

Skyline Lakes Property-holders Association

www.skylinelakes.org

President's Letter

Greetings to all of you!

Spring is a beautiful time of the year on the mountain where our community is in late, full bloom. If you haven't been there lately, this would be a lovely time to visit.

Late winter storm: I want to share with you the impact of the early March snow storm that hit Skyline Lakes and the tremendous effort taken to open the roads. Despite dire predictions, the 5-6 March storm shut down Washington but only produced an anemic 1-3 inches there. The story was different at Skyline Lakes. At its worst on 6 March, 2-3 inches/hour fell which disabled two contractor trucks, and forced Maintenance and Improvements Committee Chairman Andy Kent to bring in a bull dozer from his excavating company near Warrenton. Andy arrived mid-day 7 March to discover 5 foot high drifts at the entrance to the development. Using the dozer, he plowed about two miles to Larry and (former M&I Chairman) Regina Austin's residence well beyond the bath house. The couple and their neighbors had been stranded for two days. At one point, an emergency response helicopter hovered low in front of their house to check for signs of life. After truck repairs, Andy plowed for the next 14 hours using two trucks trailing behind the dozer to enlarge his path through community roads, attempting to reach elderly and snow bound residents first, as is SLPA policy. He resumed the next day (Friday, 3/8) for another 10 hours until his machine burst a high pressure hydraulic line. Andy then arranged for a second bull dozer to be delivered to the development that same night; it arrived circa 11pm. Andy recommenced plowing with the second machine for another five hours until about 3-4 am Saturday morning (3/9). He picked up again at 7 am Saturday and plowed 12 more hours to clear all roads by Saturday evening. He eventually recovered his disabled first bull dozer Monday morning, 3/11, with the help of a special repair truck and hoist called from Warrenton.

In summary, Andy, Larry Austin ("Goozle"), Regina Austin, and two contractors spent 129.5 hours over four days clearing the wet, heavy snow from Skyline Lakes roads. While the region enjoyed a light winter, Skyline Lakes endured six snow storms since Christmas 2012 and the Board was forced to spend \$14,183 for snow removal to keep the roads clear—almost one-third of our annual budget.

Roads: Despite the severe weather, many people have remarked that the roads are in good shape due to their sound base developed over several years. Even the notorious Glick's Hill survived the hard winter well thanks, in part, to the selective use of Crusher Run stone (fine gravel with a lot of quarry dust) on its worst spots instead of larger coarse gravel. The annual spring road maintenance campaign will begin mid-May to reclaim gravel, restore ditches, and add five new culverts.

Regards and hope to see you on the mountain before our annual meeting next September!

Eugene Skotzko

President, SLPA Board of Directors

Orv's done it again! (but he did have help...)

Orv Lee, with his background and experience of the Firewise fire hazard mitigation program, has written another proposal and obtained another award for our community. However, several property holders worked hard in clearing roadsides and their own wooded properties to accumulate labor hours to meet the in-kind requirements of last year's award.

As you may recall, an award from Firewise means that the recipient community has to **earn** the award before any dollars are actually bestowed. We'll need to do that again this year so please join your friends and neighbors in Skyline Lakes by clearing brush and downed limbs and trees to make us look like a safe community instead of a tinder laden mountainside (this keeps us in the good graces of the Firewise program, increasing our chances for future awards). Our new/current award is for \$4900 and can bring much needed funding to SLPA. The interval for recording work effort for this award extends to October 1st and sheets for recording work hours can be found in the bath house. So let's work hard in the months ahead, especially in spring when temperatures are pleasanter and there are fewer bugs about.

One note of caution: If you burn debris you've cleared, please do so in a safe manner. Avoid windy days and don't burn until after 4:00 pm. Then be sure your fire is completely OUT –not just smoldering – before leaving it unattended. In a recent frightening incident, a fire was left smoldering. Fortunately, it was spotted by another community member who got water and help to drench it. Without this bit of luck and quick attention the sleeping fire could have flared again with a bit of wind and caught the woods which were very close by.

Election for 2014 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 Regina Austin, Jane Harrington and Eugene Skotzko 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 14 April 2013 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 by 30 June 2013.

Nominating Committee for 2014 SLPA election

Jane Harrington (Chair) (540) 778-3009

Joyce Richards (540) 778-2293

Scotty Skotzko (703) 242-8828

Motion Passed at the 14 April 2013 SLPA Board meeting:

That the balloting for the 2014 election of Board members include a ballot question to assess community sentiment on the prospect of building a metal shed to house the tractor, backhoe and other equipment owned by SLPA.

2013 SLPA Board of Directors

Gene Skotzko (President)

(703) 939-7624; (540) 778-2633

eskotzko@verizon.net

Joyce Richards (Vice President)

(540) 778-2293

ucjoyce@yahoo.com

Jane Harrington (Secretary)

(540) 778-3009

janegoneelsewhere@gmail.com

Crystal Liebenow (Treasurer)

(703) 743-5115

cliebenow@comcast.net

Andy Kent (M&I Committee Chair)

(703) 929-2481

Regina Austin

(540) 778-3486

Jimmy Painter

(540) 778-3141

jphunt4ever@aol.com

Evans Painter

(540) 778-3894

Doug Southers

(540) 778-1312

worksforfaith@yahoo.com

Assistant Treasurer: Jane Skotzko (non-voting)

(703) 242-8828, jskotzko@verizon.net

Accountant: Sue Dawson (540) 778-1150