

Building bridges in Silver Springs/Ranch Place

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Dear Editor:

I have just returned from caring for my suddenly seriously ill mom...I have been gone for almost three weeks...I returned this week to get some desperately needed sleep, get love from my family and friends, and to decompress and regroup before going back to continue the care that my family needs...

Prior to my family commitment, my husband and I, as well as our neighbors, suffered the insult of having been accused of trespassing onto Ranch Place property. The bridge that existed behind our home for over 20 years was removed by overzealous homeowner association "leaders" who felt that the access to the public trail system by "non-residents" was dangerous. When the current trails freeze the Silver Springs and Ranch Place residents are continuing to use them without the safe bridges, there will be increased potential for serious injuries not only to people, but to the dogs that we all have as companions. Waterways, that previously had safe bridge overpasses, now no longer are safely crossable. If Ranch Place was previously concerned about liability, I think the time to rethink this ridiculous decision is NOW.

When I came home the first thing I did after hugging my husband and children was to walk out my back door and wonder at the amazing place that I live in. I walked thru the back gate as I have done for years and had to jump the creek to walk my dog on the public trail behind my home, all because of some stupid paranoia. There are so many more important things in life. We must embrace the day, live it to the fullest, wave to a neighbor, and pet the dog.

I'm rebuilding my bridge. Every nail that I hammer will give me hope knowing that I can walk out my back door as I have always done, walk on the trail, and celebrate the joy of having my Furburbia puppy in my life, and celebrate the wonderful "neighborhood" that I call home.

Megan Williams

Silver Springs

RANCH PLACE /SILVER SPRINGS

Bridge Issue Response

This update is in response to several inquires I have received concerning our actions taken by this board pertaining to the removal of seven crossover bridges spanning our creek plus a section our property. These bridges are being used by several Silver Springs residents for their own personal use.

We were concerned about our liability and what ramifications would be involved if a person became injured on our property using a non-authorized bridge over our creek. Inspection by us indicated that they appeared to be in an unsafe condition without any side railings. We deemed it best for all concerned that they be immediately removed. The Silver Spring crossover bridge which is part of the trail system and adjacent to the Silver Spring homes can be used to access the open space trails on our land.

Further inspection revealed that one Silver Spring resident has been using a portion of our property for his own personal use. There is a Horseshoe Court and bench installed on this section. Even though he claimed he was doing weed control for us, in reality it was for his own personal use and benefit. You were unable to see this cleaned out area from the trail adjacent to the creek because of the heavy growth of bushes. We now require this person to remove all material on our property and restore same to original. This is trespassing, and our CC&R's do not allow any of these infringements on open space by nonresident or residents alike.

This was all done with the advisement of our attorney who represents Ranch Place HOA, and who has researched this concern of ours pertaining to our liability in the event of an accident.

Werner Maeder - - - co – president
November 18, 2007