

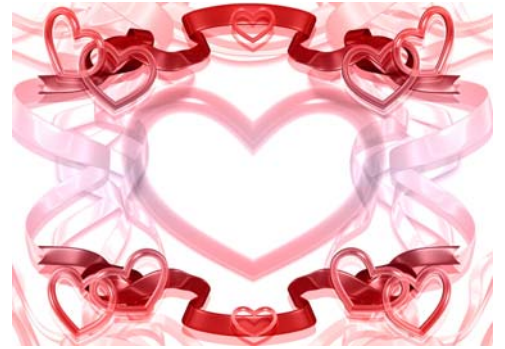
# SEELEY LAKE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

A Publication of the Seeley Lake Community Council

## Council Members

*Jon Haufler, Chair*  
*Diane Weatherman, Vice Chair*  
*Addrien Marx, Secretary*  
*Gary Pelletier, Treasurer*  
*Walt Hill*  
*Carol Evans*  
*George Frasca*



## COMMUNITY COUNCIL MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

The Seeley Lake Community Council met on February 2nd at the Seeley Lake Community Hall. All members of the Community Council were present, along with guests Tim Elsea and Dave Harris of Missoula County Department of Public Works and members of the various infrastructure boards.

After the approval of the January minutes, Council Treasurer Gary Pelletier gave the Treasurer's Report. The only changes from January were the receipt of funds for two newsletter subscriptions and the return of an overpayment for the newsletter.

Council member Addrien Marx reported on the communications received in January. The Community Council sent a letter to Professional Consultants, Inc. regarding the proposed Whitetail Pines Subdivision. A letter was received from John Maclean thanking the Council for their response to the proposed rate increase on Forest Service lease lands and a letter from Debra Austin concerning the Jocko Lake Fire Salvage sale. Missoula County Elections Office sent back copies of the required paperwork filed by Addrien Marx and Walt Hill for their reelection to the Community Council.

Under Old Business, the Resort Committee reported on their meeting on January 26th. The Resort Committee will continue to meet every other Monday at 9 a.m. at the Barn. The committee discussed whether to continue pursuing the resort tax and about putting both issues on the ballot again. Also discussed was what items would be taxed and making sure to identify that water and sewer would only be where the funds would be spent. Wade Cebulski asked if the Council would be taking a position on the proposed moving of Missoula County's gravel storage area to next to the airport. Haufler stated that it would be on the agenda for the March meeting and that Tim Elsea would be at the March meeting to further discuss it.

Under New Business, Tim Elsea and Dave Harris with Missoula County

Public Works addressed the Council and the audience about dust abatement in the Seeley Lake area. This year, the County will be increasing the number of miles of road that will be treated for dust. Those who are on a County maintained road have the option to commit to dust abatement in front of their house done by the County at a reduced rate. If people are interested, a letter of commitment must be received by the County by March 15. The letter of commitment must state that the owner will pay in advance and the length of road. There is not a maximum length of road, but the minimum length is 300 feet. For more information on dust abatement options, please email [roads@co.missoula.mt.us](mailto:roads@co.missoula.mt.us) or call Amy at 406-258-3723.

The Annual Infrastructure Board meeting was held during the Community Council meeting. Vince Chappell, Manager for the Seeley Lake Water District, reported that the Water District was under budget with water sales for the year. This has resulted in a 5% increase in the base fee charged to users. This change will take place on the February billing. In a report on the current upgrade project, Chappell reported that of the four million dollars in project cost, approximately two million dollars has been covered by grants to reduce the end charge to users in the Water District. Upcoming work by the Water District will be replacing the water line that runs from Tamarack to the Seeley Swan High School at the end of April to the beginning of May. The upgrade project will be going out for bid the end of April/first of May and construction to begin the end of May/beginning of June. The project consists of 15,000 ft of upgraded water lines, a 500,000 gallon storage facility added at the Water District, and upgraded disinfection system to help the district stay in compliance, extension of the district building to house the new storage system and installing booster stations in town.

The Water District only

installed one new line in 2008, down from an average of four new lines a year. Because of current restrictions, no new subdivisions can be added. Walt Hill stated that the Water District has a limiting feature because of water rights and that the water rights could be a problem in the future.

Frank Maradeo, Chief of the Seeley Lake Rural Fire District presented a slide show during his report on the Fire District. The Fire District saw a reduced number of calls from 2007 to 2008, mostly due to calls about the Jocko Lake Fire. Maradeo reported that the response time for the Fire District was 7.2 minutes in 2008 which is a 2 minute decrease in time from the previous year. This could be attributed to adding staff during high call times.

The Fire District has been involved with community events and has hosted tours by the school and done puppet shows for the kindergarten. In July of 2009, the Fire Station will pay off its bond. The next issue is the station expansion in which the Fire District does not want to ask for tax dollars. The expansion is going to cost around \$400,000 dollars.

Maradeo also reported that this is the 25th anniversary of the Seeley Lake Rural Fire District and that the first fire truck was received 50 years ago from Kalispell.

Jeff Aresty, Chair of the Seeley Swan Hospital District, reported that the Hospital District received a grant for \$30,000 for the purchase of land south of the Seeley Swan Medical Center. The Hospital District Board is looking at expanding the clinic and adding senior housing. The Board initiated an advisory committee consisting of local individuals to help with the planning of projects. Aresty reported that clinic management developed and implemented a Disaster Protocol for the Clinic Staff after the Jocko Lake Fire and that the Clinic held its annual Health Fair in May.

Dr. Fyfe and nurse practitioner Cindy Gallea continued community outreach by

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## **Resort Committee Update**

The Resort Committee met on January 26th. Approximately ten members of the community attended. Committee members discussed whether to continue pursuing the resort tax and what went wrong. There seemed to be some confusion of the two issues on the ballot and questions on what would be taxed, what the funds would be spent on, questions on who could vote and where the resort area boundary fell.

As these issues are addressed, the Resort Committee will be placing more information on the website. A map of the resort area boundary can be viewed on the [Resort Committee webpage](#) on the Council's website.

The Resort Committee will meet every other Monday at 9 a.m. at the Barn. Minutes for these meetings will be posted on the committee webpage after they are reported at the Community Council meetings. For more information, please contact a member of the Resort Committee. Contact information can be found on the website below.

## **UPCOMING INFRASTRUCTURE MEETINGS:**

- **Seeley Lake Rural Fire District**– February 17, 6:00 p.m., Seeley Lake Fire Station
- **Seeley Lake Sewer District**– February 19, 5:00 p.m., Pyramid Mountain Lumber Conference Room
- **Seeley Lake Refuse District**– February 23, 7:00 p.m., Seeley Lake Transfer Station
- **Seeley Lake Water District**– February 26, 5:30 p.m., Water District Office
- **Seeley Lake Community Council**– March 2, 6:00 p.m., Seeley Lake Community Hall
- **Seeley Swan Hospital District**– March 3, 5:30 p.m., Seeley Swan Medical Center Conference Room
- **Seeley Lake Cemetery District**– March 5, 12:00 p.m., DARLOA office

## **UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- **Resort Committee**– February 23, 9:00 a.m., Seeley Lake Historical Museum (Barn)

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## **...SEELEY LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED**

holding educational talks with the community. Aresty also reported that the Hospital Board replaced Tamarack Management with Saint Patrick Hospital management. The clinic is attempting to improve access to healthcare by enacting discounts and sliding scales of fees to those who qualify.

Chris Jewett, Chair of the Seeley Lake Refuse District, reported on the changes and concerns for the Refuse District. A big concern of the Refuse District is community growth. There has been an increase in the garbage dumped and currently one of the dumpsters is being used for the Blue Bag Recycling Program. A problem the Refuse District ran into this summer was the closing of the site due to no available containers. If an issue such as this arises again, there will be a message left on the Refuse District phone and signs will be placed at the bottom of Woodworth Road and hopefully also in town. The Refuse District plans to add 2-3 additional bays and is currently looking at the costs.

The Refuse District now has recycling through the Allied Waste Blue Bag System. There has been no cost until now, but now Allied Waste will be charging \$130 a bin transfer cost. The Refuse District is looking into Headwater's Recycling program pricing. Headwaters Recycling program takes glass, where Allied does not have the ability to.

In 2008, the Refuse District had

a booth at Littlebird's Market for the Blue Bag Program to educate the community about recycling and for hauling recyclers items to the site. This was a successful program. The District is looking at glass recycling and adding recycling centers in town.

No one was present to report on the Sewer District or on the Cemetery District and no report was sent in to the Council.

The Seeley Lake Community Council presented for discussion the Council's support of the infrastructure boards. Council member Marx spoke of how the Council was created in the late 1980's because of all of the boards and no coordination between them. The Council is to help the boards work together and to become stronger. Jeff Aresty with the Seeley Swan Hospital board suggested that the chairs of the various boards get together a couple of times a year.

Vince Chappell told the Council that the Water District was entertaining the same thought of a website and that the Council's website helps the Water District a lot.

There were other comments from members of the audience. Pat Constantinides asked if the Council had a plan for development if the mill was going to close. Council member Diane Weatherman addressed that question by saying that the Council has been busy over the last two years with the Seeley Lake Regional Plan and are now

exploring this. Council member Gary Pelletier reminded members of the audience that the community needs to have the infrastructure in place to support development before they start looking at development.

Wade Cebulski informed the Council and the audience that the Seeley Lake Airport was applying for funding to install a sprinkler system at the airport. Mike Lindemer addressed the Council and audience about the Seeley Lake Driftriders. The Driftriders purchased a new groomer through the State of Montana and have helped with the cross-country skiers, the dog sled race trails, poker runs and the Race to the Sky. Numbers of snowmobilers have been low, but the Driftriders are trying to get snowmobilers in to help the local businesses and community.

Hauffer closed out the meeting by making sure the community and the infrastructure boards know that the Council's involvement is an ongoing discussion and would like ideas.

Council member George Frasca added that the Trail Committee has about 20 volunteers for the spring work session, but more volunteers are needed. To learn more about volunteering with the Trail Committee, contact George or Gary Pelletier.

Copies of the reports received from the Hospital, Water, Fire and Refuse Districts can be accessed from the Seeley Lake Community Council website.