

# RIDGE RAMBLER

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The Saddle Ridge community mourns the death of Dr. Raymond Fletcher and wishes to extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

## Board of directors meets on Jan. 19

The Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association board of directors officially voted on several matters which had been discussed at the October meeting where a quorum was not present.

Attending this meeting were Cain, Carrigan, Carroll, Clinansmith, Dicus, Bob Frink, Les Jewell, Phil Spampinato, Ed Tipps, Richard Way, John Wilbanks and ex officio member Juanita Davis.

The minutes of the Oct. 7 meeting were approved with the correction of crush-and-run to crusher run.

Bob Frink presented the report of the semi-annual audit of both the dues account and the maintenance fund account. He and Les Jewell perform the audit.

Currently \$8,642.79 is in the dues account with expenses including post office box rental (\$20), a memorial for Danny Carrigan's father (\$47.50) and Christmas decorations (\$77.56).

Frink presented the dues account report in the absence of Treasurer Charlyse Kerr. On motion by Wilbanks, second by Carrigan the report was accepted.

Ex-officio member Juanita Davis

presented the treasurer's report of the road maintenance account. Balance is now \$56,233.19 but \$50,000 has been placed in a certificate of deposit. Expenses include \$2,727.13 for rock, \$456.06 for other, \$720 in labor, \$386.21 in utilities, \$1,540 in garbage pickup fees, \$458.79 for mail boxes and \$1,756.67 for repairs. Mrs. Davis's report was accepted on motion by Wilbanks, second by Stampinato.

Dicus reported on the results of an informal poll of the membership following an article in the newsletter suggesting that funds from the dues account be used to help defray costs of feeding the elk. On motion by Frink, second by Wilbanks, \$100 per year will go toward purchasing food for the animals. The suggestion came in a letter from property owner Larry Elder. Dicus said he received no opposition to the suggestion.

Jim Clinansmith said he was becoming concerned about the safety of the entrance gate and will look into possibilities to remedy the situation.

The road committee reported that about 14 loads of 3/4-inch rock have been placed on roads since the recent snow.

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## What to do with our elk?

Several years ago five members of the Saddle Ridge community, acting on what they felt was the desire of most residents and property owners, purchased three elk - one male, two female - from a facility in Maynardville.

The elk were purchased to replace the two females which had resided, roaming

free, in Saddle Ridge for many years.

Since then about each issue of the newsletter has printed some item about the animals, perhaps about the need for funds to feed the elk (about \$100 a month now), about the fencing of the elk after they wandered away, ate valuable plants and even attacked a car. Then came the miraculous story about "Oliver", who is thriving now after a very difficult birth and

rejection by his mother.

But lately the elk have proven:

1) They are still wild animals albeit not particularly afraid of humans, and 2) They can be extremely dangerous.

These lessons were learned anew recently when one of the females got out of the large enclosure or series of enclosures which house them near the barn. While attention was being given to the escapee,

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## The Elk

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Bo, our male, also got free.

Bo now weighs close to 800 pounds, although no one has of course been able to weigh him. He has a magnificent rack which he is not reluctant to use. As SRPOA President Larry Dicus told board members at a meeting Jan. 19, Bo is a very dangerous animal and is becoming more and more a problem.

A decision will need to be made in the near future about the fate of Bo, the two young male offspring who have been born in Saddle Ridge, and the two females.

Dicus outlined several possibilities to board members, stating that the owners of the elk - Jack Davis, Kenny Needham, John King, Bo Key and Richard Way - want to work within the context of the Saddle Ridge community.

Buyers could be found for the elk; a broker could be obtained to help rotate the animals so that a new male could be obtained for the females and that as new elk are born into the herd they will be sold when they reach, say, two years of age and sufficient size to pose problems.

Within a few months, decisions will need to be made and will be communicated in the newsletter.

In the meantime, the animals must still be fed. Funds which had been donated when an appeal was made in a letter accompanying the newsletter have been exhausted. Anyone wishing to help feed the animals should call Dicus at 984-8496.

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*\*Denotes members of road committee along with Jack Davis and Joel Loy*

## Annual Meeting

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The group is also considering the possibility of purchasing another tractor to help with road maintenance. Way reported that often a used tractor in almost pristine condition can be found if one is patient.

Some roadsides have been cleared by members of the committee walking along the roads with weedeater and chain saw.

Frink mentioned the possible danger of power outage from overhanging trees in Saddle Ridge and said he had called Alcoa Utilities to inspect the area. Dicus said an employee did come and drive the roads. Nothing further has been learned about AUB's plans, however.

Dicus brought up the possibility of paving some roads or some portions of some roads. Members of the board discussed the pros and cons of paving at some length. Cost, of course, would be prohibitive. There was discussion about the maintenance of asphalt on the steep hills and with the sharp changes in weather and temperature. Upon motion of Rob Carroll and second by Frink, the road com-

mittee was instructed to look into the matter and come to a later board meeting with a recommendation.

Spampinato suggested that a new map was needed with named roads and constructed houses included. Dicus, Juanita and Kathy Wilbanks will work on obtaining information for such a map.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

## Wilbanks is elected SRPOA vice president

John Wilbanks will serve out the unexpired term of Frank vanAalst as vice president of the Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association.

Frank and his wife, Jeannette, are now residents of Morning View Village due to her health.

Wilbanks will serve until July 2002 when the next annual meeting is held and vanAalst's term expires.

The election was held at the Jan. 19 meeting of the SRPOA board of directors.

## Beautification group will continue work

The newly formed beautification committee will continue its work of sprucing up the entrance to Saddle Ridge and perhaps other areas of public notice with an allocation of \$1,000 for the coming year from the board of directors.

The group decorated the gate for Christmas—Thanks for the wreath, garland and lights!—and is planning to obtain a truckload of stacking stone and good topsoil which

will be used to make flower beds.

Members of the committee include Barb Clinansmith, Beth Dicus, Martha Frink and Kathy Wilbanks. Any others who would like to join them in their labors are welcomed.

The group will meet soon, Kathy told the board Jan. 19, to map out their plans for the beds and seasonal decorations