

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023

HAPPY THANKSGIVING ALL! No snow yet but it's pretty cold out there.

First, the big news! SMRC is doing board meetings by Zoom.

Yes, that's right.

Meetings will be the second Thursday of the month, at the Winthrop Library Community room, at 5pm - you can be there in person, or access via the Zoom link they will send out with the agenda.

This is your chance to be engaged in your community. We hope to see you there!

This is also our time to remind you that our website can be very useful if you want to know what's happening -you can find the board meeting minutes, the board member's contact info, firewise info, maps, newsletters. The home page has the latest updates on burn bans, the pool, upcoming events. Please check it out!





TREASURER'S NEWS

"It's not too late to sign up for email billing. . . Dues notices will be coming out in January for the 2024 dues (\$700.00 for the year), so if you are still receiving paper billings, you have time to change to being an email recipient.

Help your bookkeeping team be more efficient and save us time which equals money!"

ROAD COMMITTEE NEWS

Your road committee is going to leave the roads as they are till the snow comes to save us all some money. They had some work done at the north entrance but no more for now. Drive the 15mph speed limit to save what we have!



FIREWISE COMMITTEE NEWS

You get our monthly newsletter with tips and info, and we hope it's useful. Our common area work is on pause for the winter due to staffing issues, but there will be some burning of slash piles from property thinning work done earlier this year.

If you haven't done it yet, sign up for an assessment from DNR - contact Sam Halvorsen, 509-690-3361, sam.halvorsen@dnr.wa.gov or Blayne Harvey, 509-675-0430, blayne.harvey@dnr.wa.gov or OCD, Eli Loftis 509-439-3453 & Dylan Streeter 509-429-4326 or check out this link- <https://www.okanogancd.org/wildfire>,

to pinpoint how to make your property more fire resilient. We are all in this together and anything you do helps make the whole neighborhood safer - **and improves the forest health for generations to come**



TRAIL TRACKS

We have a neighbor I would like to introduce you to if you have not yet met him, David Lukas. I met him earlier this year when I went on one of his nature walks. David has a wonderful newsletter about our backyard. In it he has photos from our immediate neighborhood and the Methow Valley at large with comments about what the insects, mammals, vegetation, fungus, and views are about. You can sign up for a free feed of Methow Nature Notes or go a step further and pay for a much more in-depth version of the Methow Nature Notes. Also find him on Facebook. [Methow Nature Notes.com](http://MethowNatureNotes.com) or in Groups on Facebook.

This winter should not be so difficult for the wildlife that hang out in our neighborhood. With El Nino we are predicted to have less snow and it maybe warmer than last winter. The recommendation from the experts is to not feed the deer. Too much corn and fruit can change their gut biome, and that can lead to the deer not able to utilize their usual browse/forage in their gut. I would put a flake of grass hay out for the deer and they would come and nibble at it. 2 bales from a local rancher would get you through the winter. One of my neighbors commented about how much a flock of Turkeys can poop. Be aware!

After the snow loads on roofs last winter made everyone pay attention, this year should hopefully be less work. But the roads are still going to be icy, so having good winter tires and maybe a bag of sand in the trunk should get you up the hills.

I am starting a Common Areas newsletter to replace Trail Tracks. Look for it after the first of the New Year. The articles will be about native plantings for landscaping, how to control noxious weeds, irrigation for your landscape, with resources available from the USDA Conservation District, the U of WA Okanogan County Extension, and lists of suppliers of seeds and plants for our soil type.

Come spring I will again be available to do homeowner site visits to answer any questions you may have about what is growing on your lot. You may have seen me this fall pulling Russian Thistle from the roadside on Larkspur Drive. In August I had the Okanogan County U of WA Extension Techs out to do a site visit. We talked about what are the weeds that we most need to keep in check. Russian Thistle is the biggest problem here. It is fast spreading and nasty to handle. More information about it will be forth coming.

Do check out David's newsletter and enjoy this winter!!

Jil Wickander

SMRC Common Areas chair



Thanks to all the committee members for their efforts this year.

Hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving.

Happy Holidays

from your newsletter editors

Karen Mulcahy (Firewise Chair)

Steve G.(Website)

