

August 4, 2014

Hello Pine Forest Homeowners-

I want to begin by thanking everyone in Pine Forest who has contributed in their own way during this difficult and scary time. This wildfire season is reminding us daily how fragile our ecosystem is and how lucky we are (so far) to have survived the onslaught. A lot of people in the valley are suffering and it is only the beginning of August.

It has been customary for the president to periodically publish “the Pine Cone Review”, so here goes my first attempt. After having enjoyed Pine Forest for 10 years as a part time resident, I felt a little guilty having never “given back”, so a few months ago I volunteered to accept an open position on the Board of Directors. I felt Dave Chantler had done an excellent job as president, managing an HOA with a diverse community of property owners. As I’m sure Dave will admit, sometimes it can be a thankless job, navigating a wide range of opinions. Therefore, I would like to begin by thanking Dave for his 14 years of service on the Board, the last 9 years as president. He has worked tirelessly “behind the scenes” so that we can all enjoy our community. Under Dave’s leadership we have retained significant reserves in the bank to serve as a “rainy day fund”.

Over the last couple of months, I have reached out and talked to many in the community and sought advice from a number of homeowners. Thank you all for your suggestions, and, please, keep them coming. As a result of your advice, the Board has decided to make a change in the management structure for Pine Forest. Andy Oosterhof has done an excellent job maintaining our infrastructure and plowing in the winter. His excavating business keeps him quite busy and a couple of years ago he asked the Board to relieve him of his duties as water manager due to his time constraints. We hope that Andy will continue to be our primary contractor for road maintenance and plowing.

Larry Anderson has taken on the role of water manager and has done an excellent job. As an example, during our 1 week power outage due to the fires, he was able to obtain 3 generators from west of the mountains in order to keep our water system from running dry. Kudos to Larry for stepping up.

I would like to announce the Board's selection of Brad Sawtell as the new General Manager for Pine Forest. Brad and his wife Heide live at 8 Mugo Road near the entrance to Pine Forest. They have been full time residents since 2011. Brad is active with North Cascades Mountain Guides and North Cascade Heli, as well as being a subcontractor for Laverty Construction here in the valley. Brad has been helping Larry Anderson with the water system and he will also be taking over water manager duties as the General Manager. Larry has recently joined the ranks of "snow bird" in order to keep his golf muscles from atrophying during the winter months, although he will continue to help Brad during the transition and when he is town.

Rose O'Donnell (r.a.odonnell@icloud.com) and Nancy Waite (nlwaite@comcast.net) have offered to help improve communication among homeowners via an email directory. I think this an excellent idea and would encourage homeowners to contact either Rose or Nancy so that you can be included on the list. This has been a particularly helpful mode of communication during our recent Level 3 evacuation. I am also told that there is a Facebook page associated with Pine Forest, but since I am Facebook illiterate, I defer any questions about that to Rose.

Lynn Lewicki (lynnml@comcast.net) and Jim Wurzer (wurzerj@Comcast.net) are putting together a Firewise committee, to help owners with protecting and clearing their lots. The Board would like to do everything possible to minimize any future difficulties that homeowners may face when obtaining insurance. If

you would like to help, please contact one of them. The Board is considering allocation of funds for this purpose in the greenbelt areas. It would be ideal if we could coordinate those efforts.

Finally, there is now a position available on the Board of Directors, due to the resignation of Art Blume. If anyone has an interest in serving on the Board, please contact me via email (kim@walter.net) by September 1st. Include a brief bio including any special interests you have in helping to improve our HOA. In accordance with the bylaws, the Board will review the applicants and will then elect someone to finish Art's term.

I ask all the homeowners for your patience and understanding during this transition. We are a community, where volunteer help is always appreciated. The recent wildfires should be a wake up call to all of us that we are very lucky to have our homes to enjoy, and, that when adversity strikes, we all have to help each other any way we can.

Many thanks,

Kim Walter