

President's Message

Dogs in Gold Ridge

GRF Fire Safe Council –

Emergency Address Sign Form



Your Quarterly Newsletter – September 2026

Gold Ridge Forest

A Hidden Gem in Nature's Wonderland



Book Club

The Vast Enterprise

New History of Lewis & Clark

By Craig Fehrman

Friday, October 2nd

6:00 PM @ the Lodge

Next Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 13th
2027 Budget Planning

Time TBD

Board of Directors -2026

President/Greenbelt- Jack Mermood

Finance/Communications/Greenbelt
Mark Weiner

Recreation – Austin Favero

Presidents Message

As we enter the fall season, I am pleased to share several exciting improvements underway at Gold Ridge Forest. The tennis courts are currently being resurfaced, with new nets and fencing being added, along with the construction of **two dedicated pickleball courts**. These enhancements will provide our members with improved recreational facilities and additional opportunities to enjoy our beautiful community. The Board is considering hosting a community pickleball tournament to celebrate the new courts, please let us know if you would be interested!

The recreation area is also undergoing much-needed tree thinning to promote overall forest health, allow our older, established trees to thrive, improve sunlight throughout the area, reduce tree debris accumulating in the swimming pools, and enhance fire safety. In addition, the lower parking lots will soon be re-sealed and receive new striping. Over the next few weeks, members will see significant improvements throughout the recreation area, and we are very pleased with the progress being made to maintain and enhance these important community facilities.

Our pool officially closed for the season on **September 13**, and I would like to thank all of our members for helping make this another successful pool season. We were especially pleased to conclude the season with our **first annual Doggie Swim Day**, which was a tremendous success. It was wonderful to see so many members and their dogs enjoying one final day in the pool. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the event such a memorable way to close out the season. We look forward to the many improvements ahead and to another wonderful year at Gold Ridge Forest.

Dogs in Gold Ridge Forest

Living with dogs enhances our human lives. With our enhanced lives comes responsibility to our community. Focused on dogs here in Gold Ridge Forest, this article discusses the rules of our Association and common issues.

Homeowner associations like ours are governed by California state law. The only law in the Davis-Stirling Act regarding pets is one section (Civil Code section 4175) that states an association may not have a rule that totally prohibits all pets. We do not have such a rule. Pets, including dogs, are not prohibited here in Gold Ridge. We do have an applicable section in our Covenants Conditions & Restrictions ("CC&R") and a longstanding rule, as authorized by the CC&Rs. These provisions are available to all members through our website and at our office. For convenience, the applicable rules are copied here:

CC&R Article VIII, Use of Properties and Restrictions, Section 5, Household Pets: "The following restrictions shall govern the maintenance and ownership of pets within the Properties:

- (a) With the exception of no more than (2) (in the aggregate) common household pets, such as dogs or cats, no animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred or kept on any residential Lot or Lots. No pet permitted hereunder shall be kept, bred, or maintained on any Lot or within any Residence for any commercial purpose.
- (b) Caged birds, aquarium-contained fish and similar small animals normally maintained indoors shall not be subject to the limitation contained in subparagraph (a), above, so long as they are not maintained in a manner which becomes a nuisance to neighboring residents.
- (c) Dogs shall only be allowed within the Common Areas when they are leashed and otherwise under the supervision and restraint of their Owners.
- (d) No household pet shall be left chained or otherwise tethered within the Common Areas.
- (e) Pet owners shall be responsible for the prompt disposal of their pet's waste when deposited on any portion of the Common Areas or any other Owner's Lot.
- (f) The Board of Directors shall have the right to establish and enforce additional uniform regulations, as part of the Association Rules, for the reasonable control and maintenance of household pets in, upon and around the Properties, to insure that the same do not interfere with the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of the Properties by the other Owners.
- (g) Each Owner shall comply with all applicable governmental licensing requirements for authorized pets and shall be solely responsible for the conduct of, or damage or injury caused by, the Owner's pet(s). The Association, its Board, officers, employees and agents shall have no liability (whether by virtue of this Declaration or otherwise) to any Owners, their family members, guests, invitees, lessees, or other persons for any damage or injury to persons or property caused by any pet maintained by an Owner."

Our 2005 "CC&R's Compliance Committee Rules" at Rule V on household pets adopted pursuant to the authority in CC&R Article VIII, Section 5 provides the following:

“Section 1. Dogs and similar pets shall be allowed within the Association properties only when they are leashed or otherwise under the positive control and supervision and restraint of their owners. Failure to leash dogs may result in the Association having the loose animal removed and the costs assessed to the member. This action is necessary to allow members, families, and guests to safely use Gold Ridge facilities and common areas, meet El Dorado County leash law requests, and to reduce potential liability exposure and mitigate insurance costs.

Section 2. No animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred or kept or maintained on any residential lot or common area.

Section 3. No dogs will be allowed within the common areas unless they are leashed and under the supervision and restraint of their owners.

Section 4. No dog(s) shall be allowed to bark or create a disturbance that annoys or disturbs any person.

Section 5. Same as CC&R VIII, 5(d) above. Section 6. Same as CC&R VIII, 5(e) above.

Section 7. For violation of any provisions of this rule the Association may give fifteen (15) days written notice of violation before further hearing action and may include a supplemental assessment of up to one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for each violation.”

In addition to these GRFPOA rules, El Dorado County regulates household pets including dogs. El Dorado County Animal Services is a county government department. Among other things, it operates a licensing requirement and general enforcement of county ordinances. One relevant ordinance (06.12.060) provides, “It is unlawful and a public nuisance for any animal to be allowed, permitted or caused to utter any frequent or continuous noise of an irritating or raucous nature which disturbs the peace and quiet of any person.” The county maintains a website that explains its rules and processes including a brochure on the procedures for complaints about dog barking. The Department can be contacted with various forms through the website or by voice call at (530) 621-5795.

A common complaint received by the Association is about barking dogs. Here is how the County advises residents about barking dogs, “If you are comfortable, your first step should be to attempt a non-confrontational conversation with your neighbor. Many times, an owner is unaware that their dog is disturbing the peace as the animal only barks when the homeowners are away. If this does not work to resolve the disturbance, DO NOT WAIT until you are completely frustrated to contact Animal Services. Give us a call.” The Association concurs with this advice.

If a person is bothered by barking dogs, it is appropriate to complain simultaneously to the county and the Association. Both have overlapping authority over the subject as shown above. Like with many matters that might present controversy, it is best to maintain contemporaneous written records of all actions. These matters are eventually resolved, but as the county explains, “resolution of the problem may take some time and several contacts.” Bear in mind that the county has a department and employees dedicated to these matters, but our Association does not. In all likelihood, this responsibility is handled by a volunteer director. As such, it is helpful to fully explain the circumstances and suggest proposed actions such as requesting the Board to issue a letter to the owners describing the rules and their violation. Then, stick with it by staying in communication holding people accountable.

On the other hand, if you are an owner of a barking dog, have the dogs stop now. Take action to minimize the disturbance. People are entitled to peace and quiet. It is why the County and Association rules prohibit such. The Golden Rule is the abiding principle.

Another common Association issue with dogs involves outdoor fencing. In general, fencing for privacy and security is not allowed in Gold Ridge, but we allow transparent fencing of approximately 1000 square feet close to the house for protecting children and pets. We have written guidelines for fencing. Every fence in Gold Ridge needs to be approved by the Board of Directors, which is routinely accomplished by members submitting a proposal explaining how the proposed fence meets the guidelines or requesting a variance.

Most of the current directors live with dogs in their homes and are sensitive to the issues involving dogs. We all want to live in harmony. Following the current rules promotes that harmony. Thank you.





Gold Ridge Forest Fire Safe Council

If They Can't Find You - They Can't Help You!



When emergency responders are called to a given location, there may be a delay in response if crews are unable to see the address from the street. As everyone in this area knows, GPS locations are not always accurate. The few extra minutes it may take to locate your address could cost you your home — or your life.

EMERGENCY ADDRESS SIGN FUNDRAISER FOR THE GOLD RIDGE FOREST FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Funds will be used for community wildfire prevention education and

events Sign details: 6" X 18" .063" aluminum covered with

green reflective vinyl

4" Reflective vinyl numbers on both sides
Fire resistant when mounted onto a metal
post. Will last for years unless someone runs
over it.

Cost: Cost for one sign with up to 5 numbers on both sides =
\$30.00 Cost for a metal post = \$5.00



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Street Address (including city and zip): _____

Email Address: _____ House # wanted on sign _____

Reflective sign \$30 Qty. _____ Sign, post (vertical only) \$5 Qty. _____

Replacement Numbers Needed _____ Qty _____ (X) if you like us to replace for you? ____

Total Order : \$ _____

____ Vertical alignment _____ Horizontal alignment _____ Two sided _____ One sided

Special Instructions: _____

Please mail form to: GRFFSC c/o Carla Williams, 4046 Opal Trail, Pollock Pines, CA 95726 Please make
checks payable to: Gold Ridge Forest FSC

For more information, call (916) 296-3701 or email GoldRidgeForestFSC@yahoo.com