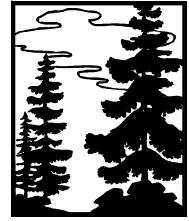


SLEHA GAZETTE



The Newsletter of the Spirit Lake East Homeowner's Association

January 2007

Contact Information

President- Dan Edginton	623-2649
V. Pres- Kris Kramer	623-6006
Secretary- Angelo Martinez	818-0775
Treasurer- Cindy Murphy	623-6479
Members at Large-	
Debbie Lane	623-2781
Mike Cover	623-2858
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	623-2064
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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

New Board Members

SLE has three new board members. In addition to Mike Schmidt's resignation at the November membership meeting, the board received the resignations of Lowell Hayes and Tony Tarnowski. Thanks to all of them for their efforts on behalf of the community. We hope they will continue to be involved. Mike is still on the water committee and Lowell is still the chairman (and only member, if you care to help out) of the Timber Committee.

The new board members are Mike Cover, Angelo Martinez and Debbie Lane. They were appointed at the January board meeting and will serve until the May 2007 membership meeting.

With the start of a new year and so many new board members, this is a good time for all of us to look at what we can do to make the home owner's association an asset to our community. This is a good time to volunteer for the committees, offer to help with projects that need work, and attend the meetings. Membership on the board is a big job and all of us can help if we make an effort to handle situations without the board when possible.

Thank you!

To the good people who cleared the road on that wintry windy morning of the record breaking storm: THANK YOU. I was prepared to cut my way out but to my surprise it had already had been done. You are really on the ball.

John Balbi

Emergency Preparation

It can happen again and the only person you can rely on is yourself.

The wind storm we had in December could have been worse. We could have had the winds like the west coast. We could have had back to back snow storms like Colorado. We could have a repeat of the ice storm of 10 years ago. Worse yet, a major quake on the coast could shake this area as well. How comfortable were you and your kids with the power out for only 3 days?

I grew up in northern Minnesota in the sixties. We lived with my retired grandfather on a non-working farm. My father was raised without many of today's conveniences, even many of the conveniences that the city kids had in the 40's. The animals were tended by the light of kerosene lanterns, horses pulled plows and wagons, produce was put in the root cellar, water was pumped by hand, and wood was needed to feed the "beast" in the basement. His older brothers helped cut ice on Schultz Lake for the icebox when my father was but a child, and grandma cooked on a wood-fired stove in the kitchen.

I would not want to live in those days, but I had a very valuable taste of it while growing up. Electric power was not that reliable in northern Minnesota in the 60's. We had more frequent outages than experienced here in our last 8 years. My father was no survivalist, but was familiar with the simpler ways of life, and his priority was to keep us comfortable during these times of inconvenience.

I have tried to be the same type of father and husband and keep my family comfortable during the times of inconvenience. I cannot and will not provide for everyone in Spirit Lake East, but I can give you a few pointers on how to get by when the power is off or we have forced isolation for extended periods.

Generators:

Get one now and learn how to use it! I bought my generator 20 years ago after a similar wind storm hit this newlywed couple. With extension cords we could keep the freezers cold by running the generator for 3 one-hour periods throughout the day. One can also supply the whole house with electricity if done correctly and safely. There is no point in constantly running a generator. It wastes gas and the small generators generally self-destruct after several hundred hours. Get one big enough. Honda is one of the best. Five thousand to 6500 watt generators are more than enough and they use about a gallon per hour. If you can find one that has an oil pump and filter, positive oil pressure gives much longer generator life but you will have to go up to about a 10,000 watt unit. If you have a large propane tank supplying gas appliances, look for a propane powered generator.

Lighting:

I do not like candles very much. They can easily ruin the day by burning the house down. I find the candles that are in glass jars much more stable and the glass helps throw the light. Aladdin lamps and similar oil lamps produce more light but I find that they project the light out and not down on the table without a proper shade. Coleman has propane, naphtha (Coleman fuel), and unleaded gasoline lanterns. These produce a lot of light but I would only use the propane units for limited periods indoors. LEDs are the lighting source of the future. Prices have come down and light output has gone 'way up. Batteries will last about 10 times longer than conventional flashlights. Except for the million-candlepower spotlight I use to see the four-legged prowlers, all my flashlights are the LED type. I can also standardize on AA batteries for nearly everything.

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Water:

I do not think that Hanson is ever going to provide us with a reliable water system. Store some water! The clear plastic soda bottles are the best for storing water. This plastic is less likely to contaminate your water. Clean the bottle. Add 3 or 4 tablespoons of 3% hydrogen peroxide to the water. Hydrogen peroxide is much safer than chlorine bleach. Clean and refill the bottles every 6 to 8 months. A good place to store the water bottles is way back in the lower kitchen cabinets in that wasted space area. Have at least 2 gallons of water per person per day. Five- or fifty-five-gallon containers can be used for washing or flushing. I melted snow for toilet water. It is your option if you want to buy pre-packaged water. Five cases is not an unreasonable quantity. Many residents have horses. A few extra food grade drums of water will get you by for a few days.

Heat:

I sold our pellet stove because electricity is needed to run the auger and fan. The wood stove will boil water and almost heat the whole house. A small 2000 watt generator will provide enough power to run a gas- or oil-fueled furnace. Again to save fuel, run 3 to 4 times per day.

Cooking and food:

Coleman has propane and conventionally fueled stoves. Have plenty of fuel on hand. Find an older propane range and keep it stored. (Many of the newer gas ranges require electricity for the igniters and the electronics.) You can cook normally for many days on a single 20 pound tank of propane. Besides, during the holidays we like having the extra oven. How much food is in your house and how much preparation do your meals need? When you're limited to a 2 burner stove or running to the shed to cook on the gas range, it is best to have some things easy to prepare. Keep plenty of canned goods and prepackaged meals stored away. Along with the water, use and rotate your stock of food. Many people have no more than a few days of food in their house. It is not hoarding to stock your

cupboards before a disaster. Wal-mart, Fred Meyer and the sporting goods stores carry freeze dried foods for camping. A couple of grocery bags of freeze dried foods will see you through many days. The shelf life is in excess of 10 years and taste very good. In the event that there is a disaster forced evacuation, a tote full of freeze dried foods can be thrown in the car and easily prepared.

Miscellaneous:

When, not if, an extreme event happens, gas, food and water may become unavailable indefinitely. Keep gas on hand and rotate because it does go stale. Keep your gas tank near full. FRS and GMRS radios can keep you in contact with family and friends. A shortwave radio with single side band capability will keep you informed when the local news is filtered. Have plenty of batteries.

Tony Tarnowski

Spirit Lake East Water Company Rate Increase

The PUC has set a deadline of February 9, 2007 for requests for a public hearing. While some of your neighbors have already made the effort, we need a large number of requests to get a hearing. The rate request includes a statement by Hanson Industries that they will no longer be responsible for SLEWCO. After neglecting the system and failing to set aside funds for emergencies or predictable replacement and repair, Hanson Industries is leaving us to deal with the problems with the water system and the costs. To request a local public hearing, go to <http://www.puc.state.id.us/water/water.htm>. Click on "File a Complaint or Comment". You can also call 208-334-0300. The case number is SPL-W-06-01.

If you are experiencing times of low water pressure, contact Henry Hall, Engineer at the Idaho Public Utility Offices (208) 334 -0366. It is important as PUC is concerned about excessive differences in water pumped from the well vs: amount used and billed to the customers.

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? Bethany Tarnowski, age 14, has experience in these areas, and would be pleased to help out for a small fee.

Eggs \$1.25/doz as available. Tony Tarnowski 623-6225

Cleanup Time is Now

This winter's windstorms caused quite a few trees to fall. Please make plans to get those removed by late spring if possible. Insects love that kind of stuff when left on the ground. They will lay their eggs in the wood and before you know it we will be seeing living trees fading from green to yellow-green then to orange and finally gone. Lodgepole pine is very susceptible to damage from the pine bark beetle and its cousins. So please begin making plans to remove the down material. Several could go together and see if a lumber company would be willing to buy the trees. You could even get a little cash for it. Check it out. Some are already in the process with one of the lumber companies.

Your timber specialist

Lowell Hayes

623-2064

johnhay1@verizon.net

We had a crew come in to help clean up. We had storm damage on top of years of neglect and bad logging. While it is hard for the men to work in the snow and cold, the frozen ground and snow actually make it better for your land than during the spring when the ground is soft.

We were pleasantly surprised to find that we would be paid to let someone do the hardest part of the cleanup for us. This is not logging, but forest management paid for by the trees that need to be removed because they are dead, dying or uprooted. Be careful to find someone who values the health of the forest and respects your wishes as the owner and resident.

Forest lands that are a self cleaning eco-system are a fantasy in this area. The land has been logged and reseeded; it isn't "natural". It needs management to keep it healthy.

John and Gail Johnson

Contact Timber Committee Chairman, Lowell Hayes before doing any logging.