



Skyline Lakes Property-holders Association

www.skylinelakes.org

From a visit to Skyline Lakes in mid-July, I can report that weather on the mountain was breezy and comfortable – about 10 degrees less than the sweltering valley floor below. The development was quiet and very relaxed dressed in its summer foliage—almost sleepy. It’s a wonderful respite from city life and helps to renew the human spirit.

The roads are in excellent shape. The road maintenance contractor did the bulk of our “spring” work in July because of recent heavy rains and equipment issues. We have carefully selected specific, heavy usage spots to maintain in the road network with our limited resources, which snow removal operations in successive, heavy winters affected. You will see fresh layers of “VDOT #10” gravel dust in a number of key locations and fresh, regular gravel in other stretches. If the rains ease and depending on the weather this fall, the current work could last until spring 2015 and allow us to forego a touch up this fall.

The Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative is busy clearing vegetation “hot spots” along the company’s power lines in the development. This work will make the power lines less likely to sustain storm damage in the future, and will allow 911 First Responders clearer access during emergencies. The company is using a robust piece of equipment to clear cut within their 20 foot easement to either side of the power line. The machine is particularly thorough and seems to leave little more than tooth picks in its wake. This brush cutting is being done at no cost to the Association.

The Board is working to secure a new Firewise grant which could be in place by the end of the summer. Be sure to keep recording the brush clearing hours you put in on your own property so that we can satisfy the grant’s matching requirement once it is established. Please pass your work sheets to Board Treasurer Crystal Liebenow and she will do the rest to obtain credit for the Association’s in-kind requirement.

At the request of the Association’s insurance underwriter, we expect to install safety warning signs in and around the lower lake later this year. We are also considering repair/replacement of the wooden platform and walkway at the lake to meet insurance requirements. We hope to have an update on these projects, and more, at the general membership **Annual Meeting** which will be held at **1 pm on 13 September 2014** at the bath house.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer and do plan to attend the annual meeting.

Regards,

Eugene Skotzko
President SLPA Board of Directors

A Bad Year for Blackberries:

People accustomed to picking blackberries along the roadsides in Skyline Lakes were disappointed by extremely limited picking this year. First the boom ax super mower had cleared brush, including saplings, from the roadsides and then Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative moved through, clearing an even wider swath under roadside power lines with the use of a very powerful piece of equipment (jokingly referred to as “the tree muncher” in the July Board meeting). This meant that thickets of blackberry canes along those roadsides vanished with the other brush and even sizeable trees. Only the steep slopes, where use of such equipment wasn’t possible, were spared.

The tree muncher even deviated from roadsides to clear cut a broad right-of-way under power lines that ran through wooded lots. Although the results look a little shocking right now, this work was long overdue (it had been twenty years since power lines were last cleared in Skyline Lakes). So, while there may be few jars of blackberry preserves this winter, there should also be fewer power outages. And happily, as is known by anyone who has worked to clear their property, blackberries are among the first and most vigorous colonizers of open ground. Thanks to the birds and the bears, blackberry seeds will be dispersed and blackberry thickets will be re-established along our roadsides.

Death of David Sprinkle:

David Lawrence Sprinkle died in his Skyline Lakes cabin on Sunday, 8 June 2014. He was retired from Dunham-Bush where he had worked as a welder. His parents and one bother preceded him in death and he is survived by two brothers and three sisters.

David loved his home on the mountain and was very committed to the Skyline Lakes community. He served on the Board of Directors and devoted many hours to roadwork on ditches and gravel distribution. As Security, Safety and Surveillance Chair, he was vigilant and quick to defend the community against outside intruders. Several members of our community are proud to own beautiful knives that David made with distinctive antler handles. Although he was reserved and somewhat shy, David had a sweet smile that could become a grin. Whether you recall him smiling, or in more recent days when he smiled less, he will certainly be remembered and counted as a significant loss to the Skyline Lakes community.

Please vote for members of the 2014 Board

Don’t forget to exercise your right/responsibility to vote for members of the 2014 SLPA Board of Directors. A proxy ballot for the election of three members is attached. It can be mailed or brought to the Annual meeting, but must be received by September 13th. Ballots will be counted at the Annual Meeting, where additional nominations of SLPA members may be made from the floor. Association members in good standing (i.e. assessments are paid up to date) are entitled to cast one vote for each lot owned. They may vote for any or all of the three names on the ballot or use the Other blanks to write in the names of undeclared candidates that they might prefer.

Three Directors are willing to run again:

Three hard-working and experienced members of the current Skyline Lakes Board of Directors have terms expiring this year. Fortunately, they have each agreed to let their name stand in nomination for another term on the Board. Their resumes, which speak of their activities and commitment to the community, follow:

Resumes of Nominees for the SLPA Board of Directors

James “Andy” Kent

Andy has operated an excavating and waterproofing business that he and his son share for 30 years. He has owned property in Skyline Lakes for 25 years. He spends as much time as work will permit in his home “on the mountain” and of that time, he spends a good deal of it monitoring the community roads and making plans for improvements. He has been the chairman of the Maintenance and Improvements Committee in recent years and has been instrumental in the general improvement of the roads, banks and culverts. Due to his diligence, when the electric company came to remove about ten trees that were endangering the service to the community, they ended up doing far more work because Andy helped haul the offending trees to the roadside where residents could cut them up for free firewood. He has also arranged for contractors to spread the gravel on our roads and operate the boom ax that the Firewise grant provided to clear brush from our road banks.

Crystal Liebenow

Crystal has a home here in Skyline Lakes on Suzanne Road. She has operated a land management company for nearly 20 years in Warrenton, VA. She is a retired nurse and is an active member of the community. Due to her recent efforts on the Board of Directors, we have secured multiple Firewise grants, convinced the electric company to come maintain the lines in the community to more adequately secure electricity during storms, and worked with the GIS Department of Page County to number every house in Skyline Lakes and provide reflective road signs so that emergency personnel could more easily and quickly respond to residents, in case of emergency.

Evans Painter

Evans has lived around Stanley all his life and has owned property in Skyline Lakes for around 30 years. He has served on the Board in years past and, having retired from the construction business, has been particularly helpful in procuring help from local contractors for building and roadwork. Most recently, he has served on the Maintenance and Improvement Committee, which oversees the care of our roads and community-shared spaces. He has agreed to run for reelection. Evans is an avid outdoorsman and he and his family enjoy coming to their cabin on Parkline Rd. as frequently as they can.

Communication and Community Involvement:

One element of discussion at the 13 July Board meeting was how to foster greater community involvement and participation of more property-holders. To that end efforts are underway to update the community website (skylinelakes.org). There's also an e-mail address (board@skylinelakes.org) to use for communicating with the Board and the mailing address (SLPA, P.O. Box 427, Stanley, VA 22851)) remains a reliable means of contact. Workdays calling for volunteers to help with community maintenance projects may also be planned in the future.

However, perhaps the best involvement of all is to come to the Annual Meeting and potluck meal on September 13th where you can participate in your Association's governance, interact with Board members directly and enjoy the company of other community members whom you may not have seen for a year.

Current SLPA Board of Directors

Gene Skotzko (President)
(703) 939-7624; (540) 778-2633
eskotzko@verizon.net

Beth Cayer (Secretary)
(301) 685-6214
bethcayer@hotmail.com

Andy Kent (M&I Committee Chairman)
(703) 929-2481
slpa.maint.improv@gmail.com

Evans Painter
(540) 778-3894

Doug Southers
(540) 778-1312
worksforfaith@yahoo.com

Regina Austin (VicePresident)
(540) 778-3486

Crystal Liebenow (Treasurer)
(703) 743-5115
cliebenow@comcast.net

Jimmy Painter
(540) 778-3141
jphunt4ever@aol.com

Joyce Richards
(540) 778-2293
ucjoyce@yahoo.com

Accountant: Sue Dawson (540) 778-1150

Proxy Ballot for Election of Directors – 13 September 2014

The undersigned hereby appoints the Skyline Lakes Property-holders Association, Inc. HOLDERS OF ELECTION (Beth Cayer, Jon Cayer and Jane Harrington, as designated by the Board), or any of them, each with power of substitution, as proxies to vote all lots which the undersigned is entitled to vote in the manner described herein, at the Annual Meeting of SKYLINE LAKES PROPERTY-HOLDERS ASSOCIATION, INC. to be held on Saturday, Sept 13 2014, commencing at 1:00 PM, or any continuation or postponement thereof, unless sooner terminated as provided by law. The undersigned hereby revokes all proxies heretofore given. The undersigned hereby affirms that he or she is a member in good standing and is entitled to the number of votes which he or she has indicated at the bottom of this form (i.e. the number of lots owned). HOLDERS OF ELECTION are instructed to cast this ballot. The undersigned has inscribed an "X" beside the name of each candidate for whom the ballot shall be cast. Members in good standing (i.e. assessments are paid up to date) are entitled to cast one vote for each lot owned. Members may either mail this ballot to be cast by proxy or cast the ballot in person at the Annual Meeting. **If you choose to vote by proxy, mail this form to SLPA Proxy, PO Box 427, Stanley, VA 22851. Ballots must be received by 13 Sept 2014 to be counted.**

Election of Directors to serve on SLPA Board (Vote for three)

Directors are elected to serve a term of three years, with directors elected each year to replace those whose terms have expired. Candidates receiving the most votes will be elected. The number of candidates voted for cannot exceed the number of open seats (3).

The nominees for SLPA Directors are:

(____) Andy Kent (____) Other _____

(____) Crystal Liebenow (____) Other _____

(____) Evans Painter (____) Other _____

I own _____ lots in Skyline Lakes, for which my assessments are paid in full.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, sign the full corporate name by the duly authorized officer.