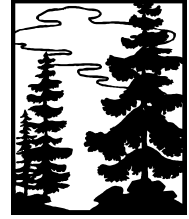


SLEHA



GAZETTE



The Newsletter of the Spirit Lake East Homeowner's Association
January 2009

SLE Board Members

President- Vacant
V. Pres- David Sincerbeaux
Secretary- Darrell Richardson
Treasurer- Cindy Murphy
Members at Large-
Kathy Gray
Jeff Hill
Scott Thomson
Bill McNamara

Committees

Architectural Review

(Chair) David Sincerbeaux
Mike Zweibel

Audit

(Chair) Trudy Shrigley
Vacant

Roads

(Chair) Paul Peloquin
Tom Hansel

Timber

(Chair) Lowell Hayes

Newsletter

John and Gail Johnson
Lois Tarnowski

Please send all correspondence to:

Spirit Lake East Homeowner's Association
PO Box 217
Spirit Lake, ID 83869

Website- www.spiritlakeeast.org

Phone: 208-623-6810

Needed: Treasurer

Hi all,

I wanted to let you know I am planning to resign. I will stay until the May elections, when my term runs out, to give SLE a chance to find someone else willing to take this on. Also I will train them and transfer all the computer records so they can pickup and take over. Anyone interested please contact the board.

Reasons... well before I started on the Board for SLE I volunteered at Hospice in Sandpoint. Since I've been treasurer, I've slowly had to give that up as it took too much time to do both, to the point I barely do anything for Hospice anymore and that is where I feel I do the most good. Also, I am now a grandmother, and that is a priority. I want to spend time with my grandson. We also have a business to run, and I'm getting more involved with my photography, so I had to choose, and decided it was time.

Thank you for these past 6 years.

Cindy Murphy

Treasurer

New Phone Number

Don't forget the new phone number for SLE. Calling 208-623-6810 will assure that your call receives a response even if an individual board member is not available.

Local Notary Services

Sharon Bradley is now offering notary services here in SLE. Call her at 640-4988.

Snow Removal Services

Jeff Hill is available for hire to remove snow. He has a truck with plow and a front end loader with a backblade. \$75 minimum and \$50 an hour thereafter. Call 623-2183 or 661-9506.

Interested in Helping with the Newsletter?

Lois Tarnowski and I have been editing the newsletter for the past few years. We are ready to move on to other things and need replacements. We would like to find someone to take over before the next issue in april 2009.

The newsletter is put out 4 times a year when there is enough content for an issue. The editors need to gather content from the board, committee members and other residents, format it, and see that it gets to the printers. The copy can be sent by email to the printer. Usually there is someone who will stop for the copies while they are in Coeur d'Alene. Renate French is currently taking the time to get it ready for mailing.

If you are interested in taking over the newsletter or helping with it, contact me at 623-6517.

Advertise in the SLEHA Gazette

Ads in the SLEHA Gazette are a great way to let your neighbors know about goods and services that you have to offer. It's just \$20 for a full page, \$10 for a half page, \$5 for a quarter page, and \$3 for a business card size. Paid ads are available to non-residents also.

Remember, residents can **advertise** free on the website.

Can You Spare 1.6 Minutes?

With Spring and potholes just around the corner, here's something to consider. Our new 15 mph speed limit is a challenge isn't it? Our psyche tells us if there's nobody on the road in front of us we must hurry to get to our destination as fast as possible. Unless of course that's going to cost us some money (eg. a ticket) right? Think about this. It takes 2.4 minutes to go a mile at 25mph. It takes 4 minutes to go a mile at 15 mph. So you lose 1.6 minutes per mile if you follow the speed limit. Nobody lives more than 3 miles from an entrance in SLE so those farthest away could conceivably take an extra 4.8 minutes to get home or out. HOW FAR DO YOU LIVE? Would you like to have better roads and less dust? Can you imagine the reduced wear and tear on the roads if everyone traveled 15 mph? YOU BET THIS WOULD SAVE US ALL MONEY !! Give it a try when the snow, which forces us to slow down, goes away. Take those few extra minutes to enjoy the scenery of the beautiful place we live.

Trudy Shrigley

Road Questions and More

We've had some questions about the roads from newer residents, so we thought everyone might be interested. The questions started by asking why all the roads are not oiled for dust:

First our dues are so low that we barely have the money to keep the roads drivable. There is no money for oiling all of them which would be over \$20,000. We do, some years, try to oil to the circles to help hold the roads together where there is so much traffic. We grade them in summer when there is enough moisture. We can't grade when it is dry as it would make the dust much, much worse. We can't grade when it is wet as the road would become a bog. So it is like walking a tightrope to grade when we can. It is the responsibility of each homeowner if they wish to oil in front of their own property. It is also the responsibilities of each homeowner who does choose to oil, to keep the pot holes filled where they have oiled or we will have to grade over their oil.

We plow the snow in winter when it reaches 4" deep. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to clear the berms in front of their drive. We cannot plow and miss each driveway as there is nowhere to put the snow. We have had complaints about when and how we plow, but have you ever driven into town on the residential streets? It takes days, sometimes many days, for many of those streets to be plowed and they all have berms. We at least have it done within hours rather than days. Our budget is very tight so that is the best we can do at this point.

Also for the information of all, speed is the main cause of potholes and the breakdown of our roads. Everyone complains about the potholes but we see many out there who ignore our requests to slow down. Doing the speed limit would help a lot, but we see many doing 20 MPH or more OVER the speed limit. This really damages the roads.

You asked about our meetings. We have a board meeting once a month which you are welcome to attend. They are the first Tuesday of each month and we are meeting at the Spirit Lake library presently. There are two semi-annual membership meetings. These are the second Tuesday of May and the second Tuesday of November at the high school on Highway 54. There will be a sign posted at the message board of each entrance notifying residents of the meetings.

Also, if we had not purchased another truck last fall, it would have been days before our roads were plowed as the grader and the old truck both broke down, so all we had was the new truck for a while. Thank you to those who paid the assessment and made the new truck possible. To date we have spent more on the new truck than we collected because we still have 44 residents who have not paid the assessment.

There was also a question about where all the money goes. The financial reports are posted on the website for all to see: www.spiritlakeeast.org. Most of the money goes for road and equipment maintenance. We did run out of money in 2008 by almost \$5000 because of the earlier high gas prices, all the extra snow plowing which increased payroll and all the break downs of old equipment. We had to dip into the emergency fund and if this continues to happen we will have no money and no emergency fund to draw from. We have around \$6000 in past dues which have not been paid. We have placed liens and/or judgments on these.

Trudy Shrigley
32734 N Hayden Dr
Spirit Lake, ID
83869

Spirit Lake East Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 217
Spirit Lake, ID 83869

November 11, 2008

I have audited the financial records of SLEHA for the year ending Dec. 31, 2007. The scope of the audit was limited to the inflow and outflow of association funds. Income posted to the accounts receivable for each lot numbered 5 through 300 (excluding the SLEHA-owned lot and the water company property) totaled \$53,163.69. Bank deposits of dues totaled exactly the same amount. Additionally, \$3.00 for a newsletter ad and \$100.00 dues posted in 2006 were deposited in 2007 for a total of \$53,266.69.

Income increased over the 2006 year by approximately \$1000 while expenses increased by approximately \$2700.

All expenses were examined and determined to be duly authorized with purchase orders signed by board members and no other outflows were identified by bank records. Approximately 68% of the expenses were related to road maintenance compared to 71% in the year 2006.

The accounting firm, North Idaho Accounting, has provided me with the excellent records of their office and those of our Treasurer to facilitate this audit. At the board's request I will store these records for up to 10 years at my home until other space is available.

Sincerely,

Trudy Shrigley, CPA

SLEHA Audit Committee Chair

Neighborhood News and Exchange

Stampin'Up! Supervisor: Randi Malloy 623-5087

Mary Kay Consultants: Vikki Malloy 623-5101
Marsha Cover 818-2006

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 available

Teenagers Joel and Ethan are willing to do odd jobs such as raking, mowing, shovelling snow, stacking firewood, etc., for a small fee. Please call them at 691-8661.

Babysitting

12-1/2 year old Christian girl, Safe Sitter graduate, available to babysit in SLE. Please call Mary at 755-4217 (cell).

Extension on Paying SLE Dues

To let everyone know, since the statements for the dues were sent out late because of the weather, we will extend the due date to February 10, 2009 before any interest or fees are accessed.

Cindy Murphy - Treasurer

Attention!! Attention!! New deadline of Jan. 31 to avoid late penalty and interest on annual dues payment starting in 2010 !!

Your annual dues notice for 2009 should be in the mail soon with the same “due upon receipt” statement as usual, but starting this year the deadline to avoid a \$25.00 late payment penalty and monthly interest charge is **Jan 31**. (See note above about the change to February 10.) This is a change from the prior Mar.15 date for late payment penalties of prior years so be sure to pay on time.

Our By-Laws state (in Article 1 Section 6) that the dues are to be paid annually within the first 15 days of each calendar year. Unfortunately during the past 3 years’ audits its been discovered that about 30% of members were ignoring the “due and payable upon receipt” part and were paying in May, June, July and as late as December. Interest was not charged until July. What that means is those members were in effect receiving an interest free loan from those members paying on time to cover the costs of keeping the roads clear of snow through the winter months.

As property owners in Spirit Lake East, we each own and undivided interest in the roads that we have and use. It is each owners responsibility to fairly share the cost of keeping those roads passable. The snow plow operators can’t wait until Spring to get paid and the equipment has to be kept running all winter. Please be sure to mail your payment on time and we will all survive the challenge of the roads.

Email Newsletter

Save SLE some money and get your newsletter delivered conveniently to your computer.

You can sign up for electronic newsletters by contacting your newsletter editors at newsletter@spiritlakeeast.org or sign up on the web site.

Board Meetings

Monthly Board Meetings are held at the SL Public Library on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM . The location may change if a larger location becomes available. Watch the website and the signs at the entrances to SLE for changes.

Mystery of the Wandering Cat

We have owned a beautiful calico spayed female cat for 9 years. She has always been very independent, but this summer she carried it to the extreme by disappearing for 2-3 weeks at a time. She was never starved, wounded, or dirty upon return, so we think she must have adopted somebody else for her second home. This pattern continued until about November, and now she is staying firmly in the warm house, as usual. If you have had a part time cat, I'd sure like to know about it so we know where she goes. Please call Lois at 623-6225 if you can shed any light on this small mystery. Thank you.

Lois Tarnowski