



# Spanish Lakes News

*A Publication of the Spanish Lakes Homeowners' Association*

## Spanish Lakes Homeowners' Association

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John Fazio

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## Public Board of Director's Meeting

The open Board of Director's meeting convened at 6:00 PM at the Senior Center on Scott Street. The full Board was in attendance; about 10 other homeowners also attended.

Items discussed included:

- Trail to water tanks - Deferred
- Trail to upper North lake between parcels 40 and 45 - Approved
- New dock at the lake – Discussed; volunteers to investigate; contact John Fazio if interested.
- Garage sales - To be voted by membership
- Trail east of parcel 1 down to South Lake - To be considered by The Open Space Committee.
- Drainage issues on Vista La Vina – All drainage issues to be completed before year-end.

## Reports

### President

A volunteer is needed to chair the annual barbecue that is tentatively scheduled for Saturday September 20th. The Annual Meeting of homeowners accompanies the barbecue. Two Board seats are open and will be filled by vote of the attending homeowners. Please contact Treasurer Craig Thomas if you would like to run for these vacant seats.

The general membership is welcome to join the open space and traffic committees or to volunteer for other groups. Please contact Lynn Crawford if you are interested in joining in on the discussions.

### Maintenance Report

Street sweeping will take place on the morning of Friday, July 11. Please do not park on pavement that morning until the sweeper has finished its rounds.

The Fire Marshal gave us a good grade for weed abatement and the other steps taken to keep our complex safe from fire. He suggested that all house numbers be visible from the street making it easier to find the correct properties in emergencies. He

also said that each house is to have 4-inch numbers in contrasting colors on the house, and additional numbers at or near the street. We will continue to paint numbers on all curbs to help emergency workers find our homes quickly.

### The Trails and Open Space Committee

The Trails and Open Space Committee reported accomplishments and issues. A few are presented here:

- Main trails have been mowed due to the efforts of Jim Hagen and Lynn Crawford.
- South Lake walking trail has been cleared; poison oak has been sprayed and cut back.
- Thistles and mustards need to be removed from South Lake walking trail.
- Proposing a temporary bridging of the pipes crossing the switchback on the South Lake trail. Existing wood on cement pad near waterfall will be used. This item will need Board approval (JF).

### Spanish Lakes Water Company

President Pat Munks reported the following:

Tom Lawson has stepped down in order to concentrate his efforts on the Homeowners Association landscaping. His dedication to the smooth running of the Water Company was noted

Roger Zolldan and Lynn Crawford were appointed to the Water Company Board joining Jim Hagen, Bernie Kempker, and Pat Munks.

We now have a full board consisting of five members for the first time since we took over the Water Company business.

The next billing statement will include an envelope listing Larry M. Jordan, CPA in the return address area. The payment remains directed to P.O. Box 480, Templeton, CA 93465. Any questions concerning this change may be directed to Pat Munks at 237-7815.

### *Traffic Safety Committee*

The Traffic Safety Committee reported about their Awareness Campaign and noted a number of completed projects. The committee also discussed their ongoing efforts to augment their Awareness Campaign.

The committee agreed that compliance with the posted speed limit by residents has improved, a change that the traffic safety committee appreciates. Companies responsible for speeding garbage and UPS trucks have been informed of the infractions of their drivers.

### **Miscellaneous Items**

#### *Pump House to Water Tanks Trail*

The Open Space committee recommended maintaining the trail to the water tanks. It would allow direct access to the water tanks; for example, by investigating police officers should another graffiti attack on the water tanks occur. It also is in keeping with the general plan of trying to move walkers away from the rear of houses wherever possible.

This trail would keep walkers further away from parcel 32 as it begins on the corner of the mowed arc and go diagonally to the tanks as established previously. There is a 12 foot swath of open space cut exactly on the property line of the parcel 32 which all can use in lieu of the above proposed trail.

Those who are opposed think it is an eyesore and that it was never intended to be a permanently maintained road or hiking trail. They also feel that anyone who wants to walk on open space can do so at any time without the necessity of a trail.

A survey form has been created to poll homeowners about this issue. It has been included with the mailed printed version of the Newsletter. A box will be available at Lynn Crawford's home (2050 Calle Los Charros) to receive the hard copy replies. A web version of this form has also been created. It can be accessed from the home page of our website (<http://www.spanishlakes.org>). The tabulated results will be emailed to homeowners.

The current survey also requests your input on garage sales. There is no precedent for or against these activities in Spanish Lakes

#### *Signs on Properties*

As election campaigns go into high gear, it seems appropriate to mention that the CC&Rs has restrictions on displaying signs "to the public view on any lot." Signs supporting political candidates seem to be prohibited by Section 6.13.

#### *Newsletter Distribution*

Informal conversations with several homeowners suggest the continuation of two (actually three) versions of the Newsletter: printed monochrome mailed version, PDF monochrome web version, and the full color web version. The web version has the benefits of being able to correct items "on the fly" and the ability to use larger color images. While some prefer the web version, others want to have printed versions. Some in this latter group are happy to print their own copy from website PDF files.

Of 51 homeowners in our database, 41 have computers (they have email addresses); apparently ten (20%) do not (they do not provide email addresses). This information suggests that the mailed printed version be delivered to them and the rest rely on the PDF and web versions. Your thoughts on this are welcomed.

#### *Spanish Lake History Project*

John Van de Wouw is preparing a history of Spanish Lakes. His efforts include discussions of the ancient history of our area as well as the more the more recent development of our community. He is asking several interested homeowners to react to his drafts and, in the process, soliciting additions and corrections. If others have information that could be of interest to John's efforts please contact him at "jhwandewouw@att.net". When completed, the history will be added to the Spanish Lakes website.

### **Focus On Our Wildlife**

Most of have seen these noisy birds around Spanish Lakes. Their scientific name, Charadrius vociferus, is an apt designation. Their common name, of course, is "killdeer," a name that is said to represent the sound of its voice or "song."

While killdeer are classified as shore birds (plovers) many, if not most, including ours, live considerable distances from shores; in fact, this bird is an uncommon inhabitant of shores. This species has an amazing distribution--southern Canada and all of the United States, a distribution making it the most widely distributed shore bird. In winter months, killdeer migrate to the southern United States.

Killdeers create nests where they spend winters. The nests are small depressions lined with whatever is handy: gravel, grass, etc. Both parents alternate tending the nest for about a month. During this time the unoccupied parent lures predators away from the nest by moving away, displaying a "broken-wing" feint, and putting up an incessant chatter. Newly hatched chicks follow the adults but must search for their own food. Killdeer feed on all kinds of insects.

These birds have an unmistakably characteristic appearance. They usually stay on the ground and sport a white chest with two distinctive black bands. For a while chicks have only a single band.

While some may consider them a pest, others feel fortunate to have such interesting birds in their midst.

Terres, John K., Encyclopedia of North American Birds. The Audubon Society.

*Calculating body fat: if you have one body, your ratio is 1 to 1; if you have 2 bodies, it is 2 to 1 etc.*