its beauty or for its people, I'd be hard-pressed to choose. I love living here for all the natural beauty. Whether it's snow in the winter, spring flowers popping up, or the fall colors, it's just gorgeous here. But when you have neighbors who help to care for you when you are sick, whether that's bringing food or weeding your garden, you know that you are blessed. People who check on you, bring a casserole, or feed your dog, are people that you are lucky to live near. And when you have a spring clean-up like we had in February and have so many people come to help that day, and who come two weekends later to run a chipper to clear mounds of branches, you know you have the best neighbors ever.

So I am happy to talk to potential buyers about Saddle Ridge. I can give them the unvarnished truth and still tell them how much I love it here. Sure there are inconveniences to living so far out of town — no pizza delivery, for instance, and at least a 30-minute drive when you get in your car no matter where you're going. But is it worth it? In my opinion, you bet it is, and I hope we all feel the same!

—Janet Kolarik, President

EVENTS

I'm sad to say that for a second year, we were unable to have the ladies' Potluck due to the covid numbers being high throughout the winter months. Hopefully, we will see everyone at the annual meeting in July. We will again hold the annual meeting beside the Saddle Ridge barn.

—Beth Koella, Events Committee Chair

Treasurer's Report

SADDLE RIDGE OWNERS ASSOCIATION
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2021 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2022

	YTD (8 months)	BUDGET (12 months)	VARIANCE
Assessments	\$67,637	\$71,000	-\$3,363
Interest	5	0	5
Firewise Grant	0	5,000	-5,000
Total Operating Inflows	<u>\$67,642</u>	<u>\$76,000</u>	<u>-\$8,358</u>
	0		
Road Committee	26,580	52,500	25,920
Environment Committee	7,399	14,000	6,601
Firewise	3,278	5,000	1,722
Equipment Committee	181	5,000	4,819
Events Committee	582	500	-82
Legal	12,032	10,000	-2,032
Utilities	1,580	2,400	820
Accounting	300	500	200
Miscellaneous	315	500	185
Insurance	1,599	1,650	51
Property Taxes	397	450	53
Total Operating Outflows	<u>\$54,243</u>	<u>\$92,500</u>	<u>\$38,257</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$13,399</u>	<u>-\$16,500</u>	<u>\$29,899</u>
	<u>July 1, 2021</u>	<u>Feb 28, 2022</u>	
Cash in Bank	\$43,861	\$58,760	
Certificates of Deposit	32,574	32,582	
Total Cash Holdings	<u>\$76,435</u>	<u>\$91,342</u>	

The Saddle Ridge POA Board has discussed the need to raise our annual POA fees by 10% beginning the next fiscal year, July 1, 2022. This increase had been approved by the board in 2012, but it was never implemented. As everyone is aware, the cost of just about everything has gone up. For Saddle Ridge, the cost of maintaining our roads has increased by 20% just this year. The new fee schedule would be \$275 for an undeveloped lot and \$550 for a developed lot.

Roads

I don't have an overarching theme this month, or indeed much to say.

- First of all, thanks to everyone that pitched in for the recent community clean-up day! Good work!
- We're having our contractor Lamar do some mowing around the community.
- As always, please contact me via email, phone, or text if you have any questions or requests about road maintenance.

— Larry Clapp, Road Committee Chairperson

WHAT OUR FORESTS WILL LOOK LIKE IN 10 YEARS?

Saddle Ridge's forests look different than they did just ten years ago. Most of our hemlocks have died and the few survivors are sickly versions of their former selves. If you see a healthy hemlock elsewhere you will be astounded by the vibrant green and dense foliage. Our white ash trees have fared much worse. Once one of the more common and larger trees in our forest, now nearly all our ash older than saplings are dead snags or logs laying on the ground. In both cases, exotic insects are responsible for these profound losses. Hemlock wooly adelgid and emerald ash borer are insects native to Asia that have been transported to and around North America. Because these pests and our trees didn't evolve together, our trees cannot mount an effective defense as they can to our native insects. Unfortunately, our native trees are easy pickings for these and other exotic pests and pathogens. There are treatments homeowners can take to protect the trees and there are considerable national efforts underway to conserve them. Perhaps the most impactful strategy is prevention. Preventing the spread of pests that are already here and the introduction of new tree pests by not moving firewood long distances (more than 50 miles for example) or by using kiln-dried firewood.

Some of the most visible trees and shrubs in Saddle Ridge are themselves invasive exotics. Our roadsides bear the brunt of the invasion. Some have pretty flowers like the mimosa tree. Another, a shrub especially common around the gate and lake, autumn olive, produces a fruit that birds and other wildlife eat. A third, Japanese knotweed, is planted in gardens for its showy flower display. Luckily, a neighbor spotted the first small patch of knotweed and it seems to be under control.

One could argue, what's the harm given their apparent values? The problem is these plants are described as "invasive" for a reason. They outcompete our native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees. So unless we're ok with a monoculture of a few kinds of trees rather than our current diverse mix of trees found in our Smoky Mountains, we need to be vigilant.

What can we do? Avoid planting invasive vegetation. See here for a [list of invasive plants in TN](#). Don't move firewood. And lastly, let me know if you have mimosa on or near your property or if you suspect you see knotweed so that they can be treated. If you're interested in treating this vegetation with herbicide please let me know (alexjwyss1@gmail.com). What will our forests look like ten years from now? In large part, the answer to that question depends on the actions that we take in the upcoming years.

Alex Wyss



Mimosa



Japanese Knotweed



Autumn Olive

Firewise

Newcomers: A Firewise community representative will be happy to meet with you on-site to give you a packet of information on creating a safer environment. The packet includes information on 30' of defensible space and ideas for landscaping. New committee members are being recruited. After serving as Firewise chair for 5 years, Betsy Smith plans to shift the responsibility to another community resident. The main responsibility of committee members is promoting Firewise in Saddle Ridge. Please contact Betsy Smith, tennsmith@gmail.com

The Saddle Ridge pond was used recently as a dipping spot for helicopters getting water for the Sevier County fires.

—Betsy Smith

Environment

THANKS to everyone for the February/March clean-up weekends. The winter storms created a lot of debris—but, no pile is too great for teams of residents working hard! Teams also worked on the flower beds and East Millers Cove Road. THANK YOU.

—Betsy Smith, Environmental Chair



Saddle Ridge Frog Walk

8 PM Friday, April 8th.

Calling frogs and toads can be a sound to behold!

Meet by the gate and we will go on a short walk along the lake. Date may change depending on weather, please keep up on FB for any updates.

Walland School

Walland School Update

Things are slowly returning to normal at the school. They are still waiting on allowing volunteers back in with the children. I have met occasionally with Mrs. Sullivan (principal) and Mrs. Pitt, the new librarian, to check on their needs.

Mrs. Sullivan has asked for help to purchase 3 TVs from Amazon at a cost of \$496 a piece. They will replace old dying projectors that have been there forever. If anyone wanted to give a check to the school, I would deliver your gift with a note that states exactly what it is to be used for. The school will not have to pay taxes on the purchases. I still have \$400 in the school account, and Hugh and I will be donating to reach the cost of one TV and a gift to help purchase more books.

Mrs. Pitt has sent Saddle Ridge homeowners a thank you note.

Please read.....

"First, I would like to say THANK YOU for the donation back in December. We have been actively renovating not only the physical aspects of the library but the reading selection as well. This year we have been able to purchase MANY new books for the students, and their response has been incredible! There are some students who come to the library EVERY DAY to return a book and check out a new one. This year's 5th-grade class is participating in a 40 Book Challenge — several students had their 40 books read and summaries turned in BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK! Several of these are students I had in my reading class as 3rd graders a few years ago—and back then, it was a struggle to get them to read one book, let alone 40! Several of the students in that class have come up 2 or 3 reading levels just this year! For me personally, seeing the library come back to life and the excitement all the students in the building have for reading again is awesome! The support we receive from Saddle Ridge is amazing— thank you again for your donations and your interest in our school, community, and students— it truly does make a difference!"

For new homeowners, before COVID, my volunteer work was reading fluency with 3rd graders which I had been doing for about 12 years. Some of these 3rd graders Mrs. Pitt is talking about were ones that I had worked with. As a reader myself, it is amazing to me how much improvement the students make when someone regularly works with them. The school is still purchasing new current reading material for the library. So if anyone still wants to donate for the library they can. If anyone has any questions about helping the school please feel free to call me at 865-982-5729.

Thank you all for the school support!

Judy Pearson

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 Sigman

Paul Coleman

Robert & Lovisa Scott

Sharon & Floyd Smith

Esther & James Andrews

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 Glamer at Mglamer@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



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