
SLEHA Gazette

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

March 1997

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David Bauer, President (on Leave of Absence) 623-2608; Howard Shay, Acting President 6236237; Mariette Deems, Secretary 623-5443; Willi Hanson, Treasurer 6233313; Eric Redman, Member-at-Large 6235906; Vacant, Member-at-Large; Dave Carlson, R.A. Hansen Representative 1-509-467-0770

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Message From the Acting President

By Howard Shay

Spirit Lake East is a great place to live. The winter of '97 taxed the patience and strength of many of us - removing and moving tons of snow hoping spring was on the way. Now our roads are thawing and freezing every day. This causes potholes too numerous to avoid in one area and solid ice on other areas. Our immediate plan is to lease a bigger grader to move the snow back further and expose the ditches allowing proper run-off in those areas where nature isn't melting it fast enough. The window of opportunity will then exist to blade and fill the worst sections of road earlier. Of course, this is expensive and adds to the high debt of the winter of 96-97.

The construction of Timberlakes Jr and Sr High will no doubt bring more people to our community, adding to the challenge in the years to come. Your Board believes now is the time to improve

our community by updating our road equipment and implementing long range plans to repair sections of road instead of continuing the band-aid approach of filling potholes over and over again. Please participate in this effort by attending the semi-annual meeting or sending a proxy. Apathy is hurting the community and stifling the efforts of many good volunteers. We are in need of candidates to run for four (4) Board of Director positions. One position is a one year term replacing Doug Lazoran who resigned this month due to putting his property on the market. Three (3) additional positions will be vacant as of May 1997. Eric Redman (623-5906), interim board member, is recruiting nominees this month. Please do whatever you can to help the Association succeed in this area. See you **at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 12, at the semi-annual meeting at Spirit Lake Elementary School** (we were unable to schedule a Tuesday meeting due to a City Council meeting).

The "State of SLEHA and Its Volunteers."

Subject of the Month

In each issue of the SLEHA Gazette we have and will continue to include an article addressing a specific issue of concern as stated by one or more Association members. In this issue we will look at the state of SLEHA and its volunteers.

Question: What did the grape say when the giant stepped on it? Answer: Nothing, it just let out a little Whine. Cute joke. . . Aside from the humor, it is a good analogy of where many volunteers are these days - the Association being the giant and the volunteers the grape. As our

acting president noted in his message to you, the apathy of our members is hurting the ability of volunteers to do their job and, more importantly, crushing their spirit and desire (as well as the desire of potential volunteers) to help this Association. The definition of volunteer is "One who enters **info any service, especially military service or a hazardous undertaking** (writers emphasis), *of his own free will.*" or "To enter or offer to enter info some service or undertaking of one's free will; *enlist.*" I'd like to make an addition to the above - "free **of** charge." We do not have the luxury accorded state, county or city governments-their paid workforce and their work go on despite the lack of interest by the citizenry. Without the direct participation of our membership in both voting and volunteering, **we cannot survive!** We are all concerned about the condition of our roads. They directly impact our property values and our survival in emergency situations. We must navigate them daily to reach our jobs, schools, and a myriad of other destinations. However, our Road Committee still stands at *ONE* (1) member. We do, however, have those that are inclined to complain bitterly about the condition of the roads but are not inclined to attend any Board meeting and have a meaningful dialog about ways to improve them. Don Gutierrez guaranteed through dedication and hard work that we reached (and continue to reach) our individual destinations - through one of the hardest winters in recent memory. Your Association is drowning in apathy, folks! We need your help! We have tried in the past to bring our CC&Rs up to date to reflect the problems of a growing and changing membership. New problems and situations arise that were not foreseen by the authors of our current CC&Rs 20+ years ago. Technology has changed, lifestyles have changed, people have changed. We need to recognize these changes and move ahead as we approach the 21st century! The response to our last request for CC&R changes was dismal - this does not refer to the **way** people voted but to the **lack of response**. Your Board's hands are tied without you. It is impossible for any meaningful improvements to be made without your participation. You voted your Board into office to protect your interest in SLEHA and to act in good faith on issues that affect all of **us**. They **cannot** act on this mandate without your support! During the next semi-annual meeting in May, you will, again, be asked to vote on a CC&R change (as detailed in the next article). Regardless of

whether or not you agree with the change, we are asking you to respond - PLEASE VOTE! It is vital to the health of SLEHA that landowners who do not live within the Association become more knowledgeable about conditions that affect this community and acknowledge the necessity of their involvement in the voting process. Every owner/member will be receiving a packet at least 20 days prior to the meeting with a ballot and a proxy. We have Board members to replace, equipment to upgrade, and roads to repair and maintain - none of which can happen without your participation. If you can't attend the meeting or vote, please send us your proxy so that we will have the required number of member responses to reach a legal decision on issues needing a membership vote.

Please ask yourself these questions- Will you condemn SLEHA to a slow and painful **death? OR** Are you willing to accept the challenge to help us move forward? Please give us the tools we need to keep this a wonderful place in which to live!

CC&R Amendment

If collective memories are correct, only twice in the past five years has the Association been able to register the seventy five percent (75%) vote necessary to make any substantive changes in the **CC&R's**. Spirit Lake East is growing rapidly which requires that our CC&R's reflect the need precipitated by this growth, for the good of the Association.

A change in ARTICLE V, Section 3 is going to be put before the Association for vote at the semi-annual meeting in May. That suggested change is attached to this newsletter.

This change would make it easier for the membership to make necessary CC&R changes. For example; if the membership of the Association is asked to vote on specific changes presented to them and there is less than the 75% response required, these issues could be presented and passed by a simple majority vote of those present, or properly represented by proxy, at the next regular semi-annual meeting of the SLEHA. When you receive your ballot, whether you agree with the change or not, the important thing is that you cast your vote and return it to the Association.

SLEHA Board of Directors

Monthly Meefings All SLEHA property owners are invited to attend our monthly Board meetings. They are held the second Tuesday of each month (7:00 p.m.) at the Senior Center in Spirit Lake. If you have any questions, please contact any Board member.