



Cougar Ridge News

Cougar Ridge Homeowners' Association
Keeping our neighborhood beautiful, our assessments low,
our values high, and our community strong.

Spring/Summer 2024

President's Message

Spring Has Arrived

By the time you receive this edition of the *Cougar Ridge News*, spring has arrived! Spring is such a great time of rebirth. I love the bright green leaves and buds on the trees, the birds singing.

Listening With An Open Mind

Our Cougar Ridge community is a special place to live. Over the past few years in our country, it seems many people have become more inclined to criticize others and demonize those people they disagree with or perceive as a threat. Whether it is immigration, access to abortion, LGBTQ+ issues, or gun control, there is a tendency to point to extreme cases and vilify those with opposing views. Extreme rhetoric doesn't help solve any problems that may exist.

Criticize Behavior Not the Person

While dealing with some juvenile behaviors when I was teaching high school, my strategy was to object to the behavior, not the individual. I may dislike someone's behavior or disagree with someone's opinion, and still respect them as a person. My hope is that in our small corner of the world we can listen to each other and respect each other regardless of our differences of opinion.

Always Leave a Place Better Than You Found It

On the topic of respect, I would ask that we remember to respect each other's property as well as the property we own collectively as an association. One of the most frequent complaints we hear is regarding owners not cleaning up after their dogs defecate on someone's lawn or in one of our common areas. We have several stations throughout the neighborhood where you can get a dog-poop bag. Please be responsible and clean up after your pooch. A wise old basketball coach once said, "Always leave a place better than you found it."

Please Attend Our Annual Neighborhood Potluck

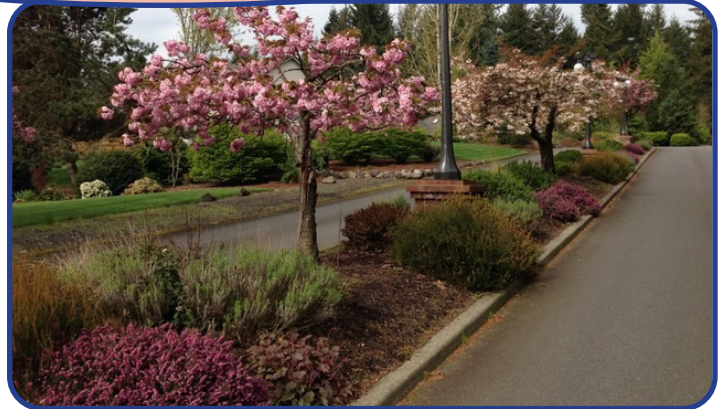
Besides our neighborhood visits, whether we're picking up our mail at the Postal Kiosk, or attending our Annual Meeting in November, we do offer one other occasion for a neighborhood get-together. Please read all about it on the back cover of this edition of the *Cougar Ridge News*, and hopefully your schedule will allow you to join your neighbors for this annual event.

Best Regards,

Barry Olson

Board President

crhoabod1@gmail.com



As we turn into our neighborhood many of us remember when the ambitious project of redoing the common areas and islands began. Before that happened there were aging flowering cherry trees lining the west entry beds. Ten years ago, with much time and effort by our Landscape Committee co-chairs and garden experts **Judy Lundgren** and **Barb Valinske**, the west landscape areas were totally redone with the variety of plants that show off their colors and blooms. Today, as they've become established, we can enjoy color every season and help tending to them during our spring and fall clean-up days as well as adopting a landscape bed in the neighborhood.

When Spring Arrives Landscape Areas Need A Lot of Attention

Even On A Sunny Mother's Day Weekend Cleanup Got Some Needed Attention

Thanks to the following volunteers who showed up to work on the neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, May 11:

Terry & Pat Barber, Bruce Campbell, Karen Brown, Lloyd Moody, Judy Lundgren, Deborah Noble, Michelle & James Ashley-Cole, Barb & Pete Valinske.

There's More To Be Done

We weren't able to accomplish everything on the list before it got too hot, so if anyone would like to spend an hour or two helping out the neighborhood, please send us a note. It would be greatly appreciated.

Barb Valinske,
Landscape Committee Co-Chair



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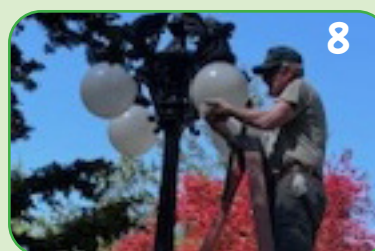
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8

1. Judy Lundgren is usually busy cleaning up the common areas. For a few minutes she sits down to enjoy a cookie and smile for a photo.

2. Barb Valinske's truck is filled with cleanup gear. A table of goodies, coffee, water, and sodas beckon those needing a snack.

3. Karen Brown, Barb Valinske and Deborah Noble take a few seconds to pose for photo with their huge pink bucket of twigs and debris.

4. This newly redone cul-de-sac bed on McLane Creek Court is now ready to begin showing off the new plants and shrubs.

5. Our resident water expert Pete Valinske checks to see if the sprinkler system is ready to keep the plants hydrated during the dry summer months.

6. With wheelbarrow in hand, Karen Brown begins to move towards the landscape bed she would like to clean up.

7. Three volunteers helped replace the lights we have in the neighborhood. Bruce Campbell and Terry Barber held the ladder while Lloyd Moody inserted the new bulbs. All in all, twenty-three bulbs were changed on clean up day!

8. Lloyd cleans the outer light fixture after installing the new bulb.

Volunteer Program: Please Adopt a Landscape Common Area

Adopt-a-Landscape Volunteer Program

This program was introduced last year to help the HOA maintain the landscapes and common areas of our neighborhood and help keep dues down. The current maintenance co-chairs have been doing this for 10 years now and would very much like to step back.

Weed Regularly & Keep Debris Picked Up

The task ideally includes weeding weekly and keeping debris picked up at your adopted bed. The Maintenance Committee will continue adding Preen as necessary and will do any pruning that is needed. Please do not use any chemicals.

Beds Still Available for Adoption

Some of the landscape beds were adopted last year and some of those neighbors are willing to continue with the task. If you are interested in adopting a particular one, let us know and maybe the duty can be shared by multiple neighbors.

Questions? Contact Committee Co-Chairs

Please email the committee co-chairs if you have any questions.

Thanks so much for your help!

Barb Valinske

Judy Lundgren

Landscape Maintenance Committee Co-Chairs

The Common Areas in the Neighborhood

North Entrance:	Available
South Entrance:	Available
(both sides along Delphi)	
Capitol Forest Court:	M. Scheppke
(at Capitol Forest Dr.)	
Capitol Forest Court:	K. Brown
(cul-de-sac)	
Capitol Forest Loop:	Ashley-Coles
(to McLane Nature Trail)	
McLane Creek Court:	J. Aal
McLane Court:	Corwin/Fry/Sampson
Private Drive:	M. Burnett
Rainwater Court:	D. Turner
Ridge High Court:	Available
Rocky Mtn. Drive:	D. Noble
(cul-de-sac)	
Rocky Mtn. Drive:	Available
(at Capitol Forest Drive)	
The Pit:	T. Barber
(at the Mailbox Kiosk)	
Capitol Forest Drive:	Available
(long beds east and west)	

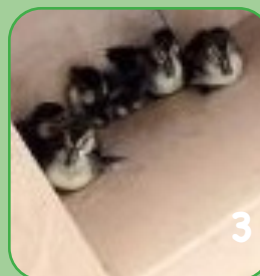
Neighborhood Ducklings Reunited With Mama

Watch Out For Baby Animals

In a neighborhood like ours that is carved out of a beautiful natural setting, driving more slowly along our streets, particularly during this time of the year, is really important. While many of us enjoy watching all the baby animals that wander, fly, or hop through, many of them don't survive because of the interference of traffic in their lives.

Help Couldn't Come Fast Enough

Neighbors Michelle Ashley-Cole and her daughter Tess observed a mother duck in a tizzy by a stormwater drain. Upon closer observation, Tess noticed that the mother's ducklings had fallen through the drain's grating. With the help of neighbors Lloyd Moody and Pete Valinske, they found an ingenious way to rescue them, and made sure the 12 baby ducklings were reunited with their anxious mother.



1. Michelle is looking inside the drain to see if she can pick up the ducks from where they're located. Both glove-wearing rescuers were counting the stunned ducklings as they were picked up and placed in a huge cardboard box.

2. Most likely exhausted, the first of the ducklings sit huddled together in the cardboard box after being rescued.

3. After gaining some confidence that they may be able to rescue more, Michelle keeps picking up more ducklings, while Lloyd holds the box.

4. All bunched together, it is difficult to count the number of ducklings saved, however together they counted a dozen ducklings. That means their mother can remain one busy Mama Duck.

You're Invited To A Summer Neighborhood Potluck

We're having a Potluck BBQ

Thursday, July 4, 2024

4:00 - 7:00 PM

Rocky Mountain Drive Pipeline Entrance

★ Please bring something to BBQ for your family
(Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Steak, Chicken, Vegan, etc.)

☆ In addition please bring something to share
(Appetizer, Salad, Side Dish, or Dessert)

★ You will also need to bring your own chairs, plates, and drinks.

★ We will also need the following if you have any of these items:
Portable Tables, BBQs, and Children's Games

★ A Practical Parking Suggestion:

To keep the area accessible, we encourage everyone to drop off their items,
take their vehicles home, and enjoy a walk back to the event
through our beautiful community.

☆ For more details contact **Debbie Wigand** at
crhoabod4@gmail.com

Cougar Ridge News

Homeowners' Association

5948 Capitol Forest Drive SW

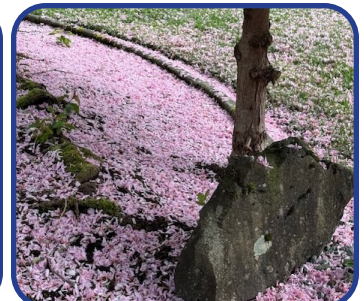
Olympia, WA 98512

Cougar Ridge News

Spring & Summer 2024

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Please email information, comments, and ideas to **Pat Barber**, Editor cougarridgenews@gmail.com

Neighborhood Watering Schedule for Spring/Summer 2024

Outdoor Watering Schedule in Effect

- ✓ Addresses ending with an **odd number** may water and irrigate outdoors on **MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, & FRIDAY.**
- ✓ Addresses ending with an **even number** may water and irrigate outdoors on **TUESDAY, THURSDAY, & SATURDAY.**
- ◆ The **HOA Common Areas** will follow the **even number schedule** to balance the load on the water system.
- ◆ **Homeowners** are encouraged to water in the **evening, night time, or early morning hours.**
- ◆ For **more information** and for the exceptions to this rule, please check the **Cougar Ridge website:**



www.cougarridgehoa.com/watersystem

Water Sampling, Backup Power, Management & Expertise



Water Sampling Takes Place Regularly

H₂O Management Services is our contractor for managing our water system. They are primarily responsible for monthly water sampling at designated lots in the neighborhood. The current arrangement has them drawing a sample at an outside spigot on those designated homes. This year we will work to get the sampling location moved

to the respective water meter at the street. You can expect to see **Kelly or Drew** from H₂O in the neighborhood in a company identified vehicle.

Emergency Generator Reliably Provides Backup Power During Power Outages

Our water system emergency generator continues to reliably provide backup power to the system during PSE power outages. Homeowners need to be aware that available water does not necessarily equate to normal usage during these infrequent power outages.

Does Your Septic System Require Power?

Many septic systems in the neighborhood have a pumping system that requires power. If you do not have a source of backup power for your home during extended power outages your septic system capacity is severely limited, and overuse of water can result in the system backing up into your home.

Pete Valinske
Water System Chair

2024 Cougar Ridge Homeowners' Association Board of Directors



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Director
crhoabod1@gmail.com



Pete Valinske
Vice President
Water System Chair

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Lloyd Moody
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Dan Miller

Director
crhoabod6@gmail.com



Barb Valinske
Landscape-Maintenance Co-Chair

Director
crhoabodlandscape@gmail.com

2024 Calendar of Events

*Board Meetings are open
to all members.*

*Please email
crhoabod4@gmail.com
for more information*

(Dates are subject to change)

June 12: Board Meeting
July 4: Neighborhood BBQ
July 10: Board Meeting
August 14: Board Meeting
September 11: Board Meeting
October 5: Fall Clean-up Day
October 9: Board Meeting
November 13: Board Meeting
November 21: Annual CRHA Meeting
December 11: Board Meeting

WELCOME

To Our
New Neighbors

Lot 61: Steve Cogdill & Jessica Borgen
Lot 63: Joy Paulus and Mike Woodall

Important Cougar Ridge Contact Info

Website

The link for the Cougar Ridge Homeowners' Association website is:

www.cougarridgehoa.com

Treasurer

Please check with Treasurer **Tom Coit** if you have questions about the assessment billing, payment schedule, or other information.

Water System Maintenance

Cougar Ridge is fortunate to have its own water system. If you have questions about the system, your service, water quality, or our irrigation schedule please contact **Pete Valinske**.