

Spring,
Summer -

April/May,
2024



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Eagle Crossing Homeowner's Association (ECHOA) Newsletter-Spring 2024



The News

Welcome, Spring!

It was another record summer, fall, & winter year.

Fun Facts: 2023 was the 3rd wettest year on record for southcentral Alaska & our 2023-24 winter tied with 1954-55 for the 2nd most snowiest year on record with 132.6" of snow (to date)! The latest recorded snowfall for our area was on May 22. Could we have more snow in May? (AK News Source)

Here's to Spring break-up. Time for melting & the appearance of early spring buds & flowers, gravel & dust. We can get outside & enjoy the warmer weather & longer daylight.

With warmer weather we've been thinking on all our overdue home projects—cleanup, gardens, picking up waste, etc., to beautify our area.

Check out the latest association news, quick calendar of events, & a few spring events in this issue.



Calendar:

- May: 5/1 Summer toys, campers, vehicles in season. Store winter toys by 5/1.
5/3-6/2 City wide, MOA cleanup, & view all the planned activities. Check for more info. p.3 & anchoragechamber.org, muni.org & MOA_SWS.
5/1-31 Free Summer Disposal Pass request. Register for your free dump day pass at the Eagle River landfill, 1 per household. (MOA-SWS or email freedisposal@anchorageak.gov or call 907-343-6250).
5/23 MOA/ASD school classes end (asdk12.org/calendar)
- June: 6/7 Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Week-Picnic 11-2pm on base. (anchoragechamber.org)
Week of 6/17 ECHOA Board spring walk-through.
- July: 7/3-7 4th of July, Independence Day celebrations, parade, party, & fireworks (Eagle River fireworks 7/3, other tba see anchorage.net)
7/5-7 Girdwood Forest Fair (anchorage.net)
7/10-14 Bear Paw Festival, Eagle River, (bearpawfestival.org & cer.org)
- August: 8/15 ASD school begins (check for updates, asdk12.org/calendar)
8/16-9/2 Alaska State Fair, Palmer (see alaskastatefair.org).

New to Alaska & looking for things to do or visitors need help?

see also SOA, Visitor @ alaska.gov &/or travelalaska.com

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ECHOA News Briefs:

- **ECHOA Annual Homeowner's Meeting:** The ECHOA Annual Homeowner's Meeting was conducted via Zoom videoconference on March 19, 2024 at 6pm. Homeowners were mailed a packet prior to the annual meeting containing the agenda, previous minutes, & budget. A quorum was established with 29% or 67 of 233 homeowners submitting proxies &/or attending. After the participants reviewed & approved the agenda & last year's minutes, the ECHOA Board welcomed everyone & gave a brief report on the year's activities. Scott Breitsprecher, William Bergeron, Jr., Jo Gottschalk, & Jim Hendley continue to serve as the ECHOA Board of Directors (along with Cedric Burden, Property Manager & non-voting Board member). Thank you to homeowners who participated.

★ Highlights:

- Reviewed & approved the 2024 budget. No increase in dues is needed. The ECHOA operates business in good standing, we have an active & stable Board, & required reserves are being maintained to address unexpected & future necessary expenses. Eagle Crossing is an attractive market for home buyers—our area remains a desirable & attractive area to live.
- The Board reported on 2023 projects including: fire mitigation work conducted in 2023 & plans for 2024, completed resurfacing of pathways/trails, contracts renewed for snow removal & lawn/trail-path maintenance. The spring/summer newsletter is distributed in April & the annual Board walk-through will occur in June. (See below & p. 4.)
- Open discussion: There was an extended discussion on the problem of dog poop left on & alongside our trails & pathways & ways it might be addressed. Everyone in attendance agreed that poop pollution is a serious & growing concern—unsightly, filthy, & unhealthy. We have addressed it nearly every year in newsletters & emails but it remains a problem. It is difficult to understand why owners don't pick up their poop & remove it. (See p.3)

A motion was made & unanimously approved to create a sign & post it at one problem area in particular—at the entrance of the dirt road onto ECHOA common area leading to Chugach Park lands—near the dual bollards off Mountain Pt. Cir. The sign is currently being designed.

Another motion was made & unanimously approved to create a one-page sheet on the poop problem & volunteers offered to hand deliver copies to all ECHOA addresses as soon as possible. (That handout is attached, p.6.) Everyone acknowledged that the poop perpetrators likely live in or are visiting nearby associations, as well. We can politely request that they help us keep our area clean.

Home-of-the-Month: Winners of the June and July 2023 HOM awards, receiving \$50 Lowes gift certificates were—June: 19635 Highland Ridge & July: 8964 Northwood Park Cir. Congratulations!

Thanks to everyone who take great care of their homes: The Board voted to suspend the award program for 2024 but our many beautiful homes are noticed & enjoyed by everyone.

- **Spring Walk-Thru:** Each year, the ECHOA Board conducts a visual review of the association's 233 homes, common areas, & network of trails for maintenance & compliance with Covenants. This year, the walk-thru is planned for the week of 6/17. Homeowners & tenants living in the ECHOA should be familiar with & adhere to all ECHOA Covenants. This applies to visitors too. When a homeowner rents/leases their home, they remain responsible. (*Note: Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) rules, regulations, laws also apply to living in Eagle River.)

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Eagle Crossing Homeowners Association (ECHOA), a planned community. The eaglecrossing.org website is available to provide information for owners &/or residents of the 233 homes within Eagle Crossing. Our association member homes are located on Mills Bay Dr., Mountain Point Dr. & Cir., Chrystal Island Dr., Trail Bay Dr., Northwood Park Cir., Driftwood Bay Dr., Danny Dr. & Danny Cir., & Highland Ridge Dr. in Eagle River, Alaska.

ECHOA News Briefs, cont.



Cleanup:

Every year, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, & Eagle River hold community cleanup days in the spring (see calendar, p.1). Here are a few suggestions below. **Get out, have fun, clean up!**

- Stuff, garbage bins, planters, baby carriages, toys, firewood, barbecues—"stuff" or debris must be stored out-of-sight.
- Does the home need paint, repair, cleaning this year? Windows washed?
- Pickup, cleanup after our pets. We try to never leave fecal waste—poop!—or garbage on/ around our trails & sidewalks or on somebody else's property. Don't toss it over the fence & on- to the common area or someone else's yard. This is a YUCK, it's ugly, & a health hazard. (See p.2 & 6.)
- Clear & clean around central mailboxes. The post office doesn't do it but they can & will refuse delivery if it's not done.
- Water & mow lawns before they grow over 4" tall. Pull weeds. Local garden experts urge us to avoid commercial pesticides, herbicides, unnecessary fertilizers, etc.



- Plastics—The evidence is in. Since the 1960's use of plastics has exploded. Scientists & health folks are recording plastic microplastics everywhere in the water, soil, foods, our bodies, & along our trails/walkways. Plastics add to the cleanup problem & are absorbed through skin, breathing, & eating. Consider a family clean-up around the home & cut use of plastics—plastic wraps, plastic bottles, plastic containers..... Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Contact: Homeowners & tenants of the Eagle Crossing Homeowner's Association (ECHOA) should have a copy of ECHOA Covenants & relevant documents & be familiar with them. If you are a homeowner, please share this newsletter with tenants. Contact Cedric Burden, our Property Manager, w/PacRim, 907-563-3345 or email to cedricb@prpalaska.com if you have questions. You can also check the ECHOA website @ eaglecrossing.org.

Problem, Concern? Do you have an ECHOA concern, question, suggestion, or complaint? Keep in mind that some calls we receive are not really ECHOA related: you may need instead to contact the MOA, police, State of AK, etc. Your association is governed by & can enforce its Covenants. Cedric Burden, PacRim, provides support for & is the Property Manager for our association. PacRim staff strive to return all our calls & emails within 24 hours.



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Dead Tree Mitigation and Fire Prevention:

Fire prevention is
everyone's business.



- **No smoking or fires in ECHOA common areas;**
- **No motorized vehicles or dumping on ECHOA common areas;**
- **No cutting trees or clearing on ECHOA common areas** (w/o written request & Board approval).
- **All fireworks are illegal in our area** (see muni.org/Fire Department FAQ).
- **No vehicle fuel** may be stored (ECHOA Covenants, Exhibit E, #6).
- **No exterior fires or yard burning** (ECHOA Covenants, Exhibit E, #10—"...There shall be no exterior fires whatsoever, except barbecue fires contained within appropriate receptacles." The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) sets very specific safety regulations that also apply to us. See muni.org—Dept., Fire Dept., Recreational Fires). Let's do everything possible to prevent fires. Check the MOA burn status report. Extra caution on windy days.
- **Check your indoor fire alarms**

(Other resources: SOA Dept. of Natural Resources (dnr.alaska.gov), forestry.alaska.gov/burn; Alaska Fire Info. (adfired.com), BLM Alaska Fire Service (BLM.gov); fs.USDA.gov).

Dead Tree Mitigation :

This will be the 4th year for the ECHOA dead tree mitigation project. It is an important investment toward the safety of all Eagle Crossing residents. So far, we've conducted clearing along Driftwood Bay, trails between Danny Circle & Chrystal Island, between Highland Ridge & Northwood Park, & part of Mills Bay & Trail Bay.

This spring, the ECHOA plans a third 3-day program of dead tree mitigation & fire prevention for the continued clearing of pre-identified dead trees & brush on parts of the wild, common area located below **Trail Bay & Mountain Pt.** There is limited access so the date & number of dead trees identified & removed will depend on scheduling, weather, & terrain. (When the work begins, keep children away & safe.) The date will be determined—typically in June or July.

Wildland clearing can be very dangerous—injuries or unintentional fires can result. We must work carefully. We have been contracting with an excellent company with experience, qualified staff, & the necessary equipment to do this job. (See 2023 fall/winter newsletter pictures).

★ Can you help? We would appreciate a bit of help marking dead trees or clearing dead vegetation later this spring. If you live near Trail Bay & Mountain Pt. & could spend an hour or so helping our Board members, can you contact Cedric Burden to let us know? Thanks.

Be "Fire Wise."

If you see a **fire**, smoke, or anything dangerous, immediately

Call 911

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Garbage, Waste Receptacles/Pickup:

We are so lucky to live within & adjacent to a wildlife rich area. We enjoy spectacularly beautiful scenery. We see brown & black bears, along with many other large mammals & predators, as well as birds, little animals, & myriad other living creatures.

We are surrounded by wilderness & wild animals who migrate through here or live here year around. There are good reasons we put garbage bins out the day of service & put them away promptly, out of sight & inside garages.

Alaska Waste Management @ alaskawaste.co



- The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) would like to remind us again this year that a common complaint in the spring & summer months is about bears getting into homeowners' yards & trash (attracted to suet, open dog food, fish waste, unclean barbecues, etc.). Unfortunately, humans habituate bears to garbage, putting them & residents in danger; bears end up getting killed for it.
- Municipal Anchorage Codes apply to handling & storage of residential garbage & waste. The ECHOA Covenants also address this (Exhibit E, #4 & 10). Residents will be warned & then fined. Garbage waste receptacles must be stored away, behind the fence or in the garage. (see also p. 3)

Found : This paper plate covered with peanut butter & dog food lying along the trail between Danny Circle & Chrystal Island Dr. Please do not leave food outside or bait animals.



Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) 15.100 states:

- Standard containers "shall be placed for pick up the morning of collection & retrieved not later than 9pm of the same day." (Note: not outside the night before.)
- Locked bear-resistant containers "may be placed for pick up no more than 12 hours prior to the day of collection & retrieved not later than 9pm of the same day."
- "When not set out for collection, trash containers shall be stored inside a structure...." ECHOA Covenants require that all trash containers & all other miscellaneous items must be stored securely (behind fences in backyards, inside garages).
- Residents can & will be ticketed by the ECHOA @ \$25 per day & the MOA at \$100 per violation.



If you have questions or concerns re. garbage/waste storage, call Cedric Burden (907-563-3345 for ECHOA info. or the MOA at 907-343-8335. Call Alaska Waste at 907-688-4446 or 907-563-3717 for questions re. pickup schedules or availability of their bear resistant trash containers.

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Below is a copy of the flyer that will be delivered by hand to every ECHOA resident. Thanks to volunteers who offered to do this for us! (See p. 2 & 3 for more.)

Let's Get Clean! Poop & Spring Pick-up...



May 3 – June 2
Anchorage, Eagle River
Citywide Cleanup!

Free dump passes will be
available. Join us!

Clean up your school on
May 4
Be a Super Sweeper!

For more info., see
anchoragechamber.org

We have a problem. We love pets but more & more dog poop is covering our trails, walkways, & common area land.

POOP IS...

- Unhealthy – disease, water pollutant
- Filthy – unsafe for children, unclean
- Ugly – litters, covers walks, trails

Let's Get Clean. Talk to your family. Talk with your visitors & neighbors. If you have a dog, take a bag & pick up the poop. Carry it out & dispose of it in your garbage. Keep your lawn & yard clean of poop.

Thanks so much!
Eagle Crossing Homeowner's Assn.