

December 2020



RECOA President's Letter

Dear Eagle Crest Owner,

I am honored to have been elected to the RECOA Board and selected as President. We've been owners at Eagle Crest since 2006, first in the Desert Sky neighborhood and then in Vista Rim. What started as a secondary home for weekend getaways, eventually became a full-time retirement home. We've never regretted that decision.

Years ago, I was playing golf on a nearby course when I met a man who lived at Eagle Crest. He told me of living in other communities in the area and rated Eagle Crest as the best. When I asked why, he gave a one-word answer – "community." He commented that "most places are just neighborhoods with homes, but Eagle Crest is a *community*."

I love the word "community" as it could describe friendships that develop over the years, with your neighbors, or with fellow participants in the many activities the resort and region have to offer. For those who don't live here full-time, community is a place to come when you need to get away or celebrate.

My goal is to lead the Board you've elected in a way that gives you confidence by doing a great job keeping you informed about what's going on and managing your assets.

To that end, I know and look Forward to hearing the wide range of opinions you have and using that communication to make good decisions.

You are always welcome to reach out to me with any comments or questions:
MontyRECOA@gmail.com

Thanks for your support,
Monty Knittel



The RECOA Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Ridge at Eagle Crest Owners' Association.

All submissions for publication come through your RECOA Communications Committee

Featured Articles

- *Incoming President's Letter* – Page 1
- *MOC Committee Update 2020* – Page 2
- *Oregon Water Utilities Winter Update* – Page 3
- *Social Committee Update* – Page 3
- *Feeding Deer Can Kill Them* – Page 4

MOC 2020 Overview by Mike Keller, Chair, RECOA Maintenance and Oversight Committee

Managed Neighborhoods have been quite the challenge this year, from COVID issues to Owner Services staffing and the first year of a NEW scope of work with our vendor, Land Effects. Progress has been made, although some maintenance items, such as painting, bark and deck replacement, were delayed. Consistent performance and responsiveness to owner complaints by Land Effects remains a significant problem to be addressed by Owner Services and your MOC committee. One improvement, starting next year, will be increased staffing of Owner Services to provide communication and follow up with the vendors in a timely manner. Committee members have increased their oversight of the vendors providing the services under contract and provided feedback to Eagle Crest Management and the RECOA Board. As we move forward in 2021, we hope a renewed collaborative effort will result in improvements in our vendors' performance to the satisfaction of all our owners.



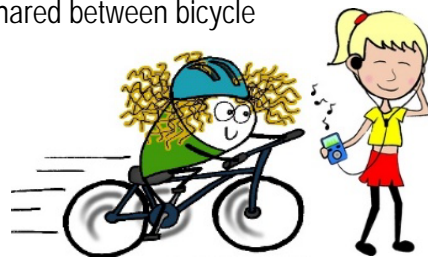
The Speed Radar unit you see on the roadways provides a reminder to drivers to drive 20 mph. The results of the current 2020 speed radar studies are posted on the RECOA web site. These studies were done on multiple roadways throughout the Resort. Most of us are driving between 20 and 25 mph. Thank you for your contribution to a safer neighborhood! Please continue to drive at the posted speed and please have your guests do the same. ***LIFE is GOOD at 20 MPH!***



Comprehensive Landscape Plans are on the agenda for 2021. Over the past several years, significant wind and hailstorms, as well as the Community Wildfire Protection (CWP) *Fire-Wise* program, have removed a number of trees and plants in managed neighborhoods. Many of our 20 to 30-year-old neighborhoods have not received replacement trees or plants as vegetation has died and been removed. Beginning in 2021, comprehensive landscape plans for all managed neighborhoods will be developed and coordinated with the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). Implementation is expected to take several years using the annual neighborhood budgets to fund the new landscaping.



Be Safe and "Share the Path" Many of the paths in RECOA are shared between bicycle riders and walkers. This can potentially create a safety concern for the bike rider *and* for the person walking. **Please share the path.** Bicycle riders, please call out "On Your Left" when coming up to a person walking on the path. And those who walk our beautiful paths, please keep your "ears on." Headphones and ear buds may prevent you from hearing a bicyclist coming up from behind.

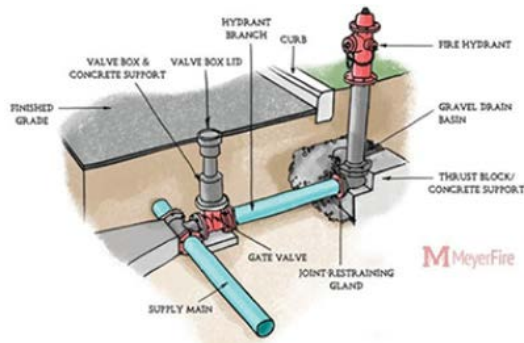


An Invitation to Join! Please consider joining the Maintenance and Oversight Committee (MOC). Your knowledge is needed. Be a part of a group that is ***forward thinking and solution driven!*** Meetings are engaging, fun, and include active discussions. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00am. If you are interested, please contact us at moc@ridgeowners.org.

Fire Hydrant Maintenance

OWU owns, maintains, and annually tests the fire hydrants connected to the water system in your community.

Fire flow availability is a function of the system pressure, sources of supply, and a hydrant's elevation. It is not necessary or required to test hydrant flow rates annually. Flowing hydrants wastes water which wastes energy and adds to the cost of service for customers. Further, due to the lack of curb and gutters, run off water will impact landscaping.



Back Up Power Generators

OWU has made significant investments to improve reliability and resiliency by installing three (3) diesel backup power generators, fuel storage and transportation equipment, and upgraded electrical panels to ensure the water system is available in the event of an extended power outage like those anticipated in a Cascadia earthquake.

**3 Diesel Backup
Power Generators**

Volunteering In the Community



This summer more than 1 million acres were burned in Oregon. Prior to these fires starting, our OWU Cline Butte team assisted the Ridge at Eagle Crest Homeowners Association to clear brush in your community to reduce fire fuel loads.

Winter 2020 Update by Nick Mausen,
Chair, RECOA Social Committee

Restrictions and uncertainty continue to persist, preventing the RECOA Social Committee to meet, much less speculate about any social activities. With direction of the Executive Group and concurrence of the entire Committee, a survey was conducted with results available on the RECOA website. Trends in activity attendance are also being examined. The Committee continues to be active and communicating, although not in its usual activity mode. Residents can expect that some adjusted activities will follow when safe and prudent.



Feeding deer can kill them, says ODFW Sources: ODFW, Central Oregon Daily



Deer dying from acidosis, the result of a rapid change in diet, a shift from a browse and forage-based natural diet to consumption of fermentable carbohydrates such as corn, birdseed, bread, and other non-native

Throughout Central Oregon, wildlife is abundant, whether out in the country or in our many cities, neighborhoods, and managed communities like Eagle Crest. While mule deer in particular commonly roam our streets and forage in common areas, leaving food out is leading to the spread of disease

and death among deer populations. In fact, in the last few months, more than a half-dozen dead deer have been found on Eagle Crest homeowners' property, leading to rising concerns about this growing trend. While it may at first thought be a good deed to leave food out for deer, according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Biologist Jon Muir, that action by some uninformed residents is what is ultimately kills them.

Mule deer digestive systems are built specifically to feed primarily on woody browse, a difficult brand of forage to digest that requires a specific collection of microbes to break down in the gut. When mule deer eat other things such as alfalfa, seed, or leftover foods left outside that have levels of high fructose corn syrup and other chemicals, it can kill that specific set of microbes key to a deer's diet, making the animal no longer capable of absorbing the food they eat. As a result, their bodies, incapable of gaining sustenance, die of starvation regardless of if their bellies are full or not.

"By feeding them, people are actually starving them," said Muir. "This tends to lead to a weak population that is more susceptible to disease."

Providing ample food for deer in residential areas habituates deer populations to no longer fear humans, pets or typical city noises. This can lead to deer becoming a threat to people, particularly in the spring if does feel as though their fawns are being threatened, or in the fall when bucks turn aggressive. Feeding deer also attracts natural predators such as cougars and coyotes to areas of human activity in search of a sickly, easy meal, a circumstance that is highly dangerous to humans and their pets.

For more information, visit ODFW's web page at www.dfw.state.or.us or contact your local ODFW field office or ODFW Headquarters at 800-720-ODFW (6339).