



Newsletter

September 2020

SSOA Board of Directors

Roger DeGray — President
Cathy Petersen — Vice President
Donna Barrese — Secretary
Tom Jeanes — Treasurer
Ray Schoenwandt — Director

Committees

Fire Safety / CCR Rules / Architectural / Roads

We need volunteers!

Do you have 1-2 hours a month to help keep the association a beautiful, safe place and ensure the highest property values possible?

Contact Shelly @ 530-644-2182 to offer your help!
(No contact with others if COVID-19 is a concern).

Covid-19 Pandemic Update:

Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic is still with us:

- **LODGE AND POOLS:**
The Lodge is still closed due to social distancing requirements dictated from the State and County. The pools are closed post Labor Day as usual. Any updates regarding reopening our Lodge for any special events or rental use will be posted to the SSOA Website, on Bulletin Boards and appropriate social media.
- **BOARD / COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**
Monthly Board Meetings are currently being held via Zoom. These meetings are scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month. The agenda w/ zoom link for attending these meetings is published on the SSOA Website. Meeting Minutes may also be found on the website afterward.

Executive Meetings are held monthly but are closed to the membership and are limited to discussions about disciplinary actions, employment matters and conflicts. A recap will be shared with members at the following week's Board meeting.

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

PHONE: (530) 644-2182

EMAIL: info@sierraspringsowners.org

WEBSITE: sierraspringsowners.org

Executive Meeting: 1st Wednesday of every month
Board Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of every month
Fire Safety Meeting: Monday between Exec and Board

Due to Covid19 - All meetings are being held via Zoom and start at 6:30 pm. *See SSOA website for link.*

Fire Safety

Wildfire Season is here! Significant progress has been made in reducing fuels throughout our neighborhoods, but there is still a lot of work left to do.

- **PG&E** Pollock Pines project is currently underway that will replace 1,025 poles and 38 miles of wire on one circuit. Nearly 3 miles of power line will be buried underground as part of the overall circuit work. This work will continue throughout the year. This new equipment will greatly improve our safety and reduce power outages as well. Thank you PG&E.
- **Fire Safety Self-Evaluations** have been completed by the majority of our homeowners—thank you! Our volunteer FS Evaluators are evaluating properties and will explain to owners what they need to do to make their property 'Fire Safety' compliant.
- **Fine Process** continues only as a last resort. Owners will be fined until they show that their property complies with our Fire Safety standards. Everyone receives a fair and advance warning before any action is taken. Owners have the opportunity to address the Board in person, by video conference or they can submit a written response by email or by USPS to the SSOA office.

Enhanced Vegetation Management

PG&E's four teams of contractors will continue to remove logs and debris from properties per their original agreement. Tree removal will continue next spring.

If you have logs waiting to be removed by PG&E, you can call the **EVM Call Center @ 1-877-295-4949** or send an email to: wildfiresafety@pge.com.

There are some logs and debris laying on the ground, creating a fire hazard, as a result of several homeowners who elected to keep the wood from their trees, but are not able to cut and stack the wood themselves. PG&E has records on file for all these requests.

Homeowners are responsible for removing the wood/logs they asked the PG&E contractors to leave behind.

SSOA Rules - Additions / Revisions

Included with this newsletter are new or revised rules for the following:

- **Commercial Activity** - New Rules clarify and address the many concerns recently received from SSOA homeowners about short-term rentals and other 'at home' businesses.
- **Exterior Property** - Updated to clarify the display of signs, banners, flags and address identification. Also clarification of trash bins / garbage rules.
- **Firewood Storage** - Fire Safety Rules were amended to include Firewood storage. With the additional firewood being generated from the PG&E tree removal project, many fire hazards are being created due to the improper and unsafe stacking of firewood. Please follow these firewood stacking guidelines.

SSOA Roads - County / SSOA / Private

There are 3 types of roads within Sierra Springs Owners Association:

- **County Owned & Maintained Roads** — These are the roads closest to the Sly Park entrance that are paved asphalt, have stop signs and posted speed limit signs and are subject to total control by the county. The association cannot do anything on these roads, including such things as snow removal and removing dead animals.
- **County Owned but NOT County Maintained** — There are the approximately 8 miles of roads that the SSOA is responsible for maintaining. The SSOA slurry seals these roads every 5-6 years, patches the areas needing attention and provides road services such snow plow services (when available) and removes dead animals from the roadways. The association cannot post speed limits, signs or stripe the roads without county approval. A few years ago, the association was able to gain county approval to put some yellow striping on dangerous turns, as well as to add a few yield and deer caution signs.
- **Private Driveways and Easements** — These are the driveways and easements which are on the owners' properties and do not fall under the jurisdiction of the association. Owners are responsible for the maintenance and repair of their own driveways. It is not only outside of the association's control to do anything with these driveways and roads, but it would be financially irresponsible for the association to provide any funds to assist in an owner's personal needs. The proper course of action for maintaining these private roads/driveways is to obtain a contractor's quote for repairs, then have all owners who share the road also share the cost of maintaining them. Note: If your neighbors refuse to cooperate, there have been cases where legal litigation has been a successful tactic.

Fire Safety Tip: Pine needles in gutters and roof valleys are what makes your house most vulnerable to wildfires. Embers can collect just like the pine needles in gutters and valleys of your roof. Keeping these areas clean of debris is a MAJOR factor in the protection of your home.

Fire Evacuation Tips:

Be aware of what is going on around you. Follow evacuation orders as given from police or fire dept.

Do Not decide to take a shortcut as this could actually put you in more danger. Leave early — don't wait for the 'Mandatory' Evacuation Order. **Leave Early — Don't wait for the 'Mandatory' Evacuation Order**