



Ridge Rambler

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New codes will last two months

We are establishing a policy of keeping gate codes for two months, rather than change them either month.

Because there has been no newsletter for the past few months - and the board of directors' meeting was postponed - the current code has been in the machine since November.

Since we now each have our own personal code (which is to be kept secret, by the way), the necessity to change codes seems to have lessened.

Here are the codes for the time until the annual meeting in July.

Feb/Mar: 8537

Apr/May: 4216

Jun/Jul: 7135

If for some reason, new codes do not come out, please be advised that the last code will remain in the computerized gate and will be operable until new codes are received.

Mark your calendars!

The annual meeting of the Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 17.

A potluck lunch will follow the board meeting.

Already being considered for the agenda is the adoption of new by-laws, bringing them more in line with actual activities of the board, its offi-

cers and members. And of course there will be the election of three directors.

Put July 17 on your calendar. The place of the meeting will be announced later but hopefully will be at the East Walland Baptist Church on East Miller's Cove Road.

This won't be your last notification! We want you there!

How To Prepare In Case of Wildfire

Although many residents of Saddle Ridge are prepared for many different emergencies (extra water on hand, filled bathtubs when snow begins, extra food, alternative sources of heat), few of us are probably prepared for a wildfire.

Can heavy firetrucks negotiate all the roads in Saddle Ridge? Hopefully we won't have to find out.

Phil Spaminato clipped an article from the Knoxville News-Sentinel and has copies available of the full story should residents wish to contact him.

But here is the gist of the article and the suggestions which experts in fire control made:

Because of a fire two years ago on Bluff Mountain in Sevier County, the Upper Bluff Mountain Association (a homeowners association similar to SRPOA) is one of two FIREWISE communities in Tennessee and one of about 40 nationwide. The Forestry Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture administers the FIREWISE program.

With the aid of a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, state officials hired a consultant to assess each of

the 61 residences in the community and gave each owner a personalized list of needed changes.

The homeowners, members of the Walden Creek Volunteer Fire Department and forestry workers then cleared underbrush, leaves and overhanging limbs from around the structures.

Tips from State Forestry Division include:

- Clear out undergrowth and small trees to a radius of 30 feet from your house. (Be certain to refer to the land use restrictions in Saddle Ridge to make certain you still remain in compliance with those regulations.)
- Stack firewood away from your house.
- Clean leaves from gutters and away from the house's foundation.

Using fire-resistant materials for your home, especially your roof, has also been known to help in some instances, although certainly not all.

If anyone has other suggestions, please share them. Thanks, Phil, for your concern and for making this article available.

Saddle Ridge Roads Receive New Names

Three roads have been renamed in coordination with 911 Emergency Services.

A previously unnamed road located approximately three-fourths of a mile from the gate which branches left off Waters End has been named Gobbler Ridge.

A spur off Walnut Flats that runs toward the barn and pasture previously also called Walnut Flats, has been renamed Hawk Hollow.

About a mile to the right off Oakwood Road, a road previously named Oakwood Rd and then Elks Point is now Eagle Pass. Elks Point runs from the end of Chilhowee Loop to the right and intersects Eagle Pass about half way around what many refer to as the "back loop".

These changes were necessary to avoid any confusion for responding emergency vehicles.

Road Committee May Be Expanded

At its Jan. 18 meeting, the board of directors of SRPOA voted to expand the membership of the road committee to five members and to pay those working on the roadways.

Current active members are Bob Frink, Jim Clinansmith and Larry Dicus.

Clinansmith will act as chairman of the committee and will oversee the road committee members' work

on the roads. He will provide Treasurer Rob Carroll with monthly reports so that members can be paid promptly and accurately.

The system will go into effect in July after the current system of allowing those working on the roads to be exempt from paying road maintenance fees.

Pay will be \$10 an hour, not to exceed \$149 per year per committee member.

Beautification Plans Include New Trees

The beautification committee with Kathy Wilbanks as chairman has made plans for two new beds at the intersection of Oakwood and Fox Trail to be planted in the spring.

Beds already in existence at var-

ious intersections, thanks to the committee, will be cleaned.

In addition, trees will be planted at the lake and there is discussion about placing a bench there.

A trash pickup will be scheduled soon on East Millers Cove Road.

Board Members

Bob Frink, president*

984-4873
bfrink63@aol.com

Jim Clinansmith, vice president*

981-3990
clinansmith@juno.com

Nancy Cain, secretary

984-7250
NCain69665@aol.com

Rob Carroll, treasurer

977-8940
lovthevols@carrollconsulting.cc

Juanita Davis

Ex-officio member
681-3254 (home)
982-7306 (office)

Beth Dicus

984-8496
lencho@highstream.net

Charlyse Kerr

981-9645

Phil Spaminato

675-7997
rhd@tds.net

Debbie Way

981-9378
dbway@bellsouth.net

John Wilbanks

982-2466
wilbanks@netstarcomm.net

*Denotes members of road committee.

Board Meets Jan. 18,

Has Varied Agenda

The Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association board of directors met Jan. 18 at the home of Richard and Debbie Way.

Minutes of the Sept. 13 meeting were approved.

Rob Carroll, SRPOA treasurer, presented a new format for that report. Directors complimented him on the form.

Jim Clinansmith presented the report of the road committee.

The need for rock on several roads was discussed. The problem is the weather during the winter months. With the freezing and thawing intervals, rock placed on roads often simply disappears into the mud.

Committee members also have been discussing ditching within Saddle Ridge, something which has not been done in recent memory.

The committee will identify which roads need ditching, then talk with at least two businesses which provide that type of service. Two competitive bids for the work should be obtained by February. If the cost of the work is less than \$30,000, the committee can authorize the work. If more than that amount, directors will be polled for their votes.

The by-laws committee of Phil Spaminato, Debbie Way, and Beth Dicus discussed various sections of the by-laws which are under consideration for changes.

Next meeting was set for 9:30 a.m., April 3, at the Spaminato residence. Another board meeting has been set for June 26, just prior to the annual membership meeting.