

# HLPOA NEWSLETTER

HIGHLAND LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

July 2021

Volume 2021 - Issue #3

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Lots of things have happened in the last three months. Perhaps the most significant was the burning of our slash pile. As many of you may recall, due to COVID we were unable to burn the pile last year. When we started planning for a burn this year, we discovered that the Divide Fire Department was unable to start the burn and monitor it as they've done in the past (due to a change in State Regulations). This forced us to find an alternative. We contracted with Stone Mountain Fire Protection LLC out of Lake George to facilitate the burn and by all accounts they did an excellent job. We were able to reopen the site for our residents to continue their fire mitigation efforts.

Our Annual Meeting was very well attended on June 5th by over 50 folks, followed by a great meal through the efforts of our Activities Chair, Wendy Boals. Our annual budget was approved and all Officers and Chairs of the various Committees were reelected or appointed for another year.

We now have added two more Communication Boards. The five are located next to the mailboxes at CR 512/Twin Lakes Drive, CR 512/Blue Mesa Drive, CR 512/Pinon Lake Drive, Twin Lakes Drive/Blue Mesa Drive/Cottonwood Lake Drive, and Deep Lake Drive/Blue Mesa Drive. We also have one on the exterior of the Community Building.

Our Annual Workday on June 19<sup>th</sup> was also very well attended. Maintenance Committee Chair, Mickey Corcoran, had numerous jobs lined up for the volunteers and much was accomplished. This was followed by great food that Mickey and his wife, Deborah, furnished that they had shipped in from Chicago. GOOD STUFF.

July 4<sup>th</sup> is approaching and we have to remind everyone that fireworks of any kind are not allowed in Highland Lakes. If you hear or see any fireworks or gunfire, it's probably best that you contact either the Sheriff's Office or Chris Becker (636) 675-7854 or Fred Swets (719) 687-2307 (our Neighborhood Watch guys). It doesn't do much good to complain about it on Facebook.

This might be a good time to remind folks that the local Facebook page is not an extension of the HLPOA. As an Association, we have nothing to do with or say about the content that might be listed there.

Our next Community Activity is the much-anticipated and popular Fishing Derby that will be on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Roger King, the Chair of the Fishing Committee and the Fishing Wardens, always put on a great event. I won't go into the particulars as Roger's article is part of this Newsletter.

As a "heads-up", it appears that my e-mail address has been hacked and numerous requests for money, in the form of gift cards, have been sent to many of you. Obviously, those are completely

**bogus.** *I will never and would never, request money or any other form of compensation from any one of you or resident of our community. Guaranteed!* Please ignore any requests of this nature.

**Smile Time:** You know when you're getting old when you get that one candle on the cake. It's like "See if you can blow this out" – Jerry Seinfeld

**Thought for the day:** Anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you. – Misty Copeland – American Ballet Dancer

Hope to see you soon.

**Paul Stecklein**  
President, HLPOA  
[epstecklein@aol.com](mailto:epstecklein@aol.com), 687-2234

## **Committee Reports and Information**

**Activities Committee:** I hope you are all enjoying your hot summer so far! Don't forget to keep cool, drink lots of water, and have a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I will be organizing a monthly Activities Calendar each month – so print it out from the newsletter or be sure to look at the Communications Boards around the neighborhood. And on special occasions, I will post events on Facebook. Listed on the calendar at the end of the Newsletter are the on-going activities we have been doing each month for quite some time.

Yoga is with Elizabeth Reed who does an excellent job getting us into shape. In the summer we meet at the gazebo from 10:15 – 11:15am. Please bring your mats, water, sunscreen, and a hat since the sun can be intense. Plus, it is simply gorgeous overlooking Elk Lake.

Line Dancing is held on Mondays starting at 11:00am at the community building with Jo Ann Morgan. Come on out and have a boot-scooting good time!

Did you know that Pickleball is the number one new activity in the United States right now? Come on out every Wednesday at the playground from 9:00 – 11:00am to learn how to play or just enjoy playing with others. If you have any questions about Pickleball, please contact Sue Morford or Rick and Jo Ann Morgan.

Book Club this month will meet on Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00pm at Sharry Whitney's home. Please call Linda Becker with questions at 636-579-0942.

**Wendy Boals, 719-686-6971, [wendyboals@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyboals@yahoo.com)**

**Architectural Control Committee:** Sam here -- back from 10 days in Amarillo. I have been spending the last week of each month in Amarillo with our 96-year-old Dad. I will have my cell phone with me while I am gone and can receive emails on it, so if you need to send me a project information request, I will respond ASAP.

NOW let's talk about ACC projects:

Please be aware of the ACC rules located on the HLPOA.NET website, under rules, construction. The ACC Form (HLPOA ACC Construction Approval Checklist) for projects is posted on the first page under RECENT UPDATES. These rules are in place to maintain our community at the highest standards. Please remember that our rules require that colors (painting, siding or roofs) should be approved and they should be EARTHTONE (browns, greens, grey, tan -- not white or lime green). Think of the colors in the forest (NOT the flowers, LOL) -- trees grasses, tree bark, earth. If you are building, your design should be similar to a mountain cabin design with a roof pitch of 6 to 12. Please remember that we are living in a Covenanted Homeowners Association Community and the rules we have apply to you and everyone else who lives here. By joining the HLPOA and following the rules, you enjoy a NICE (not trashy looking) neighborhood. This keeps your property values high. We take pride in ourselves that we have a clean, neat, BEAUTIFUL community that everyone enjoys as we drive through the neighborhood. You benefit from all the extras -- fishing, recreation center, slash pile site, voice in operation of our community -- not to mention ALL the great fellowship from your friends and neighbors in HLPOA. Now that summer is here, many have sent requests in for your DIY (Do It Yourself) projects. Let's get those requests in while we have the time and weather to complete them and then enjoy relaxing time fishing, hiking and enjoying the crisp, clean mountain air and scenery.

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 18 months with little or no illness. THANK YOU to everyone this last year for contacting your Architectural Control Committee for all your projects. Please forward all your planned projects with designs and plans to me so we can get committee approval as soon as possible at [Sambo49@outlook.com](mailto: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 or reroofing or putting on new siding, please send paint colors to the ACC for approval. No Quonset hut designs or metal barn siding are allowed. We have over 360 homes in our community. May 2021 be happy and prosperous new year. **Sam Baucom, ACC chairman, 719-687-8581, [Sambo49@outlook.com](mailto:Sambo49@outlook.com)**

**FireWise Committee:** We hope that we will soon be able to meet at the Community Building with some local experts who can answer your questions and give you some pointers. One of the subjects will be to provide you with information regarding another way out of the community in the unlikely event the main entrance/exit is closed. You will be directed by TCSD or Divide Fire through and over private property. Because the road is narrow, large trailers and RV type vehicles may not be permitted.

We hope you are planning to do some mitigation work on your property this year. If you do, please provide me with a description of the project, number of workers, hours worked for each, 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.

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/>

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](mailto:sgcote@aol.com), **687-0338**. We hope you have a happy, safe and FireWise New Year!

**Fishing Committee:** I hope you have been catching some nice fish in the last few weeks. Our first stocking included bigger-than-usual trout. We also purchased 132 grass carp to help with weed control and we did weed eradication in Ponds 1, 3 and 5. Our next fish stocking is coming up soon (before the Fishing Derby). The cost of stocking fish continues to go up. We pay over \$7 a pound for catchable trout and over \$8 a pound for big ones. This is why it is so important that you make sure that the guest permits you buy are used occasionally, and not weekly or daily. Our goal is to make sure that we can provide a fun and successful fishing experience for our residents.

The big news for the Fishing Committee this month is the Fishing Derby. We hope to have a good turnout again this year. We will have prizes for all children, adults, and seniors. Sign-in starts at 6:00am in the Community Building for you early birds, but you can check in and fish at your leisure. Remember that weigh-in ends at 12:00 noon. As in previous years, we will weigh in 2 fish per person and the grand prize goes to the person who catches the biggest fish. Please make sure to have your permit visible. Remember that there is NO fishing in Ponds 1, 5 and 6 as they remain catch and release only. Plan to stay for the potluck - bring your favorite side or dessert and we will provide drinks and the main dish.

I hope you are having a great summer. Happy fishing, **Roger King, Chairman, 687-0104** and the fishing committee.

**Maintenance Committee:** I want to thank everyone very much for their tremendous effort on workday. The turnout was GREAT and everyone did such a fantastic job.

To see everyone working together was great, and we accomplished the following: lawn mowing; weed whacking; picking up trash along the roads; painting at the lakes, HOA building and playground; straightening up inside and outside the HOA building; weeding and planting flowers with new mulch; putting a new roof on the BBQ shed; fixing the flag and sign at our entrance; installing new trail signs and communication boards; clearing slash off of the trails; replacing stairs; and moving materials for future projects. Thanks to the people driving around checking on everyone and handing out water.

The effort and pride put in on workday shows why this is our slice of heaven here in Highland Lakes. Thank you all again very much. **Mickey Corcoran, Chairman, 453-1246 or cell 224-234-1755**

**Neighborhood Watch:** Summer is here and neighbors are going on vacation. Let your neighbors know you'll be gone and how to reach you. Let's all watch out for each other and keep this a safe community. Don't let your dogs run free. Fawns are being born and if your dog is seen chasing one or hurts one, you could be fined over \$300 dollars. Remember, we do have leash laws in Teller County.

**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**

**Trails Committee:** Hi, folks! We are working on improving the trails in Highland Lakes and painting signs. Hope you will enjoy hiking our local trails this summer! **Ben Boals, Chairperson,** [boals.trucking@gmail.com](mailto:boals.trucking@gmail.com)

**Welcome Committee:** The next New Residents Meeting will be held on October 2. Stay tuned for more information. Thanks! **Wendy Boals, 719-686-6971,** [wendyboals@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyboals@yahoo.com)

**COMMUNITY BUILDING CALENDAR – 2021**

**Weekly:**

|                      |                         |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday               | Line Dancing            | 11:00am - 12:00pm |
| Tuesday and Thursday | Yoga (gazebo in summer) | 10:15am - 11:15am |
| Wednesday            | Pickleball              | 9:00am – 11:00am  |

**2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

|                      |                            |                                 |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| July 17, Saturday    | Fishing Derby              | 6:00am                          |
| “                    | Final Weigh-in             | 12:00pm (noon)                  |
| “                    | Potluck/Cook Out           | 12:30pm                         |
| July 22, Thursday    | Book Club                  | 4:00pm (Sharry Whitney's house) |
| October 2, Saturday  | New Residents Meeting      | 10:30am                         |
| October 7, Thursday  | Neighborhood Watch Meeting | 7:00pm                          |
| October 30, Saturday | Harvest/Halloween Party    | 12:00 (noon)                    |
| December - TBD       | Christmas Party            |                                 |

The HLPOA Board of Directors Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm.

The HLPOA Water Board Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

All Property Owners are invited to attend.

**ANY CHANGES WILL BE NOTED IN THE NEWSLETTER, SPECIAL E-MAILS OR THE COMMUNICATION BOARDS.**

**HLPOA Board Members:**

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

**Committee Chairs:**

|                               |                        |                     |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Activities</b>             | <b>Wendy Boals</b>     | <b>686-6971</b>     |
| <b>Architectural Control</b>  | <b>Sam Baucom</b>      | <b>687-8581</b>     |
| <b>Budget/Finance</b>         | <b>Renee Tate</b>      | <b>687-9465</b>     |
| <b>FireWise</b>               | <b>Garry Cote</b>      | <b>687-0338</b>     |
| <b>Fishing</b>                | <b>Roger King</b>      | <b>687-0104</b>     |
| <b>Maintenance</b>            | <b>Mickey Corcoran</b> | <b>453-1246</b>     |
| <b>Neighborhood Watch</b>     | <b>Fred Swets</b>      | <b>687-2307</b>     |
|                               | <b>Chris Becker</b>    | <b>636-675-7854</b> |
| <b>Newsletter</b>             | <b>Kathy Campbell</b>  | <b>281-744-3349</b> |
| <b>Trails</b>                 | <b>Ben Boals</b>       | <b>608-558-0038</b> |
| <b>Water District Liaison</b> | <b>Luke St. Onge</b>   |                     |
| <b>Web Page</b>               | <b>Dan Odell</b>       | <b>686-7704</b>     |
| <b>Welcome</b>                | <b>Wendy Boals</b>     | <b>686-6971</b>     |

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:**

**Highland Lakes Water District:**

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Business Office</b> | <b>687-7937</b> |
| <b>Emergencies</b>     | <b>247-1191</b> |

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Teller County Animal Control:</b>                | <b>304-5740</b> |
| <b>Teller County Clerk/Recorder:</b>                | <b>689-2951</b> |
| <b>Teller County Commissioners:</b>                 | <b>689-2988</b> |
| <b>Teller County Public Health and Environment:</b> | <b>687-6416</b> |
| <b>Teller County Sheriff's Office:</b>              | <b>687-9652</b> |