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Your Quarterly Newsletter – July 2022

Gold Ridge Forest

A Hidden Gem in Nature's Wonderland

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Welcome to the 21st Century

Your Office Team is transitioning to “electronic communication” as a primary source of communication with our property owners, sending and receiving statements, paying quarterly or annual dues, sending quarterly newsletters, and other forms of information.

We are making these changes to modernize our office processes, and to meet the new requirements placed on the GRFPOA by our insurance companies. This transition also saves the association homeowners money. You are an important part of making this transition successful. If you have recently changed your phone number or email address OR if you are not sure we have your most recent email address or telephone number, please email that information to the GRF office at grfoffice1@gmail.com or call the office at 530-644-3880.

PLEASE INCLUDE:

1. Property owners first and last names
2. Street address
3. Lot number
4. Valid email address
5. Best Phone Number to contact you.

Our CC&Rs require that this information be provided on all properties within the association. Having current contact information on file is vital if emergency contacts are needed as well as for general GRF communication

From our President

Welcome to June! As we enter the summer season, I know that we are all looking forward to time at the park, playing pickleball and maybe challenging a friend to a game on the new bocce ball court. We are also looking forward to having our pools back up and running.

As I transition off the Board, I would like to take a moment to thank all our Board members who have consistently given their time to support our Association. Our current Board is a great team that together, has been committed to managing and guiding our association forward. I can't think of another group of people I would rather work with. Let me highlight each of them.

Dominique, our Greenbelt Director, who has worked to get the “Good Neighbor Clearing” done and is now getting ready to continue work on our shared greenbelts. Dominique is the first out to investigate a tree that needs to be taken down and is out walking our greenbelts regularly. I appreciate Dominique's faithfulness and commitment.

Jeremy, our Recreation Director, who has diligently communicated with, cajoled, answered questions, and provided more and more information to the county so that our pool project can continue. This has been a major undertaking and he has exemplified what dedication looks like. I appreciate Jeremy's willingness to give of his time no matter what the issue. He is hard working and committed to supporting each member of our association.

Marie, our CC&R Director, who has faithfully come by the office to sign off on plans and requests for lot improvements as well as following up with owners who have concerns. Marie has always made herself accessible to our Association and consistently works with a smile and a positive outlook.

Rose, our Finance Director, who has been working alongside of both Karen, our office manager, Wendy, our bookkeeper, and Carol and Steve, our amazing volunteers to help set in place a solid financial system. Thanks to Rose and this team, we have made great strides forward. I appreciate Rose's willingness to give so many hours of her time to the Association. Rose is thoughtful, listens well and is committed to helping to improve our Association.

(Continued on page 2)

Notes from the Forest



Dominique Smith, Greenbelt Director

When the snow stops and the sun gets warmer, the greenbelt business comes to life, and this year has been no exception. My Assistants, Steve, and Sonny Steinbrecher, and I have been out meeting and speaking with neighbors for the past month or so, and it is one of our favorite reasons for working in the greenbelt. Nothing better than nice neighbors and beautiful forest walks!

The BEST news is how well a vast majority of you are keeping up with your personal “Defensible Space” requirements. If we do happen to mention something to you, PLEASE remember, our job is to be on the lookout for our entire neighborhood, and our concern is for all of us who live here in “Nature’s Wonderland.”

Our new automated “Client Request for Greenbelt Services” application is a huge success. Greenbelt requests are now coming directly to my inbox, which allows our crew to dispense with all the paperwork and time that it takes to go through the office to the field. According to our records, since we implemented this application in late April, 99% of your requests for service have been handled the NEXT DAY! We are very pleased with that.

On terms of actually getting to your trees is another story, and we hope you understand some of the dynamics 2022 is presenting us with, and we indulge your patience:

1. On average, the cost to the association to “fell and clean up” one 16” diameter tree, is quite expensive, especially if it is close to a structure. We have about 25 -30 trees on the list for removal.

- 2.) Due to COVID and the present labor situation, ALL our tree removal companies are running about 50 – 75 days behind schedule, because of limited staffing and the large amount of leftover damage from the CALDOR fire last summer. A forest fire in the area can further impact their schedules this summer.
- 3.) In our work we have noticed some property owners are placing trash and debris in greenbelt areas close to their property. Neither the greenbelt crew, nor our contractors, are prepared to remove this debris. **THIS IS A PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSIBILITY!**
- 4.) The loss of the association’s large swimming pool last winter is our major concern, budget-wise, this year. Your Board is watching the construction costs of the pool re-make very closely. If there is a need, we will be required to move funds from one area of the budget to that project. This has not happened yet, but the County has placed a pile of new changes and restrictions for its approval of the new pool construction, and changes cost money.

Other than that, we are humming right along. We are awaiting final word on our U.S. Department of Agriculture matching grant, which at the present time, appears to be about \$280,000, which we are extremely excited about, as this will allow us to masticate and clear out a LOT of what we call the “deep greenbelt,” which is a tangle of dry brush, ladder fuels, and trees.

We remain in touch with Sherry and the Fire Safe Council on an ongoing basis, and we share information coming in from many sources for the protection of our greenbelt and forest land.

President’s Message (continued)

I would also like to thank our employees, Tony and Bob who work in the greenbelts, help with maintenance projects, and generally work to keep things in good order. Their work, which often happens behind the scenes, is a valuable part of keeping our common and recreation areas in great shape. I appreciate seeing them out early in the morning or in the afternoon, demonstrating what working in service to others looks like.

Karen, our Office Manager, has had quite the year. From the Caldor Fire to an Eastern European computer hack, Karen has consistently supported both the Association and the Board. During the fire, Karen worked to ensure that our staff was paid and that our critical documents were kept safe. As we moved into our financial system redesign, Karen worked many hours to support the new system that has been set in place. Karen is also the first person that many people meet when they come into the Association, and she always strives to provide timely and accurate information. I appreciate the work that Karen does and her many years of dedication to our Association.

I would also like to thank our many volunteers who have stepped up to help make our association a better place to live and relax. Our volunteers have helped build the bocce ball court, helped to restripe the pickleball courts, provided music nights at the lodge, participated in the fire safe council, helped clean the greenbelts, cleaned and maintained the disk golf course, assisted with green waste collection, volunteered on committees, assisted with the conversion of our financial system, provided informational meetings for fire evacuation and many, many more things that, if listed, would create a 100 page newsletter. So, to all our volunteers, thank you! We are all stronger together.

Finally, for our new Board members, whoever they may be, you are joining a wonderful team and your life will be richer for it.

Have a wonderful summer!

Gold Ridge Finances \$\$

Gold Ridge Thanks Local Merchants for Support

We are all anxiously awaiting the completion of our large pool. Unfortunately, we have experienced unexpected delays in getting county approval for construction. We are hopeful this process will be swiftly resolved. We all look forward to our pools being available later this summer.

We began recruiting applicants for pool attendants earlier this year. We want to thank the following merchants for allowing us to post our SEASONAL HELP WANTED notices in their establishments.

POLLOCK PINES

*Pizza Factory
Burger Barn
Heartsong Laundry*

*Knotty Pines Bowling Alley
Crystal View Station (Shell)
Papa Murphy's Pizza*

*Snap Fitness
Sierra Nevada Tire
Pollock Pines-Camino Community Center*

*Pony Express
Family Dollar*

*Unique Nails
Reibe's Auto*

PLACERVILLE

Old Town Grill

T W BONKERS

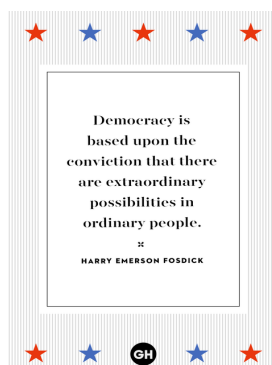
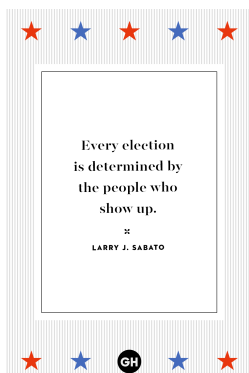
Although pool openings are unavoidably postponed, there are lots of other activities available to our members. There are bocce ball, tennis, pickleball courts, disc golf, and a basketball court. There is lots to do and enjoy! Pool fobs are on back-order and we are waiting for them to be delivered. Please know when the pool is opened we will have a list of members so you will be allowed in the pool if you are a member in good standing.

Late Fee Increase July 1, 2022

The CC&Rs provide that quarterly dues are deemed delinquent 15 days after the quarterly due date. A late charge not exceeding 10 percent of the delinquent assessment or \$10, whichever is greater, may be assessed.

Late charges have remained at \$10 through the first two quarters of this year. However, at the June 1, 2022, GRFPOA Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved increasing the late charges to 10% (\$10.70) of the delinquent dues assessment, beginning with the third quarter dues for July 1, 2022.

This late charge will be assessed on delinquent dues starting July 16, 2022. A daily interest fee of .03287671% will be charged on any outstanding balance 30 days from the due date (August 1). This daily interest rate will be applied each month on the unpaid amount.



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.

finalthoughts...

GRF Election news



Our annual election for GRFPOA Board of Directors is July 9, 2022. Ballots were mailed to all property owners on June 6. Members are entitled to ONE vote per lot, regardless of the number of members having an interest in the lot, **Be sure to follow the instructions provided with your ballot**

There are two openings on the Board. The candidates are **Robert Newmeyer, Robyn Swift, and Marie Zandona-Harger** You may vote for **two**.

Do NOT write any identifying information on the ballot, **Do NOT** sign your ballot. Once you have checked your choices on the secret ballot, place the ballot in the envelope marked "Inspector of Elections" and seal the envelope.

Place the sealed Inspector of Elections envelope into the envelope addressed to Gold Ridge Forest Insp. Of Elections, League of Women Voters of El Dorado Co., PO Box 863. Placerville, Ca. 95667. Seal the envelope.

On the blank line in the upper left-hand corner, SIGN your name under your return address which includes your lot number. (which is used as a separate identifier that entitles you to vote). **If you fail to sign the envelope your vote is not valid and will NOT be counted.**

You must mail your envelope to Gold Ridge Forest Insp. of Elections, League of Women Voters of El Dorado Co. **Ballots must be received no later than 5:00 PM on Friday July 8, 2022.**

Do Not Drop off your ballot at the GRF Office. It must be mailed to the Election Inspector. Do Not include your dues payment in any of the envelopes.

The ballots will be opened and counted by the League of Women Voters at the GRFPOA Lodge at the Annual Membership Meeting July 9, 2022. Winners will be announced at the Annual Membership meeting. **Come join us for a POTLUCK BBQ and learn the election results.**

Contact Us >>>



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

www.goldridge.org

Upcoming Events >>>

Election and BBQ- July 9, 2022 – 1:00 pm

Board Meeting – July 27, 2022 7:00 pm