

Cougar Ridge News

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

Spring/Summer 2022-23

President's Message

Thanks To All Our Volunteers

As I walk through our neighborhood I cannot help but think how fortunate we all are to live in such a wonderful place. Each year we save thousands of dollars by having volunteers step up and do work in our neighborhood. Maintaining our water system and reading meters monthly, maintaining and updating our numerous landscape beds, managing the association finances, mowing, and maintaining the pipeline and storm ponds, changing bulbs in our streetlights, and cleaning the globes annually are just a few of those tasks. At the time of my writing this we are working on filling an open position on the board. We still have need of volunteers to help maintain landscape beds in the neighborhood. Our landscape chairs have been working for over 9 years to keep our neighborhood looking beautiful. They are ready for someone else to step up and take over this responsibility. If you can help with these tasks please contact the appropriate board member.

Thanks to Treasurer Tom Coit

Very important for our Community and for the Cougar Ridge Association to take a moment to recognize our Treasurer **Tom Coit** for all his hard work over the past few months. We had been using QuickBooks accounting software for financial management but the software we were using was no longer being supported. QuickBooks new software is only available via an online subscription and would have cost the association close to \$100 per month. Through **Tom's** efforts we were able to secure a grant for nonprofits from Oracle to use their NetSuite accounting software at no cost to the association. **Tom** has worked tirelessly since February to prepare our accounts for transfer and making sure the transfer goes smoothly. We transitioned to using NetSuite on May 1, 2023.

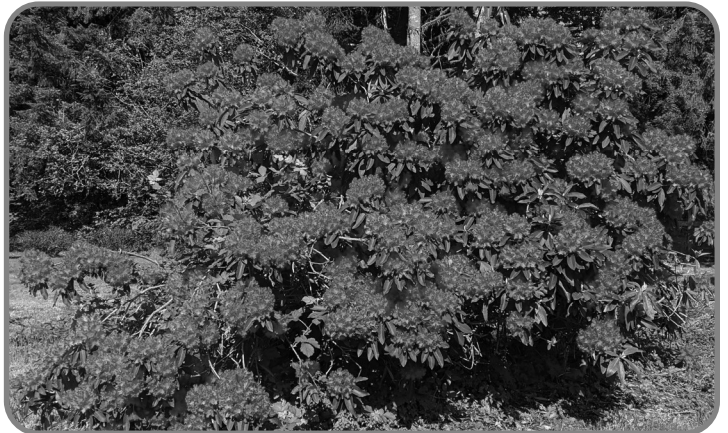
Neighborhood Potluck Coming Up

Our neighborhood potluck will be held on Tuesday, July 4th. I hope to see you there. It is always nice to have a chance to visit with the wonderful people who live around us.

Annual Meeting Changes to November

Here's a reminder that our Annual Meeting will be held on November 16, 2023, this year. We are hoping to make it easier for members to attend by holding the meeting before Thanksgiving and the holiday rush.

Best Regards,
Barry Olson, Board President



Photos taken by Cheryl Matern

Landscape Areas Receive A Lot of Attention This Spring

Cool Spring Weather Brings Out Enthusiastic Volunteers

Please share your appreciation to the following people who came and helped with the neighborhood cleanup on a somewhat damp Saturday, on May 6, 2023, as well as finishing off some projects a few days after.

Judy Lundgren, Lloyd Moody, Deborah & Rick Noble, Julie Corwin, Bruce Campbell, Jon Aal, Cheryl Matern & Barry Olson, Dan Miller, Karen Brown, Barb & Pete Valinske

The Raintree Court Cul-de-Sac gets a thorough cleaning with **Pete Valinske, Tom Coit, and Blayde Fry** clearing the overgrown landscape.

A BIG THANKS to **Tom Coit, Blayde Fry, Jon Aal, Pete Valinske, and Todd Turner** for helping the Landscape Committee complete the last two landscape bed renovations.

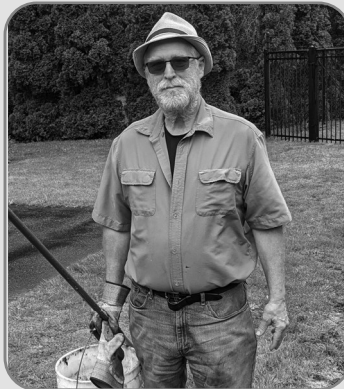


Neighbors Are All Smiles While Weeding

Cheryl Matern and Julie Corwin begin to weed the Pit, one of the newer landscapes in the neighborhood near the Postal Kiosk.



A kneeling pad comes in handy when attempting to remove weeds and other debris in the Common Area gardens. **Jon Aal** looks up at the photographer just long enough to smile before continuing his task of cleaning the overgrown plants in the Common Area.



As a newcomer to the neighborhood, **Dan Miller** comes prepared to do his share of the debris clearing and beautifying of the Common Areas near the Main Entrance of Cougar Ridge. Welcome, **Dan**. We're happy you've chosen Cougar Ridge as your home.



Volunteers Remove Debris With A Variety Of Containers

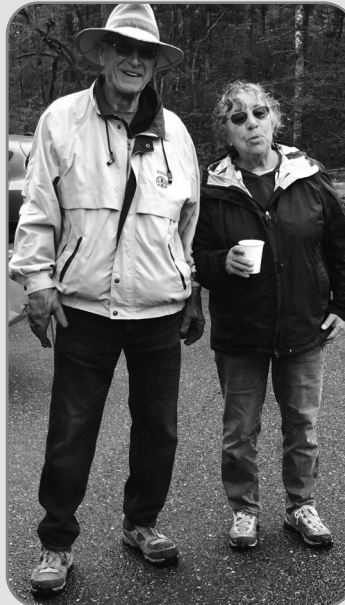
Our neighborhood volunteer crew arrives with a variety of garbage cans to clear away the yard waste. **Deb Noble** brings an empty bucket to fill up while Landscape Committee Co-Chair **Barb Valinske** will make sure all of the debris will be removed one big and full garbage can at a time.



Barry Olsen adjusts a sprinkler head near a yellow azalea. He will continue to make sure all the sprinklers are up and running in the Common Areas.



Bruce Campbell rakes the Main Entrance area to remove twigs, branches, and other debris that has collected since the fall cleanup.



It is a rare occasion when we're able to have both **Chuck and Judy Lundgren** in a picture without a garden tool in their hands. Thanks to both of you for all you do to keep our neighborhood looking colorful and beautiful.



The granite fountain on Capitol Forest Drive is bubbling so well thanks to our resident water expert, **Pete Valinske**. Because of his dedication, the fountain gets a thorough cleaning regularly.

Painted and Pond Turtles Found in Cougar Ridge



Turtles Need Our Help to Survive

How amazing is it to live in a neighborhood where the turtles come to nest! There are painted turtles and western pond turtles in the Cougar Ridge area, and just a short walk down to McLane Creek, we can see the turtles sunning themselves on the logs or swimming in the pond. Each spring and summer, the turtles make their way to the bottom of Capitol Forest Loop and Capitol Creek Drive. The painted turtles are quite common, but the western pond turtles, smaller and rounder, are becoming more and more rare, as they need our help to survive.

Drive Slowly and Carefully

Often, they will cross the road, dig their nests along the side of the road, and lay anywhere from 2 to 20 eggs. Two to three months later, the babies hatch and eventually attempt to make their way back to the pond. Needless to say, this process is filled with danger. The dark shells can be hard to see on the asphalt. So how can we help? Be especially careful to drive slowly and watch for turtles along Capitol Forest Loop and Capitol Creek Lane. In addition, please keep dogs on a leash and from digging in those areas where there are nests.

Please Refrain From Picking Them Up

The female turtles have begun their migration from McLane Pond and Beatty Creek into our neighborhood to dig their nests and lay their eggs. It's tempting to pick them up and look at the undersides, but please don't. They carry with them a reserve of water and urine, which they use to soften the ground when they dig their nests. If you pick them up, they will pee out the urine on you, and that may cause them to have trouble digging their nests.

What a Privilege!

So, take a walk down to the lower part of Capitol Forest Loop this month, and maybe you'll see a turtle or two crossing the road, digging a nest, or just resting.

What a privilege! More information is available at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/species/chrysemyspicta#regs-seasons>

*This article was compiled and written by Cougar Ridge neighbor
Cheryl Matern*

*The photos submitted by James Ashley-Cole, Cheryl Matern,
Barry Olson, and Lloyd Moody*



1. A baby painted turtle held in a hand to show how small they are when they've just hatched.

2. This full-grown turtle has returned to Cougar Ridge to dig a nest in a yard on Capitol Forest Loop.

3. Two baby turtles are crossing the street on Capitol Forest Loop. Will they make it back to the pond?

Come Meet & Greet Friends & Neighbors

We're having a Potluck BBQ

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

4:00 - 7:00 PM

Rocky Mountain Drive Pipeline Entrance

- ★ Please bring something to cook for your family (Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Steak, Chicken, 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 need the following if you have any of these items:
Portable Tables, BBQs, and Children's Games
- ★ 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 2023

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

Cougar Ridge Neighborhood Watering Schedule – Spring/Summer 2023



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 can 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

No Water in the Well? It Has Happened!

On a hot July day in 2015, neighbors were not so pleasantly surprised to find that there was no water. It had been exceptionally hot and dry for weeks and it appeared that everyone had turned on their sprinkler systems daily for several days on end, and had basically run the tank dry. That is when the volunteer system of odd/even watering was implemented and it has worked very well throughout the hot summers that our area continues to have. Exceptions to this rule can be found on the Cougar Ridge website:

www.cougarridgehoa.com/watersystem

Article written by Water System Chair

Pete Valinske

Cougar Ridge Neighbors Please Obey The Rules

- ◆ Always drive carefully and follow the 25 mph speed limit.
- ◆ Watch for children playing on or near the street.
- ◆ Dog walkers and owners: always pick up after your pet when walking in the neighborhood.
- ◆ When you pick up your mail remember to check that the Mail Kiosk security gates are closed.
- ◆ Conceal your garbage bins from street view.
- ◆ Help keep our neighborhood clean and beautiful with regular yard maintenance.
- ◆ To prevent fires in our forested areas, please remove piles of yard debris, especially during the warm and dry summer months.
- ◆ It is important to keep street trees, shrubs, and branches pruned back, to maintain a safe line of sight for school buses, garbage trucks, and any other vehicles that drive through the neighborhood.
- ◆ Remember to pay assessments on time.
- ◆ Please observe the CC&Rs that help maintain our clean, safe, and beautiful neighborhood.
- ◆ Participation on and support for Cougar Ridge Committees, the Board of Directors, and the spring and fall cleanup days are encouraged and much appreciated.

2023 Cougar Ridge Homeowners' Association Board of Directors



Barry Olson
President

Director

crhoabod1@gmail.com



Pete Valinske
Vice President
Water System Chair
Director

crhoabod5@gmail.com



Tom Coit
Treasurer

Director

crhoabod3@gmail.com



Debbie Wigand
Secretary

Director

crhoabod4@gmail.com



Lloyd Moody
Bylaws Committee Chair
Director

crhoabod2@gmail.com



Barb Valinske
Landscape-Maintenance Co-Chair
Director

crhoabodlandscape@gmail.com

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

2023 Calendar of Events

*Board Meetings are open
to all members.*

Please email

crhoabod4@gmail.com

for more information

(Dates are subject to change)

June 14: Board Meeting
July 4: Neighborhood BBQ
July 12: Board Meeting
August 9: Board Meeting
September 13: Board Meeting
September 30: Fall Clean-up Day
October 11: Board Meeting
November 8: Board Meeting
November 16: Annual CRHA Meeting
December 13: Board Meeting

WELCOME

To Our
New Neighbors

Lot 24: David & Amy Winter

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

Architecture Review Committee & Landscape Maintenance Committee

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

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