

Q3 Ponderosa News



The Newsletter of the Ponderosa Hills Civic Association

3rd Quarter 2014

FIRE DRILL



Ponderosa Hills first-ever fire drill is September 27th at 9am. You do not have to be a member of the Civic Association to participate. We want as many of the Ponderosa Hills residents as possible to participate. See page 6 for more details.

How? — Contact board@ponderosahills.com to get your phone number added to the list (1 number per residence). These phones will be called to alert you that the drill is underway. This list of houses will also be visited by the South Metro Fire Department to assure that everyone is out. Contacting the Board is the ONLY way to get on the list!! Sign-up by Sept 13.

What—Make your evacuation plans for yourself and your animals. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RE-ENTER THE AREA UNTIL THE DRILL IS DONE.**

Where— The evacuation site 9650 Jordan Road, South East Christian Church. Show up at the gathering site to check in. This way the Fire Department knows when they have completed the evacuation.



Ponderosa Hills September 27 Fire Drill Evacuation Gathering Site, 9-10am

Ponderosa Hills Annual Meeting

It is that time of year again to meet with your neighbors and determine our course for the year ahead.

Board Members—the board has 5 open slots. Whether you have lived in Ponderosa Hills for awhile or are new to the area we would love for you to step up and take your turn at serving on the Board.

Meeting Date — Thursday, September 25th at the Parker Senior Citizen building on 10675 Longs Way.

Meeting starts at 7:00 and will end when we have ten board members. Just joking but I sure hope we do get some new volunteers. See you there.

Accomplishments this past year have been pretty impressive for a 6 member board.

- Successful mailbox decorating contest
- Public meetings with Xcel, County Roads, South Metro Fire, CBST Investment
- Reinvestment of the Water CD to increase the performance of this fund
- Meeting in the park and open space to increase awareness of the area
- Fire mitigation campaign to decrease the fire risk in our neighborhood
- Introduced NextDoor as a community communication tool
- Continued monthly e-blasts to disseminate important and useful information
- Quarterly Newsletters full of information and helpful contacts
- Fourth and final round of water adjudication to get 18 more properties into the Ponderosa Hills well field
- Annual Pancake Breakfast with a tremendous turnout and participation by South Metro Fire and the Douglas County Sheriff's Department
- Annual Dumpster Day for trash, slash, metal recycling and charity donations

All this accomplished for \$30 a year voluntary dues and with only 6 Board members.

Come to the annual meeting and let us know how you think we are doing and what issues need to be on the agenda for the coming year.

Consider joining the Board—we need you in order to stay active and productive for our community.

Cathy Lichty



Community Information

Pancake Breakfast

We had a great time at the breakfast and a great turnout. We had more than 80 folks attend including several of the South Metro Fire Department, a deputy from the Douglas County Sheriff's office and lots of Ponderosa Hills residents. Some good information was provided about the upcoming fire drill, about safety in Ponderosa Hills, and about speeding.

The blueberry pancakes were a hit and luckily we also had some donated pastries. We had some wonderful volunteers helping to make this year a success including trail riding and games.

Next year we will plan for 100 and hope you can make it.

Dumpster Day

We really moved the trash on Dumpster Day! We completely filled 4 large dumpsters, generated two truck loads of mulch from slash, filled a trailer with metal recycling items, and made the Salvation Army folks very happy with a washing machine and other donated items.

We started promptly at 9 and wrapped up just after 11 thanks to all the great helpers we had to lend a hand with the off-loading.

We know this activity creates traffic problems by the park at Piney Creek but we hope you can appreciate how much good and goodwill this generates for the neighborhood. If you are one of the folks who came late and we had to turn away, we are sorry we could not accommodate you but give us a try again next year and come early.

Crime in the community

Ponderosa Hills is a pretty safe community. We try to look out for each other and keep our eyes open. In July we had two weeks with mailbox vandalism. Residents reported this and the County Sheriff's patrols have increased.

Speeding is a continuing problem but residents let their concerns be known. I am speeding less so that must mean the problem has decreased.

Pine Sawflies

Pine Sawflies at epidemic levels this year, reported by the Colorado Springs Gazette. Pines, particularly ponderosa pine and pinyon, play host to this thick-waisted wasp. Pine sawflies have a 1-year life cycle. They over winter as eggs inserted into pine needles or as full-grown larvae within cocoons in the soil. Young sawfly larvae are found in either spring-summer or summer-fall, feeding on older foliage.



Figure 1. Adult sawfly female (*Neodiprion* spp.) laying an egg in a ponderosa pine needle. Photo: Michael R. Wagner, Northern Arizona University.

Infested trees have sparse foliage and thin crowns. The pines may have a tufted appearance created by current needles growing on the tips of branches stripped of older foliage. Pine sawflies typically attach to open-grown trees or areas where the pine density is lower. Prolonged draught is frequently accompanied by pine sawfly outbreaks. Repeated defoliation can result in top-kill.

Typically, predators, parasites, viral disease, and foliage depletion reduce pine sawfly outbreaks within 2-3 years. Registered insecticides can be used effectively when larvae are present in large numbers across an area.

This information has been extracted from the USDA government website. Please go to www.fs.usda.gov/internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5347774.pdf for more information.

Sign up to participate in the Fire Drill Sept 27th.

Email to Board@ponderoshills.com by Sept 13th.

Provide Name, address, phone number (1 only)

Treasurer's Report August 2014



Checking Account Total		\$ 5421.00
Savings Account		\$ 486.66

Board Updates

Norm Scheffel has retired from the board after many, many years of service to this community. We thank Norm for his valuable service and wish him all the best.

Committee Reports

Ponderosa Park Project

The County Parks department has rejected all of our ideas for development of the park. They have also declined to respond to our requests for ideas from them on what is possible, even with the offer of physical and monetary support from the residents. If you have any ideas or contacts that could help in this effort we would welcome you contacting Board@ponderosahills.com

Ponderosa Open Space Project

Maps of the Open Space are available, just ask. Contact Secretary@ponderosahills.com

County Gov Interface

Though Norm Scheffel has resigned his board seat, he is still acting as our liaison to the county. He is looking into the Park issue to see if he can find a more receptive ear.

Roads, Paving

The development has begun on the north end for the new access road between Inspiration and Gartrell via the new Inspiration Lane. When this road is completed the next phase is to close the current access route to Gartrell across from Woodland Trail. The new access road will be near Antelope Trail.

Water

The fourth and final round of water adjudication is underway. Of the 42 homes that had not yet adjudicated, 18 are having their water rights adjudicated into the Ponderosa Hills well field. That leaves on 24 properties that have not adjudicated their water rights. Those folks will be on their own if they decide later.

Join the Board
It's Your Turn.
We Need You and Its FUN.

More Fire Drill Information and Tips

Ponderosa Hills is in a moderate to high risk fire area. The fire drill scheduled for September 27 will give the residents, South Metro Fire District, and the Douglas County Sheriff and Emergency Management teams the opportunity to practice to respond appropriately should a real emergency arise. This drill will greatly increase the chances of saving lives and property.

Evacuation Tips

- Have a list of the important documents you want to take and note their location.
- Know alternate escape routes from the area in case one or more are closed off.
- Register your phone with Code Red for the real thing, not the drill.

Douglascountycodered.com

- Have evacuation plans for animals.
- When evacuating—observe the law.
- Lock your home to prevent looting.
- Store videos, pictures and serial numbers of property off-site for insurance

At the Drill Evacuation Site

The fire drill evacuation site is the South East Christian Church at 9650 Jordan Rd.

At the site please sign-in to let us know you have successfully evacuated. The Red Cross may have a presence at the site.

Following the evacuation drill, please remain at the site for a “HOT WASH” talk to evaluate the exercise. Your involvement and input in this exercise is very important and can save lives; it may be yours, your neighbors, or the emergency response team members.

When you return to your home you should see colored tape visible somewhere on the property. This has alerted the emergency team to the evacuation status of your home. You can remove this tape. PLEASE PARTICIPATE, ITS IMPORTANT!



Ponderosa Hills Services Directory

This directory of services is provided as a service to PHCA members and does not constitute an endorsement by the PHCA Board of Directors. Send your ad requesting or providing a service to editor@ponderosahills.com. If you no longer need the service, please let us know. The editor retains the right to edit or reject any ad. Special thanks to Nan Galligan for assisting the board in keeping this section of the newsletter up to date.






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