

Congratulations to the new Surrey Ridge HOA Board of Directors 2019 – 20

President: Linda Long
Vice President: Gene Wenninger
Secretary: Joe Morrato
Treasurer: Amber Saunders
Members-at-large: Kevin Klimek and
Josh Gonzales

To contact members of the board
and/or be included in emails to the
community, visit www.surreyridge.co
and use the contact us link.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Residents are reminded to
please keep trashcans in your
garage or otherwise
protected. There have
been a few recent reports of
trashcans being "foraged."



A big thank you!

Our thanks to **Josh
Gonzales** and everyone
who helped in the Surrey
Ridge Spring Cleanup last

month. Josh has generously agreed
to lead the cleanup effort again next
spring, but he cannot do it alone.

Please ALL NEIGHBORS set a reminder
to join in the fun next spring and
keep our neighborhood beautiful.



HOA Dues Notice...SEE BELOW

- A reminder to send in your **Surrey Ridge HOA dues of \$75.00** for the 2019 – 2020
- year **in the pre-addressed envelope attached**. Dues are used for upkeep of the
- common grounds, park, horse arena, and equestrian trail; and to help fund various
- social activities for our community. Dues are voluntary but are very much appreciated.

Volunteers are needed for the following activities:

Architectural Committee
Surrey Ridge Spring Cleanup

Welcome Committee
Equestrian Trail Maintenance
(horse owners welcome)

Prospective volunteers are encouraged to call any of the new HOA Board to volunteer. Please help keep Surrey Ridge a close and neighborly community!

Phone Directory Update

Thanks to Stephanie Bryant for continuing to manage our neighborhood Directory. Stephanie will be updating the Directory this spring. Please help her in this endeavor by sending new or revised name, address, phone number(s), and email addresses to stephanie-bryant@comcast.net.

Feel free to include your occupation, names and ages of children, their interests in babysitting, lawn mowing, etc., and any other information you care to include to let your neighbors know you better. **This is especially important for new residents of Surrey Ridge, Surrey Ridge Estates and Oak Hills.**

Halloween Hay Ride

Speaking of Stephanie, she and her husband, Bruce, have graciously agreed to organize and implement the **Halloween Hay Ride for 2019**. The Bryants have done this for many years, and it is one of the premier events of every year. Our gratitude goes out to them.

Update on Journey Church Expansion

Journey Church held an open house on June 27 to discuss their upcoming expansion plan and obtain feedback from Surrey Ridge and Oak Hills. They discussed expansion of the facilities by 10,000 square feet, adding additional low-profile lighting, and 47 additional parking spaces. These improvements were already approved by Douglas County prior to the current facility being built.

SRHOA Dues Notice

Please write your check for **\$75.00 annual 2019 – 2020 dues payable to SRHOA** and mail **in the attached envelope** that is addressed to:

Surrey Ridge HOA
558 Castle Pines Parkway, Unit B4-212
Castle Rock, CO 80108



Fire Mitigation

James Wattenburger, who represents Douglas County to enhance public awareness of wildfire risks, recently reached out to our community. James (and others in the past) have warned us that it is not a matter of IF, but WHEN a wildfire will threaten Surrey Ridge. All of our properties and animals are at risk. In addition, since there are no hydrants in our neighborhood, we must rely on pumper trucks to fight our fires – a huge disadvantage and limitation.

There are many actions a homeowner can take to reduce these risks. The most important is to create a defensible space around your home. Jim stated that he would be happy to speak at a meeting of those interested in fire risk mitigation strategies.

Officer Wattenburger recommended Surrey Ridge clear our open spaces with goats. The company “Goats Green” has been servicing the open spaces of Castle Pines and Castle Pines North. They did a great job for Castle Pines and finished early. Donny from “Goats Green” had an unexpected small window of time that has allowed Surrey Ridge to hire and graze the 350 goats for a couple of days providing fire mitigation in our open spaces. The goats have been here since Sunday, July 14. This opportunity cut out the costs for transport, and we have the money in our budget to take advantage of this opening.

The 350 goats began dining in the open area near Stirrup Lane. They were tasked to clear approximately 100 yards on each side of the creek, in Surrey Ridge Open Space Area B. The goats eat the toxic weeds and even the thistle. Their teeth grind the seeds so they will not reproduce and they have a special enzyme in their stomachs that destroy the weed seeds. This is a strong start to clear the overgrowth in our open areas.

For your information, here is the link from the city of Castle Pines describing goats for Wildfire Preparedness: <https://www.castlepinesgov.com/were-baaack>.



Light Pollution

We love our little neighborhood un-encumbered by street lights and stoplights and isn't it wonderful to be able to see the stars at night? Unfortunately, we're seeing less and less of them since the Ridgeway garage opened and several new parking lots flipped on their lights in Lone Tree. Recently we were all dismayed to see the appearance of the high-intensity strobe lights atop the newly erected transmission towers. Xcel Energy claims they are adhering to the FAA requirements, but one could argue that the light intensity seems excessive. The fact remains that the strobe lights are just another form of light pollution known as a form of "Light Trespass" – loosely defined as unwanted light shining on your property (and in your face).

The more we learn about light pollution, the more concerned we should be. American Medical Association indicates, "Many species (including humans) need darkness to survive and thrive." Exposure to artificial light at night (ALAN) disrupts biological clocks in many creatures, from mammals to insects, and disrupting that clock raises our risks for cancers, metabolic diseases, and it disrupts our local ecosystems. The National Parks Service Night Sky Division states, "A naturally dark night sky is more than a scenic canvas; it is part of a complex ecosystem that supports both natural and cultural resources."

So what do we do about it? How does one actually fight light pollution? Stewardship of our land should begin at home and expand with advocacy.

1. Learn. Take time to explore the Night Sky information on the National Park Service website <http://www.nps.gov> – navigate to their Night Skies Division. Another excellent resource is the International Dark-Sky Association's website <http://www.Darksky.org>. It has a wealth of information as well as educational materials.

2. Make small changes at home. Light only where you need it, when you need it. Use timers or motion detectors. When you buy new bulbs, lean towards warmer colors. If you're upgrading outdoor light fixtures, choose shielded/downward facing lamps. Existing lamps can be retrofitted/shielded to prevent upward light spillage

3. Preach it. Now that you're informed and you're walking the walk, you can definitely talk the talk! Educate and encourage your friends and family. We can also insist that our local governmental organizations adopt ordinances that reduce or eliminate light pollution.

Happy Stargazing!

<https://www.darksky.org>

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/night skies/index.htm>