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*The*  
**Ridge Rambler**



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## President's Message

Spring is here and the weather is getting warmer, but as I type there's a frost warning for tomorrow morning. Thanks for the mixed signals, Mother Nature! I always enjoy the daffodils in our yard this time of year (all credit to my wife and mother-in-law; I mostly just watch and enjoy when it comes to the garden), and all the other flowers and landscaping in Saddle Ridge and on East Millers Cove Road.

I learned a new skill recently, sharpening my own chain saw. Heretofore I paid the fine folks at Ace Hardware to do it. They do great work, of course, and they're very fast, but even ready overnight (never mind driving there and back, twice) isn't as fast as ten or so minutes with a file. The official video on YouTube from Stihl on sharpening your chainsaw was about a minute and a half long, and covered the basics, I guess, but I found one that was about 20 minutes that was much more thorough, that I quite liked. It's amazing what you can learn on YouTube. If you've never tried it — sharpening your own saw, I mean, not watching YouTube — I encourage you to give it a shot. It's not nearly as hard or labor-intensive as I thought. Though you do have to have the right kind of file (which I got at Ace, ha ha).

The Saddle Ridge Annual Meeting is coming up, the usual third Saturday in July, on the 20th. I look forward to seeing most of you there!

Which reminds me that I've been President of this Board for eight months now, and I just want to compliment everyone on it for doing such great work. Each and every person on the Board cares a great deal for this community and all of us put in a lot of hours on our various areas of responsibility, and I thank them all.

Thanks for reading and have a great Spring!

Larry Clapp  
President of the Board

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## Spring Clean-Up

### April 13th, starting at 9am

The Spring Clean-Up in Saddle Ridge is a long-standing tradition that gives community members the opportunity to work together to care for and improve our environment. In fact, years ago it was called "Work Day" but since that's a four-letter word, it's now a seasonal clean-up!

Several choices will be on the sign-up sheet for this Spring, including:

- EMC Trash Pick-up (an oldie but a goodie!)
- Debris pick-up along our community roads (getting the brush & branches out of the ditches and culverts/tiles along the road for example)
- Weed the Flower Beds (if someone has already done this, please let me know so I may count it in our labor hours)
- Sweep out the package box at the kiosk & the gazebo

- Remove Invasive plants & weeds (always and never-ending since so much loves to grow up here)

and our big one this Spring:

- Get that tree out of the creek between the gate and the waterfalls (this will need a person in charge and a team of ready workers)

Please note: we do have tools and equipment available for use, but you are always welcome to bring your own tools if you prefer.

Many hands make light work and, as Jon Burroughs said, "The longer I live the more my mind dwells upon the beauty of the wonder of the world."

We truly have that beauty here in Saddle Ridge!

See you at the Spring Clean-Up!

Shannon Lydic  
Chair of Environmental Committee

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## The Smiths Receive Firewise Leadership Award



Nathan Waters with the TN Forestry Division presents Firewise Leadership Award to Betsy Smith.

Congratulations to Betsy and Robert (“Smitty”) Smith for receiving the Firewise Leadership award from the Tennessee Firewise program. They have made a huge difference for Saddle Ridge’s preparation for and prevention of wildfire. It’s always nice to see hard work rewarded in this way.

Visit our Firewise [website](#) for more information about resources available to you as a Saddle Ridge community member.

Thanks to all those in the community who have contributed to community cleanup and to ongoing work to keep us as safe as we can be.

Beth Rushing  
Firewise Coordinator

## Women’s Winter Potluck a Big Success



Thank you to everyone who attended this year’s potluck. A special thank you to Judy Pearson for hosting. It was a special treat to be served on her beautiful china. We also enjoyed her shout out to spring with her colorful Easter decorations. Thanks to Betsy for helping Judy get everything set up.

We had several new home and land owners attend. Everyone enjoyed getting to learn more about their Saddle Ridge neighbors.

We have wonderful cooks in Saddle Ridge. All the food was delicious!

Beth Koella  
Chair of Events Committee

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## Make It a BearWise Spring



### Talking Trash

Empty bottles, cans, and bags still smell like food and anything that holds garbage emits smells that can attract bears. Give all your containers a good bath and spray inside with a disinfectant or ammonia. Don't use scented can liners or air fresheners; they smell appealing to bears too.

### Lock It or Lose It

In early spring, most bears are still losing weight and working hard to find food. Don't place your trash bags or bins outside the house/garage before taking them to the trash barn and ALWAYS latch the barn after your drop-off.

### Spring Cleaning Check List

#### 1. Patios and Decks

Bits of food left on the grill grates or in the fire pit ashes are still appealing. Now is the time to give your grill a good spring cleaning. Check under decks and porches to make sure nothing edible is stashed down there.

If a bear moved in over the winter, call your state wildlife agency and your community board.

#### 2. Pet Food

Store pet food where bears can't see, smell, or reach it (on or under your deck or inside your screened-in porch doesn't count.) Feeding pets outside isn't recommended in the community.

### 3. Bird Feeders

Feeding birds up here isn't recommended either, but if you've been feeding birds over the winter, stop putting out birdseed and treats for now while bears are active.

*And if you assume the "bear-safe 10ft pole birdfeeders" will be enough, you haven't met our local momma bear - she is smarter than the average bear!*

Check out the BearWise Bulletin on [How to Attract Birds, Not Bears](#) for more info.

### 4. Garages and Sheds

Check through the garage and shed for anything that could attract a bear. If you stored your summer gear here, now is the time to clean out back packs and bike bags from any errant snack bars or scented lip balm.

### 5. Cars and Trucks

Bears can be attracted to anything that held food or drinks. They can get into most unlocked vehicles, but have a harder time getting themselves out. Again, spring cleaning is the name of the game and using a small litter bag or wastebasket in the vehicle will make it easier to keep it attractant-free. Fruity air fresheners attract bears; odorless or pine-scented are better.

Summarized from *Make it a BearWise Spring* ([www.BearWise.org](http://www.BearWise.org))

Shannon Lydic  
Chair of Environmental Committee

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## Need an Extension Cord?

Neighbors, after going thru and cleaning out the Christmas decorations, I came up with an abundance of extension cords. We decorated the barn in earlier years. Below is a list of them. The Board has decided to sell them for a reasonable donation "your decision". You can take whichever ones you want. At this time all our light strings work so your donation would be banked and used when needed to replace ones that burn out. Anything left will be donated to Habitat.

Here is a list of the cords by number of sockets and/or cords contained, and length:

- 1 1 plug in with 3 sockets - 6 feet
- 1 1 plug in with 3 sockets on separate cords - 2 feet
- 1 1 plug in with 3 sockets on separate cords - 10 feet

- 1 Ext. cord - 20 feet
- 3 Ext. cords - 8 feet
- 1 Ext. cord - 25 feet
- 1 Ext. cord - 15 feet
- 1 Ext. cord - 50 feet
- 1 Ext. cord - 75 feet

If you have any questions please feel free to call.

Judy Pearson  
865 982 5729

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## Road Report

Over time, road traffic pushes the gravel from the road, as well as heavy rains. I put the Saddle Ridge tractor to use with the land planer implement to pull rock from the edge of the roads where possible and help smooth out the roads. The chipper attachment was used to chip the debris pile at the barn. Thanks to Tim Hollifield and Michael Gass for participating in the cleanup. The mower deck was also then used to mow the meadow – a shout out to Alex Wyss for his help in switching out the tractor implement.

If you've driven on Chilhowee Road, you likely have seen the safety cones at the switchback. Work is being done there to clear the clogged drainage culvert. Lamar brought in his backhoe and cleared debris to locate the high end of the culvert, and Lisa and I cleared above it to improve water flow to the culvert. Steve Foster and I will be trying the "pull-a-tire-through-the pipe" approach to clear rocks and branches from the inside of the culvert. Once that's done, additional rock (rip rap) will be added at the edge of the road to help prevent dirt and debris from filling back in. Thanks for your patience until this project is completed.

Keith Shuster.  
Chair of Roads Committee

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## Treasurer's Report

Saddle Ridge POA  
Budget Analysis  
Eight Months February 29, 2024

	Actual 8 months	F/Y 2024 Budget	Variance Over (Under)
<b>Operating Inflows</b>			
SRPOA Assessments			
Current	\$87,776	\$88,000	(\$224)
In Arrears	-	-	-
In Advance	-	-	-
Other - Road Fees	800	-	800
Firewise Award	900	10,000	(9,100)
Total Operating Inflows	<u>\$89,476</u>	<u>\$98,000</u>	<u>(\$9,624)</u>
<b>Operating Outflows</b>			
<b>Road Committee</b>			
Road Maintenance	21,291	47,480	(26,189)
Gate Operations	366	1,000	(634)
Special Projects	-	10,000	(10,000)
<b>Environment Committee</b>	-		-
Garbage Operations	6,476	10,000	(3,524)
Lawn Mowing	2,275	2,000	275
Special Projects	306	500	(194)
<b>Equipment Committee</b>			
Equipment: Fuel and Maintenance	5,508	8,000	(2,492)
Purchases	-	-	-
<b>Events Committee</b>			
Annual Meeting	234	300	(66)
Other Group Activities	-	100	(100)
<b>Firewise Expenditures</b>	328	-	328
<b>Other Non-Committee Outflows</b>			
Legal	1,670	3,500	(1,830)
Telephone	828	1,320	(492)
Electricity	730	1,000	(270)
Accounting	116	250	(134)
Miscellaneous	741	500	241
Insurance	1,832	1,650	182
Property Taxes	293	400	(107)
Total operating outflows	<u>42,995</u>	<u>88,000</u>	<u>(45,005)</u>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<u>\$46,481</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>(35,381)</u>
<b>Certificates of Deposit Interest Income</b>	10		
Net Change in Cash Holdings	<u>\$46,491</u>		
	<u>02/29/24</u>		
Cash	\$75,122		
Certificates of Deposit	\$30,086		
Total Cash Holdings	<u>\$105,208</u>		

Sally Whelan  
Treasurer



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## Welcome New Residents!

Kara and Aaron Hays (Walnut Flats)  
Gayle Newman (Overlook View)

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## Visit the Saddle Ridge Website

<https://www.saddleridgepoa.com/>

The [Owner Information page](#) links to the *Covenant and Restrictions (C&Rs)* and *Before You Build or Remodel*—both must-read documents. You will also find helpful information about tools you can borrow (Firewise page), the evacuation routes for Saddle Ridge (Maps), and trash and recycling guidelines.

We encourage you to visit the community’s website. If you have photos for the website, please contact [Michael Gass](#) or [Betsy Smith](#).

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## Join the Saddle Ridge Facebook Group

The Saddle Ridge 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, upcoming events, lost pets, or even suspicious traffic.

Contact Michael Gass at [cmichaelgass@gmail.com](mailto:cmichaelgass@gmail.com) to be added to the group. Please remember, this page is strictly for people who own property in Saddle Ridge.

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## Contact Information for the SRPOA Board

President: Larry Clapp | 813-765-5537  
Treasurer: Sally Whelan | 508-847-9140  
Secretary: Betsy Smith | 615-631-1173

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Michael Gass | 253-651-9943 | Chair of Communications Committee  
Dave Glarner | 865-770-1295 | Chair of Equipment Committee  
Shannon Lydic | 865-268-5173 | Chair of Environmental Committee

Judy Pearson | 865-982-5729 | Chair of Architectural Review Committee  
Beth Koella | 865-705-0455 | Chair of Events/Hospitality Committee  
Keith Schuster | 609-320-3983 | Chair of Road Committee