

SLEHA Gazette

A Newsletter of the
SPIRIT LAKE EAST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 217 Spirit Lake, ID 83869

October 1996

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David Bauer, President 623-2608; Howard Shay, Vice President 623-6237; Mariette Deems, Secretary 623-5443; Willi Hanson, Treasurer 623-3313; Doug Lazoran, Member-at-Large 623-2113; Don Walter, Member-at-Large 623-5906; Dave Carlsen, R.A. Hansen Representative 1-509-467-0770

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Road Committee

Don Gutierrez, Chairman 623-4907

Timber Management Committee

Jesse Blocker, Chairman 623-6001

Newsletter Committee

Mariette Deems 623-5443

Willi Hanson 623-3313

Semi-Annual Meeting

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Spirit Lake East Homeowners Association is upon us! Mark your calendars - November 12, 1996 - 7:00 p.m. at the Spirit Lake Elementary School. **Please** attend. We will be addressing and possibly voting on issues that should be of concern to all residents. Your **volunteer** Board can't do this alone. We need your support and input! If you absolutely cannot attend the meeting, please sign and return your Proxy to enable your Board to transact the business necessary for the successful administration of Association business.

Winter is Here

So soon? Do we all feel like this year has sped by at an alarming rate? We had wonderful spring and summer weather (we actually had both!), but now it's time to gear up the snow blowers and other winter paraphernalia. Please be sure your mailbox is identified by a brightly colored (red or hunter's orange?) flag so it is visible to the grader operator. Also, for those of you who are spending your first winter with us, you may wish to anchor your mailbox deep enough in the ground (possibly with a steel pipe) to withstand the weight of the snow as it is plowed and sent hurtling to the side of the road. This is not done intentionally but is just an unavoidable byproduct of maintaining our roads, especially during heavy snow periods. You will also need to remember to keep the area around your

mailbox clear of snow. The mail carrier will not deliver mail if he can't easily reach your box. If you don't have a snow thrower powerful enough to do your driveway, you may want to contact Jay Linden (623-3373). Arrangements made with him for driveway or other snow removal would be fee based and should **not** be considered a service provided by the Association. Any other individuals within the Association willing to provide personal snowplow services please contact any member of the Board. For other tips related to winter road maintenance, see the topic "**Road Committee**".

Emergency Services

Some issues are important enough to all residents to allow us a certain amount of redundancy in our Newsletter. Emergency Services is one of those issues. Residents should be sure their driveways are well marked and street addresses prominently displayed. The volunteers of the Spirit Lake Ambulance and Fire Services (yes, fires happen in snowy weather!) may not be familiar with the layout of our development. Without adequate signs, your home may be difficult to find - particularly at night. These departments suggest that, in addition to signs, a sure way to eliminate delays is to have the ambulance or fire truck met at the entrance to the development and escorted to your home. You may want to incorporate into your personal emergency plans a call to one or more neighbors who would be willing to do this on your behalf.

Subject of the Month

In each issue of the SLEHA Gazette we will include an article addressing a specific issue of concern as stated by one or more Association members. This month the issue is *Traffic Safety and Road Conditions Within the Association*.

Two issues continue to be a major concern to Association homeowners - Speed/One-Way Directional Circles and Increased Debris on Our Roads. As we all know, the speed limit is 25 miles per hour. This is not a number that was arbitrarily selected nor is it meant to unduly inconvenience our residents. Sound logic supports this rule. Health, road conditions, day-to-day property maintenance, property value, the safety of our children and safety in general - these are all legitimate concerns tied to the establishment of a speed limit and the one-way circles [at the junctions of Coeur d'Alene and Liberty Drives (Spokane Circle), Coeur d'Alene and Hayden Drives (Blanchard Circle), Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe Drives (Sandpoint Circle), and Hayden and St. Joe Drives (St. Maries Circle)].

As a result of the current rate of construction, traffic has increased on our roads. Complaints have increased markedly regarding speeding and non-observance of the one-way traffic on the circles. To emphasize the escalating problem we will highlight a few incidents. On Sunday morning, October 13, a light tan mini van, Washington license number 556-ENG, came around Spokane Circle in the wrong direction. The action of this driver forced two vehicles coming from the opposite direction to stop to avoid colliding with him. The van then continued to the exit of the Association at a speed in excess of 35 mph. A two-tone blue, 3/4 ton pickup with a female driver has been consistently seen driving at speeds in excess of our posted speed limit. A young man in a light brown hatchback has also been observed driving at a high rate of speed on many occasions. Residents, guests, delivery, and construction people who use our roads must also adhere to the Association traffic rules. They are for the safety of everyone!

A special note about our children. . .we have school children on the roads early in the morning and again mid-afternoon during the week! The roads will soon be even more hazardous due to rain and snow. Please give serious thought and consideration to these precious gifts of ours as you travel our roads! A few extra minutes of your time could mean a life - maybe yours or that of your child!

With the increase in traffic we are also seeing a substantial increase in debris along our roads. The largest percentage of litter is pop and beer cans, bottles, and fast food containers. Along with taking care of the litter on Highway 54 every six months, we should also consider cleaning our own roads. If each resident would pick up any litter bordering their property, it would go a long way in keeping our Association looking great! It would also be helpful if residents would stop and pick up litter from road areas where no homes currently exist. We may not be able to identify and stop the abusers of our roads, but with a little effort we can still be extremely proud of where we live.

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Building has continued at a record pace over the past six months. Several new homes were built that had permits issued late in 1995 or early 1996. From the period May 1, 1996 to October 15, 1996, the ARC issued seven building permits. These permits were for construction on lots 21, 73, 80, 130, 136, 192, and 240. Please remember before beginning any construction, plans that have been approved by Kootenai County must be submitted to the ARC for approval.

Timber Management Committee

Homeowners planning to log and those who have questions on timber plans should contact Jesse Blocker at 623-6001. Please remember ALL logging plans must be sent to P.O. Box 217, Spirit Lake ID 83869 c/o the Timber Management Committee.

Road Committee

Don Guterrez has agreed to be our permanent Road Committee Chairman. He is currently looking for people interested in becoming Committee members. Please contact him at 623-4907 if you are interested in participating. Don has been "winterizing" and performing general maintenance work on the road equipment in preparation for the winter season. Don suggests homeowners identify with brightly colored marker flags or reflectors driveway entrances and landscaped areas. Although we currently have equipment operators, the Road Committee continues to look for experienced snowplow drivers. This is a paid position. If you or anyone you know has the qualifications and experience for this job, please submit your application to the SLEHA Board c/o P.O. Box 217, Spirit Lake ID 83869. Missing or damaged road signs or road condition problems should be reported to Don Gutierrez, 623-4907.

Dogs

Nothing would please us more than to not be redundant on the issue of dogs. However, we continue to receive numerous complaints regarding dogs on the loose and incessant barking. These dogs are destroying private property and intimidating children as well as adults walking on the roads. When they are allowed to bark all day and throughout the night, they disrupt the peace and solitude many people moved here to enjoy. Again, we ask you to please do whatever necessary to contain and silence your animals.

SLEHA Board

Announcement - During the May 1997 Semi-Annual meeting we will be conducting Board elections. It may seem to some that this announcement is premature. However, we thought it wise to alert you early and give you time to think about becoming involved. We invite anyone who feels qualified to sit on the Board to send in their resume. An election Committee will be formed within the next few months. Candidate information will be reviewed by the Committee and then sent to the Association's members prior to the May elections. If you feel you have experience that would benefit the

Board, please seriously consider participating.

Monthly Meetings All residence are invited to attend our monthly Board meetings. They are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center in Spirit Lake. It is important to your Board to have your support and involvement. Please come with your input and ideas. **Get involved!!!** We need members to volunteer on Committees and other important activities as they come up throughout the year. Remember, it's your community, and effective change can only come about with your involvement! Please contact any Board member.

News Items

If you have any newsletter articles or comments, please send them to Willi Hanson c/o SLEHA, P.O. Box 217, Spirit Lake ID 83869.

Your Board of Directors wishes you a warm and happy winter and the best of holiday seasons!