

SPRING VALLEY NEWS

NEWS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

SPRING VALLEY PROPERTY OWNERS AND RECREATIONAL CORPORATION

Email: info@myspringvalley.org website: www.myspringvalley.org SVPORC PHONE NUMBER 719.686.1825

Election Time

We will be electing new board members in July with four seats up for election. The results of the election will be announced at the annual meeting in August. Please consider running for a two year term. It is a great opportunity to learn more about your community and help make this a great place to live. If you are interested in running for a seat on the board, please send your intentions with a brief biography for the ballot to PO Box 513, Divide, CO 80814. Must be postmarked by June 30, 2014. You may also email to: info@myspringvalley.org

2014 Activity Schedule

June 7 th	Kiddie Carnival/ Neighborhood Picnic
July 5 th	Fish Stocking for Derby
July 12 th	Terry Harris Memorial Children's Fishing Derby
August 16 th	Annual Meeting 9:00am Doughnuts and Coffee Provided
September 13 th	Fall Activity
October 25 th	Trunk or Treat 6:30 to 7:30 pm

All dates subject to change

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Fish Patrol

We are in need again this year of fish patrol volunteers. Thursday is still open for a volunteer. If you have a few hours available and would like to fish for free, please contact Dick Cope at 687-8931. You may also volunteer as a substitute as they are always needed when the regulars are unavailable.

Fishing permits are available from any fishing patrol volunteer, on the website at www.myspringvalley.org or by calling SVPORC at 719-686-1825.

All boats that are kept at the boat dock by the pavilion must register their boat with Dick Cope if you have not already done so.

A Decade as President

by Zug G. Standing Bear

As you all may know, the Spring Valley Property Owners and Recreation Corporation, unlike most Colorado public offices and the office of the Presidency of the United States, does not have term limits. There is a good reason for this, as one of my neighbors recently remarked: “Who would want to serve on that board and be subject to constant abuse?” And, indeed, serving on our Board provides no financial rewards and, at times, can be stressful. I first ran for our Board in 2001, mainly out of a desire to know my new community better, having moved here from Fort Collins in February of that year, changing faculty jobs from Colorado State to UCCS. I was elected to the Board that year, and later elected to President of the Board in 2004. This year marks my tenth year as President. My continued re-elections only point up the remarks by some that, having served in the Army for a third of a century, my only job skills are to order people around. I’m certainly not much good on Clean-Up Day, due to two combat tours in Vietnam and the physical ravages that followed some 40 years later with a number of major surgeries. But, in this little piece, I’d like to share some comments about my ten years as President.

When I assumed the Board Presidency in 2004, I made it clear to the Board that we had to do something about the Treasurer position, who at that time was both an elected Board member and a paid employee, engaged to keep the books. I felt that having a Board vote and a financial interest was a distinct conflict of interest. Fortunately, the Board unanimously agreed, and the search was on for a part time Administrator, who was an employee but not a Board member. After interviewing several candidates, by far the most outstanding was Jill Cochran, who was a resident of Highland Lakes and recently retired from the Ohio Department of Motor Vehicles. That decision was a good one, and, thankfully, Jill is still with us today and has done an exemplary job.

Although at times I think I have gotten to know our subdivision a little more than I would like, the entire journey has been a very rewarding one. Chief among those rewards has been the outstanding quality of our Board members and their dedication to our community. I could not wish for more ethical, committed, and positive colleagues. Yes, our community has its problems – a few problem residents and a number that feel they do not need to contribute to the maintenance of our community by refusing to pay the annual assessments which are (gasp!) under a hundred dollars a year. And yet, although membership in our association is voluntary, it is encouraging to see that the vast majority of our citizens step right up and support our association with enthusiasm and loyalty. For our part, we try our best to keep finances under control, thanks to Greg Smith, a former corporate Chief Financial Officer, and our Treasurer, as well as Shaun Gordon, our Vice-President and a Colorado Parks and Wildlife official who keeps a skillful eye on all of our physical environment, from the lakes and ponds, to the dams, the pavilion, and beyond. Interestingly, our largest single expense are the insurance policies we must maintain for various liability issues for the common properties and other required insurance coverage. Our Secretary, Deb Schneider, along with Roni Gordon (a close relative of Shaun) are instrumental in rolling out

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our community events, from fish stockings to the Children's Fishing Derby, and a number of other social gatherings for both children and grown-ups. Our Fishing Czar is, of course, Dick Cope, that crusty old Army Motor Sergeant and his faithful assistant, Buck, often proclaiming that he is so old that he does not even buy green bananas any more. Our at-large Board members, Georgia Curie and Dave Martinek, are always reliable as wise council on our Legal Affairs Committee and, as most of us know, Dave is heavily involved in our local Divide historical restoration efforts and is a frequent contributor to our local newspapers concerning historical issues.

So, on my tenth anniversary as your Board President, I am thankful for this opportunity to serve my community, and especially thankful to my Board colleagues. Often, homeowners associations have terrible reputations for one reason or another (the horror stories are numerous), like that outfit in Virginia that tried to get the 93 year old resident to take down the flagpole in his front yard as an "eyesore," where he faithfully hoisted and took down the American flag every day. It apparently did not matter that the old fellow was retired Army Colonel Van Barfoot, who, as a member of the 45th Infantry Division, had won the Congressional Medal of Honor in World War II. In looking back at 73 years of life, I remember my time as a Military Police Officer, on the household security detail for President Gerald Ford at his home in Alexandria, Virginia, during the tumultuous days in August and September, 1974, when President Nixon was resigning and President Ford was moving to the White House. I wish Richard Nixon would have had as good a group of advisors as I have here in Spring Valley – and perhaps Watergate would never have happened. Georgia Curie would have never let him get away with that.

Fishing Derby

The annual Terry Harris Memorial Children's Fishing Derby will be held Saturday, July 12. As always, we need volunteers to help with this major event. Donations are at the top of our list. We need all of our neighbors to use their imaginations and come up with ways to get businesses to donate prizes and/or monetary donations for the raffle ticket booth. Some suggestions are hats, t-shirts, gift baskets, household items, sporting items, toys and gift cards. We like to have a variety of items to give all those who purchase the tickets many items to pick from.

Providing lunch for all the participants and volunteers is next on our list. This will be a major expense for the fishing derby funds so we really need to have donations for this part of the day. We also need volunteers to help with set up, serving and clean up after the lunch is over.

We will need volunteers to help with setting up the booths in the morning, manning the booths, picking up ice and many other jobs too numerous to mention. If you would like to donate your time or you need more information, please contact Deb Schneider 687-7476 or Roni Gordon 687-6906. We appreciate all the help everyone provides each year. If you volunteer your time and talents, we guarantee you will have a great time knowing you have been a part of another successful fishing derby event.

**SPRING VALLEY PROPERTY
OWNERS AND RECREATIONAL
CORPORATION**

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Shaun Gordon, Vice President

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Deb Schneider, Secretary

Dick Cope, Member-at-Large

David Martinek, Member-at-Large

Georgia Curie, Member-at-Large

Jill Cochran, Office Coordinator

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