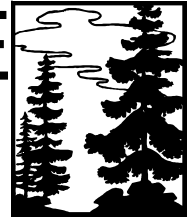


SLEHA GAZETTE



The Newsletter of the Spirit Lake East Homeowner's Association

October 2006

Contact Information

President- Mike Schmidt	623-2689
V. Pres- Lowell Hayes	623-2064
Secretary- Dan Edginton	623-2649
Treasurer- Cindy Murphy	623-6479
Members at Large-	
Kris Kramer	623-6006
Tony Tarnowski	623-6225
Paul Peloquin	623-3642

Committees

Architectural Review

(Chair) David Sincerbeaux	623-2864
Mike Zweibel	623-3075

Audit

(Chair) Trudy Shrigley	623-2671
Vacant	

Roads

(Chair) Paul Peloquin	623-3642
Tom Hansel	623-2146

Timber

(Chair) Lowell Hayes	6232064
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Newsletter

John and Gail Johnson	623-6517
Lois Tarnowski	623-6225

Please send all correspondence to:

Spirit Lake East Homeowner's Association

PO Box 217

Spirit Lake, ID 83869

Website- www.spiritlakeeast.org

Off Road Vehicle Rule Change to be Proposed

At the board meeting on October 3, the board proposed a change to the CC&Rs to define the appropriate use of these vehicles and make enforcement of the rules easier. A group of residents has formed an organization to oppose allowing recreational use of these vehicles. There was general consensus that non-recreational use of motorcycles and ORVs should be allowed. Representatives from the board and the residents' committee will meet to write a new proposal. There will be a discussion of the proposal at the November Membership Meeting.

Membership Meeting: 7:00 PM on November 14 at Timberlake High School.

Learn more about these issues and express your opinions:
Off Road Vehicle Use
Spirit Lake East Water Company rate request and the proposed water association

Water Update

The new water committee is in the initial stages of negotiation with the current Spirit Lake East Water Company. They have expressed some interest in transferring ownership of the water system to us.

They are asking us to support their current rate increase request with IPUC. We are declining to do so because their rate increase request is inadequate to sustain continued water system operation and would continue to necessitate cash infusion from SLEWCO's current parent company, Hanson Industries, to support any repairs of catastrophic failures. Hanson Industries no longer has any vested interests in either Spirit Lake East or Treeport Housing Associations and has no reason to improve the water system. In addition, with the currently requested rate increase, there will be no funds for any system improvements.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has suspended for six months the application by Spirit Lake East Water Company to double its rates and charges for water service. The IPUC will expend the entire six months to staff the request and rule on the increase. There will be no ruling before mid-FEB 07. SLEHA and Treeport water system users who oppose SLEWCO's continued management of the water system are encouraged to review SLEWCO's rate increase request at <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/internet/cases/summary/SPLW0601.html> (note: this is NOT the URL listed in SLEWCO's notification to their users) and to file a comment stating such at <http://www.puc.state.id.us/comments-complaints/choose%20form.htm> or mail comments to:

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

Ron Bart

For more on this issue, see page 4.

Spirit Lake East Water Contact Numbers

Hanson Industries 509-922-5252 (business hours only)

Emergency: 509-868-5929 Jim Kruger
or 623-4063 Eric Redman

If you experience extremely low water pressure, under 20 psi (just a dribble from your faucet), please make a note of the time and the date, and contact the Department of Environmental Quality at 769-1422 to let them know it happened.

Illegal Hunting in SLE

According to Article 4, Section 2c(1) of our CC&Rs, hunting or discharge of firearms is prohibited in SLE. If someone is poaching (violating ID laws such as shooting from a vehicle or hunting out of season), please immediately call our Fish & Game officer, Dan Hislop, at 265-8320. They were notified of a poaching problem earlier this year in our area.

The Sheriff responds when they are able to get a Deputy out here in time and are not on overload which they often are. Also, try to get the license plate number, car color, and type.

There is a hotline for poaching manned by Citizens Against Poaching and they are very helpful. Their number is 800-632-5999. They are a non-profit started by citizens who simply are outraged at the poaching issue. It is also supported by "real" hunters. If you call them, they will mail you a bumper sticker and some information.

Please note that in order for the Fish and Game Department to enforce restrictions on hunting on private property, the property must be posted with the correct signs every 650 feet and at all the entrances. If you have property on the edge of SLE, it is especially important for you to post your property to alert hunters that this is a no hunting area.

Neighborhood News and Exchange

Stampin' Up! Supervisor: Randi Malloy 623-5087
Mary Kay Consultants: Vikki Malloy 623-5101
Marsha Cover 818-2006
Piano Lessons: Lois Tarnowski 623-6225
Tomlinson Black Realtor Kristine Smith
cell: 691-5852 kristines@tb.com
home office/fax: 623-2893
GMAC Realtor Sue Fox cell: 818-5282
home office: 623-3137

Prayer and Share

We are Roger, Pat, and Daniel Walker. Every day our family prays for Spirit Lake East. If you have special needs or requests for prayer, we will be glad to pray with you and for your family and friends. Call us at 623-6220.

Want to be financially free?

Give me a call. Sue Fox 623-3137 , cell 818-5282. A great opportunity!

Laborers, Pet Sitters, etc. Available

Going on vacation this winter? Do you need someone to feed your animals, water your houseplants, or pick up your mail while you're gone? The Tarnowski children (ages 14 & 18) have experience in these areas, and would be pleased to help out for a small fee.

Two Comments from the Board Meeting

I have two issues I wish to bring to the attention of the Spirit Lake East residents.

The first is dog ownership responsibilities. I have been hearing dogs barking for hours, particularly in the evenings. These constantly barking dogs are as irritating as the off road vehicles roaring by. As the owner of these dogs, doesn't the constant barking bother you, too? I have been seeing a number of dogs roaming in the northwest area of this development. I have chased them off several times after they were bothering my rabbits and chickens. I wonder if they are also chasing down deer. Just because you have moved to the country does not entitle you to let your dogs roam freely. The county dog leash ordinances apply here, too.

Number two is garage sale and lost animal signs. Please: 1) Make the lettering large enough for people to read as they are driving by. 2) Use contrasting colors for clarity. 3) Use a heavy paper stock or even a board for the sign so it will withstand the elements without collapsing or becoming unreadable. 4) After a reasonable time, please take the signs down. If your lost animal is not returned within a couple of weeks, I would guess the coyotes have had it for dinner.

Tony Tarnowski

Response to SLE Water Rate Increase Request

To the residents of Spirit Lake East:

On September 5th, we contacted Tammy Estberg, investigator of the Public Utilities Commission. The purpose of the contact was to get an update on the disposition of the SLE Water request for a 100% increase.

Ms. Estberg was very responsive and gave us formal guidelines on what we could do to further assist the Commission in making their decision regarding the increase. She suggested we write our comments and then sign all the members' names that agree. If you don't want to write on your own, but would like to have your name included on our comments, please read the following and get back to us as soon as possible.

- ✓ SLE Water, under the umbrella of Hansen Industries has owned this system for nearly thirty years and has only maintained the system with no money going to upgrades. The number of homes the system is required to serve has increased tremendously in the past ten years with no improvements to keep up with the growth.
- ✓ In October 2004, the system had a major breakdown which caused homeowners a ten day, catastrophic ordeal without water. There was no back-up system and as a result a pump had to be ordered. The water reservoir had a leak in it, which allowed the tank to store less than half its capacity. In addition, there was no back-up generator in case of power outages. As a result of the calls the Department of Environmental Quality received during the outage, SLE Water was required to make the repairs and fix several other items, which did not meet DEQ standards.
- ✓ DEQ requires self-reporting on all outages which result in 20psi or less. To the best of our knowledge, until October 2004, they had never reported any of the many outages that occurred due to power outages. In 1998, they had a three day outage, which was not reported.
- ✓ SLE Water has been reporting a loss in its annual reports. We have requested PUC auditors to look at the reports, which show employee costs for maintenance and clerical. We are concerned that these employees may be shown as full time for SLE Water when in fact they are employees of Hansen Industries and SLE Water is only a part of their duties.

We, as customers of SLE Water, have an obligation to state our concerns. Ms. Estberg has stated that there will be hearings regarding this matter. Those hearings may be informal (workshop type where we can make statements, ask questions and get replies) or formal (speakers must request time to speak and the hearing officers listen with no replies or exchange of information) or both. Please make your concerns known either by written comment or by attending the hearings.

We can be contacted at 623-6178 if anyone would like to discuss this further.

Bill and Carla Strane

Please Don't litter

Icehouse, Natural Light, Coors and Bud drinkers, please stop trashing our landscape with your beer cans. The beer can graveyard on Spokane Circle and all the way down Liberty has been cleaned up. Please keep it that way. Your cooperation will keep our property values up.

Thank you, M. Cover

Moose Stickers

Hi everyone! Remember those MOOSE STICKERS???

In early 2004, we sent out Moose stickers to all residents. As new residents move in I try to send their moose stickers and say welcome to the community, but I don't hear about everyone that moves in. Also many existing residents may have purchased new vehicles and need more stickers. If anyone out there needs stickers, e-mail me at cindy@nightvisions.com and let me know how many you need - along with your mailing address and lot # and I'll send them to you. I will also bring them to the November meeting and you can pick them up there.

These stickers help identify cars that belong to the community. If we see a car "cruising", we can tell if it is a neighbor. If it is someone from outside, we may want to note the license number, just in case. Also, if our children are out walking and a car stops, they can tell at a glance if it is a neighbor.

The sticker goes inside the windshield on the lower passenger corner.

Cindy Murphy

Bear Alert!

On Sept 19th at 04:45 AM, I noticed that my garbage was spread over the ground. I thought it was a dog's doings but when I walked over to our covered concrete shop porch, I noticed our small children's wading pool was very muddy (the night before it was clean) and half of the water was spilled out. I also noticed wet bear foot prints walking around on the once-dry concrete. I must have missed this bear by only an hour or so. I did not see or hear this bear, but I do know what bear tracks looks like. No damage was done. I am sure this bear will give us another visit (for more food and a bath), so I will have to be more prudent in terms of how we store our garbage in the fall when bears are trying to put on their winter fat.

Steve Lane

CC&R Petition Follow-up

First a thank you is in order for those of you who signed the petition to the board a few weeks ago. It helped in our discussions with the board. Most association members were not approached. For those who weren't, the petition was as follows:

- 1) To temporarily put off any vote on opening up the covenants to allow recreational vehicle riding in the community.
- 2) To replace the signs at the entrances stating the vehicles were not allowed.
- 3) To enforce the covenants as written.

Since then, we have retained an attorney to give us advice and clarify the CC&Rs. The result is that the CC&Rs protective covenants extend to both the community streets and to people's lots.

I'm hopping around a bit, but the petition provided some unexpected statistical support. It turns out that we were able to generate results for every person on a portion of Newman and Tahoe as well as Priest River. The two samples were surprisingly consistent:

- 1) Each had 40% to 45% against opening up the CC&Rs.
- 2) Each had 5% to 10% for, or believed for, opening them up.
- 3) Each had about 50% not resident or not sampled.

The community as a whole was strongly against allowing recreational riding. The samples covered 17% of the community.

The attorney also strongly suggested that we form a committee, with the word 'quiet' somewhere in its name. We plan to explain it and solicit members at the November association meeting. It is our belief that this committee will be able to help the board in other ways as well, so we plan to offer them our help when possible.

'Til November,

People for A Quiet Community (PAQC)

Firearms Instruction Indoor Archery & Firearm Range

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