

## Skyline Lakes Property-holders Association

[www.skylinelakes.org](http://www.skylinelakes.org)

Early winter greetings to all of you! By the time you receive this newsletter it will be near Christmas, so I want to wish each of you and your families a joyous and safe Christmas season. While we're well beyond the glorious color changes of fall, I encourage those of you with four wheel drive to venture to Skyline Lakes at some point this winter to see its stark beauty under a blanket of snow.

I want to report to you that the Board voted unanimously at its 26 October 2014 quarterly meeting to raise the lot assessment fee by two dollars/lot for fiscal year 2015 (effective 1/1/15) to \$92/lot. This action will bring approximately \$900 in additional revenue next year that will be devoted largely to buttressing the maintenance budget. This increase was consistent with similar action in recent years. Our justification for small but steady increases is to keep pace with inflation and to avoid a large "catch-up" assessment if we deferred incremental adjustments annually. Simply, it is easier on many owners to make small adjustments annually than to defer this action and make it hard on ourselves later.

As always, weather is a big unknown for SLPA. After two winters with extraordinary snow removal costs, the Board is husbanding your resources carefully to ensure we can make it through a *normal* winter this year. To undergo a third straight winter with abnormal costs would force future budget cutting. I am loath to cut back on preventive maintenance after M&I Chairman Andy Kent's hard work to get the roads in excellent shape.

Finally, our insurance underwriter conducted a site survey of Skyline Lakes in mid-2012 and recommended a number of necessary improvements to reduce our liability, especially at the lower lake. Pursuant to these recommendations we recently constructed a new fishing deck and walkway there for \$2200. That amount went primarily for materials since the labor costs were minor (free in one case and low-cost in another). Funds taken from the M&I budget allowed this project to be completed in a timely fashion but we are seeking to restore those costs with donations. To date we have received \$750 in owner-donations for this completed project but still need another \$1450. Please consider a Christmas season designated donation to the Association to help defray this balance.

Thank you and best regards,  
Eugene Skotzko  
President

### **September 2014 Annual Meeting – the best and the worst:**

The very worst of it certainly was the weather! Even though the tent had been removed from storage the previous day there was just no point in setting it up for the Annual Meeting. That day dawned to steady, unrelenting rain which persisted so that, by noon, a soggy cardboard sign announced that the meeting had been moved to the Skotzko residence on Parkline Dr.

And the best of that day was the warm welcome and community spirit that grew as members assembled for the meeting, which saw the best attendance in a great long while with 26 members and guests present. Although President Gene Skotzko was unfortunately unable to attend, he had prepared a written summary of the past year's Board activities and designated an experienced pinch-hitter in his brother and Former President Scotty Skotzko. Scotty, assisted by Secretary Beth Cayer, conducted an orderly meeting, giving the President's Report and calling for additional reports from Treasurer Crystal Liebenow and M&I Chair Andy Kent. Ballots were counted and, with no write-in candidates and no nominations from the floor, Andy Kent, Crystal Liebenow and Evans Painter were re-elected, each to serve another three-year term. The formal meeting adjourned but the spirited conversation and laughter continued as those assembled enjoyed a meal of fried chicken, numerous delicious side dishes and several wonderful desserts.

### **Have you visited the bath house lately?**

Well, if you haven't, you will have to wait until spring because it's closed for the winter and the doors are chained. However, come spring, you should make a point of checking it out – even if you don't generally make use of this community facility. Memories of the old bathhouse can make many people shudder, as it was sorely in need of updating and cleaning. But that old bathhouse has been transformed through the efforts of newcomers to Skyline Lakes, Brady Knight and his family. The bathhouse outside is freshly painted (an interesting shade that's sort of a deep plum with grey-blue trim) but it's the inside that is the most striking. Serious professional cleaning was sorely needed and Brady's parents, who own a cleaning company, addressed that need first. After being cleaned and scraped, the inside was painted throughout and Brady's mom's touch can be seen in whimsical and amusing decorations. In short, the bathhouse has gone from "disgusting" to delightful. We all owe the Brady Knight family a great vote of thanks for this uplifting volunteer contribution to our community! **Please remember that we can express our appreciation best by taking care to keep the bathhouse clean after using it.**

### **Board of Director's Meeting on 26 October 2014:**

At the Board of Director's meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> the following officers were elected to serve in FY 2015: President, Eugene Skotzko; Vice President, Regina Austin; Secretary, Beth Cayer and Treasurer, Crystal Liebenow. Andy Kent, who has been leading a committed team responsible for our well-maintained roads, will remain in the role of Chair of the Maintenance and Improvements Committee and Jane Harrington, a non-Board member, will continue to serve as Editor of the Newsletter.

Following the election of officers, the primary business of the October Board meeting is to review the past year's activities and expenditures along with discussion and approval of a

proposed budget for the new fiscal year. That budget, which was unanimously approved by the Board, follows:

**SLPA FY 2015 Budget - approved by the Board of Directors on 10/26/2014**

**FUND SOURCES FOR FY'15 BUDGET:**

Lot assessment fees (based on 470 lots @ \$92/lot)	\$43,240.00
Member donation program	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$43,440.00</b>

**EXPENSES:**

M&I Expense (Road maintenance and related)	\$34,300.00
Accounting	\$1,350.00
Legal fees	\$150.00
Supplies	\$300.00
Rental fees	\$115.00
Postage and shipping	\$175.00
Utilities	\$475.00
In-house publication (Newsletter)	\$1,000.00
Insurance	\$4,500.00
Charitable Contribution	\$100.00
Misc. Expenses	\$200.00
Corporate Membership	\$275.00
Collection expenses	\$300.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$43,240.00</b>

**RESERVE FUNDS:**

Contingency provisions (Emergency fund)	\$1,500.00
Capital Reserve fund	\$6,231.08

**Current SLPA Board of Directors**

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