



Spanish Lakes News

A Publication of the Spanish Lakes Homeowner's Association

Spanish Lakes Homeowner's Association

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In Memoriam Gregory Lutz

The recent passing of homeowner Gregory Lutz saddens us all. Our condolences go out to his family and others close to him.

President's Report

- Since Dave Fender has resigned from the Board, volunteer candidates are now being solicited to fill the vacant position. One property owner has indicated interest and we invite others to become interested too.
- A social event might be planned for the late summer. Since no Board members volunteered to plan and implement the event, last year's chairperson (John Fazio) will be asked to put on another smashing party. Paul Nevosh volunteered to provide the wine.
- The results of the entry monument sign survey were announced. Design "B" received the most votes; it has brick posts and metal lettering mounted between the posts.
- The rancher has now replaced the fence on the PGE "triangle." A thank you letter has been sent to the property owner.
- A meeting with landscape maintenance contractor C-Scapes has been held. Remedial issues, plant replacements, and Park trees were among the items discussed.
- The next Board meeting will be in mid-July.

Board's Report

Treasurer's Report

Paul Nevosh reviewed the March 2007 financial report and commented that the expenses were generally within budget. Approximately

\$94,000 is on hand; some expenses will be incurred in the next several months. Nevosh also noted that the association might be \$40,000 under-funded in reserves.

Water Company Report

Water company rates are under review. A study just completed indicated that SLMWC reserves are 100% funded.

A Board member noted continuing power fluctuations problems at his residence, and believed the problems arose from the adjacent pump station. Another, however, speculated that the problem has more to do with PGE service.

Water Pressure Fluctuations

An open forum for attending owners was held. One Board member and another homeowner noted water pressure variations; their concerns were referred to the Spanish Lakes Mutual Water Company (SLMWC). SLMWC is evaluating the pumps and associated controls. An expert may be contacted to assist the evaluation.

South Lake Pumps

Parts and equipment for the solar lake pump are expected shortly and the work should be completed by late-May. Volunteers are needed for the installation of the pipe from the existing well head to the lake. It is expected that those homeowners closest to the lake will be among the first volunteers. Volunteer workers should contact Roger Zolldan (238-3579).

June 2nd Workday

Saturday, June 2, 2007 has been scheduled as a workday. Work may include outhouse removal, barbed wire disposition, and more. Both male and female help is needed. JoAnn Pickering and other volunteers will arrange lunch for the workers. Contact Roger Zolldan or Victor Pickering soon so that adequate arrangements can be made.

Speeding Remedies

Some progress was reported on the study of remedies for speeding on our streets. Further study continues, and stop signs, speed humps and signage is being considered. Discussion followed on methods for following up on known violators and whether confrontation or disciplinary action is more appropriate.

Tree Trimming

It was reported that a homeowner requested permission to trim an oak tree located on the lot. The owner was advised that no permission was needed for tree trimming within a lot. Homeowners are reminded, however, that they are forbidden to trim or remove trees in our common spaces.

Satellite Dishes

A comment was made about satellite television dishes throughout Spanish Lakes. A survey will be made and compliance solicited. The governing documents require that the dishes not be visible from the street and from adjacent residences.

6.08 Antennas: No radio, telephone or television receiving or transmitting antenna, satellite or external apparatus shall be installed on any lot in a manner that makes it visible from the street or any other residence in the Project without prior written approval from the Committee.

Hot Air Balloons

Several hot air balloons have landed on the property. It was the Board's opinion that the balloon occupants and the associated chase vehicles are trespassing and have the potential to damage the wildlife in our open space. The Board feels that this activity should be discouraged.

Editor's Report

Spanish Lake Walkers

It is very gratifying to see so many walking participants engaged in lively conversation each Monday Wednesday and Friday. Rain or shine these hearty souls meet 8:30 A.M. at the Park. I am told some of these folks are up to four miles now. All are welcome to join. Often, there are up to a dozen people walking our roads; their enjoyment and safety depends on careful drivers.

TGIF Social

The walkers have instituted a social time on Friday at the Park starting at 5:00 P.M. Please join them anytime—you don't have to be a walker to sit and sip wine. Bring your own chair, drinks, and munchies. See you there.

South Lake -- Filling and Trails

You might have seen the progress being made on the well for the south seasonal lake. Also, you might have noticed that the trails have been sprayed, but they still need serious weed cutting in order for them to be passable and safe. Hopefully, that will be done before any snakes start stirring. We are working on getting

these trails, particularly the south lake trail mowed in a more timely manner next year so that those who would like to use it may do so year round as we all enjoy the lake which we have invested so much money in filling.

Focus on Our Wildlife ¹

I am told that there have been several sightings of a White-tailed kite hovering over the grape vines on the East perimeter of Spanish Lakes.

This bird is in the same family as hawks and eagles, the group having in common a hooked bill, strong feet with talons for grasping prey, and keen eyesight. Short, wide wings with long tails gives the kite the ability to change direction quickly. Long tails also help with the elegant helicopter-like hovering you may have witnessed.

The kite is a small, slim hawk exhibiting this beautiful hovering ability. It is a loosely related group of raptors of which there are five types in North America. Its name comes from the English verb "to kite" or hover high in the sky. The kites humans fly are named after this bird.

The kite is a migratory bird that often reuses its nest site each year. It eats small rodents and can catch a smaller bird in flight. It is about 16 inches in length, with a white head, tail, and under wings, with a grey crown, back and upper flight feathers. The striking deep red eyes are framed with darker feathers.

This bird was all but exterminated by the middle of the 20th Century. The species has responded so well to protection that it is now seen in every county in California and has re-established itself in Texas and along the Gulf coast.



"Cover me, I'm changing lanes."

1. Audubon Society: Encyclopedia of North American Birds