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Your Quarterly Newsletter – March 2022

Gold Ridge Forest

A Hidden Gem in Nature's Wonderland

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GRFPOA Going Green

Effective this month property owners will begin receiving their quarterly dues invoices (UNLESS YOU ARE ALREADY PAID-IN-FULL) and newsletters electronically, UNLESS YOU SPECIFICALLY OPTED FOR HARD COPY DELIVERY.

Why? Two main reasons:

This will save the association between \$8,500 - \$11,000 annually in staff, materials and mailing costs. Your Board believes these funds can be better spent elsewhere, such as in the greenbelt. It also reduces our association's use of paper supplies and reduces our carbon footprint.

This is part of an ongoing project to reduce staff hours and costs, install new financial software, and re-tool GRFPOA's billing system, website presence, and communications between the Board of Directors and our members!

You are always welcome to come by the office and pick up a hardcopy of the newsletter if you wish, or just simply read it on our website www.goldridge.org.



IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE USING OUR USPS MAIL OPTION, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND DROP IT BY THE OFFICE!

From our President

What a different year this has been. Here in Gold Ridge, we were evacuated due to the Caldor Fire, worked through virtual meetings because of COVID, a huge snowfall in December, and then a serious ransomware attack requiring a complete computer system rebuild. Through it all, what has been highlighted, is how we help and take care of one another. Neighbors have shoveled driveways, removed trees that have fallen in the roadway, delivered groceries to those who can't get out, found time to laugh, found time to smile and found time to see that we often have more in common than we are different. It is a blessing to be part of this community.

As we move into spring and then summer, there are many projects happening in our community. Jeremy Sundby, our Recreation Director, is ramrodding the rebuild of the large pool. This rebuild will keep our pool up-to-date and in good shape for years to come. Dominique Smith, our Greenbelt Director, continues to work to complete the good neighbor clearing, and is also working closely with our Fire Safe Council to put grant monies to good use by creating an even more fire safe community. Rose Smith, our Finance Director, continues to keep a watchful eye on our budget and is ensuring that we maintain a positive fiscal outlook. Maria Zandona-Harger, Our Vice President, Board Secretary and CCR/Architecture Director, has worked with her committee to update our forms and notifications, as well as providing ongoing assistance to many members throughout our association. It is good to have a solid Board that works well together, and that keeps the welfare of our community at the forefront of every action. Thinking of the Board, board elections are just around the corner. Maybe you have thought about volunteering for the Gold Ridge Board. We will have two seats up for election this year and if you are interested in running, or walking, for the board, please send a letter of interest to the Gold Ridge Office. You will find that participating on the Board will be both rewarding and informative.

Finally, I would like to thank Carol and Steve Steinbrecher again publicly. They have both volunteered countless hours and given of their expertise to assist us in updating our business functions in the office. They have consistently gone above and beyond to ensure that the new processes work and that our office manager, Karen, has the support she needs. I would also like to thank Joan Fuquay and friends, who worked to clear the snow off the tennis and pickleball courts so that members could use them. Thank you to Colleen Ferarri for facilitating the live music nights at the lodge. To all of you who have helped and volunteered your time, please accept my thanks for making Gold Ridge a great place to live.

Exciting News from our Rec Director



Our pool is coming along nicely, and we hope to be open by summer: nearly all signs point to a summer opening, so long as our weather stays nice! Please stay clear of the construction zones, as crews are working hard to finish our new saltwater pools.

We're Hiring

Pool staff needed! Part-time summer season, mid-May through September 10th. Must be 18 years old, be available to work varied days and shifts, 7-days per week, Sunday through Saturday. Varied shifts between 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. \$15.00/hour.

Please request an employment application from GRFPOA, 4101 Opal Trail, Pollock Pines, CA 95726. Contact the office by phone at 530-644-3880 or email at grfoffice1@gmail.com to request an application and submit completed applications as soon as possible.



More Great News: Gym & Dog Park

So, who's excited for our new pools and recreation activities? The fun doesn't stop there! We are also in the planning phase for a Gold Ridge gym, dog park, and bike-pump track. Most importantly, insurance has given us the green light to have these at no additional cost! You heard that right! ☺

If you own like-new gym equipment that isn't old or broken, and you'd like to donate it to the Gold Ridge gym, please contact the office. The office will forward the information to the Recreation Director. The plan is to put the gym in the Lodge upstairs. The proposed gym would be open during office hours when the office manager is at the Lodge. Our very own mountain country club is taking shape.

Community Recreation!

Volunteer Opportunities

Proposed dog park and bike track:

While there has been a lot of interest, we will need volunteers to make this happen! If you have time and want to help plan where they should go, how they will be maintained, and what the construction costs would be, please volunteer your time. Let's make this happen! If you'd like to help build please contact the office. The office will forward your inquiry to the Recreation Director.

Greenbelt: Working Hard to Keep our Properties Safe

We are gearing up for the upcoming summer months. We have been planning and talking with companies about green belt work, which will begin next month if the weather continues to cooperate. Plans include completion of the 100' defensible space in and around homes. Although this makes up only 50 of our 225 acres in GRF (20 acres around the lodge area and another 205), it is absolutely the MOST critical area of our green belt, as it is that which surrounds our homes.

Between our Green Belt Director and the Fire Safe Council, we can expect between \$188,000 and \$198,000 in grant funds this year. Our economic "burn rate" last summer was \$1,500 per acres, which will translate into another 127 acres or so cleared!

We have completed all the greenbelt areas with the exception of C-5 and C-1, which is where we will begin in 2022 after the defensible space areas are complete. A big Thank You to Joe Garrett and A Team Tree Services for their hard work.

We absolutely can use some volunteer workers in the Green Belt area to check out dead trees, assist with property line marking, coordinating projects such as firewood donations, and interfacing with the GRF Fire Safe Council.

Please contact Dom Smith, our Green Belt Director.



Gold Ridge Finances \$\$

Technology Update

As many of you are aware, Carol and Steve Steinbrecher, GRF property owners, have been working with the Board and office staff to upgrade and replace GRFPOA's hardware and software systems. This project has been going on since November and is now almost complete.

To date, new financial and staff payroll software has been installed, tested and is being used. GRF is now moving toward all-electronic transactions with our business partners, banks, and property owners. New "triple layer" hardware and software security has been implemented to protect our data. Property owners will have a variety of ways in which to pay their dues and other association fees. Newsletters and anything else GRFPOA is not REQUIRED to send via snail mail will be electronically sent to property owners in the future. The Board's ZOOM communications system has been completely upgraded to facilitate more interaction at board meetings.

We are happy to announce that GRFPOA collected over \$21,000 using our new Square system and credit cards. Our property owners have been asking for a credit card alternative and we listened. **WE WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTING CASH PAYMENTS AS A REQUIREMENT OF OUR FIDUCIARY BOND.**

The final portion of the project will be a rebuild of the GRFPOA website in order to give the Board the flexibility to reach out to all of us in many different ways. We anticipate project completion by the middle-to-end of June.

Best news is we have been able to save enough money in a variety of areas, which will mean the entire cost of the project will be "cost-neutral," and when completed should allow the association to run its business with annual cost savings of \$8,000.

Empowering Your Voice

The Board of Directors is interested in hearing from you! Your input is vital, and we appreciate all feedback. Please email back your responses to grfoffice1@gmail.com. The survey is also being offered digitally to you via Survey Monkey. The quickest and easiest way to give your feedback is through Survey Monkey. You can take the survey online by following the QR code below.

1. What should we name our Gold Ridge Bear?
2. What movies would you like to be shown at the pool? Example: Little Nemo, Jaws, Finding Dory, etc. This will be a special event day.
3. How can Gold Ridge improve for you?
4. General comments (please let us know what you think).



New POA Packet

Gold Ridge has a new POA Packet that will be used when homes are sold in the Association. The document fee is now itemized and called the POA packet. This POA packet of documents has an itemized price for each document instead of having a single amount for all the documents needed when a home is sold. It adds clarity as to what is being purchased and the costs associated with each document. We have also raised the cost for a key FOB needed for the pool and tennis courts. The fee has increased from \$50 to \$75. This will apply to new homeowners. The transfer/statement fees remain the same.



Hack Attack

Like many other Americans and our companies, GRFPOA's internal computer systems were hacked two weeks ago. The attack originated in the Eastern European block and the hackers demanded an \$800 "crypto-currency" payment to their account, under threat of releasing all our personal information to the Dark Web, so the bad guys could get at it.

We do not tolerate or negotiate with hackers. We met with the EDSO's Computer Crimes Division and a well-respected IT security firm instead. We have taken care of the problem and added GRFPOA computer systems to a Virtual Private Network, which makes it almost impossible for hackers to reach inside our three-layer security ring. Additionally we have discontinued the use of the office@goldridge.org email and have replaced it with grfoffice1@gmail.com. The EDSO is looking for the originators, but these guys are very hard to catch. Rest assured. Your information is safe.

GRFPOA Bear



If you haven't yet donated to the amazing Gold Ridge bear (to be placed at the first entrance sign of Gold Ridge Trail and Sly Park Rd), please send your checks to the office. Any amount helps and is appreciated! This community bear represents our resiliency to come together after the Caldor fire, and our continued strength of community, individuals, and families helping one another in times of need. Gold Ridge is truly a gem in the Sierra Nevada.



final thoughts...

Don't be a Back Seater!



Gold Ridge is *our* neighborhood. Be involved. Run for a Board position. Donate some of your valuable time and expertise to the Association. Find a place where you can make a difference in our small community. The input and involvement of our neighbors is what makes our small community stronger.

There are so many opportunities for all of us to contribute. Committees, the Fire Safe Council, clean-up day opportunities, joining in Music Night or our summer movie series, answering or developing Board surveys of our neighbors. If you have a special skill of almost any nature, we can use your assistance!

Many of you are already looking out for one another via our Gold Ridge Community Chat Page: Warning neighbors of loose animals on the streets, spurious individuals hanging round, keeping track of our wild animal neighbors and so forth.

Don't sit in the back seat and throw barbs over the wall or make constant complaints. See something you do not like? Get involved and help make an adverse situation much better.

Your community and your neighbors will appreciate you for it!

Upcoming Events >>>

Board Meeting – March 23, 2022 – 7:00 pm

Monthly Luncheon – Third Thursday each month

Music Night – First Friday of each month

Community Preparedness Meeting

Sherry Hawk, our Gold Ridge Fire Safe Council Director, is in the process of setting up a very important Community Preparedness meeting for either April 30th, May 1st or May 2nd of this year.

Steve Steinbrecher attended the “Pioneer Fire District” community preparedness meeting in February of this year, and he said, “It was a real eye opener for the community of Grizzly Flats. There were over 100 people and one County Board member present, and we learned a great deal about the CALDOR fire, as well as what to expect in the future.” Steve said his major “take-away” from the meeting was the **critical importance** of the local neighborhood Fire Safe Councils in preventing future wildfires and damages to local properties.

At the present time Sherry stated the presenter would be Mr. Ben Gotts of the U.S. Forest Service, who is also a local Pollock Pines resident, so he has a vested interest in this subject as well.

Due to the importance of this meeting, the GRF FSC is trying to get the Pollock Pines Camino Community Center set as the venue, as the importance of this meeting to our entire community cannot be overstated.

The GRF FSC will be announcing final arrangements, so please stay tuned!

Contact Us >>>



4101 Opal Trail
Pollock Pines, CA.
Contact us at 530-644-3880

www.goldridge.org

Board Elections – July 2022

Join the Board and be the Change

It's that time again, and your current Board of Directors is seeking volunteers to fill two upcoming vacancies on our GRFPOA Board of Directors in July of this year.

Board members are elected for a two year-term. At their initial meeting of the newly elected board, the members will decide who is going to perform one or more of the following tasks: Board President, Board Secretary, Green Belt Director, CC&R Director, Architectural Director, Finance Director, Recreation Director.

Folks considering running for the Board must inform the office not later than ??? and election packets will be mailed to all property owners by ????

Please do not be a back seater! If you are a GRFPOA member in “good standing,” you are eligible to run for a Board position. Get involved and help us serve our community.