

# Cougar Ridge News

**Cougar Ridge Homeowners' Association**

**Keeping our neighborhood beautiful, our assessments low,  
our values high, and our community strong.**

Fall/Winter 2023-24

## President's Message

### **Community = Looking Out For One Another**

In reflecting about our neighborhood trying to decide what to write about for this newsletter, I thought of the word "Community". By definition, "A group linked by a common policy with common interests living in a particular area." We are bound by our governing documents with the common interest of having a vibrant, safe, and attractive place to live. As members we all work to maintain our lots and homes to reflect the value of the neighborhood. When we have had intruders, vigilant neighbors have alerted the board so the message could be shared with the entire community. As a community we look out for one another.

### **Thanks to Neighborhood Volunteers**

Our neighborhood is fortunate to have people step up to help maintain our common areas. We have saved thousands of dollars by having volunteers maintaining our water system, our finances, changing lightbulbs, cleaning our streetlights, and the very time-consuming task of maintaining our landscape beds in the Common Areas.

### **Consider Giving Your Few Hours of Time**

Many volunteers have been active for a long time and are frankly getting burned out! It is time for some additional neighbors to offer a few hours of their time to assist with tasks that keep our community going. Please consider offering to donate a few hours of your time. Contact me at the email listed below if you're interested. Every little bit of time donated really helps.

### **2023 Annual Meeting Changes to November**

Here's a reminder that our Annual Meeting will be held this year on:

**Thursday, November 16, 2023  
at 7:00 PM**

**Fire Station #91  
125 Delphi Rd. NW**

Please mark your calendars. We are hoping to make it easier for members to attend by holding the meeting before Thanksgiving and the holiday rush. Hopefully you'll be there to meet and greet new neighbors and get a review of all that has been accomplished throughout the past year.

**Best Regards,**

**Barry Olson, Board President**

[crhoabod1@gmail.com](mailto:crhoabod1@gmail.com)





## Landscape Areas Receive Mulch Attention

### Beautiful Fall Weather Brings Out Eager Volunteers

A very big THANKS to the following people who came and helped with the neighborhood cleanup on a beautiful Saturday, September 30, 2023:

Debbie & Fred Wigand, Judy Lundgren, Lloyd Moody, Steve Harmon, Deborah Noble, Angela Rae, Bruce Campbell, Nicky & Blayde Fry, Margaret Scheppke, Tina & Dan Miller (and Kirby), Karen & Michael Brown, Bob Schmelter, Barb & Pete Valinske.

### Some Preparations Before Fall Cleanup Day Arrives

Some days prior to the official Fall Cleanup Day, piles of mulch bags were stacked in the Pumphouse Area ready to pick up for spreading. Mike Scheppke took two loads of debris to the dump, and John Aal helped with all the prep work beforehand.



### Our Water Expert Replaces Yet Another Sprinkler Head

Our resident and dedicated water system chair, Pete Valinske has changed many sprinkler heads in the common areas over the years. This cul-de-sac sprinkler needed replacing after new plants were planted. Now they can thrive.



Different homeowners have brought painted rocks to the Gnome Village.

Debbie and Fred Wigand's granddaughter is enjoying her time with the painted rocks in the Pitt Area next to the Postal Kiosk.



As newcomers to Cougar Ridge, Dan Miller is working very hard to get the mulch in place. That resulted in getting a blurry photo. Tina Miller and furry friend Kirby are acting as supervisors, making sure that the mulching is done just right.



### Neighborhood Volunteers Help Retain Lower Homeowners' Dues

Our Cougar Ridge neighborhood's willingness to help maintain the Common Areas filled with beautiful flowers, bushes and trees, continue to keep our homeowners' dues low. Pete Valinske uses a leaf blower to get rid of all of leaves and other debris that collects in and around the Postal Kiosk. Karen & Michael Brown along with Margaret Scheppke pose for a picture near the main entrance with their mulching gloves.



Teamwork is required as our light standards get a fresh, clean look on our semi-annual neighborhood cleanup days. Lloyd Moody steps down to pick up a cleaned light globe from Bob Schmelter and Bruce Campbell holds a new lightbulb that will replace a burned-out bulb on the lamp standard.



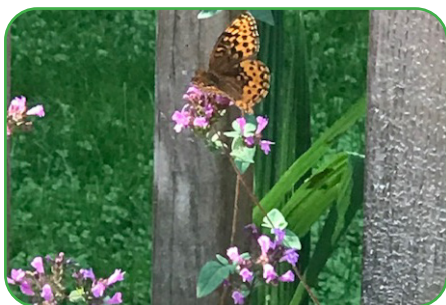
Still smiling, our new neighbor, Angela Rae, happily spreads new mulch on one of the common area landscape beds. Welcome to Cougar Ridge, Angela!



Longtime Cougar Ridge residents, Blayde and Nicky Fry, enthusiastically joined the other neighbors to help spread mulch this year.



## Living in Harmony With Our Natural Environment



### Neighborhood Gardeners Plan For Spring

As our fall season progresses and winter grows near, many of our neighborhood green thumbs begin hatching plans for their spring and summer gardens. The experts among us know what they need to do to keep some of the local critters from accessing their planted investments. However, as many of us have found out, whether they're marked as "deer proof" or not, there is always something that the wildlife around here likes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

### Our Yards As Deer Thoroughfares

What's not to like when **Mama Doe** and her newborn babies come through the yard? They're so adorable. As we coexist with these graceful animals, it is really fun to watch them grow with the caring and nurturing their mothers show towards them as they coach them along to be independent. Several months later the little ones are left to fend on their own. Can you imagine what amount of learning has to take place for those little fawns to be independent so soon, not to mention what the doe has to go through being pregnant every year? It's no wonder we can find her in our garden resting for hours in a shaded and quiet place.

### Coexisting With Nature Is A Privilege

As we get acquainted with the different species of wildlife in our neighborhood, don't you find it a privilege to live in the midst of these different animals and so close to the McLane Nature Trail? In our yard we regularly see deer, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and many different kinds of birds. When we first arrived in Cougar Ridge we heard coyotes out on the pipeline every night. After many more homes were built, that amazing sound went elsewhere.

### What Have Your Experiences Been?

As we look to future editions of **Cougar Ridge News**, we'd like you, our neighbors, to send us your experiences. Have you had plants destroyed? What techniques have you used to discourage that? If you'd like to share how you've protected your plants from becoming "critter dinner" please write a paragraph or two including ideas that have worked and add pictures. One article will be included in the spring/summer edition. We're looking forward to reading your stories and seeing your photos. Send your ideas to:

[cougarridgenews@gmail.com](mailto:cougarridgenews@gmail.com)

*This article was compiled and written by Cougar Ridge residents  
Cheryl Matern and Pat Barber*

*The photos were submitted by  
Cheryl Matern, Barry Olson, and Pat Barber*



1. Young fawns like to munch on fresh greens in the spring. They forage throughout the neighborhood together with their mother for several months.
2. Gray squirrels are such amazing athletes. You can watch them stretch and hang upside down from feeders and still be able to eat.
3. This bunny showed up in May. It likes to nibble its way through the garden, leaving little marks on low-growing leafy plants.
4. A juvenile Grosbeak sits in the birdbath for a drink of water and also takes a morning bath.



## Summer Food & Fun On Display At Our Neighborhood Picnic



### Good Eats, Games, Great Turnout & Weather Contribute to the Picnic's Success

1. Barry Olsen, Lloyd Moody, Amy & David Winter, get a chance to visit together on a beautiful sunny day. You can tell from the picture that neighbors are enjoying the afternoon picnic on the Pipeline.
2. A table is full of good salads and desserts. There is plenty for everyone. Filling their plates around the table are Cheryl Matern, Pat Barber, Julie Corwin, and Lelfia Khaleghi.
3. The game is called Cornhole. Bob Schmelter and Terry Barber try it out. They laughed throughout their game. The score was not revealed.
4. Enthusiastic gardener and supporter of Cougar Ridge activities, Barb Valinske chats with homeowner Bijan Khaleghi.
5. Pete Valinske enjoys his specially prepared hamburger at the Neighborhood Picnic on July 4. He grilled for his family too.

**Mark Your Calendars For the July 4, 2024 Picnic!**

### Cougar Ridge News

#### Homeowners' Association

5948 Capitol Forest Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98512

### Cougar Ridge News

Fall & Winter 2023-24

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Please email information, comments, and ideas to **Pat Barber**, Editor [cougarridgenews@gmail.com](mailto:cougarridgenews@gmail.com)



## Cougar Ridgians, Please Obey Common Courtesies



### Close the Kiosk Gates Gently

How can we better protect our Mail Kiosk from outsiders? Several years ago we had a disturbing number of mail boxes compromised. The result of that was the installation of the fencing around the Mail Kiosk and also the purchase of heavy duty mail boxes. However, if the gate is carelessly left open, it invites intruders, and possible vandalism. So please, when you pick up your mail, take a quick look around to make sure both gates are closed. In addition, see to it that all of the boxes are closed as well. If there is a problem with the gate closure, please contact one of the Board Members. (Their numbers are listed on the back of this insert to the *Cougar Ridge News* and also available on the Cougar Ridge website.) There are other ways we can help keep this area neat and tidy: pick up dropped paper clips, bulletin board pins, rubber bands etc. as you leave the Kiosk.

The Board thanks you in advance for your help.

### PLEASE Clean Up Your Dog's Poop

This is as close to being polite as it gets. The *Cougar Ridge News* team has noticed that our neighborhood is getting sloppier about picking up after our pet pooches. To be sure, most of you are very faithful about following the rule about that, and we THANK YOU!!! However, for those who are grossed-out about the whole scoop-the-poop routine, please think about what effects it has on our beautiful, and well-tended neighborhood and our water system.



### Thank You for Obeying This Rule!

We've written articles before about what the effects of leaving poop around does for the water system. It's about raw sewage going into our storm drains, and eventually entering the aquifer. We have our own well. Let's try to protect our water as best we can. Plus, there are these useful bags provided in several accessible areas in the neighborhood. Please use them and place your doggy waste in your garbage can when you get home.

## Water System Final Round of Valve Replacement

**Please Note: Valve Replacement to Involve Entire System Off-Line on November 8, 2023 Beginning at 9:00 AM.**

### WATER SYSTEM VALVE REPLACEMENTS - The Final Round

The final round of water system valve replacements will occur the week of November 6, 2023. Valve excavating will occur on Tuesday, November 7. The entire system will be off-line on Wednesday, November 8, beginning at 9:00 AM. The planned work requires draining the water storage tank. The system should be back in service by 4:00 PM. A BOIL WATER ADVISORY will be in place until satisfactory water samples are obtained.

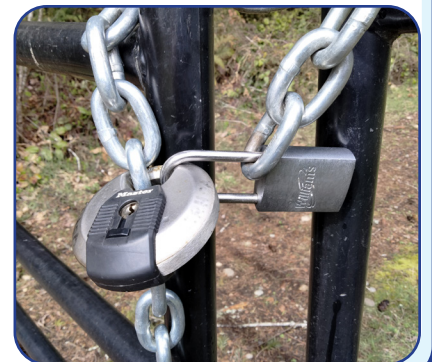
### How to Lock the Pipeline Gate Access Properly

For those residents living along the pipeline with gate access, this photo shows the proper way to lock the gate when you are finished. This configuration allows Williams Pipeline to also access the pipeline through the gate.

*This article was written by  
Pete Valinske  
Cougar Ridge Water System Chair*

[www.cougarridgehoa.com/watersystem](http://www.cougarridgehoa.com/watersystem)

*Editor's Note: Congratulations on completing this long-term project, Pete. Your expertise has made our neighborhood water system one of the best!*



## 2023-24 Cougar Ridge Homeowners' Association Board of Directors



**Barry Olson**  
President

Director

[crhoabod1@gmail.com](mailto:crhoabod1@gmail.com)



**Pete Valinske**  
Vice President  
Water System Chair  
Director

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**Tom Coit**  
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**Dan Miller**  
Architecture Review Committee Chair  
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**Barb Valinske**  
Landscape-Maintenance Co-Chair  
Director

[crhoabodlandscape@gmail.com](mailto:crhoabodlandscape@gmail.com)

Board of Directors: <https://www.cougarridgehoa.com/board-of-d>

### 2023-24 Calendar of Events

*Board Meetings are open  
to all members.*

*Please email*

[crhoabod4@gmail.com](mailto:crhoabod4@gmail.com)

*for more information*

*(Dates are subject to change.)*

November 08: Board Meeting  
November 16: Annual CRHA Meeting  
December 13: Board Meeting  
January 10: Board Meeting  
February 14: Board Meeting  
March 13: Board Meeting  
April 10: Board Meeting  
May 04: Cleanup Day  
May 8: Board Meeting  
June 12: Board Meeting  
July 4: Neighborhood Picnic  
July 10: Board Meeting

# WELCOME

### To Our New Neighbors

Lot 33: David Junius & Angela Rae  
Lot 35: Robert & Carol Turcotte  
Lot 61: Steve Cogdill Jr.  
Lot 71: James & Linda Aber

### Some Important Contact Info

#### Website

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

<https://www.cougarridgehoa.com/>

#### Treasurer

Please check with Treasurer Tom Coit if you have questions about the assessment billing, payment schedule, or other information. [crhoabod3@gmail.com](mailto:crhoabod3@gmail.com)

#### Architecture Review Committee & Landscape Maintenance Committee

Specific information about when to contact the Landscape or Architectural Review Committees:

<https://www.cougarridgehoa.com/committee-details>