



HLPOA NEWSLETTER

HIGHLAND LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

January 2021
Volume 2021 - Issue #1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I think I see a light at the end of the tunnel and I'm pretty sure it's not a train!

Finally, it appears that a vaccine to deal with this terrible Covid 19 virus is coming soon! I'm not sure how many doses will be available to Teller County or where the inoculations will be administered but I'm sure it will be well publicized. We'll send out a communitywide email "blast" when we know for sure, so make sure we have your current email address.

As a reminder! Ice fishing is only allowed on Elk Lake. It is very clear by the tracks left behind that some are fishing on Deer Lake and some of the ponds. This is very dangerous as there are natural springs in Deer Lake and a few of the ponds that weaken the ice. We've also seen that someone has been throwing rocks and tree limbs onto the ice, perhaps checking the thickness. Not a good idea. I cannot emphasize enough how dangerous the ice can be. Please stay off of it.

Also remember that if you are planning on a home project in the near future, please contact the Architectural Control Committee for prior review/approval. This will help you avoid issues down the road. Their phone numbers and/or email addresses are available on our website (HLPOA.net).

You will note that this newsletter does not include a calendar for 2021 listing of activities, meetings, etc. As the Governor reduces the "gathering restrictions" and we have a better idea of what we can do as a Property Owners Association regarding meetings and activities, we will contact everyone by email or in the next Newsletter.

To those who plow their own driveway, or have someone do it for you, please be aware that the snow should not be plowed into the "Right of Way" of the County Road that provides access to your property. The snow should be pushed to the side of the road.

We've said something before about feeding the deer. This is against the law! Yet people persist in feeding the ever-growing deer population of Highland Lakes. We have way too many deer as it is and feeding the deer increases the number of predators which then cause problems of their own. From this point forward, when identified, residents feeding deer will be reported to the State Division of Wildlife.

Our Community owes a big THANK YOU to Linda Becker and Wendy Boals and all that helped them put together the recent HLPOA Food Drive. I'm informed that they delivered over 300 lbs. of food to the Divide Pantry and nearly the same amount to the Woodland Park Cupboard. Way to go, ladies!

Smile Time: I'm Not Clumsy! It's just that the floor hates me, the tables and chairs are bullies, and the wall gets in the way.

When a Job Application asks who is to be notified in case of emergency, I always write, "A very good doctor".

Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, "It will be happier." Alfred Lord Tennyson, English poet.

Stay safe and be well, hope to see you soon.

Paul Stecklein
President, HLPOA
epstecklein@aol.com, 687-2234

Committee Reports and Information

Architectural Control Committee: Happy New Year from the ACC! The cold weather brings on dreams of new DIY projects. Now is the time to plan your DIY projects and prepare for what projects you will do this spring and summer while enjoying a cozy fire. We have all just experienced very trying times with the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope all are well and made it safely through the last 9 months with little or no illness.

THANK YOU to everyone this last year for contacting your Architectural Control Committee for all your projects. There were some DIY projects this last summer and some members did contact the ACC to get approval for new projects. We even have 2 new houses being built. Welcome to our neighborhood. Please forward all your planned projects with designs and plans to me so we can get committee approval as soon as possible. Sambo49@outlook.com

Please remember all new projects, such as storage sheds, garages, additions that are over 200 square feet REQUIRE a Teller County building permit. A copy of the building permit needs to be sent to the ACC as soon as possible. If you are repainting, reroofing, or putting on new siding please send colors to the ACC for approval. Please remember that our rules require that colors (painting, siding, and roofs) be of

an EARTH tone (browns, greens, grey, tan) and your design to be similar to a mountain cabin design with a roof pitch of 6 to 12. No Quonset hut designs or metal barn siding are allowed.

We have over 360 homes in Highland Lakes. We are a covenanted community and we take pride in ourselves that we have a clean, neat, BEAUTIFUL community that everyone enjoys as we drive through the neighborhood. Plan your projects early while relaxing by the fire, send your project plans to the ACC for early approval. Enjoy the fall colors and our cool crisp clean mountain air with the beautiful sunrises and sunsets. May your 2021 year be happy and prosperous new year.

Sam Baucom, ACC chairman, 719-687-8581, Sambo49@outlook.com

FireWise Committee: What should I do first to be prepared for a wildfire? Be prepared to leave your home at a moment's notice. Naturally, you can grab your keys, jump in the car and leave. In some cases, that is all the time you will have. But if you have prepared in advance, you will have a list of items that you have determined are your number one priority items. Whatever they are, you know exactly where they are so you can grab them quickly.

There are several resources available to help you with planning. One that I like is the following from RSG – Ready, Set, Go Action Guide. <https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/resources/resource/rsg-action-guide> You may also want to visit the Colorado State Forest Service office in Woodland Park. They have lots of educational materials and are available to answer your questions or you can visit <https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/>

Contact your insurance company and find out what their requirements are regarding the loss of your home and contents. Most require some type of proof of contents such as a video or photos in case you didn't keep all your receipts for everything.

We hope that 2021 will allow us to again meet at the Community Building with some local experts who can answer your questions and give you some pointers. If you do plan on working on a mitigation project in 2021, please let me know with a description of the project, number of workers, hours worked for each, and any expenses incurred. If you hired someone, give me the company name or individual name and any costs incurred. This will help us maintain our FireWise certification. The FireWise organization is a multi-agency program that encourages the development of defensible space and the prevention of catastrophic wildfires. It is a community fire prevention partnership. Highland Lakes is a participating member of the organization.

Finally, the slash area behind the Community Building is now open. Contact me or call one of the numbers on the gate to get the combination. Please visit HLPOA.net and read the slash rules. While you are there, look at the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. For more information, contact **Garry Cote, sgcote@aol.com, 687-0338**. We hope you have a happy, safe and FireWise New Year!

Fishing Committee: I hope you had a chance to do some fishing last fall. Winter has set in and I am hearing that those who are willing to brave the cold have been doing pretty well ice fishing. Please remember to release brookies that you catch so that they can repopulate after last year's winter kill. Keep in mind that ice fishing is at your own risk and be aware that there are springs in Elk Lake

where the ice may be thinner than you expect. Ice fishing can only be done at Elk Lake and no vehicles of any kind are permitted on the ice. We will be selling permits for 2021 at the Community Center at the end of March or the first part of April. Please watch for more information in an HLPOA blast or in the next newsletter. Special thanks to Dave Ward and the other fishing wardens for keeping watch over our lakes and ponds. Thanks, **Roger King, Chairman, 687-0104** and the fishing committee.

Maintenance Committee: Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! Nothing much has been happening in and around the area. Hopefully, things will pick up as our weather breaks. Stay safe and healthy. If you notice any problems around the area that I miss, please call me at (224) 234-1755 or email me at hogpop57@gmail.com. Thank you and hope to see everyone real soon. **Mickey Corcoran, Chairman, 453-1246 or cell 224-234-1755**

Neighborhood Watch: Hello, neighbors! Hope this finds each of you doing well. Not a lot of Neighborhood Watch activity to report recently and that's a good thing. We are fortunate to live in a community that watches out for one another. That DOES deter criminal activity. So, thanks for your help in keeping our community safe.

We ask each of you during this continued time of Covid-19 crisis to think of others; consider your actions and be kind; connect and reach out to your neighbors; make the most of online groups; support vulnerable or isolated people; and only share accurate information or advice.

Keeping yourself and your loved ones safe physically and emotionally is of critical importance particularly as we move toward a vaccinated populace. Hey, you've made it okay thus far, so why take the chance of losing your health when the end is in sight? The most valuable action you can take is to follow government advice and do everything you can to avoid becoming ill and passing the virus onto others – particularly those who are at higher risk from Covid-19. Use technology to support and engage with vulnerable and isolated members of our community. Simply, do the right thing. It may be overused, but so true -- together we will beat this virus!

Should you need help, contact one the following:

Your Block Captain

Fred Swets (719) 687-2307

Chris Becker (636) 675-7854

or 911 for the Sheriff's Office

Future events: We are still trying to determine when we can have our next Neighborhood Watch meeting. We'll communicate to all once it is safe to meet. All are welcome to attend!

Presenter: George Carey on the timely topic, "The Spycam Epidemic" in "areas of privacy."

When: To Be Determined

Where: Community Building

What Time: 7 PM

Until next time -- Be Safe Out There!

Trails Committee: Chairperson and members needed.

Welcome Committee: Highland Lakes has had 34 new residents in Calendar Year 2020. Welcome to all New Residents. Needless to say, this pandemic has thrown a wrench into our New Residents Meetings. The next planned New Residents Meeting is scheduled for May. Hopefully, the Governor's indoor gathering rules will be eased and we will be able to have this meeting. ALL residents are invited. But, all new residents in CY 20 receive a special invite. If you have any questions regarding our community, please contact us. Our contact information may be found on our website at HLPOA.net.
Suzan Stecklein, Chairperson, skstecklein@aol.com

COMMUNITY BUILDING CALENDAR – 2021

Weekly:

Every Mon-Fri	8:30-10:00 am	Maureen Swets	Exercise
Tues and Thurs	10:15 -11:15 am	Elizabeth Reed	Yoga
Every Monday	11:00am-12:00 pm	JoAnn Morgan	Line Dancing
Every Wednesday	11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Maureen Swets	Crafting

Check the newsletter, emails, and bulletin boards for schedule changes and other information.

HLPOA Board Members:

Paul Stecklein	President, Director	687-2234
Fred Swets	Vice President	687-2307
Renee Tate	Secretary/Treasurer	687-9465
Roger King	Director	687-0104
Ross Parnow	Director	719-373-0613
Sam Baucom	Director	687-8581
Dan Odell	Director	686-7704

Committee Chairs:

Activities

Architectural Control	Sam Baucom	687-8581
Budget/Finance	Renee Tate	687-9465
FireWise	Garry Cote (help needed)	687-0338
Fishing	Roger King	687-0104
Maintenance	Mickey Corcoran	453-1246
Neighborhood Watch	Fred Swets	687-2307
	Chris Becker	636-675-7854
Newsletter	Kathy Campbell	281-744-3349
Trails	(help needed)	
Water District Liaison	Dan Odell	686-7704
Web Page	Dan Odell	686-7704
Welcome	Suzan Stecklein	687-2234

SNOW PLOWERS FOR HIGHLAND LAKES

(Revised 11-6-19)

Don Bartron	687-7561	Maroon Lake Circle	ATV with Chains Light Shoveling
Jay Brown	687-3029	Maroon Lake Circle	ATV with Chains
Rick Cochran	687-0340	3198 Blue Mesa Drive	ATV with Chains
Scott Rudy	687-4484	Lost Lake Drive	ATV & Polaris Ranger Plow
Dave Walker	686-1210	Woodland Park	3/4 Ton Truck with Plow
	510-2623 (cell)		

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Highland Lakes Water District:

Business Office 687-7937

Emergencies 247-1191

Teller County Animal Control: 304-5740

Teller County Clerk/Recorder: 689-2951

Teller County Commissioners: 689-2988

**Teller County Public Health and
Environment:** 687-6416

Teller County Sheriff's Office: 689-2951