

Echoes from Our Lake

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WALKER LAKESHORES LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 2018
VOLUME 142

From the President's Pen

Hopefully the bears are in hibernation because I put out our bird feeder just in time for the first snowfall and, before long, it was teeming with familiar winter birds. Visiting daily were chickadees, titmice, cardinals, woodpeckers, nuthatches and those pesky Blue Jays. I am still expecting juncos and goldfinches, among others, who seem to be late in arriving. But, I'm sure they'll eventually show up.

As I watched the birds intermingle at the feeder, flying in from all different directions to that one welcoming place, it reminded me of how often we travel to other areas or states to celebrate with our loved ones. Years ago, families often lived within the same neighborhood or town, but now more often than not children and relatives live a distance away; perhaps it is for employment opportunities, education or just a different climate. In some instances, the holiday season is the only opportunity that family members are able to visit, reconnect and catch up on each other's lives. Travel arrangements can interfere with an individual's plans and some may be late in arriving; but, I'm sure they'll eventually show up.

Wherever you are for the holidays and with whomever you have chosen to spend your time, travel safely and enjoy the opportunity to be with people who are happy to share their lives with you.

As we enter 2019 together, I wish to extend a sincere "thank you" to the community. The extraordinary amount of support given this past year brought our Association to the point of fiscal responsibility we now enjoy.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy New Year!

— Janice Hahn














The Following Events are Presented by the WLLA Program Committee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

(All events take place in, or originate at, Clubhouse, unless otherwise indicated)

 <p>January 19, 2019 Board Meeting Time: 10:00am Come support your community, let's work together</p>	<p>January 19, 2019 Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm Fee: \$15.00 pp</p>  <p>SIP-N-PAINT (18yrs old to paint, 21yrs old to sip) BYOB...we supply the paint and the fun. Don't forget to contact the office to sign up! (20 people must be signed up or event will be cancelled)</p>
 <p>January 26, 2019 Saturday Night Movie Classics Time: 7:00pm <u>It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World-1963</u> Don't forget to contact the office to sign up!</p>	 <p>February 16, 2019 Board Meeting Time: 10:00am Come support your community, let's work together</p>  <p>February 16, 2019 Saturday Night Movie Classics Time: 7:00pm <u>The Pink Panther - 1964</u> Don't forget to contact the office to sign up!</p>
 <p>February 3, 2019 SUPER BOWL POT LUCK 🍲 Time: 6:30pm Come watch the big game with your neighbors and take a chance at winning the football pool-\$2.00 boxes. Bring a delicious snack or dish to share. BYOB Don't forget to contact the office to sign up!</p>	 <p>March 16, 2019 Board Meeting Time: 10:00am Come support your community, let's work together</p>
 <p>March 2, 2019 Saturday Night Movie Classics Time: 7:00pm <u>Some Like It Hot -1959</u> Don't forget to contact the office to sign up!</p>	 <p>March 28, 2019 Mohican Sun Wilkes Barre Bus Trip Time: 10:00 am-6:30pm Fee: \$35.00 pp Try your luck with a \$25 gambling voucher & enjoy a \$5 food voucher Don't forget to contact the office to sign up! (33 people must be signed up in advance or trip will be cancelled.)</p>

A note from your treasurer...



A Note From Our Treasurer

Our community continues to make great strides! While there is more work to do, we have made great progress. We have much better control measures in place and a far better understanding of our fiscal condition than we have for long time.

Our 2019 budget was adopted at the 11-17-18 Board of Directors meeting and is posted on walkerlake.com. Accordingly, assessments will be sent out January 1, 2019 with Lake, Road and Member billed at the same rates as in 2018.

While Lake and Member income streams are projected to meet their respective budgeted expenses, unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Road. An increase in Road assessment will be necessary to cover the projected expenses. With considerations to plowing, loan debt, repairs and our Hinkel settlement obligation to transfer \$20,000 from Road to Lake annually for 5 years, we just plain need more income to cover it all.

A Special Assessment will be billed out in July only for Road assessments and only for the necessary increase. This second assessment in July will give the board time to explore additional opportunities for restitution that might help to reduce the amount of funds needed and will help our property owners who contribute to road by spreading the increase needed over 2 payments and a greater period of time. I would ask your patience as we use this valuable time to do all that we can to limit this increase. The rate of the Special Assessment is dependent on the outcome of these efforts currently in process.

Please be advised that the audit of our 2017 books is currently underway, conducted by Zavada & Associates.

Walker Lake is such a beautiful place! We are all very fortunate to share in that.

Carol Gillen, Treasurer



Coming Soon!

WLLA ELECTIONS 2019 NOMINATIONS



Look for information on the 2019 WLLA Elections in the upcoming Spring issue of Echoes from Our Lake

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE NOTICE

The WLLA office is now trying out a new group mail list program. This program from Simple Lists will allow the office to send the newsletter and other announcements in one e-mail. We assure you that your e-mail address is private, safe and is not shared with anyone. The e-mail will still come from wllassociation@gmail.com

A ROCKY ROAD ACCOUNT

by Michael DeVita

Our community has traveled a rocky road in the past year caused by the ultimate failure of fiduciary responsibility and outright theft of funds from our treasury by our deceased president along with the malice and discord he created between Walker Lake and its neighboring communities.

We have all been affected by his treachery but by far the most impacted item is the roads owned by WLLA which are maintained by those who pay road assessments – about 275 landowners.

Based on the wrongful dealings of the sticky-fingered offender, the WLLA road assessment fund is carrying the load of making things right. This includes repaying the road loan that he (you see I can't even say his name) took out as a sole signer to repair roads. Sure some road work was done at that time about equal to the loan and assessments, but it appears the loan money was used to cover up the taking of WLLA funds.

He also took funds from the Lake Account, supposedly putting that money to the roads, but there isn't any evidence that the money went to roads. When some residents of Hinkel Estates caught on to this practice and asked to see "the books," they were denied, so they took WLLA to court.

The court settlement was agreed upon without WLLA ever having to show its books to Hinkel Estate representatives. The case was settled by our past president because if he had shown the books, he would have died behind bars. That settlement mandated that the WLLA Road Account replenish the WLLA Lake Account \$100,000 paid over 5 years.

Road loan payments and the mandated transfer of funds to the Lake Account cost the Road Account \$40,600 in 2018.

WLLA road assessments total approximately \$77,000 a year. Now, deduct the money that has to be paid or replenished due to the above and that leaves a rocky road for the Road Account.

Snow plowing, winter materials, grading of gravel roads, pothole repair, paving, resurfacing, sign repair, culvert and drainage cleaning, cutting back trees that narrow the road or block our street signs are some of the items the Road Account is supposed to support. There wasn't much there to do these things before the thief used our treasury as his personal piggy bank. His dealings left the Road Account with crumbs.

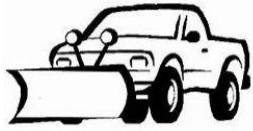
Keep in mind the second biggest shared asset affecting our home values after the lake is the roads.

I assure you that the Officers, Board of Directors and Road Committee are doing everything possible to figure out how to take proper care of the roads and to minimize the personal monetary impact on the affected landowners, of which I am one.

We Would Love to Hear from You



If you have any information, ideas or suggestions you would like considered for the next issue of the newsletter, please reach out to a Communications Committee member or the WLLA office. A list of committee members can be found on the walkerlake.com website.



SNOW AND WINTER RELATED REMINDERS

Well, we already had one major snow storm in November that dumped 11 ½ inches of the white stuff and several days of minor accumulations. So here are a few winter reminders.

First of all, our regulations stipulate that no ATV or snow mobile use is permitted in the development or on the lakes. Please do not take an ATV or snow mobile on the frozen lake.



Next, our snow removal service will start plowing once there is an accumulation of 2". That doesn't mean every road gets started when there is 2 inches of snow, it just means they will start plowing in the community.

We expect to see enhanced plowing service as the new snow plow contractor, Empire State Excavating, will have at least two trucks plowing and will add a third in real heavy storms if needed. Also, when plowing Empire will have the truck in the upper tier off Birch start the roads with all the hills before going to the flat roads which run off of Walker Lake Road. It is much easier to navigate through a flat road in snow than the ones with the hills.

For the safety and convenience of all residents we ask that you do not blow or shovel the snow from your driveways into the roads themselves. Doing this creates hazards for others using our roads.

Please bring trash and recycling cans back off the road once they are emptied to keep them from being in the way of plowing or worst yet plowed away in heavier snow.

If you have a plowing issue or emergency, please call or e-mail the WLLA office or you may post your concern on our Friends of Walker Lake Facebook page which is monitored regularly.



WLLA MEETING CALENDAR 2019

All Meetings at the WLLA Clubhouse



<p>January 19 Board of Directors 10 AM</p>	<p>February 16 Board of Directors 10 AM</p>	<p>March 16 Board of Directors 10 AM</p>
<p>April 20 Board of Directors 10 AM</p>	<p>May 18 Nominations at General Membership 10 AM Board of Directors to follow</p>	<p>June 15 Board of Directors 10 AM</p>
<p>July 20 Election Day – Vote 8 AM to 10 AM Annual General Membership 10 AM Board of Directors to follow</p>	<p>August 17 Board of Directors 10 AM</p>	<p>September 21 July Elected Board Sits General Membership 10 AM Board of Directors to follow</p>
<p>October 19 Board of Directors 10 AM</p>	<p>November 16 Board of Directors 10 AM</p>	<p>December 14 Board of Directors 10 AM</p>

Attendance at Meetings: In accordance with the WLLA Red Book Rules and Regulations, I. INTRODUCTION, B. PRIVILEGES, 1.e., page 3: Board of Director MONTHLY meetings are open to members only. Non-members may attend the three General Membership meetings in May, July and September. The July meeting is known as the Annual meeting.

Walker's Roker

David Vonderheide - Hydro Meteorological Technician, National Weather Service

The atmosphere is like a delicate eggshell. Within it, our weather is a highly complex and ever-changing phenomenon that is subject not only to all the laws of physics, but also to the geographical characteristics of specific locations and the constantly evolving nature of climate.

This is the way David Vonderheide, a recently retired hydro meteorological technician (HMT) for the National Weather Service (a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)) and a relative newcomer to Walker Lake, talks about a subject he's loved since he was in college. (HMTs process atmospheric data to provide forecasters with accurate information.)

David brings to us his love for weather via his occasional "weather head's up" posts on the Friends of Walker Lake Facebook page. In them, he scans the horizon for developing situations as they could affect us directly and provides interesting local statistical data, such as the fact that we had an astonishing 9 inches of rain in November.

David and his beloved shepherd/lab mix, Augie came to us from Flagstaff, Arizona ("a beautiful city at 7,000 feet surrounded by ponderosa pine forests") where, over eight years, he collected, analyzed and transmitted data for the Weather Service. Prior to that, he did the same for 18 adventuresome years in Alaska, first on barren Saint Paul Island (pop. 532) far out in the Bering Sea, then in rugged Yakutat (pop. 662) on the Alaskan panhandle, and finally in Anchorage.

This was tough duty with long, cold, dark winters, and, on Saint Paul Island in particular, "wild weather." ("Pacific storms," David says, "move up the east coast of Asia, gain intensity as they cross the Bering Sea, and, by the time they reach Saint Paul and, later, the Aleutian Islands, are immense and powerful.")

Challenging as those conditions were, David loved the work and the adventure. His assignments took him to many remote, but beautiful, locations to set up, maintain and take readings from monitoring stations. He lived as a "minority" member of communities of indigenous people – the Aleuts on Saint Paul and the Tlingits in Yakutat. And he created his own adventures amidst Alaskan mountains as high as 18,000 feet.



One "really nice day," after having used spare time in prior summers blazing a trail that followed moose and other animal paths to the base of a mountain he wanted to climb, he and a friend started on their trek to the top through dense berry bushes. Suddenly, he became aware of "commotion" in the bushes ahead and, in a flash, a female grizzly, who had been feeding with her two cubs, reared up on her hind legs and charged him. "I can still see that burning look in her eyes, her ears flat back. I

remembered the rule: 'Don't run from bears.' I had pepper spray and, when she was close enough – which means really close – I used it. She and her cubs disappeared into the brush."

In Anchorage, David conducted studies of temperature variations and of meteorological data associated with historically severe weather that were cited repeatedly in an All-Hazard Mitigation Plan the City of Anchorage developed to meet eligibility requirements for disaster-related federal funds.

David moved back east from Flagstaff about 18 months ago to be helpful to his parents who lived at the time in Dingman's Ferry. His father has since passed on. David's Christian faith is very important to him ("it gives me hope in a world that tries to drag everyone down"). He is a member of the Milford Bible Church on Milford Rd.

He is fascinated by the geology of our area and aims to construct a geological map of Walker Lake, noting that the grey, medium-grained sandstones and shale that are the bedrock of the Delaware River Member of the Catskill Formation tilt down from east-to-west, which means that our well water comes not from surface water in our immediate area percolating down, but from sources about a half mile to the east of us.

That bedrock, David says, is overlain by stone deposits of an ancient glacier (hence the many rocks) a glacier which may also have formed the depression through which runs Walker Lake Creek. More on this when David completes his local studies.

On the big meteorological issue of the day, climate change, David takes a detached view. Warming is occurring, no doubt, he acknowledges, but it's not all due to human activity. "We're still coming out of the "Little Ice Age" which lasted until the mid-19th century," he says. "And the climate in Roman times was unusually warm, which accounts in part for the farther reaches of that empire." (The "Roman Warm Period," Wikipedia tells the writer, was "a period of unusually warm weather in Europe and the North Atlantic that ran from approximately 250 BC to AD 400.")

"It's very hard to be neutral on climate change," David says. "There's the scientific data and then there are all the opinions about it. And opinions tend to be split and to align with one's world view." Warming is occurring at a pace slow enough, David believes, to allow decision-makers in a calm and circumspect way to prepare for and to mitigate it. "We could advance quickly in that regard," he believes, "if our brilliant people working on alternative energy technologies were given the financial resources they need to increase solar panel efficiency and battery storage capacity."

David was born in New York City, grew up on Staten Island, majored in meteorology and geology at CUNY and enlisted in the Air Force in 1978. He spent two years in Germany working on tactical photo reconnaissance, graduated from the Air Force's forecasting school ("aviation is a huge consumer of weather data"), and spent four years at a Strategic Air Command (SAC) base near Spokane, Washington. There, B-52s, fully loaded with nuclear weapons, were parked at the ends of runways, ready to go, and the moment-to-moment availability of accurate weather data was absolutely critical.



We Need Some Assistance

The WLLA Communications Committee is seeking a volunteer to join the committee to help with the WalkerLake.com website. If you know or might be interested in learning a little HTML (sounds tougher than it is) to help keep the website up to date contact the WLLA office stating are interested.

Winter Safety



Important Reminders from the Shohola Volunteer Fire Department

- Everyone likes a nice cozy fire in the fireplace or wood stove during the cold snowy nights. However, make sure to clean your chimney before you use it and throughout the season of use.
- Some of you may not have wood stoves, but you have a furnace. Service it before the start of the season and keep all house exhaust vents clear of snow.
- Also, make sure all of your furniture is a safe distance away from any heat source that you may have.
- Do not use kerosene portable heaters inside your house. These heaters give off fumes and carbon monoxide.
- Everyone should have smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and, if you don't, please look into getting some. Carbon monoxide is a silent killer. Make sure your detectors are operating and have new batteries before the cold season. These detectors might just save you or a loved one.
- Some of you may be lucky enough to have a generator ready to go. It is very important to make sure you are not back feeding into power lines. This is very dangerous to the men and women who are out restoring your power. Do not run your generator anywhere in your house including the garage. When the generator is outside, the exhaust must be pointed away from the house. This will help prevent carbon monoxide in your home.
- If we receive large amounts of snow, make sure your roof gets shoveled to prevent structural damage. Also, remove icicles from roof and gutters. This could cause physical injury and damage your home.
- Lastly, on those cold mornings everyone likes to start their cars to warm up. Make sure your car is not in the garage while warming up. If your car is not in a garage, remove snow away from the exhaust to prevent fumes from entering the car.

These are just a few things to help keep you safe this winter season. If you have any questions please don't be afraid to call Shohola firehouse (570) 559-7525.

Sincerely,

Chief Jeffrey DeGroat and the Officers and Members of Shohola Township Volunteer Fire & Rescue

The Shohola Fire Department is a volunteer department. We encourage you to support those that serve our community. In addition to monetary donations, there are others ways to serve without actually being a firefighter. Contact the Shohola Firehouse for more info!

Making Donations to Shohola Fire Department - Your tax deductible donations help the Shohola Fire Department to continue their efforts to make Shohola a safer and better place to live. You may donate online at www.shoholafd.com OR send your donation by check or money order payable to:

Shohola Fire Department
Mail to: Shohola Fire Department Station 1
325 Route 434
Shohola, PA 18458

A WLLA CHRISTMAS POEM

By Ron Lisciandrello

'Twas the night before Christmas
And at Walker Lake
The lights were still burning
It must be a mistake

But it was no mistake
The Board was still meeting
When they should have been home
Sharing Holiday Greetings

Then all of a sudden
It was really quite weird
A man in a red suit
Just somehow appeared

He gave us a wink
He gave us a smile
He said he could stay
For only a while

Then he stood there and watched
He allowed us to banter
Then a motion was made
To declare this man Santa

He turned toward the leader
Of this diligent mob
He told Janice Hahn
She's done a wonderful job

Then he glanced at Ms. Reynolds
Who's a full time resident
He said what a great job
She did as Vice-President

He saw Sec'tary Rose
Said she's quite on the ball
Cause she kept taking notes
She recorded it all

He had nothing but praise
For our Treasurer Carol
Cause she's keeping our finances
On the straight and narrow

Then he gazed at the table
At the man we call Paul
He said we were fortunate
Cause this guy had it all

Then he tipped his hat to Mario
Said it was worth the journey
He was surprised that on our Board
Was such a fine Attorney

Then he smiled and he cheered
He applauded our Miss Vicky
She looked at him and blew a kiss
And said thank you Old St Nicky

And then he looked on down the row
He couldn't fight the urge
To offer us his compliments
For recruiting Linda Verge

Then his eyes did open wide
He laughed so loud and hearty
Cause now he could ask Mary Ann
To please plan him a party

Then he praised our Mike DeVita
Said he's a force to behold
He hopes that he continues
To repave all our roads

Then he turned his eyes a little
And stared at Mr. Reese
He wished him Happy Holidays
And hoped that he'd find peace

Then Santa spun himself around
Said he heard there's no one better
Than the man we all refer to
As Mr. Johnny Weber

Next St Nick he did exclaim
Just how big a thrill
It was to meet a man the likes
Of Mr. Murchio, Will

Then Santa he went on to say
That it was truly not malarkey
That he felt honored that he knew
The man called Bill McCarthy

And last on this Board
Was a marvelous fellow
I speak of none other
Than Ron Lisciandrello

Then he told us relax
And try to unwind
And if we brought it ourselves
We could drink some wine

And then in an instant
He was gone in a flash
And there on the table
Was a pile of cash

We could fix up our roads
We could pay off our loans
But for now we all wanted
To return to our homes

And though it's a tale
Hope it brought some delight
Merry Christmas to all
And to all a good night

Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association
100 Walker Lake Drive
Shohola, PA 18458

Address Service Requested

TO:

This WLLA newsletter may contain legal notification of information from the Board of Directors and the WLLA office. The information contained in this newsletter is intended only for use of the individual or entity addressee. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by email, wllassociation@gmail.com, and destroy the original message. Thank you.

Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Officers

President: Janice Hahn

Vice President: Carol Reynolds

Treasurer: Carol Gillen

Secretary: Rose Murphy

Office Hours: Wednesday & Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Office Assistant: Kathy Zimmermann

www.walkerlake.com
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570-296-7788

Board of Directors

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