

Gold Ridge Forest

Your Association Newsletter

December 2021

OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 20TH THRU JANUARY 2ND

What a year it has been! When things were looking dim, and we all had to leave our homes, worried if we would even have homes upon our return. This community came together, helped one another out, showing everyone what community resiliency is the face of adversity! Gold Ridge's ability to come together comes from the power and strength of being a resilient community of amazing individuals who truly care about their neighbors.

When we finally returned home, we welcomed our firefighters to our Welcome Home to Gold Ridge Event, at which they were met with roaring cheers and applause before we fed them from our community potluck. It showed the best of Gold Ridge Forest and demonstrated what this community values. Upon returning, the Board immediately got back to their volunteer work for you, the homeowners, and we are truly thrilled with the progress we have all been making.

We have revolutionized and transformed Gold Ridge Forest's systems and procedures by updating a myriad of tasks that desperately needed it. In this, we are now transitioning over to conducting business in a modernized fashion by streamlining our processes. This increase in efficiency and streamlining vital components of the association helps provide cutting edge technology to the membership and saves us all money.

We are pleased to report that Gold Ridge Forest is a modern association, and a premier association in beautiful Pollock Pines. WE ARE GOLD RIDGE FOREST!

Next Board Meeting
7:00pm
Wednesday,
January 26, 2022

Contact office re:
ZOOM invite, check
GRF email

Board of Directors

President
Kevin Monsma

VP/Secretary
Architecture
Marie Zandona-Harger

Finance
Rose Smith

Greenbelt
Dominique Smith

Recreation
Jeremy Sundby

Highlights of what the Board has done for you in 2021:

- Increased internet speeds for the Lodge to boost efficiency for business and streaming to better facilitate public participation in meetings
- Purchased a high-tech camera and computer for the association to provide Zoom video conferencing between the Board and homeowners.
- Adopted Survey Monkey so that the Board can survey the membership. Homeowners will have more input in Gold Ridge Forest because we are stronger with your input.
- Contracted with QuickBooks Online and added Live Bookkeeping in addition to our CPA, to ensure we are providing the highest ethical standards of care for our finances. This allows for greater fiduciary consideration with association finances.
- Secured a fidelity bond to increase ethical standards of association finances.
- Reimagined how we do business and adopted new policies to collect dues online through the Gold Ridge Forest website via a widget (an online option to pay dues).
- **Click here to pay your dues: www.goldridge.org/paying-your-assessment**
- Acquired a new card reader for collecting debit and credit card transactions, in addition to a check scanner to digitally process checks. This reduces staff time going to the bank, and it increases the association's security of finances and business efficiency. Please begin to transition to paying dues online. We encourage members not to pay with cash for their dues as this protects you and the association.
- Adopted a Board ethics policy.
- Adopted a paperless system for all documents the association is legally able to provide to the membership. This will increase efficiency and decrease the costs associated with postage and paid staff time to mail them out individually. This will also reduce the need for the many volunteers required to stuff the mailings.
- Adopted a new system to better increase association file management, so that records are more easily and readily accessible for future Directors and the membership at large. This provides for a continuance from one Board to the next and helps protect important documents of the association.
- Adopted Board trainings for Directors and executive staff to better serve you.
- Approved the conversion of the large pool into a new salt-water pool, that will be monitored virtually via high-tech equipment using a pool company (they will be able to control the chemicals and pumps remotely). In addition to remote monitoring of both the large and small pools, the pools are being physically serviced by a professional pool company so that Gold Ridge Forest's investment is protected for years to come.
- Included the construction of an ADA sidewalk to the large pool and an ADA pool lift.
- Approved our local Pollock Pine's fire department to use our community pool for their fire training and swimming, free of charge.
- Approved the research phase for a dog park. This research phase for the project is on-going, and the Board is looking for volunteers to investigate this exciting research proposal.
- Increased the POA fees for new individuals purchasing a home in Gold Ridge Forest.
- Approved the community construction of a Gold Ridge Forest bear to be carved and placed at the first Sly Park entrance to Gold Ridge Forest. GRF's community bear is being 100% funded by donations at no cost to the association. This bear represents the strength and resiliency of our community. The bear needs a name, so please cast your vote in the survey for your bear name choice.
- Approved templates as a more rigorous way to collect unpaid dues and enforce CC&RS. These are under legal review.
- Approved GRF's first Craft Fair, hosted by Steph Gabler and the Recreation Committee. Thank you to all who came and saw the many talented artists in Gold Ridge Forest. It was a fun day filled with so many Gold Ridge residents enjoying what the vendors made. And a special thank you to Steph Gabler for all your hard work organizing, and tireless effort to ensure the Craft Fair was a huge success.

It would be remiss not to mention the hard work from our volunteers outside of the Board. It is because they stepped up to the plate when their association needed them most that we have continued to progress and modernize with a future-focused lens. A very special thank you is due to Carol and Steve Steinbrecher for all their hard work and dedication to Gold Ridge Forest. And to the many others who volunteer their time on the Board, in committees, and in the community.

THANK YOU! Recreation Director, Dr. Jeremy Sundby

Finance Update

As 2021 draws to a close, we can all reflect back on an eventful but mostly successful year for the Gold Ridge Forest POA. The three plus weeks of the Caldor Fire mandatory evacuation of all our residents created challenges most of us had never experienced before.

The Board is well aware of our property owners' desire to keep annual dues as low as possible. We have experienced a large economic 'hit' with the necessary repairs to the "big pool."

After much research, a plan was approved to move forward with upgrading our existing QuickBooks Desktop system to the more efficient QuickBooks On-line accounting, billing, and payroll system. Carol and Steve Steinbrecher were selected to assist the Board accomplish the implementation of this new system. Both had a number of years' experience implementing enterprise-wide IT projects. They are managing the project "pro-bono" for the association.

This exciting project will upgrade the GRFPOA office technology (some of which is greater than 10-years-old); increase security of office operations and processing of YOUR information; reduce annual accounting fees substantially; and reduce accounting, billing and payroll workloads.

GRF property owners now are able to pay POA dues via CREDIT CARD! (Note: there is an added convenience fee for credit card and debit card payments). You still have the option to pay by check, money order or bill-pay.

As part of this process, the Board approved (October, 2021 meeting) moving to a "paperless" Communication, billing, and accounting environment. If we can vastly reduce the amount of manual staff time spent copying and processing checks, printing and stuffing quarterly dues statements and newsletters, the annual budgetary letter, as well as the costs of materials and postage to mail all of this correspondence, we will ALL save great deal of money that can be used on more important issues facing us together. **We need YOUR help Now**

Please read, complete and return the **GRF Member Communication Opt-In** form on the next page.

The law allows EACH property owner to continue to receive their correspondence by postal mail, and it requires the association to notify each property owner and allow them to "OPT IN" or "OPT OUT" of electronic processing of the above. Furthermore, **EACH property owner has the right to change his or her mind, at any time, by notifying the office via written mail or email.**

We need EACH property owner to complete the attached document, and return it to the office, no later than January 3, 2022, in order for us to comply with California law.

Our challenge moving into 2022, will be the much-needed restoration of the large pool -- contracts have been approved and we are looking forward to a "wonderful swimming experience" next summer.

The final Browning Reserve Member Summary and the final 2022 Budget which now includes the amount for Reserve Fund contributions for 2022 of \$69,792 (\$17,448 quarterly) are available on our website, www.goldridge.org. Contact the office if you would like a copy.

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rose Smith, Finance Director

GRF MEMBER COMMUNICATION OPT-IN JANUARY 2022

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We need EACH property owner to complete the document below, and return it to the office, no later than January 3, 2022, in order for us to comply with California law.

YOU HAVE A CHOICE AS TO HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ALL COMMUNICATION WITH THE GRFPOA:

- QUARTERLY DUES STATEMENTS
- BUDGETARY AND ANNUAL DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS
- QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS AND ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX:

- Communicate everything to me by this email: _____
- Communicate everything to me by regular postal service mail

Lot # is found on last line of mailing address on statements

Property Owner Name:	
Property Address:	Lot #:
Mailing Address (if different):	
Signature:	Date:

Please complete this form and either:

1. **Drop it by the office**
2. **Scan and email it to the office as an attachment and send to: office@goldridge.org**
3. **Mail it to: GRFPOA Office, 4101 Opal Trail, Pollock Pines, CA, 95726**

Empowering Your Input

The Board of Directors for Gold Ridge Forest is interested in hearing from you! Your input is vital and we appreciate all feedback. Please take the time to fill out the survey and let us know how we can serve you better. Thank you for being a part of what makes Gold Ridge special.

Please either:

- Take the survey online (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PVP76HR>)
- Scan this QR code to take the survey
- Mail back the survey or drop it off at the Lodge.



1. What should we name our Gold Ridge bear?
2. What type of community events would you like to see in Gold Ridge?
3. Do you like being surveyed for your input with what is going on in Gold Ridge?
Yes/No
4. To become a more fire safe community, would you be willing to volunteer any amount of time to the greenbelt community cleanup effort? Yes/No
5. What are two things that you love about Gold Ridge?
6. What are two things that you would like to see added to our community?
7. What has been most helpful to you in our community?
8. How can the Board serve you better?

Gold Ridge Forest



NOTE: Please do not include donations for the bear in the same check for your dues.



Would you like to go green AND save GRF mailing/postage costs?
Sign up for Dues Statement delivery via email.

Call the office, 530-644-3880, or
send an email to office@goldridge.org to request the change.



GRF Monthly Events

Luncheon- held at the Lodge on the third Thursday at 12:00 pm (pending weather conditions). Please join us for relaxed fun conversation and getting to know your neighbors. BYOB and a dish to share. Please RSVP via email to chuuzhappi@gmail.com.

Music Night- First Friday every month 6:00 pm-9:00 pm – Open to all music-loving residents, seeking any and all gifted residents to come together and play! BYOB and optional donation for utilities. We are currently looking for a PA system to use. Please let the office know if you have one that you would like to donate.

Check the website for more information @ <https://goldridge.org/>

The Chipper program sponsored by the Fire Safe Council will be available.

Visit <https://goldridge.org/fire-safe-council> for updated information about these grants and other great information.

It's Christmas in the 'Ridge



Got Christmas Decs you are proud of??

Wanna show 'em off to Pollock??

Get involved in the “2021 Gold Ridge Forest Christmas Decoration Tour”

A map will be produced each Friday until Christmas, showing all the homes in Gold Ridge whose owners have consented to being on a “drive-by” list for the people of our town! It will be published on-line ONLY each Friday in “Gold Ridge Forest Community Chat” on FB. It will also be shared with other community resources who are setting up these drive-bys in their areas for the holiday season. If you do not FB, have no fear, we can add you by:

- Face Book Direct Messenger (PLEASE do NOT clutter up the chat page with addresses!)
- Shoot an email to rvlynnsters@gmail.com
- Sorry; we don't do snail mail or phone calls...☺

ALL WE NEED IS SIMPLY YOUR ADDRESS (E.G.; 3238 Gold Ridge Trail)

THIS IS PURELY VOLUNTARY, and just another crazy idea brought to you by Carol, Steve and Sonny Steinbrecher