

Skyline Lakes Property-holders Association

www.skylinelakes.org

Spring greetings to all of you!

Well, the Development and the rest of us finally made it to spring—none too soon. Skyline Lakes is brimming with new growth and emerging green leaves. It's a classic, wet and beautiful Appalachian Spring that invites us to rediscover the land and remember why we first came to this mountain retreat.

I won't dwell on this past winter's problems with snow removal; the last letter addressed this. However, the financial consequences from several late winter storms will be with us for some time as we spent over \$9,000 on snow removal. If you recall, snow removal for the previous winter (2012-2013) cost us over \$14,000 and covering that expense significantly drew down our capital reserve fund. It will take us some time to recoup these costs and rebuild our financial strength to tackle new projects, like the Association equipment shed you endorsed. Fortunately, our other operating costs are under control, the roads are largely in good shape, and 2014 spring road maintenance costs are expected to be lower than in recent years with less need for gravel and new culverts.

I want to highlight the positive effect on Association road embankments from the tractor-mounted 22' boom mower that a recent Firewise grant underwrote for two weeks. Work began in late April and will continue until circa 10 May. Maintenance and Improvements Committee Chairman Andy Kent informed me last night that many of the development's main roads have already been trimmed and the results are spectacular. We will certainly want to use this heavy-duty, VDOT equipment again in future years. Over the years, Firewise grants have helped Skyline Lakes tremendously. We are grateful for their support, so please do keep track of your brush clearing hours and report them to Treasurer Crystal Liebenow, our Firewise liaison, so we can fulfill our in-kind contribution responsibility associated with each grant. Please see the last newsletter for a detailed article about the Firewise program.

Lastly, I want to alert you to an emerging problem with the lower lake which has deteriorating overflow (standpipe) and drain pipes that need to be replaced. Both pipes date from the late 1960s when Skyline Lakes was first developed. The situation is not urgent but it will have to be addressed in the next one to two years. The likely solution will be to drain the lake, use heavy equipment to dredge and clean the lake bed, remove the corroded pipes, and install a fourth, four-foot emergency spillway. The Board will have to plan carefully for this sizable, new expense. I will keep you advised of developments.

Best regards,

Eugene Skotzko
President, SLPA Board of Directors

Correction:

The March 2014 issue of Skylines was given an incorrect volume number. It should have been **Volume 45**, No. 1 (rather than Volume 44). It is unclear how the numbering system has arrived at this point because the Association certainly hasn't been producing Newsletters for 45 years. Nonetheless, staying in sequence with issues of the past several years, the volume number for 2014 is 45.

Mark your calendars and save the date:

The date for the 2014 Skyline Lakes Property-holders Association meeting will be Saturday 13 September. At the request of one community member, this date is has been set and is being announced well in advance in the Spring Newsletter. Hopefully, this will allow more community members to plan ahead, attend the meeting, join in discussing community business and concerns and enjoy meeting old and new friends during the annual potluck meal which follows the meeting. More detail on time, place, etc. will be provided in the August issue of Skylines.

Spring roadwork:

The most noticeable thing, after this year's spring roadwork activities are completed, will be the road sides! The cutting boom on the large rented tractor has been chewing up brambles, brush, and small trees – everything but rocks. And it is hoped that VDOT will be coming through in the near future to remove larger trees close to the road. Opened up road sides can be mowed and maintained wide enough to form good, effective firebreaks throughout the community. In addition, the threat of overhanging limbs breaking and obstructing roadways, which can be a common hazard during winter months, should also be diminished.

Strong crowning of the roads and packing of smaller gravel mixed with gravel dust during the past few years have served to establish sturdy roadbeds throughout much of the community. This is fortunate because, as noted in President Skotzko's letter, two winters in a row with significant snowfalls have seriously depleted the budget forcing cutbacks. As the Maintenance and Improvements Committee strives to operate within budget, more snow simply means less new gravel. As much as possible will be recaptured from ditches and roadsides where a fair amount was deposited as a consequence of snowplowing through the winter. But it will be possible to order only half the 2013 tonnage of gravel and that limited amount will be spread only in selected areas. Two places where the roads have become very muddy and rutted are in particular need of attention: 1) the narrow part of Parkline Road just above Glick's Hill prior to the speed hump and 2) a portion of Cliff Heights Road. Both these stretches of road will see gravel spread from this year's smaller order and any remaining will be distributed in other selected trouble spots.

REMINDER: Fast driving flings gravel from the roadways so please remember to **slow down and observe the 15 mph speed limit.**

They can be found in the bath house...

Yes, spiders, of course, but, more importantly, the bath house is where you can find the sheets for recording your spring clearing efforts of in-kind labor that are needed for community matching for the 2014 Firewise award. It's fine to begin keeping track of your work on any old scrap of paper and then transfer the information to one of the official forms before turning sheets in to Crystal Liebenow. Firewise reporting forms can be found on both sides of the bath house. Crystal is also willing to mail copies upon request. She can be contacted at: (703) 743-5115, (703) 981-0580, or cliebenow@comcast.net

Election of members for 2015 SLPA Board of Directors:

Skyline Lakes is governed by a nine member Board of Directors that meets four times a year in addition to the annual General Meeting of the Association in September. Board Members serve three year terms and terms expire each year for three members of the Board. This year the terms of Andy Kent, Crystal Liebenow, and Evans Painter will expire. To begin the process of electing new Board members and/or reelection of any of those with terms expiring, a Nominating Committee was appointed at the 13 April 2014 meeting of the Board.

If you might be interested in getting more involved in the Association by becoming a member of the Board or would like to suggest someone else who would make a good candidate, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee - Beth Cayer (Chair) (301) 685-6214, Jimmy Painter (540) 778-3141 and Jane Harrington (540) 778-3009 - by 30 June 2014.

2014 SLPA Board of Directors

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