



**ARE YOU PREPARED?**

## **FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS**

*While many of us may tend to shrug off advanced preparations, fire safety and fire prevention tips, the Scouting motto “Be Prepared” could not be more relevant than when you are considering fire safety. Fires are just as unpredictable as any other disaster---they can strike anytime and anywhere. The recent fire in Kenmure, despite multiple fire units arriving on scene within 17 minutes, destroyed a resident’s house and most all contents. The Emergency Management Committee (EMC) has prepared the information below to provide necessary steps that allow you to be as prepared as possible in the event of a fire. Having these measures in place both in and around your home may not avert the occurrence of a fire, but the preventative measures may lessen the damage and/or its impact on your life. We cannot urge you strongly enough to read the following information and do all you can to Be Prepared!*

***Your 2024 EMC Team***

***Nancy Ramp, Chair***

### **Fire Safety - Are You Aware and Prepared?**

**For all emergencies and fires call 911 first, then the gate house.**

#### **Fire Safety Consults are offered by the fire departments**

Both Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue and the Green River Fire & Rescue have a “Fire Safety Consult” service available to homeowners free of charge. They will come to your home and discuss smoke alarm placement, life span and if you give them a cookie, or two, they will even change your smoke alarm batteries during this consult. They will also cover other safety issues within the home such as fire extinguishers, CO2 detectors, heat alarms for garages, lithium batteries or any other fire safety question you may have. You can schedule this service by **calling your primary Fire Dept, either Blue Ridge Fire & Rescue, (828)-692-4416, or Green River Fire & Rescue, (828) 692-4009.**

#### **Smart911**

Smart911 allows you to provide the additional details that 911 call takers may need to assist you during an emergency. When you dial 911 the information you provided is received by the 911 call center. Anytime you make an emergency call from a phone registered with your Safety Profile, the 911 system recognizes your phone number and automatically displays your profile on the screen of the call taker who receives your call. Your information is made available ONLY to 911 call takers and responders and ONLY in the event you call 911. For more information go to <https://www.smart911.com>.

#### **American Red Cross**

Red Cross provides support to victims of fire. Your local fire department automatically calls Red Cross who in turn will contact your family. They will provide support in the form of financial, if needed, emergency housing and other items.

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# Kenmure Property Owners Association

## FIRE SAFETY (continued)

### Evacuation/Disaster Preparedness List

An Evacuation/Disaster Preparedness list was published in the October 2023 newsletter and is also on the [www.Kenmure.org](http://www.Kenmure.org) website. Click on the Emergency Management Committee (EMC) tab to view and/or print the list. Be prepared!

### Home insurance

If you haven't already done so, you may want to contact your insurance agent and discuss the coverage you have on your house and its contents. Due to building costs rising so dramatically in the past few years your annual increase in coverage may not be keeping up with those costs.

### Consider Getting a Knox Box

A Knox Box is a small, wall-mounted key vault that holds house keys for your designated fire department and emergency medical service. The Fire department and EMS holds master keys to all boxes in their response area so that they can quickly enter your home without having to force entry. The boxes should be mounted on the closest house entry to the street which could mean either your garage or your front door. These can only be purchased from Knox Box. According to both Blue Ridge Fire Chief, Will Sheehan and our Green River Fire Chief, Dustin Nicholson, they support and encourage the use of a Knox Box. For additional information and a one-time purchase (no subscription fees) go to the [KnoxBox.com](http://KnoxBox.com) website.

You may also **leave a house key at the gatehouse** to allow entry into your home in the event of an emergency; many residents have already done this. Be aware--Security will not use the key for anything else such as contractors, cleaning help, etc. This service is **only** for emergencies.

### Golf Cart Fire Safety Guidelines

1. Use only equipment, including batteries, approved for your golf cart.
2. Always ensure that you have a high-quality OEM charger that's programmed for your specific golf cart and its batteries, and follow the manufacturer's charging recommendations
3. Extension cord or power strip are not advisable for use when charging your golf cart.
4. Directly plug the charger into a grounded outlet on a dedicated 20amp circuit to ensure safety and proper charging.
5. Always buy lithium batteries from a trusted, reputable manufacturer and ensure a professional, reputable shop installs it. This guarantees that the installation meets safety standards.
6. Be sure to charge the golf cart batteries when someone is home – and preferably not overnight

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# Kenmure Property Owners Association

## FIRE SAFETY (continued)

### Heat Alarms & Smoke Alarms

#### Heat Alarms are advised over Smoke Alarms in Garages

1. Heat alarms are advisable for garages rather than smoke alarms. They respond only to high heat. Smoke alarms can sound an alert in response to smoke, but also can respond to fumes, humidity, dust particles and insects.
2. Purchase a heat alarm that is rated for temperatures between 175-200 degrees F. Alarms with lower temperature ratings may sound because temperatures in garages rise above 100 degrees F. Alarms with higher temperature ratings may sound too late to warn you of a fire.

#### Basic Smoke Alarm Information

1. For placement of smoke alarms follow these guidelines.
  - a. If you mount alarms on the ceiling, place them 4 inches from the wall.
  - b. If your alarms are on the wall, they should be 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling.
  - c. Don't install alarms near windows, vents, or drafty areas.
2. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home (including your basement and attic) and in each bedroom and hallway outside of sleeping areas.
3. Test each alarm monthly.
4. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends using **brand-name** batteries in your detectors and change them every 6 months unless your alarm is a 10-year smoke alarm.
5. Replace your alarm after 10 years of the manufactured date. After about 10 years the alarm sensors can become less sensitive to smoke particles. To find the date of manufacture, take down the alarm and look on the back.
6. If you are replacing your smoke alarms, you may want to consider 10-year smoke alarms that have a built-in 10-year battery. These eliminate the need for battery replacements for the life of the detectors. However, you should still test your alarms monthly.
7. **If you have a wired system in your house you may want to consider having it professionally monitored such as with Southern Alarm Co. Hendersonville.**

### Carbon Monoxide Detectors

A carbon monoxide detector alerts you when a combustion appliance, such as gas heaters/furnaces, gas water heaters, etc. in your home emits dangerous carbon monoxide. The NFPA recommends that you install a carbon monoxide alarm on every level of your home, inside every bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.

### Lithium-ion Batteries

Lithium-ion batteries can be found in cell phones, e-bikes, e-scooters, laptops, and golf carts to name a few. Fires caused by lithium-ion batteries do not respond to traditional fire extinguishers. Small lithium-ion batteries such as those in cell phones, contain very little lithium, so they can be doused with water. If you can safely cover a larger lithium-ion battery fire with a fire blanket to contain it and are comfortable doing so, go ahead and then get to safety and call 911.

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## FIRE SAFETY (continued)

### Fire Extinguishers & Fire Blankets each have a Role in Fire Safety

1. **Fire Blankets** are fire-resistant sheets that are ideal for extinguishing **cooking fat fires** and can be used **to wrap around people** if their clothes catch on fire. If used properly they can cut off supply of oxygen to the fire. They're ideal to keep in the kitchen. However, they do have their limitations. They are most effective in small-scale fires and are not suited to large or intense flames.
2. **Fire Extinguishers:** It is essential to have alternative fire suppression methods on hand such as fire extinguishers as they can cover a larger area from a safe distance. For an all-around fire extinguisher, you may want to look at an ABC extinguisher. For a kitchen specific fire extinguisher, you should look for a Class K fire extinguisher.

### General Guidelines for Fire Extinguishers:

1. Make sure everyone in your house knows where the extinguishers are located.
2. Always keep them visible with the label facing outward.
3. Check frequently that the extinguishers aren't blocked and are easily accessible.
4. Consider keeping an inventory of your home's fire extinguishers to note when they were last inspected or serviced. Make sure they're always in working order.
5. The five essential places to keep a fire extinguisher in your home
  - a. **Kitchens** - Almost half of all residential fires are caused by cooking fires, making it one of the most frequent types of home fires.
  - b. **Near Sources of Heat** - One fifth of all home fires are caused by heating equipment. Whether it's your chimney and fireplace, a permanently installed room heater, or a pellet stove, be sure you know where the closest extinguisher is to each piece of heating equipment in your home.
  - c. **Each floor of your home** - Keep at least one fire extinguisher on every floor of your home, including the basement and attic.
  - d. **Garage** - Garages and workshops are typically full of combustible materials, especially things like gas canisters, oils, and cleaning products.
  - e. **Bedrooms** - Many fires happen at night, so every bedroom in your house should have easy access to a fire extinguisher.

### Create Your Fire Escape Plan

#### Create a fire escape plan and practice it:

1. Everyone in your household should know two ways to escape from each room in your home.
2. Smoke is dangerous. Get low and go!
3. Decide where to meet once you get outside.
4. Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets or items.

#### Links to a few Fire Safety & Prevention sites worth mentioning:

National Fire Prevention Organization (NFPA) <https://www.nfpa.org>

NFPA Fire Extinguisher Types <https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/blogs/2023/08/01/fire-extinguisher-types>

Kidde – types of fire extinguishers and detectors, and preferred placements: <https://www.kidde.com/home-safety/en/us/fire-safety/fire-extinguishers-for-home/#0>

## Kenmure Property Owners Association

### ***ELAINE HESSONG AND DALE SEEKELY HONORED AS KCC AND KPOA 2023 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR!***

The KCC AND KPOA 2023 Volunteer of the Year awards were recently awarded to Mrs. Elaine Hessong and Mr. Dale Seekely at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The VOTY recipients are always recognized for tireless dedication in volunteering their time and talents in various ways throughout the previous year, and this year's recipients are no exception. While we are honoring their work during the past year, as you will read below their time in Kenmure has been spent either volunteering for Kenmure and/or Henderson County activities, or working (almost) daily on behalf of residents to continually find ways of cutting costs and streamlining services.

Elaine has set herself apart over the years by always being involved in multiple committees. While she isn't one to seek the limelight, she never shies away from lending a helping hand when it is needed. She is currently serving as: the Member Relations Chair for the KCC Board of Advisors, Kenmure's Organizer of The Salvation Army Angel Tree, Co-Chair of the Women's Golf Association's 9-hole Invitational tournament, and directing the Kenmure Employee Holiday Fund, and as the Sewing Instructor for Henderson County's 4-H Club, America's largest youth development organization. In the past, Elaine has also served as vice president and president of the Women's Golf Association as well as the Activities Chair for Kenmure Newcomers and Neighbors.



We congratulate and salute Elaine as the 2023 KCC Volunteer of the Year!

As KPOA's 2023 Volunteer of the Year, Dale has been recognized for his fiduciary expertise since being appointed to the KPOA Board four years ago. It is that expertise and Dale's dedication to always keep the best interests of our residents at the forefront of every decision that has led to greater efficiency and a reduction in our costs in many areas. In addition to implementing a paperless format for the distribution and collection of assessments, Dale led the internal transition of moving our billing and accounting duties from an external accounting firm resulting in annual savings of thousands of dollars. Dale's common sense approach and his straightforward business acumen has been highly regarded and valued since being appointed to the KPOA Board. He is also a strong advocate for recruiting volunteers for our community activities because he fully understands the cost-savings AND the benefits for residents to be actively involved in our wonderful community.



We congratulate and salute Dale as the 2023 KPOA Volunteer of the Year!

# Kenmure Property Owners Association

## ROAD MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT - Dennis Boyd, Chair

One 2024 goal of your Road Maintenance Committee (RMC) was checked off the list when the paving of Tarnhill Drive and Berry Creek Drive was completed in April. While the RMC did its best to keep residents informed of our progress, the project ran into serious challenges with many rainy days that simply stopped progress. Once Tarheel Paving was able to restart the project, the cooperation of the residents who live on those roads and those who must use them to get to and from their homes was simply incredible. Residents seemed to take the disruption in their normal travel patterns in stride, and the RMC greatly appreciated that cooperation. The new white “stop bars” (on pavement in front of stop signs) have been applied and some residents have noted they are slippery when wet, so please pay attention to that fact when you are out for walks in the community. Striping of the new pavement is expected to be completed in June. Later this summer the RMC will also execute the annual patching program to rectify specific asphalt damage (potholes, edge degradation, etc.) in the ongoing effort to sustain the safety and integrity of our road system here in Kenmure.



## SECURITY NOTICE – AFTER-HOURS DELIVERIES – Dan Rosser, Director

Please be aware that any deliveries arriving at the Gatehouse between 10pm and 7am will be turned away unless Security has been notified in advance. It is understandable that for various reasons after-hours deliveries are important to residents; however, because these deliveries are typically Amazon FLEX drivers in personal vehicles Security must be alerted to their anticipated arrival. Ordering tip: If you ask for “next day delivery,” just before you place the order, make sure the 4am – 6am box is not checked or if that time period is necessary, be certain you alert Security personnel prior to the delivery arrival. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## BLOODBATH AT KCC?

No, it was just the annual Spring Blood Drive and as always Kenmure residents eagerly donated to the cause. Per Wayne Orchard, Kenmure's Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator, 41 pints of blood were collected. With a large turnout for the upcoming Drive in September, Kenmure will be even closer to having donated more than 1000 pints of blood since 2011! Kudos to all the residents who took the time to be a donor, and many thanks to Wayne for his coordination and the volunteers who helped throughout the day—Charlotte Bryant, Anne Hobbs and Pixie Gray!!



Watch for emails soon with details for registering for the 9/4 Drive!

## KPOA OFFICE REMINDERS

If you have just forgotten, or if you are returning to Kenmure for the Summer, please stop by and pick up your 2024 Kenmure Directory. Should you like to have an additional copy, they are \$10 each and may be paid by personal check or invoiced.

The office remodeling project is scheduled for later this year. While there isn't a firm start-date set, we most likely will close the office for at least one week but will certainly give you ample notice when that will occur. There is a possibility we could continue access to our library during that time but of course the safety of our residents will be of the utmost importance in that decision.

## OUR OFFICE HOURS :

MONDAY – FRIDAY, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.



# Kenmure Property Owners Association

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## President's Message

I relocated my letter in this issue to give priority to the crucial and important information from our Emergency Management Committee on fire safety. While so much of the work done by the EMC and our Security team is behind the scenes and is usually unknown by the community at-large, I cannot emphasize enough the outstanding work done by both teams to keep us informed, keep us as safe as possible and to spring into action when a need arises. Of course, we should all appreciate the significant efforts of both our local fire departments and sheriff's deputies in responding to our needs promptly as well.

A special thanks to Nancy Ramp and the EMC for their relentless work in providing fire safety information and being prepared to act in the event of emergencies. Please carefully read the fire safety information in this newsletter and take the necessary actions to Be Prepared!

Kudos to Larry Wesselink and the RMC for successfully managing the repaving of Tarnhill and Berry Creek. Larry's thorough and timely communications ensured everyone was well-informed about the paving process and managed contractor expectations effectively.

Our community thrives because of the hardworking individuals in our 150+ KPOA volunteer organization who generously contribute their time and expertise. This year we honored the exemplary efforts of Dale Seekely as the KPOA Volunteer of the Year. I want to personally thank Dale for his dedication as our KPOA treasurer over the past four years and his diligent management of our finances. Congratulations also to Elaine Hessong who was named the KCC Volunteer of the Year. You can read about them elsewhere in this issue.

Prior to the KPOA board Midyear meeting on Tuesday, July 16 (at the Club), we will host a "meet & greet" reception at 4:00 pm for new residents who want to get to know more about KPOA and who are interested in volunteering. The Midyear meeting will follow immediately at 5:30 p.m. More details will be forthcoming soon.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!

Respectfully,

*Brian*