

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 am to 3 pm
(Excluding Holidays)

PHONE: 530-644-2182

Planning Meeting: 1st Wednesday of every month
Board Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of every month
Fire Safety Meeting: 2nd Monday of every month

All meetings are held at the SSOA lodge on Edelweiss and start at 6:30 pm.

December 2019 Newsletter

Dues Increase

The Sierra Springs Owners Association (SSOA) Board of Directors adopted a dues increase of \$15/quarter (\$5/month) at the October 13, 2019 Board meeting. The need for this increase is as follows:

- **Inflation:** There has been about 5% inflation since the last dues increase (there was no increase last year) and overall costs have gone up.
- **Road Fund:** There is not sufficient money in the road fund to cover anticipated expenses. The biggest issue is the repair/replacement of numerous culverts. Our culverts are approximately 50 years old and at or near the end of their useful life. Neglecting to repair or replace these culverts will expose our roadways to catastrophic failure in the event of a washout or collapse of a culvert. This year, we spent \$60,000 on culvert repair, with major associated costs coming in the future. We will also need to resurface the roads soon.
Note: the \$5/mo. dues increase adds only about \$36,000 to the annual revenue.
- **Vegetation Management for Fire Protection:** The SSOA is responsible for vegetation maintenance on the SSOA-owned parcels within Sierra Springs. Some of these have never been addressed and once cleaned up, must be maintained. Since we are requiring members to clean up their properties we must do the same for the SSOA properties.

We can assure you that the SSOA Board does not take this increase lightly. We, as members, must also pay this increase. However, we must be responsible in regards to the financial health of the SSOA.

Clear Creak Road Bridges Project

At the November SSOA Board Meeting, representatives from El Dorado County Department of Transportation (EDCDOT) made a presentation regarding the replacement of two bridges on Clear Creek Road in the Summer of 2020. Construction of the new bridges will necessitate closure of Clear Creek Road. EDCDOT is currently estimating road closure beginning in June 2020 and ending in August 2020. SSOA Board members voiced their concern regarding the road closures, especially during emergencies. The EDCDOT representatives assured the SSOA Board that during times of emergency, such as wildfire, Clear Creek Road would be available for ingress/egress to Sierra Springs. Updates regarding this project will be posted on the EDCDOT and SSOA websites.

Snow Removal

Winter is here and we have already received significant snow. Please remember that cars must not be parked on the road pavement. Roads must be kept clear to allow room for snow-plows. If plows can't get down your road, you and your neighbors may be stranded.

Fire Safety

Even though we have received rain and snow, the next fire season is right around the corner. Now is the time to be proactive and prepare for the 2020 fire season. Staying ahead of the property maintenance work, especially on the larger multi-acre lots, will make things much easier come Springtime.

Be aware: El Dorado County has a new Vegetation Management and Defensible Space Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5101, Chapter 8.09) requiring property owners to provide 100 feet of defensible space around all structures that are greater than 120 square feet, even if the structure is on your neighbor's property. Also, the next round of fire-safe evaluations will begin in the Spring.

PG&E Power Line Upgrade Project

This past Summer PG&E initiated a massive project to upgrade the power distribution lines in this area. Their goal is to 'harden' their infrastructure, making it less likely to cause a catastrophic wildfire. There are three major components to this project:

1. **Install new power poles:** The new poles are larger in diameter and spaced closer together than the previous poles. The pole size and spacing has been designed to withstand a 100 mph wind. To date, this work has been done along the roads. Where there are no roads, helicopters will be used to put the poles in place.
2. **Install 'tree' wire:** Tree wire is larger in diameter and insulated when compared to the current bare wire. This wire is also designed to withstand a 100 mph wind, and is stronger and less likely to break if a branch or tree contacts it. In addition, it is less likely to arc or spark than the current bare wire.
3. **Aggressive, enhanced vegetation management:** Some trees and limbs are being removed to reduce the risk of contacting the power lines. There have been a number of complaints about the quantity of trees that PGE is removing. It's true that removing these trees dramatically changes the "natural beauty" look of our neighborhood; however, we need to be mindful of the reality that trees and/or limbs falling on power lines do cause wildfires (and other damage). Because of this sacrifice, we will be much safer.

It is anticipated this PG&E project in Sierra Springs will be completed by May 2020. For more information you can do an online search for PG&E vegetation-management. PG&E phone number: 800-743-5000.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
FROM
SSOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS