

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HILL

DECEMBER 2008 EDITION

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ON SALE NOW UNTIL MAY 31, 2009! ASSESSMENTS FOR 2009-2010

Who doesn't want something at a reduced price? Apparently there are quite a few of you out there.

As the saying goes - nothing is guaranteed except death and taxes.

You all know that living in this beautiful wildlife refuge we call Spruce Hill Farms requires maintenance - and maintenance requires money. Therefore, we need money to support these surroundings. And this is in the form of an assessment on each property.

This assessment is due every year at the same time - by the end of June.

Why not put money aside each week now so you can take advantage of the **DISCOUNT** offered if you pay by the end of May? The Board has **increased this discount to \$60.00** for the coming 2009-2010 season in an effort to get your assessments in early so we have money to open the pool, repair the roads after winter damage, etc.

Many of you delay paying until you are in the late period and some even delay until your account is delinquent and is sent to the attorney for collection - both of these options cause YOU an additional outlay of money.

These late payments increase the operating costs of the development, too, in the way of time to track people down, sending out extra mailings, filing notices with the court, etc. Ultimately, this additional cost causes an increase to the assessments for everyone in the Association. It is like a snowball rolling downhill...

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DISCOUNT!!

IF NOT THAT, AT LEAST PAY ON TIME!!

You know the assessments are due each year. Be a responsible neighbor and plan ahead!

***BOARD APPROVES AN
INCREASE IN ASSESSMENT &
INCREASE IN LATE CHARGES***

As you will remember, the Board “held the line” and did not increase your assessment last year. However, all of our outside contractors increased their costs to us and so we need to have a minimal increase in assessments for the 2009-2010 season in the amount of \$25.00 per lot. An improved lot with a home is \$550 and an unimproved lot is \$525. This will be reflected in the bill you receive on April 1st.

In an effort to get your assessments in on time, the Board has also approved a higher late charge to be imposed on those who do not pay their assessments on time. The new late charges will be as follows:

Assessments paid by May 31st - Last day for \$60.00 Discount
Assessments paid by June 30th - Payment on time, no late charge/no discount
Assessments paid after June 30th but before July 31st - \$50.00 late charge
Assessments paid after July 31st but before August 31st - \$100.00 late charge
Assessments paid after August 31st but before September 30th - \$150.00 late charge

Any member who has not paid their assessment by September 30th could have their account sent to our attorney for collection. The charges will then include the regular full assessment, all late charges, interest and legal fees.

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JUNE 13, 2009

At our Annual Meeting, we will be electing three board members to serve for a three-year term.

VOLUNTEERING IS THE ULTIMATE EXERCISE IN DEMOCRACY

You vote in elections once a year, but when you *volunteer*, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in! Don't just sit back and complain about things, get out there and pitch in and help.

Can we count on you to serve?

Please let one of the current Board members know if you are considering running for one of these positions and we will go over the responsibilities with you. In the past, we have had people volunteer but then they have had to give up the position for assorted reasons. Please make sure of your

commitment before you volunteer.

SPLASHES FROM THE POOL

LIFEGUARDS NEEDED!!!!

Each year our Recreation Chairman and Pool Manager have difficulty finding lifeguards for our pool.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in this position, please contact Chelsea or Mike Aleksich at 570-595-3544 or email them at: aleksich@ptdprolog.net and they will provide you with the necessary requirements to fill this position.

Don't wait until it is time to open the pool before responding. Get your name on the list now!

GET TO KNOW YO R NEIGHBORS' PICNIC

Once again, "U" were missing! A fun time was had by the neighbors and friends who attended our picnic on August 16th.

Delicious food was shared by all, great music was provided by Gloria Kaye for our listening and dancing pleasure, and last, but not least, the rowdy pool side horse races were enjoyed by all and the proceeds helped to defray the cost of the outing.

Our thanks to all those who contributed the food and helped to set up and clean up. A special thanks you to Bob and Barb Turcotte for providing and calling in the horses, and to Chelsea and Mike Aleksich for all their hard work in making this outing such fun.

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SPRUCE HILL SPRUCE UP

When the winter snows melt, trash mysteriously appears on the grass and roadways throughout the development.

Please do your part to pick up any trash on your property or wherever you see it.

Community walks are designated at various times of the year to help in this clean up. If you are interested in helping, please email Evelyn Tutts at ejtutts@aol.com and get your name on the list of volunteers.

Thank you.

STREET SIGNS

The street signs have all been refurbished and/or replaced with the correct names and the poles have been painted and repaired where necessary.

The speed limit signs will be installed in the spring as soon as the weather is warm enough to dig new holes and do some additional repair work.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to help dig holes and/or paint poles should call Bob Boone at 570-595-3077.

DONATIONS TO C.A.M.E.

Our local C.A.M.E. organization needs donations of food and nonperishable items to help those less fortunate than we are. If you are able to contribute to this cause, all donations can be dropped off either at the home of Gloria Brady on Hemlock Way in Spruce Hill Farms or at the Allstate Insurance Office located on Route 390 in Mountainhome (across from Callie's Candy). Anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated.

BOWLING ANYONE???

The local women's bowling league is still in need of a few bowlers. They bowl in Mountainhome on Thursdays at 12:30 P.M. For more information, contact Kathy at 595-0406.

ROTARY NEEDS YOU!

Our local Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. at the Bloomin Onion on Route 390 in Mountainhome. This is a great service organization and a fun way to learn about your community while helping many different local charities at the same time.

Come on out!!