

The Mountaineer

Walnut Mountain Property Owners' Association

Volume 162

April 1, 2020

WMPOA
Quarterly Meeting
11:00 a.m. Saturday
April 18, 2020
at the Clubhouse

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 1 - Men's Coffee - 8:30 am
Apr. 8 - Men's Coffee - 8:30 am
Apr. 14 - Book Club - 7:00 pm
Apr. 15 - Men's Coffee - 8:30am
Apr. 16 - Garden Club - 7:00 pm
Apr. 18 - Board Mtg. - 9:30 am
Apr. 18 - POA Meeting - 11:00 am
Apr. 22 - Men's Coffee - 8:30 am
Apr. 24 - Music Jam - 7:00 Pm
Apr. 29 - Men's Coffee - 8:30 am
May 6 Men's Coffee - 8:30 Am
May 12 - Book Club - 7:00 Pm
Mar 13- Men's Coffee- 8:30 am
May 14 - Garden Club - 7:00 pm
May 16 - Board Mtg. - 9:30 am
May 20 - Men's Coffee - 8:30 am
May 27 - Men's Coffee - 8:30 am
May 29 - Music Jan - 7:00 pm
May 30 - Pool Opening
June 3 - Men's Coffee - 8:30 am
June 7 - Book Club - 7:00 pm
June 8 - Men's Coffee - 8:30 am
June 9 - Garden Club - 7:00 pm
June 20 - Board Mtg. - 9:30 am
June 24 - Men's Coffee - 8:30 am
June 26 - Music Jam - 7:00 pm

*All events are at the clubhouse unless otherwise noted. Check the calendar on our Website for changes:

<http://www.walnutmtnga.com>



President's Report

Winter has come and almost gone (I hope) on Walnut Mountain. We had one snow that lasted for about 24+/- hours and caused very few problems. We have been (and continue to be) subjected to rain. As an

example, the Whitepath Golf Course (my second home) received over 18 inches of rain in the month of February. A record, I'm sure. The temperature has been tolerable. In fact, we have not experienced any major problems with freezing pipes, or problems with the roads.

Hopefully, the issues we, as a country, are having with the Coronavirus will be solved in a reasonable amount of time and will have little impact on Gilmer County. I am writing this on March 15, so it is too early to know. The President declared a National Emergency to deal with the virus, and we are already experiencing school, church and social activity closings in the County. Our Board is now in the process of deciding whether or not to postpone the March Board Meeting. We will keep you, the Members, advised of any activities we need to cancel or postpone through our Email Blast System and our "robo-call" system. The Board declared February "Employee Appreciation Month" and many of you stopped by the office/shop building to thank our employees and to take them "goodies". As I have expressed before, we currently have an excellent staff that works hard for the Mountain.

About a month ago I put out an email blast soliciting your feedback on allowing the Gilmer County Swim Team to use our pool for practice early on weekday mornings. The county pool is being demolished and replaced and the swim team needs some help. Last year the pool was closed for repairs and they lost about half of their team as they were unable or unwilling to travel down to Jasper each morning. I received many responses and questions from our members and will respond to the questions in an email blast sometime this week. The Board will decide on whether or not to allow the Team to use the pool at our next meeting, which will be on the 18th of April. I hope to see you there.

Max Holstein, President


BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Eight stalwart homeowners braved the rain and the speeding cars to clean up Turniptown Road on March 14th. Walnut Mountain has adopted Turniptown Road under the auspices of the Keep Gilmer Beautiful campaign. We even have a sign at each end of the road to announce this. The Gilmer County Road Department furnished us with long tongs, bright vests, 2 big signs announcing cleanup in progress and very bright orange trash bags to help us in our endeavor. Our fearless leader, Joe Strickland, gathered up all the trash bags at the end



of the morning in his truck. We are hoping to get back out there to finish Turniptown, but it just won't stop raining. Thank you to the wonderful eight homeowners; wish more were interested.

Shyla Brenan, Chairman

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NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

I have seen many new people attend the property owner and board meetings this past year. Last July property owners came to the clubhouse to vote in record numbers. I would like to reach out to everyone reading this to take a minute and think about what you can do for Walnut Mountain. This past year the board has done a phenomenal job in bringing stability to the mountain while making some excellent decisions along the way.

Now it's your turn to take the step from property owner to property owner/board member and make some of the difficult decisions. Step up and run for one of the board positions that will be voted upon in July. We have 3 openings and 3 candidates so far, but there is always room for more. I have spoken to many of you and I know you are on the fence. Let's roll!

Tim McLaughlin, Chairman

	
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FIRE REMINDERS FOR WALNUT MOUNTAIN

No open burning is permitted anywhere on Walnut Mountain.

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS MUST BE MET FOR AN APPROVED FIRE:

- The daily fire condition status as indicated on the sign across from the WM Welcome Station must be moderate or low.
- The fire must be attended at all times.
- The fire must be at least 15 feet from all structures.
- There must be an immediately available means and the appropriate ability to completely extinguish the fire.

FIRES ON OWNER OCCUPIED LOTS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE FOLLOWING CONTAINERS:

- Chimeneas with an ember inhibiting screen in place.
- Outdoor fireplaces with an ember inhibiting screen in place.
- Approved outdoor liquid propane (LP) gas burning devices designed for the sole purpose of producing a flame and/or heat.
- Fire pits which are always located on a flame proof surface and have an ember inhibiting screen in place.

All outdoor fire pit areas are subject to ACC approval.

Approved fire fuel for owner occupied lots:

- Natural wood.
- Manufactured compressed wood logs.
- LP gas

APPROVED OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FIRES FOR ALL RENTAL PROPERTY LOTS:

The following conditions must be met for an approved fire:

- The daily Fire Condition status as indicated on the sign across from the WM Welcome Station must be moderate or low.
- The fire must be attended at all times.
- The fire must be at least 15 feet from all structures.

- There must be an immediately available means and the appropriate ability to completely extinguish the fire.

FIRES ON ALL RENTAL PROPERTY LOTS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE FOLLOWING CONTAINERS:

- Approved outdoor liquid propane (LP) gas burning devices designed for the sole purpose of producing a flame and/or heat. All outdoor fire pit areas are subject to ACC approval.

Approved fire fuel for rental property lots:
LP gas ONLY.

Outdoor cooking on a grill designed for the sole purpose of cooking food does not constitute an outdoor recreational fire and is permitted on all lots in WM.

VIOLATIONS: Violation of any of the above rules as specified in Section VIII, E. of this document will result in the following fees:

- First offense: \$150.00
- Second offense: \$300.00
- Third offense: \$500.00 with outside fire privileges permanently revoked for the current property owner.


Mary Scott, Chairman, ACC

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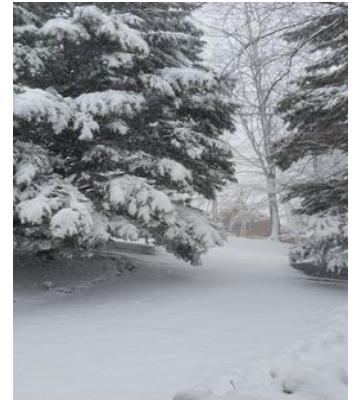
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The GARDEN CLUB had a contest for the best lighting decorations for the holiday. The winners are Ray and Cindy Horton whose yard and home were glowing with sparkling lights thrown out by a fabulous machine. The lights shining through the trees looked like large blue fireflies, a gorgeous display, but no amateur cameraman could catch the display properly.



FLOODING AND SNOWING happened in the same week. One day it was in the 50's and rained so heavily that the streets downtown were swamped, and Turniptown Creek was out of her banks. And loud? She was roaring!! The next day we had 4 inches of snow! That lasted all of one day. Then back into the 50's again. It has been a very strange winter. Here are a few of the pics from those days



NEW YEARS EVE



Was celebrated by a group of fun homeowners, dressed in various holiday attire, who shared stories from the year and brought yummy things to eat. We had decorations and music. One homeowner showed up ready to dance but left when she realized this was not a dancing crowd. But we had a good time.



A Snowy Turniptown Creek

RECYCLE CENTRAL ON WALNUT MOUNTAIN

Our property manager and maintenance guys are just the best. We started recycling glass last summer and the area chosen was by the dumpsters. Who knew the homeowners and renters of Walnut Mountain loved their wine so much!! It suddenly overran the dumpster area, so Connie designed, and Rick built the great recycle box you see here. Thanks so much.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

As I sit here under the cloud of the coronavirus, it is difficult to know what to say. I know that the decisions we made during the January Garden Club Meeting are insignificant now. I can only say that the members came together and tried to meet wishes of old, new, and possible future residents of our wonderful community. It is our hope that through dinners, speakers, and events for the whole community we can be a lasting and vibrant part of Walnut Mountain life. As in the past we plan to decorate and serve the community. We have lined up fascinating speakers and events that we will announce when we have a clear idea as to when they can take place. As always, everyone on the mountain will be encouraged to join us.

In February we had a great Valentine Potluck hosted by Georgette Lawrence and in March we enjoyed a presentation by Rhonda Yabrow. We look forward to many more special events when we can meet again. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy the beauty of Walnut Mountain and that you stay healthy.

Suzanne McGee, President



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TREASURER'S REPORT

We filed our taxes early this year. Our finances are in great shape. In fact, if the current trend continues, I will recommend that the board decrease our assessments for 2021.

We remain Committed to fiscal responsibility.

Frank Randall, MBA, ED.S, LPC

WELCOME NEW OWNERS

Carl Rustic & Elisha Reasor	1765 Walnut Ridge
Bill & Sidonia Murrock	392 Skyview Drive
Scott Johnson	593 Goldmine Drive
Valerie Lutjens	Lot L54
Clint & Catherine Shaw	131 Valley View Rd.
James Vallance	1338 Mtn Oak Rd.
Twila DeBerry	Lot J246 & J247
Marcia & Robynn Graves	145 Laurel Glen Drive
Regina Mae Jones	276 Pine Ridge Rd.
Luke & Kristin Jackson	119 Sleepy Ct.
Randy & Cheryl Baitcher	Lot F309
Sam & Michelle Teasley	1575 Walnut Ridge
Matt & Melinda Stevens	286 South Lake Drive
Robert & Mary Taylor	133 Pine Ridge Road



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MOUNTAIN MUSINGS

For many years, Don Johnson, the first president of the WMPOA, wrote the *Mountain Musings* column for the quarterly Walnut Mountain newsletter. The article below is a compilation of the 1985 and 1991 columns which may be helpful to those property owners who have expressed interest in our history.

My wife and I first saw an ad in the Atlanta Journal in Nov. 1970, telling of a "PRE-DEVELOPMENT SALE for mountain home sites", located just 2 hours from Atlanta. When we finally visited Walnut Mountain in 1971, the only building was the sales office. It was located at the entrance on Turniptown Road, with the water-wheel alongside. Free hot dogs, along with cider and soft drinks were served to everyone. Plenty of salespersons were there to tell visitors all about this new second

home community. Only the A & B Sections were open, and the Lake McClure dam was just barely completed. Water was slowly filling the dammed valley. There was supposed to be a swimming pool at the far end of the Lake McClure dam, but that later was changed (for the better) to its present location by the clubhouse. The only passable roads in 1971 were the main roads in Gate 1. There was little else to see except the beautiful mountains, trees, and the gurgling creeks.

The sales campaign soon was intensified. A Welcome Center, across from the water wheel, was constructed within a year. In 1972, Michael Reagan (son of Ronald Reagan and wife Jane Wyman) was brought in as Public Relations Director. Dinners and various gimmicks were used to promote sales, apparently with success. The swimming pool and clubhouse were completed, and they became the center for social activities. Roads were being carved out of mountain sides and a few houses were being constructed. The first to be built and occupied was the small house, A-39, on the right side of the road leading up Laurel Ridge. Soon after, the house now owned by Roger Haas, A-10 was built, then B-85 and the house by McClure dam, B-68.

The first annual meeting of the Walnut Mountain Property Owners' Association was held in 1973 at the Hume home where a dozen families adopted the Constitution and By-Laws under which we were to operate as an Association. Soon after, our newsletter was initiated (Nov. 1973) to keep active members cognizant of pertinent developments.

C&S Bank, the institution that financed the development of Walnut Mountain, in 1977, after a mostly amicable and orderly chain of events, transferred the major assets of Walnut Mountain to the property owners. Green belt, buildings, roads, water system, pool, etc., were turned over to the WMPOA as a gift to all of us, worth well over \$1 million. C&S, however, in order to sell all its remaining parcels of land, continued to fund the day-to-day operations of Walnut Mountain, including security, road maintenance and property management. At a public auction on Nov. 18, 1978, C&S sold all the remaining assets, equipment plus 125 lots and land tracts, thereby

divesting itself from ownership of Walnut Mountain. We then were completely responsible for our own destiny. This included the financing and administering of our own private community of single family homes, fully owned and operated by the property owners themselves. Several things - straws in the wind, perhaps - give me the feeling that Walnut Mountain now is entering a new phase of its maturation. It has been in the national spotlight (e.g. President Carter's second home on Turniptown Creek and Walter Mondale's news conference at our clubhouse). Major developments are taking place nearby, such as the continuation of work on the Appalachian Highway, which should be completed before long. This means that we then will be only a tad more than 3 miles from this 4-lane, divided highway that will connect us directly to the entire US Interstate Highway system. White Path Country Club and Golf Course opens this July. A large new shopping center is being considered for the Appalachian Highway by-pass around Ellijay. The magnificent Tate Mansion in nearby Tate has been refurbished and is operating as a fine restaurant/conference center. These and other projects already underway or planned, greatly enhance the desirability of our Walnut Mountain as a wholesome place to live. Walnut Mountain, for better or for worse, has been discovered.

(Don moved off the mountain many years ago and has since passed away. I believe his last article was published in July 2001.)

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(PROPERTY OWNERS: PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR ADVERTISERS AS THEY HELP PAY FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE MOUNTAINEER.)

MEET OUR WALNUT MOUNTAIN STAFF



Connie McVey,
Property Manager



Brandy Davenport
Administrative Assistant



Jim Waddell
Welcome Station Host



Ken Johnson
Welcome Station Host



Micah McElroy, Maintenance



Rick Beavers, Maintenance



Alex Powell, Maintenance



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