



Sycamore Springs News

January 2006

Board Meeting Highlights

President's Report: Tom Andrews passed on information about the dangerous fire season ahead. According to the Forest Service, this is the driest it has been in 30 years. Tom encouraged everyone to be alert to fire dangers and practice good fire safety by removing flammable vegetation and debris from around homes.

Tom circulated a copy of a letter that is being mailed to all residents regarding the upcoming HOA elections and the street sealing project. If you have not received this letter, contact Amelie Anderson at 648-6730. Please take a few minutes to review this letter.

The Board has been reviewing the Erosion Control report and will begin prioritizing the repair of problem areas. Amazing but true: monsoon season is only six months away!

Finally, Tom thanked everyone who turned out to help install the road signs and especially Bob Guerrero who tirelessly operated the post-hole digger.

Treasurer's Report: Mario Vasallo reported the following account balances:

Operating Account- opening balance \$28185, income \$131, expenses \$5020, ending balance \$23296

Reserve Account- opening balance \$75000, income \$6492, expenses 0, ending balance \$81865.

For Year end 2005: Budgeted \$57900, income \$69179, expenses \$58012, ending balance +\$11166. Marion explained that the reason for the surplus was member assessment fees were under estimated. This is not likely to happen again.

Architectural Control Committee: The committee is now reviewing Design Modification Requests electronically which is really helping to speed the process along according to Al Johnson. Once he receives the paperwork, he scans the document and sends the file to other committee member for review. The committee reviewed one project request this month. If anyone is submitting a design modification request and has scanner capabilities, just scan your completed request form and send the file to Al via email LAWMANAJ@aol.com.

Then, send the hard copy to Cadden Management.

Landscape/Maintenance Sam Santistevan thanked everyone who helped with the road sign installation and a special thank you to Barbara Still-Wood and Alison Mead who provided coffee and donuts.

Sam reported that he is still reviewing bids for the gate entry signs for Sycamore Creek and Sycamore Springs. He also mentioned that the pedestrian gates at Sycamore Springs are ready to install.

Community Affairs Committee: The Community Affairs committee has planned six events for 2006. The first event is a Chili Feed that will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting scheduled for March 20.

On April 8, everyone is invited to an afternoon of Wine, Cheese, and Art. Local artist Mary Argueta and her husband Alex will host the gathering and Mary has invited a few of her "artist friends" to show their work. More information on both of these events will be in the next newsletter.

In May, the group is planning a Desert Garden Tour. The event will be held on a Saturday morning and will last approximately four hours. Anyone interested in being one of the tour homes is asked to contact Linda Elling at linda-elling@cox.net. We are hoping to have five or more homes in the tour.

The third annual Community Wide Clean-up is again scheduled for July. Dates and details will be posted in upcoming newsletters.

Another Progressive Dinner will be planned for Fall/Winter. We are looking for volunteers to host this event. Please email Linda Elling if interested.

And, finally we will hold the second annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest in December.

Web News: Bob Dahms, (absent tonight, Tom Andrews reporting) would like homeowners to encourage their contractors to advertise on our web site www.sshoa.info. The cost is **very** reasonable and it would be a good place for residents to find reliable, quality work.

Comments from the Community Forum-

Correction to the December Newsletter: It was reported previously that James Thomas was looking for interested people to rescue cactus. What James is really doing: looking for people interested in buying rescued cactus. Please call him at 762-8025 for more info.

A resident commented that papers in their recycle container had been pilfered during the night. With Arizona having one of the highest incidences of Identity Theft, it may be better not to put personal info in the trash. If anyone encounters a stranger going through their trash.....call the police!

A resident reported that the street sweeper dumped their dirty load in the cul-d-sac at the end of Sycamore Springs Trail again. Other residents present at the meeting say the sweeper has never been on their street. Amelie Anderson intends to contact the company.

Two residents again brought up the problem of four wheelers and off-road vehicles trespassing across private property. The problem areas are the south end of Sycamore Ridge Trail and some of the washes. Everyone should beware that certain washes in our community are private property and not "common area". One resident asked if it was permissible to put up 'no trespassing' signs or 'private property' signs. The CC&R's do not allow signs at this time. Amelie Anderson from Cadden Management said that unless the trespassers are identified by name, license number, etc. that little could be done. Al Johnson mentioned that unless there is a "No Trespassing" sign posted, violators could not be prosecuted.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, 7:00 pm February 20, 2006. Please plan to attend and meet the new candidates for the HOA Board.

Newsworthy

The new **RV Storage** guidelines went into effect this January. Tom Andrews has completed a preliminary drive through the community and reports that most homes appear to be in compliance.

The contract for **Cadden Management** has been revised and approved. (Please see the December issue of the newsletter for description of changes). The changes will result in a savings of \$1780 per year.

Ron Barela, an employee of Qwest is seeking signatures of homeowners who may be interested in having **DSL internet** service provided by Qwest. DSL is a high speed internet connection using phone lines. Currently, the service is not available. Qwest will consider providing service if there are a minimum of 50 signatures. This includes Sycamore Springs, Sycamore Creek, and Sycamore Hills. If you would like to add your name to the list contact him at rbarela@gainbroadband.

The HOA Board is looking for volunteers that would monitor the landscaping operations, street sweeping and the gate operations. Contact Tom Andrews at www.sshoa.info if interested. The goal is to make sure these contractors are doing their job.

Notice: HOA dues notices were mailed mid-December. If you did not receive your notice, please call Amelie Anderson.

Congratulations to Al Johnson! Al is retiring this February after 35 years as a police officer! Congratulations and Good Luck, Al!

Community Calendar

Book Club – Wednesday February 1, 2006 11:30

This month's book club meets at Linda Elling's home. Please call 762-1387 for details. New comers always welcome.

Community Reminders

Street Seal coating will be scheduled for early March. Information about the project has been mailed to all residents. We will be getting additional information from Bates about what to expect as we get closer to the project date.

February 22, 2006 is the deadline to submit nominations for the HOA Board. If interested, send bio to Amelie Anderson or come to the February meeting.

The SS HOA Annual Meeting and Chili Feed – March 20, 2006. Mark your calendars and bring your appetite!

Neighborhood Courtesies and Comments

Pet Walkers – People are still complaining about dog waste left alongside our roads. Owners, please clean up after your pets, it would be greatly appreciated!

Thanks to Shelley Guerrero, Joyce Thomas, and Paige Knott for volunteering to count HOA election ballots.

Please contact linda-elling@cox.net if you have questions, comments, or have something for the newsletter.