

# THE RIDGE RAMBLER



Please use extreme caution and permitting is required for burning brush.

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## The Newsletter for the Rambling Ridge Community

September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Page 1 of 5

**Hello, Neighbors!**

It sure feels like fall here in RR! The crisp air and a little bit of color starting to show on the foliage reminds us why this season is such a favorite in WNC. From pumpkin patches and apple cider to football games and cozy evenings, there's so much to enjoy together this time of year. Here's to a bright and beautiful autumn in our community!

**Speaking of fall....**

## Fall Homeowner's Meeting



Our Fall Community Meeting will be Saturday, **October 4th, 2025** at 1 Pm. Everyone is invited!

**Our potluck lunch will precede the meeting from Noon-1 pm. Bring a dish and join us!**

Big Willow Community Building  
6930 Willow Rd.

If you have feedback, questions or concerns ahead of the meeting please email us [RAMBLINGRIDGEHOA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RAMBLINGRIDGEHOA@GMAIL.COM)

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## Notes from the President

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An email was sent to all residents and lot owners with a survey to get feedback on possible updates to our covenants. If you missed it, here is the letter and link to the survey. Everyone is welcome to complete the survey!

Dear Neighbors,

For several years the Board of the Rambling Ridge HOA has deliberated combining the five separate covenants into one, making it easier for lot owners to know what covenants apply to their lot. (Covenants apply to every home/lot owner, not just members of the HOA) The combined covenants would not deviate significantly from the ones currently in place; however, certain areas could be tightened for the benefit of everyone. For example, lot maintenance requirements and loud noise prohibition could be strengthened. **The combined covenants would not affect each lot owners' lot size, shape, ingress/egress, setbacks, or square footage requirements.** Each change would have to be approved. All of the current amendments for each Division would remain, so existing amendments for each Division will be unchanged and in force. At our last spring community meeting, we discussed options for combining and/or updating our covenants. It was decided to send every lot owner a survey to gather feedback and interest. The HOA does not want to move forward without determining what a majority of the lot owners desire to do. Please read the attached letter in full and complete the 12 question survey linked in the letter.

- Roy Smithers, RRHOA President

To read the expanded letter with reasons for change, [click HERE](#)

To complete the survey, [click HERE](#)



*Just a reminder*

**Our fiscal year begins Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> ! You can pay online, bring a check to the Oct 4th meeting on or send a check to our treasurer.**

**You can find all the info [HERE](#)**

### Why Your Support Matters

While dues are voluntary, they make a big difference! Contributions cover mowing, planting, repairs, and even the electric bill for our entrance lights. The HOA also maintains the website, publishes newsletters, coordinates with utilities, organizes social events, supports Care Bears, promotes Firewise safety — and so much more!

Members who contribute just **\$60 a year** also receive a **FREE chipper day**, a benefit worth more than the dues themselves.

Help support the efforts that keep our neighborhood welcoming, safe, and beautiful for everyone!

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Fall colors are one of the best parts of the season in WNC! It's the question of the season – when will the leaves be at their peak color? Each year we chat about whether we had too much rain, not enough rain, too warm, too cold...so many factors lead up to a great fall foliage season. The higher elevations begin early, changing in Sept/Oct, in areas like Mount Mitchell and Grandfather Mountain and the higher areas of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

There is a nice Fall Color Forecast Map [HERE](#)

**Blue Ridge Mountain Life**  
**2025 FALL COLOR GUIDE**  
SEE OUR FULL FORECAST: [HTTPS://BLUERIDGEMOUNTAINLIFE.COM](https://blueridgemountainlife.com)

OCT 1 - OCT 9	OCT 9 - OCT 16	OCT 16 - OCT 23	OCT 23 - OCT 31
<b>5000' +</b>	<b>4000 - 5000'</b>	<b>3000 - 4000'</b>	<b>2000 - 3000'</b>
TOP SPOTS: GRAVEYARD FIELDS GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN BEECH MOUNTAIN CLINGMANS DOME MOUNT MITCHELL	TOP SPOTS: BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK	TOP SPOTS: SKYLINE DRIVE PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST BOONE/BANNER ELK MAGGIE VALLEY/WAYNESVILLE	TOP SPOTS: ASHEVILLE/BURNSVILLE NC CHEROKEE/BRYSON CITY CHIMNEY ROCK/LAKE LURE NORTH GEORGIA GATLINBURG/PIGEON FORGE TN HENDERSONVILLE NC SALUDA NC

Whether you're heading to the mountains for a day trip or just heading to Ingles, there's always a good chance to catch some color!

## SQUIRREL SPLOOTING?



“Splooting” is an animal behavior where they cool off (or warm up in cool weather) on a flat surface, on their belly, stretching out the back legs. Many have seen dogs and cats do this, but squirrels? Turns out splooting is a major cause of the death of squirrels. As they stretch out on the middle of the road, drivers may think they are deceased and meet their demise. So the next time you see a squirrel splooting on the road, take care! *Hmmm....do turtles sploot too? Is that why they always seem to be on the road?*

**A gray Fox has been spotted recently on trail cams here in RR/RH.**



*Fun Facts:* Unlike the red fox, they can climb trees to catch prey or nap.

They are omnivores and like to hunt at dawn and dusk. They are opportunistic and will forage in trash. Beware of letting small pets outside without supervision, especially cats because they can chase up a tree quickly. Enjoy nature but from a distance!

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## Ecusta Trail Grand Opening: A Fresh Way to Walk, Run & Ride

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Article by Chris Frey



Ecusta Trail is now open!

Phase 1 of the Ecusta Trail was officially opened this past July. At just over six miles, it runs from the Hendersonville Visitor's Center to Packa's Place in Horseshoe.

[\(https://www.ecustatrail.org/trail-map/\)](https://www.ecustatrail.org/trail-map/).

In time, the remaining 12 miles will be completed and end in Brevard. Kenny Perry and I had walked portions of the trail before this date, but on it's official opening day we walked its length. The trail is 12 feet wide, asphalt and is easy to bike, walk or roller blade. Because it is built over the path of a defunct train line, it is pretty flat.

Starting from Packa's Place (parking next door) the path follows Shaw's Creek for several miles.

Hikers will enjoy the burbling sounds from the creek along with bucolic views of farms, fields, rolling hills and rural country.



The Ecusta Trail was spearheaded by Conserving Carolina (<https://conservingcarolina.org/>) who also, as part of the Saluda Grade Trail coalition, just completed the purchase of the Saluda Grade Trail. While it will be some years before the 31.5-mile trail (from Inman, SC to Zirconia, NC) is developed and completed, the long-term vision is to connect to the Ecusta Trail.



About half way there is Elijah Mountain Gem Mine and Goat Farm which also houses Base Camp – Guidon Brewing Outpost 1, a great place to enjoy a cold Kolsch or other well crafted beers, local ciders and ginger beers.

Around the 5-mile mark, one passes Southern Streams coffeehouse where fresh coffee, tea, baked goods, sandwiches and salads are readily available. As you approach town, there is the wonderfully repurposed Trailside Brewery, Ecusta Market & Café, as well as Venture Ecusta, where you can rent pedal and electric bikes.



Be mindful of traffic and obey traffic rules at the various intersections, as this is new and drivers may not be as observant/aware as we hope. And if riding a bike, please call out your approach (On your left!) as you prepare to pass.

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*Jan & Joe Vasquez*

## Neighbor Spotlight: Meet Joe & Jan!

***How long have you lived here in RR and where did you come from originally?***

We have known our neighbor, Susan Baum, for 24 years since Susan and her twins came to our daughter's birthday party when the three kids were in preschool! In 2023, Joe and I stopped for a night at Susan & Steve's home here in RR while driving to Wisconsin for the summer. We fell in love with the area and, so, when a house was built next door to them in the summer of 2024, we bought it! We completed additions in the late spring this year and are very happy that we will spend half the year here from now on!

***What do you like to do in your free time?***

We both share a love for travel, reading, and trying new cuisines—hobbies we now have more time to enjoy in retirement!

Joe is an avid cyclist and whiskey enthusiast, while I am a devoted nature lover who can never get enough of the outdoors. Together, we're excited to explore all the unique experiences that the Carolinas have to offer in this new chapter of our lives.

***What did you want to be when you grew up and did it turn out that way?***

**Joe:** I was always interested in technology and wanted to do something with computers. I followed through with that desire for my entire career and retired from the Advent Health system where I directed health information management for the system physicians, home health and hospice nationally.

**Jan:** I wanted to be a travel writer until I fell in love with Africa and made educational choices to work with USAID in Kenya. That did not work out as planned due to budget cuts in the program for internships and placement. I did have a wonderful healthcare career developing and managing ambulatory surgical centers and retired from the Orlando Health system.

***Since you both love to travel, do you have a favorite or memorable travel experience?***

We traveled to Tanzania last year with our daughter, son and our son's girlfriend for a 12-day safari. The up-close animal encounters were fantastic, the tented camps were remarkable, our Masai guide was amazing, and our son proposed to his now wife at the Ngorongoro crater!

***Have you found a favorite restaurant in our area?***

We both enjoy West First, Mezzaluna, many of the Mexican restaurants. We also like Curate and the Jerusalem Garden Café in Asheville.

***What do you love most about RR?***

We have to say that everything we heard about the neighborhood and the wonderful people who live here is so very true and is what makes it so special! Add the quiet, beautiful trees and views and, of course, the wildlife...we feel very fortunate to be here!