

# Newsletter



photo credit D Galvin

**Many thanks to Artie, Sam, Kaye, and Moe for their participation in our most recent road cleanup!**

## **From the Trail's Committee:**

*It's the season where the Trails Committee spends much of their time keeping the community trails passable and safe. With all the spring rain we received it feels like a losing battle at times! Thanks to others in the neighborhood who carry pruning tools on their daily walks and trim back unruly weeds and vines.*

*Additionally, in the last month we completed the Applebaum Trail (which was mentioned in the last newsletter) and also interviewed 6 landscape contractors for new or updated bids. This next month we plan to work on the overgrown landscaping in the park area and general trail maintenance.*

## USEFUL LINKS:

- [Update your open neighbor directory information.](#)
- View the opt-in [neighbor directory](#).
- [S.O. webpage](#) to view board minutes, etc.

**Dear Neighbors:**

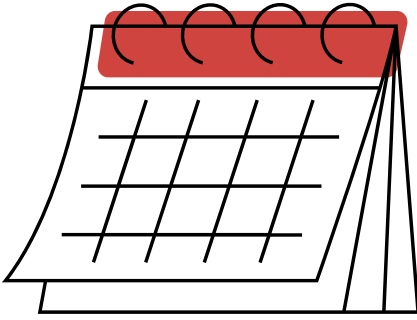
***Happy Summer!***

**This newsletter highlights the gardens in our beautiful neighborhood. We are so fortunate to have a thriving scene of flora and fauna surrounding us.**

**Sometimes in the big picture we don't notice the invasive plants that can threaten our native environment. Thanks to the trails and landscape committee for this public service announcement about invasive plants in our neighborhood to watch out for! Follow [THIS LINK](#) to learn more!**

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## HOT TOPICS from the Board..



### **Save the Date!**

SO HOA Annual Meeting **September 19th, 2024**  
Riceville Fire Department 2251 Riceville Rd, Asheville.

Registration will begin at 5:30 pm, meeting to begin at 6:00 pm and end by 8:00 pm. Additional details to follow.

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### **Sovereign Oaks Pets**

This is a kindly reminder about keeping your dogs under your control at all times and to clean up after your dogs when they are out.

First, dogs not on leash and not under your supervision can run into the street and in front of vehicles. They can also run up to adults and children out for a walk, and up to other dogs, which can be uncomfortable and even intimidating.

Also, a number of neighbors have noticed "deposits" left by dogs (not bears), on common areas and in their yards. Please pick up your dogs' deposits and remember that dogs not under your supervision will do their business anywhere. Be sure to circle back to pick up any poop bags you set down while on your walk.

If you know of a dog that's not under that owner's control, please say something. Often, a polite conversation with a neighbor regarding such matters can be a helpful path to take. Thank you for keeping your dogs safe and for being respectful of your neighbors!

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### **New Address for our HOA:**

Sovereign Oaks HOA  
1 Wandering Oaks Way  
Asheville, NC 28805

### **Your Neighborhood Communication and Safety:**

**Thank you to those who alerted the neighborhood (via Discord and contacting residents individually) about the solicitor who was going door-to-door in early June. We have a "no solicitation sign" posted at the front entrance. That said, the best defense is communication, so if you see something that doesn't seem quite right, let your neighbors know. As well, neighbors can call the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department (non-emergency): 828.250.6670.**



# Bear Safety Reminders

**It's bear season!  
Keep yourselves and  
your neighbors safe  
and remember  
the following tips:**



- **Do not approach bears (this includes cubs) for any reason. Keep your distance. By nature, black bears are not aggressive, but when they feel threatened or scared, they will defend themselves and their cubs.**
- **If you have a bear encounter outside, make loud noises/shout, raise/wave your arms, clap your hands, etc. to scare the bear away. Again, keep your distance!**
- **If you see a bear but it hasn't seen you, slowly back away. Avoid surprising the bear and don't run. (Bears can sprint up to 35 mph.)**
- **If you're out walking your dog, bears are yet another reason to keep your dog on a leash. A dog encounter with a bear rarely ends well.**
- **Keep the doors to your vehicles and your house locked at all times, even when you're at home.**
- **Clean up food and waste from eating outside, even if on your home's deck. Don't leave anything that could attract an opportunistic bear.**

**Please share this information with family and friends who are visiting the area.**

**For more information, see: <https://bearwise.org/all-about-black-bears/>**

# Social Committee Updates



## “Firepit” Fridays!

*After a couple of misses on weather-related hurdles, we are looking to July 19 for the next gathering. Maybe too hot for a fire, but we are open to ideas for any refreshment-centered get together for this month! Email [amandagalvin1@gmail.com](mailto:amandagalvin1@gmail.com) if you would like to host for this month's event. No firepit necessary in July!*

*We will email location separately and post in Discord once details are firmed up.*

*Remember, we try to keep these light so you don't have to RSVP! You don't have to bring anything other than yourself!*

*Kids are welcome. Bring a campy chair if you wish. Walk, run or drive and drop in any time between **5:30-7:30pm**.*

*NOTE: As usual at this time of year, the weather forecast looks inconsistent and could bring thunderstorms. We will make a call and cancel after lunch on Friday IF there is a strong likelihood of rain.*

*Announcement will be made on Discord and via email by 2:00pm if cancelled.*



## What's on the calendar?

**Monthly Firepit Fridays!** Email [amandagalvin1@gmail.com](mailto:amandagalvin1@gmail.com) to claim a date! These dates are still available for hosts: July 19, August 23, September 27, November 15.

**Fiction Book Club** - Next meeting is at 7:00pm on July 24 to discuss McBride's *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* at the home of Steve and Julie Brown, 6 Hawberry Ct.

**Food Truck** Bear's BBQ, September 14

**August 10 - Bamboo Cookout and our 1st Cornhole Tournament**

**October- Chili Cook Off (19th) Trick or Treat! (31st)**

**November 16- Soup Exchange**

**December 14- Cookie Exchange**

# Neighborly News



from Evie Edwards

You may have seen or heard about a lemonade stand at the front gate on a recent Friday afternoon. Learn more about the All Kids Bike program

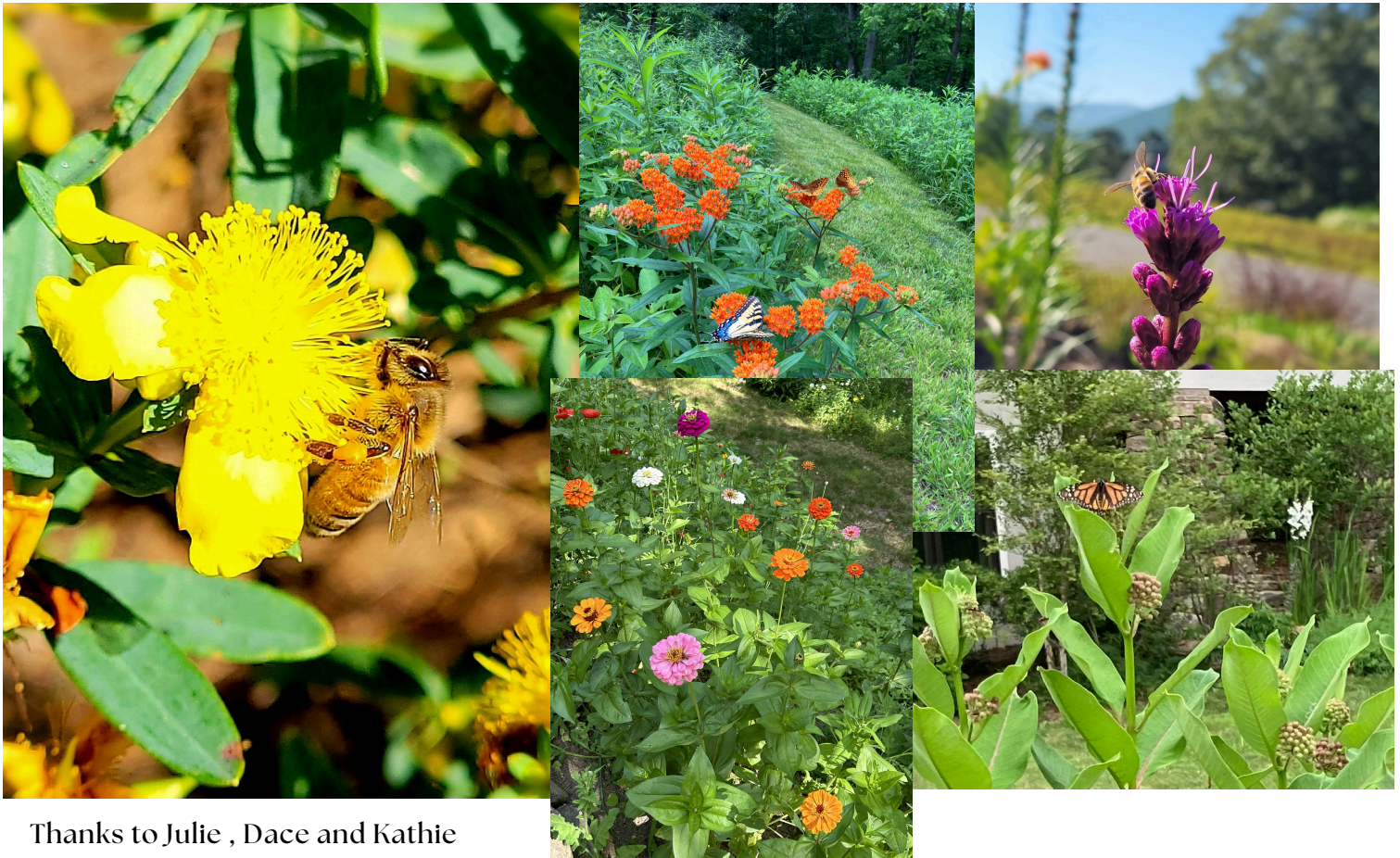
[HERE!](#)



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## ***Gardens Galore!***

Enjoy a showcase of some of the many blooms in our S.O. gardens and trails!



Thanks to Julie , Dace and Kathie for sharing photos!