



Saddle Bags

2007 Board of Directors

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lopes, copying, and postage. Sending newsletters via email allows us to communicate more often and do it for less money.

If you have an email address but received this by mail, please send it to us at president@saddleridge.com so we can start communicating with you via email. Thanks.

Tom Bender, Secretary

SaddleRidge Entrance Landscaping

Ron Steel (2007 SaddleRidge Vice President) has been leading the effort over the past 3 or 4 months to move the Entrance landscaping forward. In late December the Board selected Bob Fitzsimmons of Bob's Organic Gardens in New Braunfels to produce a landscape plan for the south and west entrances to SaddleRidge.

In mid-January Mr. Fitzsimmons delivered an initial draft plan for review. Since then, due to weather problems and various commitments, we've been unable to assemble the landscape committee to review that plan. We have finally been able to establish 3 separate

dates for landscape committee members to come together to review and make recommendations based on the draft plan submitted.

Once the landscape committee has reviewed the draft, Mr. Fitzsimmons will make any modifications we've identified and resubmit the plans. At that point bids will be accepted to do the hardscape, lighting, and planting work.

Depending on timing of bids and availability, work could begin this spring, though discussions are ongoing about whether or not to phase the work over a longer period as well as when work might begin.

A presentation of the plans

and schedule is planned for the Spring BBQ and Cleanup on April 28th at the SaddleRidge Clubhouse.

Landscape Committee members include Cecil and Lee Gibson, Joe and Lynn Williams, Ron Steel, Jim Beall, Judy Garrett, Vivian McDonald, Jerry Moss, Corwin Vansant, Tom Bender, and Jim and MaryLou Melton.

If you're interested in volunteering to participate in any portion of the landscaping effort, please contact Ron Steel at vicepresident@saddleridge.com, or (512) 392-0542.

Ron Steel, Vice President

Newsletter Sent by Email

This newsletter has been delivered to many of the SaddleRidge property owners by email for the first time. We currently have email addresses for around 100 property owners, with about 80 property owners not providing email addresses.

If you received this newsletter through email, thank you for helping control SaddleRidge mailing costs. If you received this newsletter through the mail, then we don't have a valid email for you and had to mail it to you.

Each time we mail dues statements or newsletters to all the property owners, it costs SaddleRidge over \$100 in enve-

Saddleridge BBQ and Cleanup Day Scheduled

The annual Spring SaddleRidge BBQ and Cleanup Day has been scheduled for April 28th from 10:00am to 1:30pm at the SaddleRidge Clubhouse.

All interested property owners should plan to gather at the clubhouse at 10:00am for trashbags and assignments. We will plan to spend the next hour picking up trash along the SaddleRidge roads, then return to the clubhouse about 11:15am. We'll have a short meeting where we'll hear about the SaddleRidge

Entrance landscaping and answer any questions anyone might have about any SaddleRidge related topics.

Around noon we'll have a catered BBQ lunch with desserts provided by the SaddleRidge Neighborhood Watch Block Captains.

Everything's provided, and all SaddleRidge property owners are invited. Please plan to attend. See you there!

Tom Bender, Secretary

Volunteers were busy in November and early December at the South entrance to SaddleRidge. Decorations were appropriated (purchased or scrounged) and the decorating was accomplished by energetic elves, who shall not remain nameless or thankless. Those joining in the fun were Joan and Geoff Goetz, Cheryl Suckling, Christine Guajardo, Pat Bender, and Judy Garrett. Thank you all for the Christmas entrance decorations.

Volunteers In Action!!!!

Saddleridge Survey Results

In December you received a survey with your dues statement. Many of you took the opportunity to share with the Board your interests and concerns. We received 46 separate surveys representing 58 lots. The information received will be very helpful moving forward.

About 80% strongly agreed that they liked owning property in Saddleridge. The majority have read and understand the covenants, know who the board members are, and know how to contact a board member if they need assistance.

The majority of respondents, however, don't visit the website regularly, so we have an opportunity to work on improvements here.

We received some interesting suggestions for additional activities and improvements which we'll add to the Board's Agenda in the coming months for further discussion.

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It was very clear from the responses and comments that many of you are very busy with work and family. Also, we have a lot of property owners who don't live nearby and can't yet get involved in Saddleridge activities. As a result, the "pool" of available volunteers is fairly small.

There were a number of you, however, who did volunteer to get involved, and you won't be forgotten. Over the next few months we'll be in contact.

Finally, it was clear that very few people are interested in paying higher dues, even though they may not have time to volunteer. We'll do our best to manage costs as we move forward.

Thanks again to those of you who took a few minutes to respond to the survey!

Joe Williams, President

Annual Assessment Status

On December 1st, 2006 the dues statements for the 2007 assessments on each lot were mailed out to all property owners. Dues remain at \$96.00 per year per lot, and have not been raised since Saddleridge was developed in 1997.

The response in December was overwhelming, and we received nearly 50% of the dues for 2007 before the end of December. By the end of January, we had received 84% of the dues payments. That means, though, that 16% of the dues remain unpaid. Reminder letters have been sent in February to those who have not yet paid.

Many of these were simply forgotten I'm sure, and will be received soon. If you're one of the property owners who hasn't paid and just forgot, thanks for going ahead and paying when you get your reminder letter.

For those few of you who may be more "reluctant" to pay your dues, please remember that we all benefit from a beautiful and well maintained neighborhood (even if you don't yet live here). Your dues help the board make Saddleridge a great place to own property. Also, dues are not optional, but are provided for by the restrictive covenants. We all agreed to follow the covenants when we bought our property, and that includes paying the dues. The additional effort required to collect dues each year from those few who don't pay increases the costs for everyone else, and there's definitely better ways to spend our money.

Thanks again for paying your dues on time.

Lynn Williams, Treasurer

Know when the next Board meeting is? Need to know who the Board members are? Who's on the committees? What's in the deed restrictions / covenants or bylaws? It's all on our website:

www.saddleridge.com



Firewise

As our population has grown over the decades, our growth has flowed into traditionally natural areas. The serene beautiful settings are attracting more residents every year. This trend has created a complex landscape that has come to be known as the wildland/urban interface: a set of conditions in which a wildland fire reaches beyond trees and other natural fuels to ignite homes and their surroundings.

Many people move to these picturesque landscapes with urban expectations. They may not recognize wildfire hazards or might assume that the fire department will be able to save their homes if a wildfire ignites.

Firewise reminds us that this might not be the case unless we each do our part to prepare our home and property. We must take proactive steps to reduce our home's vulnerability in case of wildfire. Wildfires are much less likely to ignite a home if it has been prepared with simple landscaping and construction methods.

Fire history is not a reliable indicator of fire hazard. Lack of recent wildfires may lead to a buildup of dry vegetation and could therefore become a contributor.

Our Firewise guidelines point out how homes ignite. They will educate owners on how to assess hazards and

how to approach landscaping and placement of firewood and propane tanks.

Firewise Communities is designed to encourage local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, firefighters and others to build and maintain homes compatible to the environment. You will be hearing more on this as we continue to utilize elements of Firewise.

Wildland fires are a natural process. Making your home compatible with nature can save your home and your entire community during a wildfire.

Saddleridge has been a Firewise Community for the past several years. Cecil Gibson and Judy Garrett have worked with Jan Fulkerson of the Texas Forest Service to make this happen, and Jan continues to work with Saddleridge property owners through Firewise site reviews. Work that each of us do regularly to keep brush cleared and reduce the fire danger helps Saddleridge qualify each year as a Firewise Community.

For more information about Firewise, check out the Saddleridge homepage at www.saddleridge.com, or the Firewise USA website at www.firewise.org.

Tom Bender, Secretary