

Community  
Yard Sales  
Scheduled  
for June 5-6  
and August  
2-3

## THE SMOKE SIGNAL

**Reminder:** For any visual changes to your home, fill out and send in an ACC request form. Revised ACC Guidelines are at [Smokyridge.org](http://Smokyridge.org)

### IT'S BACK!

The Smoke Signal has not been published since 2008

Over a decade ago, our HOA used a regular newsletter to communicate with the community. As the years wore on our budget couldn't keep up with the bills. In such times board of directors had to slash expenditures wherever it could to keep our communities' budget as tight as possible. The newsletter was deemed non-essential and was one of the many things terminated. Last summer the community members turned in a vote that overwhelmingly approved an increased budget to rejuvenate our abilities and services. The process was eye-opening in the way that the board realized how little everyone knew what is ongoing in the HOA and how important it is for us to increase our efforts of outreach.

If you have been with Smoky Ridge for many years, you may remember *The Smoke Signal*. In an attempt to return

a sense of community, the board adapted a budget in October to afford the return of the quarterly newsletter in hopes of reaching more households with news and household connectivity. Currently the board uses both [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) and a private facebook page to remind homeowners of current affairs and for the community to reach out with questions and comments. If you have a Facebook account, please join "Smoky Ridge Neighbors" or log in occasionally to nextdoor to see information in real time.

We are looking for ideas to include with our newsletter at this time. If you have any, please attend a meeting or send a letter or email to CPMG ([Mark@withcpmg.com](mailto:Mark@withcpmg.com)) so we can learn best how to tailor this tool to serve the community best.

### NEED TO ADVERTISE?

#### Free ad space to minors and for neighborly connections

This newsletter will only reach the 516 homes we serve. If you have a minor with a dog walking, snow shoveling, babysitting or other business venture, we welcome their advertisements for free. If you are a licensed business owner that wishes to advertise, please contact CPMG to inquire about the cost of available ad space. The board is hoping for community members with an advertising budget to advertise with us while it defers the costs of the materials and postage. We will also allow free ads for community members that are looking for a jogging partner, a chess buddy or have an open seat at their game night.

Similar postings are typically seen on nextdoor but not everyone is online or feels comfortable with who can see an online posting. This newsletter will be published on our Smoky Ridge website and will only be mailed only to the houses in our HOA.

Our community can only be as strong as the people that are invested in it. The more we connect with each other the safer and friendly we can be. No MLS listing can express the value of a strong sense of community so please join us in this endeavor.

## Spring Lawn Care (April-May) by Lynn Conroy

It's not too early to be thinking about growing a lawn that will make your neighbors green with envy.

### Aerate

Now is the time to aerate your lawn. Aeration improves root growth by breaking up compacted clay soil and allowing air and water to get deep down to the root zone. It also makes it easier for fertilizer and seed to penetrate the turf. Aeration holes should be 2-3 inches deep and 2 inches apart. Moist soil makes it easier to get good plugs, so ideally, you want to aerate after a rain or snowstorm. Contrary to popular belief, leaving the plugs on the lawn do not cause thatch. Instead, they break down the recycle nutrients and microorganisms back into the soil.

### Fertilize

Spring fertilization is an important step to having a healthy lawn. Look for a fertilizer with a lot of nitrogen (higher first number, i.e., 14-2-5) and contain Iron. Fertilizers made in Colorado are specifically formulated for our soils. Always follow the recommended application rate on the bag.

### Water

Finally, after all danger of freeze passes, turn on your sprinkler system and look for leaks and broken heads. Inspect the spray patterns as they may have shifted over the winter. Set your timer clock according to ECCV watering schedule. Lawns need a lot less water in the spring than summer.

### Seed

The cooler spring temperatures make this an ideal time to start a new lawn from seed. Improve the soil by rototilling compost into the existing soil. Purchase high quality seed, one that grows well in Colorado. Spread seed at the recommended rate and cover with top dressing. Water in well, just until the soil is moist. The soil must stay damp for up to 3 weeks. Thin lawns and bare spots and may be over seeded at this time as well.

### **The Board of Directors**

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