

PVHA Website posts 2020

Native Plant Restoration

Work is underway at the north end of the field to restore the vegetation on the slope that was nearly denuded by the gophers this summer. Instead of simply reseeding with grass, the area is being prepped and will be seeded with a mix of seeds native to Willamette Valley prairies. This includes some grasses and lots (and lots!) of different species of wildflowers. The intent is to attract more butterflies and other pollinators back to our little valley (known as "Pleasant Valley"). The area is signed and circled with "Caution" tape to keep kids and pets out while the herbicide dries. It will be safe again by Sunday (Oct 18) but please try to stay off the area so the new seeds are not disturbed. They will overwinter and sprout in early spring, with different flowers blooming at different times throughout the spring and summer. Please enjoy and thank you for your help restoring a piece of our corner of the world.

(posted 10/16/2020)

We are FIREWISE!

Congratulations! We received 20 Firewise completion forms this year (up from 7 for last year) for a total of 654.5 hours worked. This does not include the two days that Riley spent mowing the field or time spent by some doing weed-whacking along roads. This is a truly awesome effort by the Village to be more Fire-Wise. Our certification form has been submitted; we have met all requirements and will be a Certified Firewise Community for 2021. Thanks to all of you for efforts on behalf of the entire Village!

A reminder to clean your fireplace/firestove/pellet stove flu if you haven't already! Cool weather is just around the corner, so make sure you are safe from flu fire surprises!

The awful wildfires in the western Cascade foothills in September are a strong reminder to all of us who live in the forest that we must remain vigilant and careful! Thinning trees on your property, keeping the forest floor clear, and following recommendations for tree limbing and removal of flammable material from next to your house will reduce fire risk. Be mindful of open fires, cigarettes, and anything that might cause a spark. Be sure to call the fire hotline at the Philomath Fire Department (541-360-0030) before doing any backyard burning.

Stay Safe and Be Well!

(posted 10/7/2020)

Extreme Heat Warning Sept 7-9, 2020

Oregon Dept of Forestry has issued an Extreme Heat Warning beginning Monday (Sept. 7) afternoon and extending into Wednesday (Sept. 9) morning. The Relative Humidity (RH) will be below 30% and there will be strong east winds. Coming at the end of our summer dry season, this will mean that the forest is very (very!!) dry and easily ignited. PLEASE HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES. During an Extreme Heat Event such as this, no power tools or machinery (or BBQs) are allowed to be used in forested areas. We are all in this together, so please do your part to help out.

You can read the entire warning and Weather Service predictions by clicking on the link [here](#).

(posted 9/6/2020)

August 2020 Newsletter

The summer newsletter from PVHA is now available. Go to the Documents page and click on the link!

Planned Gopher Control Activities

Friday afternoon (7/24), Good Earth Pest Control will be conducting gopher control activities at the north end of the common area field. Most of the work will occur on the sloped area north of the playground (adjacent to Lot 57) but will extend to a couple of spots along the walking path. Good Earth will arrive between 1PM - 3PM and will be active for a couple of hours.

The method of pest control employed is safe for people and pets. Good Earth uses a gasoline powered machine called a GopherX to inject carbon monoxide directly into the gopher burrows. Click [here](#) for a weblink to see a description and a short video.

For those who walk the path, you need not alter your routine. Just give the pest control technician space and proceed with your normal activities. If you have any questions, call Robert (Lot 57) at 425 295-4130 or just stop by.

PS - If needed, a second round of treatment will occur on Friday, July 31st. Time frame TBD.

(posted 7/16/2020)

Outbreak of Gophers

Did you know that gophers can carry the plague?! The plague bacterium (*Yersinia pestis*) is passed from host-to-host by flea bites. The fleas on the gophers can bite your dog...or you! Dogs don't get sick with the plague, but their fleas can jump onto you and make you sick. Gophers also can carry rabies and hantavirus, but you have to catch the gopher and get bit by it to get these diseases.

Why is this important? Gophers live in the community field and have been seen digging their burrows around the north end. This year is a banner year for gophers, and their populations are exploding though out the Valley. The gophers are working their way up the sides of the field into people's yards. Because they eat plant roots, they are a real pest in vegetable and flower gardens. Professional pest control folks from Good Earth have assessed the situation and are helping with control measures. PLEASE pay attention to signs and stay away from areas when the gopher control is in process. NO poisons will be used, so you, your dogs, and your kids will be safe if you pay attention. Thanks!

(posted 7/16/2020)

Report Your Firewise USA Projects

To remain certified as a Firewise USA community, we are required to certify that we have done fire mitigation work each year. This includes brush removal/thinning, tree limbing, cleaning gutters, cleaning the flue for your fireplace or wood/pellet stove, mowing the grass around your house, and other similar projects. To help you keep track of what you are doing this year, there are forms available at the whiteboard by the mailboxes, or click [here](#) to download a pdf. Please return the form to the PVHA mailbox no latter than October 1. We need to certify that we have (collectively) spent the equivalent of 1 hour of work per household (that's about 55 hours total for the Village). Please reach out an help you neighbor as well. We all benefit from a Firewise community!

(posted 5/11/2020)

Accident Information Wanted

From Anna Vesper, PVHA President:

Does anyone have information regarding the accident that occurred Tuesday 4/14 evening on Barlow Road right before the junction with McLoughlin?? It appears a vehicle left the roadway towards the creek and was then towed out at some point. I just found out about the accident/road damage and am shocked there's been no news or communication about it to anyone on the board. I would really appreciate talking with the driver directly to make sure they are safe and understand

what actually occurred. We also would like to discuss the damage to the road which will likely cost around \$1000 to repair.

Please ALWAYS prioritize safe and cautious driving around the neighborhood and never hesitate to email or call me directly should safety issues like this arise in the future. (admin@pvha.us)
(posted 4/21/20)

A Reminder...

From Anna Vesper, PVHA President:

Hello everyone! I hope that everyone's household is staying healthy and sane during these times. I realize that as we get a spell of good weather many of us are looking to tackle yard or home projects in efforts to keep our sanity. Before you do so please send in an ACC application if your project involves adding or altering the exterior of any structures, cutting down trees, putting up a fence, or any other significant improvements to your lot. We want to keep communication as a priority around our neighborhood and minimize the potential for any drama. If you do have any questions please don't hesitate to email or call me as I am happy to help and want to make sure if you have a project in mind we get information back to you as timely as possible.

Stay well!

(posted 4/5/20)

Spring chipping event

Our annual spring chipping event will take place the first week of May. YOU MUST HAVE ALL YOUR BRUSH STACKED ON THE PILE BY MAY 3rd.

The brush pile is at the school bus turnaround. Please keep the brush off to the edge so cars can continue to use the turnaround. And stack all the brush in the same direction as this helps the chippers pull it off the pile a lot faster.

OK to put in the pile

Branches and other unwanted woody vegetation UP TO 6 inches in diameter

NOT allowed in the pile

- poison oak
- blackberries
- scotch broom
- lumber
- nails, wire, or any metal

(posted 03/23/2020)

A Special Time of Need in Our Community

Dear PVHA Neighbor:

The board of PVHA acknowledges that we are now in a situation that calls for our community to come together to support each other in a time of need. We would like to do our best to facilitate those connections and that strength that we have as a community.

As our country is responding to the threat of COVID-19 virus, the PVHA board is coordinating offers and requests for help to and from your Pioneer Village neighbors. This effort is totally voluntary. I volunteer to receive your offers of help that you would be prepared to give to a

neighbor in Pioneer Village, if you are able. Examples of what your neighbor may need include running errands, grocery shopping, getting mail, yard work or just checking-in from time to time. If you wish to offer this or something like this, please let me know by sending me an email or responding to this post. Be as specific as you would like.

Just as important, and again voluntary, is if you need some help. Please let me know if you need some help via email and we will do our best to connect you with a neighbor who is ready to help.

This effort should not prevent or override other neighborly exchanges in response to this situation or other support being offered through private, non profit or government channels. During any of these exchanges, we strongly encourage you to use safety precautions such as maintaining distance (i.e. drop off food or groceries at the doorstep) and washing hands frequently and thoroughly.

Please be safe and do all you can to follow the guidelines and restrictions being announced by official public health organizations.

Feel free to share this message with those in our neighborhood that may not have received it. I will also be sending this out via email to everyone listed in the PVHA Directory.

John Deuel

johnspedaling1@gmail.com

(posted 03/23/2020)

February 2020 Newsletter

The early-spring newsletter was distributed on March 1. If you lost yours or just prefer to read it on the computer, you can find it by clicking [here](#).

(posted 03/02/2020)

Emergency Preparedness Presentation

After getting all of your feedback from our fliers, we have set up an information meeting with Mike Bamberger, Emergency Manager for OSU to help us be prepared as a community for when natural disasters and emergencies affect our community. We have room for only 40 of us, and we got a fairly good response from our surveys, so please be on time to get a seat.

The meeting will be March 7th at 10am at the Westwood Community Church.

Mike Bamberger, Emergency Manager for Oregon State University, has a great way of helping others to learn about ways to prepare for things we have difficulty imagining, yet know we need to do. We are also inviting a leader from the Philomath Fire Department to join us. We will have time for questions and to discuss our next steps to get more prepared as a neighborhood working together. Plan on 90 minutes.

Let me know if you have any questions.

John Deuel, Vice President

Pioneer Village Homeowners Association

johnspedaling1@gmail.com

(posted 03/02/2020)

OSU Emergency Manager to Present to Pioneer Village Neighbors

Thanks to those that completed our survey about emergency preparedness. We learned that many of us have an interest in learning how to be more prepared for an emergency. Specific topics that

received the most interest:

- how to respond in an emergency
- how to share more information within our neighborhood to respond effectively.

Other topics that received a good amount of interest:

- Firewise
- how to prepare our homes for emergencies

A significant number of you also asked for more information about using the emergency roadway exit.

The PVHA Board is now planning a presentation with Mike Bamburger, OSU's Emergency Manager. He is a recognized leader in this field. I have listened to him present and he does a great job with good information presented in an interesting way.

He is available during the first three weekends in March. We are tentatively planning to have this 1 hour meeting at the Westwood Church on Saturday, March 7, 14 or 21st. Two questions:

1. Are any of these dates preferred for you?
2. What time of day would work better? 10am or 4pm?

Please let me know by this coming Monday, 2/23. Thank you!

John Deuel, Pioneer Village Homeowners Association
Vice President

(posted 2/20/20)

Tree Day 2020!!

Saturday (2/15) morning at 10AM down at the bus stop, Anna will be holding a tree planting introduction and passing out HOA provided seedlings to any neighbors interested in planting the next generation of trees around the community. Since not everyone is available that day please email her before Saturday if you would like for her to reserve some seedlings for you and you are unable to attend Saturday morning.

The seedlings are coast redwoods which are extremely hardy and beautiful trees that are naturally resistant to insects and fungal diseases, and are able to grow up underneath the existing tree canopy. Attached are two links to documents from the OSU Extension Service on planting seedlings and general forest health issues if you are looking to get a head start, but Anna will plan on going over the key information in more detail Saturday morning. Please contact her at admin@pvha.us should you have any specific questions and we hope to see you Saturday!

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/ec1504.pdf>

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em8980.pdf>

(posted 2/14/20)