



Spanish Lakes News

A Publication of the Spanish Lakes Homeowner's Association

Spanish Lakes Homeowner's Association

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President's Report

Your Homeowner's Association is alive and well. Much is happening at this time of the year. Your Board has made progress on the following:

- Asphalt road protective sealing is approaching scheduling.
- The developer claim has been settled.
- Rules and protocols have been summarized and distributed.
- A long range planning questionnaire is being circulated for your input.
- Safety and drainage issues in the common areas are being addressed.

We look forward to the July social event and the Annual Meeting in September.

Board's Report

Developer and Real Estate Claims

The Board has settled our long standing claim against both the developer and real estate agent and is preparing to move forward with maintenance and safety issues soon. One of these is the ongoing drainage problem not only in the roadways, paths, and fire roads, but also those homeowner issues that are still ongoing. Slowly but surely, we are moving toward fixing these problems.

Road Resealing

We are preparing to re-seal all the roads soon. To that end we are going to trench the constant water draining from the water tank hill out on Laguna Del Campo creating that lovely green slime. This should be a permanent fix for this ongoing drainage problem, but it needs doing right away so that the roads can be cleaned preparatory to re-seal.

Also, some of you have plants growing over the curb. These will have to be cut back or pulled back and staked before the road can be done. Let us know if you plan to do this yourself or if you want us to contract it and bill you.

Volunteers are needed to prepare the cracks by removing weeds before the repairs can be done. If no one steps forth, we will have to contract this out also.

You all know what a temporary imposition this sealing is; you will need to move vehicles out of your drive and park them in an accessible area if you plan to journey out on the day your road is done. Also, you should be aware that driving on a newly sealed road before it is dry could damage your car's undersides or leave marks on your concrete driveway as well as the newly paved road.

Another concern is that of traffic movement; there will need to be one-way movement and those attendant delays for the hours of re-paving. Patience, please. More particulars will be forthcoming.

South Lake

We have also voted to approve the solar pump for the south lake. In addition, Jeff Marsden is researching fixing the dam there, although this may need to be deferred until next-season.

Use of the Park for Events

Reserving the park for private events is acceptable if we are notified well enough in advance. We would need to know when, where, why, and ask you to sign a waiver for you and your guests. As an example, Craig Thomas will hold an event on June 21 in the park and paths. The park won't be closed to other homeowners; it will just be more populated that day.

Maintenance and Safety

We are moving forward on removing loose barbed wire, placing signs on unsafe docks, and chain gating the fire road. (We have had problems with unauthorized vehicles.)

Gophers at the Gates

We have contracted with Gopher Stompers to mitigate this constant problem. These pests created drip system damage at the River Road gate. Prevention is much less expensive than

repair. Other companies are getting licenses to deal with these creatures (Sprinkler King for one), but right now Gopher Stompers seem to be the only company in our area that does this work.

Volunteers Needed...

To spray the road cracks with weed killer and then remove the dead weeds preparatory to the road sealing.

- To help with weed abatement in the areas of the path where weed killer can't be used.
- To remove fence posts behind the middle lake (the lumber may be suitable for volunteer's firewood)
- To help with materials for the July barbecue.

It is the volunteer efforts that have kept the dues so low.

Gates Stay Open

When realtors want to have an open house, we usually open the gates so we don't have to give the code out to strangers. (The code will soon be changing yet again.) If you have a large party or function planned, call Jim Hagen to get the gates open for the event.

Enclosures...

Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire to help us develop a long-range plan and return it to Mark IV by the date specified. We need your input.

The second enclosure is a set of basic rules and guidelines developed to help us keep up the beautiful nature of the complex and to enforce, if needed, rules that may be bent or ignored. Ah, 'tis the nature of the beast...

Non-Meeting Social Event

A gala, no-meeting social event is tentatively scheduled for July 4, 2006. It will be at the park and will be complete with food and beverages, games and decorations.

Next Board Meeting

The next business meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Thursday, August 31 at the Senior Center – main auditorium. All homeowners are invited to attend.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Homeowner's Association Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at the park. This wine and cheese event will include a State of Spanish Lakes report and election of officers. Two Board positions will be available; we hope that many of will want to run for these available spots.

Editor's Comments

Call for Articles

I would be pleased to publish your articles in the newsletter. These could be about anything of general interest, such as information about the flora, the fauna, or about the people living

here. If you are interested, you may reach me at 239-8997 or via E-mail at spanishlakesnews@mac.com.

The Small End of the Wedge...

Most all of us have bought in Spanish Lakes because of the pristine, clean, elegant look of the entire complex. One has only to drive the back road to Templeton to see how large acreages with no CC & Rs can deteriorate with old cars, trucks, rigs, and other junk. I hope you agree that we don't want this deterioration to happen here.

A friend of mine said once that allowing just one lapse of the CC & Rs is like driving the small end of the wedge into the development. That is why the Board reminds all that maintaining the CC and Rs is so important. It is NO FUN enforcing them, trust us.

Board Meeting

Thursday, August 31, 2006

5:30 P.M.

Main Auditorium Senior Center

Bridge Anyone?

DAnna Lawson would like to know if anyone is interested in an informal elementary non-competitive bridge group during the day sometime. Call her or me if you are interested.

For those interested, bridge in Paso Robles is thriving, through the Newcomers' Club, the duplicate group and the Arts Association. I can get you in touch with any of these groups if you let me know. The Newcomers' Group is a great way to meet people new to this area, and the cost is nominal. The duplicate group meets Thursday and Friday at the Senior Center at 12:30 p.m. with free lessons for beginner/intermediate at 11:30 a.m. on Friday. The Arts' Association hosts a long-term partner bridge at people's homes and is also a great way to meet folks.

Focus on Our Wildlife

That Unmistakable Sound...

One of the most incredible sounds you will hear in the open space is the call of the Western Meadowlark. Lewis and Clark, when they were traversing the West, knew of this bird,

but then it somehow seemed to get overlooked. That is why James Audubon, who named it, called it *Sturnella Neglecta*.

Very soon after this bird got named, it began to be noticed—so much so that not one but several Western states have named it their state bird. (The Eastern Meadowlark, that has a much different sound, does not have this distinction.) How many states? Which ones? California? (Answers are located at the end of the newsletter.)

Meadowlarks, members of the blackbird family, need lots of open un-mowed space to flourish. Their sound is quite unique—a full sentence that is the same each time. This bird is nine and one half inches long, stockier than the common blackbird, and has tan-grey wings, a yellow breast, and a black “V” on its neck. Unlike the blackbird, the meadowlark’s numbers have been steadily decreasing since the 1960s. The uniquely beautiful sound of this wonderful bird usually comes from a perch on top of a tall weed or fence, but often you will hear but not see the bird itself.



Reminders...

Those of us with dogs need to remember to bring some means of removing our pet’s droppings from the street and trails. Those who have no pets do not need to navigate around these extra obstacles.

If you haven’t already done so, you need to get your un-landscaped areas mowed before notices come out from the county about your defensible space. I believe the space around structures is now 100 feet, so we’ll just have to move those Meadowlarks to our open spaces.

It is time to kill those mosquitoes in your ponds or fountains. There are several environmentally friendly products which do the trick.

Answers to Meadowlark Quizlet...

There are six states that have adopted the Western Meadowlark as their state bird: Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, and Wyoming. California, of course you knew, picked the California quail, seen on our streets, for its symbol. Only the cardinal narrowly beats out the meadowlark as a state symbol (seven states chose the cardinal).

Some Important Telephone Numbers

- Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
- Paso Robles Police: 911 or 237-6464
- County Sheriff: 911 or 781-4550
- Paso Robles Fire - EMS: 911 or 237-6464
- S.L. News Editor: 239-8997
- Jim Hagen (Gate): 239-8184

There’s Work Ahead...



Some Views of the Spanish Lakes Environment

