



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CURRENT BOARD

We just had a regular board meeting May 21st. It was extremely heartening to see 10 members attend and then some volunteered to help with work!! We all know everyone is very busy and many of you are part-timers, but we need your participation in making your neighborhood a better place for all of us.

Several board members will be stepping down this year, as many of them have contributed for years and it's time for them to take a break. In fact, yours truly will be stepping down as secretary as I want to concentrate on Firewise work and maybe doing some much needed travel. None of us are getting any younger and I want more time with my grandkids!

I will continue to contribute to newsletters and firewise information and be a productive member of this community that I love!

We will be determining the annual meeting date at our next meeting and we need our members to be present and to step up and take the reins. We will give you the job description and scope of work and train you. We are looking at ways to increase participation and access to meetings. And we need your help! WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR DATES OF MEETINGS AND THE WHITE BOARDS AT THE ENTRANCES.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS-Karen Mulcahy, Secretary

It's that time of the year – all the wildflowers are out, it's green and still cool – and the bears are out! I think I received the most email responses I have had in a while when we let people know of bear sightings. **BUT – A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR!** Take your bird feeders down if you have any out – they are bear attractors. Don't leave any garbage outside unless it's in a bear proof container. You can find these containers online, but we have our great garbage compactor - so get rid of your garbage right away



Speaking of garbage, our compactor is on track to be saving our members \$10,000/year. We are on a schedule of a monthly pick-up. **IF IT BEEPS AND THE LIGHT FLASHES, IT MEANS THE COMPACTOR IS AT CAPACITY! (2000 LBS)** Please let a board member know so we can call Wastewise. **ALSO, IF YOU PUSH THE EMERGENCY STOP BUTTON, IT WILL NOT WORK UNLESS YOU PULL THAT BUTTON OUT AGAIN.**

As a reminder, please – only regular household garbage that you would have in your kitchen and bedroom/bathroom garbage. The other stuff, metal items, remodeling waste etc -does not belong in there and could cause damage. **READ THE SIGN ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE FACILITY.** The recycling area seems improved – please fill the large blue dumpster with cardboard first before using the wooden rack area. And keep it to cardboard – I see a lot of non-cardboard items on the wooden rack – these need to go in the smaller blue recycling bins.

And a reminder to all to check out our website – sunmountainranchclub.org – Your webmaster Steve updates it often – the front page being the most current. Then open the tabs – check out what's in those different areas.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS!!

We have had numerous complaints of dogs running loose and chasing people, other dogs, and deer. First and foremost, if you notice this, call the sheriff at the non-emergency number, **509-422-7232, Option 4** as they need many complaints to do a citation. Fish and Wildlife would like a video of dogs chasing wildlife of any kind before they can come and investigate. Their number is **509-703-0170**.

Our pool will be open for Memorial Day weekend

Jil Wickander will be hosting a noxious weed information table on Sunday May 29th at our pool/clubhouse area. Karen Mulcahy will have some firewise info there as well to hand out. Please stop by and learn some valuable information – there will be good handouts!

FIREWISE NEWS – Karen Mulcahy, Chair, Firewise committee

Our Yard Waste disposal event May 14th went very well despite the rain, and we filled the dumpsters! Our next event is **Saturday June 11th from 8am to 4pm** or till the dumpsters are full. And remember, you must separate branches (which can only be 6" diameter or less) from the pine needles and cones and bark, as the branches get chipped and pine needles and cones don't.

Please mark your calendars!! This is a great way to avoid burning yard waste which can pose a danger to all our properties if it gets away from you.



Our HOA board has purchased some credits for a service called Dial My Calls that we can use in the event of a neighborhood emergency or evacuation. It is similar to Okanogan County's emergency notification system. Karen Mulcahy, the chair of the firewise committee will be testing the system soon. Remember, you do not need to respond to the voice mail you will receive. The system will give us a printout of numbers that did not work so we can update files. If you are an owner that has renters, it would be really useful to be able to notify them as well. Please contact Karen at secsmrc@gmail.com with those contact numbers.

Our 50/50 plan with DNR to do some firewise work on properties is moving along. We hope to secure Brothers Fire LLC for the work and they may have some time this spring to begin the project. We have 30 members involved and we would love more. The DNR grant money only lasts through 2023 so if you want help and \$\$\$ towards making your property safer from fire, get in touch with Karen at the email above.

Jake Hardt of DNR is hopefully going to have crews in the fall to help us thin one of greenspaces and remove woody debris. They are all very overgrown in places and will provide great firebreaks within our community if done. You will be notified if and when this is going to be done.

Remember – the greatest threat to all our properties will be a fire from within. We saw this last year when a fire started on a lot. Without the aerial water drop we might not have had this under control and it could have spread through the greenspace to other properties. A second fire occurred from a re-ignition of a burn pile. Without OCFD6 and DNR responding quickly this could have been a disaster.

As always, if you want to join our committee, please contact one of us! We are listed under board members/committee members on the website. We welcome participation!

ROADS UPDATE- Kathi Cherrier, Treasurer, Director 5

After lots of feedback and many discussions, the Board has determined that it is time to have a consultant do a professional assessment of our 14+ miles of roads. With the help of Lloyds Logging, our roads maintenance/plowing contractor, and with input from YOU our members,

the consultant will help the new Roads Committee and the Board of Directors establish a documented plan for road improvements in our development. Once this plan has been established and approved, it will be used as an ongoing guide for IMPROVEMENTS to our roads, not just yearly maintenance. This will be a long-term plan prioritizing the parts of our roads that cause us either the most expense for maintenance or parts that are becoming unsafe due to the increased traffic in the neighborhood.

If you have specific ideas or comments regarding any portion of the roads that you feel need improvement or don't need any maintenance, please email Kathi Cherrier, who has volunteered to Chair the Roads Committee, at treassmrc@gmail.com and enter "Roads" as the subject of your email. Your comments will be compiled for the review of the Roads Committee and the Board and will be helpful in establishing the Roads plan document.



TRAIL TRACKS - Jil Wickander, Director 2

Listening to the birdsong with a cup of coffee sitting on the back porch in the mornings is just one of the joys of living in our neighborhood. Seems the birds in the neighborhood have increased this year – no doubt the fires from last year took some of their habitat. I keep a shallow pan of water by the hydrant for all those animals that need a drink now that the temperature is starting to warm up.

No one mentioned the moose trekking through early in the year. Maybe she has found another area. But the bears have made their annual appearance on their way to the forest. In the evenings the coyote are singing up on Patterson Mountain when they come through the area, usually once a month.

The Arrowleaf Balsamroot is in bloom. The big yellow flower turns to seed that the birds like to eat. Lupine is blooming right now. The flower turns to a bean pod of seed that is toxic to livestock. And Larkspur is also in bloom. It is a purplish dark blue flower on a tiny single stem. The flower has a spur (hence, larkspur), and this plant, too, is toxic to livestock.

None of these flowers are appealing to domestic pets so leave them for the bees to collect pollen.

Our community does have some noxious weeds to look out for. If you see them on your property, please eradicate them. The easiest way to get rid of them is to pull them, roots and all. The main problem weeds in our community are Barnaby/Knapweed thistle, Wild Mustard, and Toadflax.

The Firewise Committee will join me down at the Clubhouse where I will have information about noxious weeds to share with homeowners. We will be there on the Memorial weekend, Sunday May 29th from 10 am to 12 noon. Stop by, we will do our best to address your concerns. If you have a plant you want identified, please bring it and I will have plant books with me to look it up.

The results of the Recreational survey gave the board the information they needed to decide about the following proposals: a Dog Park, a new Picnic area down by Little Twin Lake, and a

Sledding Hill. All 3 proposals were researched for the insurance liability and the Board decided to not take any action on these due to the increase in insurance costs for the homeowner association.

In answer to the question of 'Would you use any of these?' the response was:

Dog Park 44 yes/77 no Sledding Hill 76 yes/47 no
New Picnic area by Little Twin Lake 79 yes/46 no

In answer to the question of 'How do you recreate in SMRC?' the response was:

Bicycle 72 Basketball 14 Pickleball 12
Hike/Walk 109 Snowshoe 50 Horse ride 4
Swimming 82 ATV 18

The development of the Greenbelts into hiking trails was explored in depth by the board and again it is a matter of liability insurance costs. The Board decided to not develop the greenbelts into actual trails. It is in our CC&R's that the Greenbelts are for homeowners to walk and ride horses on. So, there is an ongoing discussion of how to mark them so we aren't trespassing onto our neighbors property when we want to take a walk in woods.

Please come to the Board meetings. A number of the officers are not planning on running for another term. And all the committees welcome homeowners to get involved in planning the future of our community. We have a very special place here.

MAY 2022

