

# REFLECTIONS FROM THE HILL

DECEMBER 2007 EDITION  
Office Telephone 570-595-3077  
Web Page: [sprucehillfarms.org](http://sprucehillfarms.org)

SPRUCE HILL FARMS, POA  
PO Box 208  
Canadensis PA 18325

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## ASSESSMENTS 2008-09

Assessment notices will be going out the 1<sup>st</sup> of April for the 2008-2009 assessments. There will be no increase in the assessment this year barring any unforeseen expenses prior to sending out the bills. Continued efforts are made to keep up with expenses while planning for the future, but sometimes the best laid plans ....

Please put money aside so that when your assessment notice arrives, you will be able to take advantage of the discount offered for early payment. This helps with the Association's cash flow and it also helps you.

The following is the payment schedule for 2008-09:

April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Assessment Notices mailed to members
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Last date for \$50 Discount
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Full Assessment Due
July 1 <sup>st</sup> until Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Late Charges apply
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Delinquent Accounts forwarded for collection process.

Please note: If you feel you need a Payment Plan, the Board has approved plans of up to six (6) months. Therefore, you should apply ASAP in order to keep your payments as low as possible because all Plans must be paid in full by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## SPRUCE UP SPRUCE HILL

Thanks to all who have worked independently or collectively to pick up litter on our roads. After several negative articles in the past Newsletters about this problem, we are very pleased to report that our clean-up campaign appears to be working. Hopefully, those that were littering have realized the burden they were putting on others to keep our community clean.

Hats off to those who are on the lookout for "unnatural" scenery and are removing it!!

## ROADS

Our roads chairman was busy this past summer and fall. Arrangements were made to fill in the potholes on the main entrance and macadam aprons have been extended into Hemlock Way and Birch Road. Potholes were filled in on the various other roads in our community and weeds along the sides of the roads were cut back to allow for more proper drainage.

Each year will bring improvements to our roads and some will require replacement of old (or providing new) drainage pipes at your individual driveway entrance(s) to help ensure proper removal of water and eliminate road damage. Please check your pipe and *if it looks like it needs replacing...it probably does*, so plan ahead to put some money aside for this so that when the drainage ditches on your road are worked on, you will be prepared if you get a notice for replacement or establishment of a new culvert pipe.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU PARTY

If you missed it - shame on you! A wonderful time was had by all - young and old alike - at our getting to know you party. The pavilion was jumping with dancing to the music of Gloria Kaye, a local area talent who kept things lively.

Thanks to Bob and Barbara Turcotte and friends, our "horse races" were a huge success and everyone had fun calling in their special horse. The generosity of the "betters" enabled us to raise enough money to pay for some of the expenses of the outing.

Thanks to Mike Aleksich for manning the bar-b-que pit and to all who brought appetizers, salads, and desserts for the enjoyment of all. Thanks to the DeLisa and Aleksich families for coordinating these "goodies".

Also thanks to all who supplied time and energy in helping to set up and clean up the picnic area. Special thanks to Peter Ruggiero for power washing the tables and benches. Sure hope we didn't forget anybody, but if you helped in any way, please know that it was appreciated!

## Pool Tags

In an effort to keep our pool for the use of homeowners and their families and friends only, we issued pool tags to members in good standing. These tags are good until the end of June, 2008 when your assessments for the new year are due. New tags will be issued for the year 2008-2009 when your assessment is paid.

Along these same lines, a **Membership Survey** is included in this newsletter which is designed to provide feedback to the Board which will be used in future planning efforts. Please take the time to complete it and return it to the office.

In an effort to better understand the needs, wants and desires of our community, the Board requests that you fill out this survey and return it to the office:

*Spruce Hill Farms POA, PO Box 208, Canadensis PA 18325.*

### ***Membership Survey -December 2007***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lot # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Telephone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Recreation Area**

1. How many times have you & your family used the pool in 2007? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you used the picnic pavilion in 2007? Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
3. Has any member of your family used the swing set in 2007? Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
4. The pool is open seven (7) hours a day, from noon to 7 PM. What 7 hour period would you care to see it open? The same Y/N \_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ PM.
5. Any general comments or suggestions that you would like to make concerning the Recreation Area? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Pond Area**

6. Have you or your family ever used the pond to ice skate, fish or boat, etc. Y/N \_\_\_\_\_
7. Now that it is easier to access the pond, would you like to see improvements made to the area? If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Any general comments or suggestions that you would like to make concerning the Pond Area?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Planned Activities**

9. For the past two years, we have held a membership picnic at the pool. Do you have any comments or suggestions concerning this activity? Would you like to see more planned activities in the future? If so, what suggestions do you have for the Board? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Administration**

10. During 2007, the Board authorized the creation of our own Website: SpruceHillFarms.org. In addition to the current content, do you have any comments or suggestions for our Webmaster as to how it can be made even more helpful in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **DO YOU HAVE THE WRITE STUFF?**

Want to be a Web-Journalist?

How about just writing an article or two on a subject of interest?

Or possibly photography is your forte' and you'd like to share your snapshots with us.

The Spruce Hill Farms website is looking for some content FROM our members on just about ANY subject that might be of interest to others. If this is something you feel you'd like to participate in, for any length of time, we would like to get some input from YOU!

Subjects could include:

- Details of club meetings or gatherings.
- Informative previews or critiques of special events in the area.
- How-to's on various subjects or projects.
- Insights on living in the Pocono region.
- Slice of life tales.
- or... almost ANYTHING!

As you can see, the possibilities are vast. All submissions are subject to approval by the webmaster, who will also serve as editor, but as long as your submissions are free from slander, profanity or other negative aspects, there should be no problem. Remember, we have an all-ages web-site and anyone can read or see what is there.

If you have any interest in sharing your insights to the rest of community via the outlet of our web-site, please contact us.

A submission form will be made available on the site: [www.SpruceHillFarms.org](http://www.SpruceHillFarms.org). Just download the pdf, and either fill it out digitally and email it to the webmaster, or print it out, fill it in and send to:

Spruce Hill Farms POA, P.O. Box 208, Canadensis, PA 18325 attn: WEBMASTER

As of DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> 2007 the password will change for access to Spruce Hill Farms' message-board FORUM, which is found on our community website;

[www.SpruceHillFarms.org](http://www.SpruceHillFarms.org) .

The OLD password is: LAKE

The NEW password is: HILL

The password is case-sensitive, so make sure to type it in ALL CAPS.

Our community FORUM is open exclusively to members of the Spruce Hill Farms community. Visit it today!

## **AS THE SAYING GOES ... IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE**

We have two properties in our community for sale as follows:

**LOT #609 MAPLE ROAD**

Owner: Mary Ann Courtney

Telephone: 570-595-7799

Asking Price: \$189,900

Description: 4-5 Bedrooms, 2544 square foot, mud room, laundry room. Large deck, dining room, propane fireplace and tongue and groove interior. Many new extras. Call for more details. Would consider renting or lease/purchase.

**LOTS #401,402, 403 BIG OAK ROAD**

Owner: Lisa and Mitchell Conn

Telephone: 856-216-1466

Asking Price: \$275,000

Description: Located on 6 acres, this charming 3 bedroom, 2 full bath cedar chalet has 2 stone fireplaces and a wrap-around deck. Custom knotty pine vaulted ceilings with true wooden beams. Kitchen island opens to dining/family room. Lots of windows. Winding driveway entrance.

## **SPLASHES FROM THE POOL**

Each year the pool and surrounding facilities get older and we have to expect some unexpected expenses. The Board works hard to keep things running and would appreciate any help you can be in making their job easier. Keeping up with both the maintenance and aesthetic appearance requires time and money and anything you can do to help will keep our costs down.

**VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES NOW FOR NEXT YEAR!**

Call Mike or Chelsea Aleksich 570-595-3544.

## **LET IT SNOW ... LET IT SNOW ... LET IT SNOW**

Winter has come upon us early this year and we already have had to plow our roads and driveways. This is just a reminder to drive carefully and keep your car winterized for those unexpected emergencies.

Supplies might be: blanket, flashlight, snow shovel, flares, kitty litter or bag of sand, energy snack bars, bottled water, etc. You never know when you might need these items to help yourself or someone else in trouble. **BE PREPARED AND BE SAFE!**

## HELPING HANDS

We would like to prepare a list of all retirees or other volunteers willing to help out with small repairs or other services to those in our community who are temporarily or permanently disabled due to illness. These repairs might be to just change a lightbulb or a smoke detector battery in a “hard to reach” place, repairing a torn screen or broken window, taking someone to the doctor or drugstore, etc.

These are services that are hard to find someone to do. If you would be willing to be a “helping hand”, please call or write the office and leave your name and telephone number. We will then publish the list in our newsletter and on our website and encourage those in need to take advantage of this service. Remember, you may be in this position someday and would be grateful for a “helping hand”.

Date Set For Annual Meeting in 2008  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June

June 14, 2008

10:00 AM

Our Annual meeting date is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June, at the Barrett Ambulance Corp Building on Rt 191 North. Please mark this date and time on your calendar now so there will be no confusion. Also, if you are unable to attend, please designate someone else to be your proxy. However, please call your proxy designator to determine if they will be in attendance at the meeting. If your proxy designator is not in attendance, **your proxy will not count.**

*At this wonderful time of year, we offer holiday greetings to all of you from all of us and hope that the differences between us will only serve to bring us together and not set us apart.*

*Happy New Year from your Board of Directors*