
Newsletter



SEPT 2024

REMINDER:
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 and
documents were sent in
email on August 18.



photo credit Lily Galvin

USEFUL LINKS:

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

Bears BBQ Food Truck
has a New Date!
Saturday, Oct .6
time still TBD (early evening)
at the four corners
Bring your campy chairs or blanket and
hang out with neighbors!

Bear Safety Reminders

This is a repeat article in light of recent events in Swannanoa with home break-ins by a bear family. Learn more about that [HERE](#).

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

Coming Soon...
The 3rd Annual Chili
Cook Off!
Start getting your
best recipe ready
for October 19!

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB:

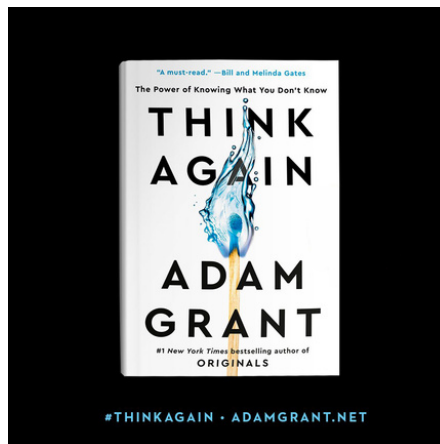
THINK AGAIN -----

The #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Give and Take* and *Originals* examines the critical art of rethinking: learning to question your opinions and open other people's minds, which can position you for excellence at work and wisdom in life. Intelligence is usually seen as the ability to think and learn, but in a rapidly changing world, there's another set of cognitive skills that might matter more: the ability to rethink and unlearn. With bold ideas and rigorous evidence, Adam Grant investigates how we can embrace the joy of being wrong, harness the advantages of impostor syndrome, bring nuance into charged conversations, and build schools, workplaces, and communities of lifelong learners. *THINK AGAIN* reveals that we don't have to believe all our thoughts or internalize all our emotions. It's an invitation to let go of views that are no longer serving us well and prize mental flexibility, humility, and curiosity over consistency.



Our discussion will be on
Saturday, November 9th from
2pm-4pm.

If you are interested in joining us for this book read, then discussion, contact Artie Miller at aeemiller@yahoo.com to learn more about SO Non-Fiction Book Club and to let us know of your participation so we can plan on numbers [seating/refreshments] at the host home.



What's on the calendar?

Monthly Firepit Fridays!

Email amandagalvin1@gmail.com to claim a date! These dates are still available for hosts: November 15.

The September Firepit is cancelled since the food truck will be the next weekend.

Food Truck - Bear's BBQ, October 6

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

November 16- Soup Exchange

December 14- Cookie Exchange



Neighborly News

from Harry Koolen



Saving Birds during Migration Season

Fall Bird Migration has begun!

The fall season for migratory birds in the northern hemisphere began last month, and the bulk of the migratory traffic that we can expect here in western North Carolina is expected over the next few weeks.

Most species of migratory birds travel at night. Each year, millions of these birds perish during the fall and spring migration seasons due to light pollution. Night lights along migration routes can disorient birds, leaving them susceptible to exhaustion and predators.

Just Flipping a Switch Can Save Birds during Migration!

Sovereign Oaks is committed to following International Dark Sky (IDA) exterior lighting guidelines year-round, not just during migration seasons.

Please be extra vigilant over the next 6-8 weeks by taking the following steps to protect birds between 11pm and 6am.

- ☒ Be sure outside lights are aimed down and well shielded
[see the S.O. Design Guidelines and <https://darksky.org/what-we-do/darksky-approved/> for Dark Sky compliant exterior lighting characteristics]
- ☒ Turn off path lighting and decorative landscape lighting when not in use
- ☒ Turn off unnecessary interior lights or draw shades in the evening, even if you are at home
- ☒ Looking ahead, consider installing motion sensors on outside lights to minimize use year-round.

Important Resource Links

Cornell Lab of Ornithology: <https://birdcast.info/science-to-action/lights-out/>
<https://birdcast.info/news/lights-out-in-october-wellalways/>

International Dark Sky Association (IDA):

<https://darksky.org/news/what-you-should-know-about-bird-migration-and-light-pollution/>