



Echoes from Our Lake

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WALKER LAKESHORES LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 2022
VOLUME 158

Farewell to 2022. It seemed to fly by, and it is now the beginning of the new year. We have returned to in-person gatherings and it would be great to see more community members attend. Our ladies and mens clubs meet at our clubhouse on a regular basis except during the winter months. Contact the office for details. Presently we are scheduling events for 2023. These events bring our community together. Come out and meet your neighbors and make new friends.

I would like to thank all our Board members and other volunteers for the work that's been done in the past year. Please consider becoming part of the governing body and volunteer for a position on the board of directors and/or one of our committees. We need leadership in many areas and your life experiences usually qualify you. Currently there are a number of positions open.

Ditches and culverts are the responsibility of the land owner. It is important that they be kept clean to promote drainage and prevent road deterioration.

Last but not least, we will be looking for volunteers to help clean up our beaches, tennis court, clubhouse areas and boat storage areas in the spring.

I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

—John Weber, President

A note from your treasurer...



Your board adopted the 2023 budget and assessments, as proposed by the finance committee, at its November 19th meeting. Dues and Assessments will remain at their 2022 levels. No increase is planned for 2023. The 2023 assessments will be billed out January 1st. For a more detailed explanation, please see the 2023 budget posted on the Walker Lake [website](#). Feel free to reach out to the office with any questions. Here's to a very Happy and Healthy New Year for all!

—Carol Gillen, Treasurer

ALL PERMITS MUST BE GIVEN TO THE WLLA OFFICE

While WLLA doesn't have many dictates with regard to building permits, there are a few embedded in the deed covenants that must be adhered to (i.e. garage substantially similar to the home, and 10' undisturbed greenery at borders of your property). The town enforces building codes, but not our covenants so it is important to your project that property owners ensure that your structure and your site plan are in compliance with your deed covenants. Deed covenants are located in Appendix I of our Red Handbook by development area, and can also be found on our [website](#). Please refer to the Construction section on pages 17-20 of our Red Handbook for more information (this is also available on our website).

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

As part of the ongoing “spotlight” that features a different WLLA neighbor each month, please meet Raymond and Andrea Rhiel. Ray has been coming to Walker Lake since 1955 when his father, Ray Sr., and uncle purchased a few lots and built a cabin on the property. He treasures the many wonderful memories here at Walker Lake with his father, brother and assorted family members over the years. After Ray Sr. passed away Ray split his time between Bethlehem and Walker Lake and finally decided to move to Walker Lake permanently, with his wife Andrea, in 2005.

Ray, a tour coach driver, and Andrea, a tour director, met in Charleston, SC. Their careers have taken them to many historical cities and National Parks throughout the U.S. and Canada in the past 30 years. Now semi-retired, they still love to hit the road and explore nooks and crannies in this great and gorgeous country of ours. Like most of the folks at Walker Lake the two enjoy the peaceful beauty of the area, the wildlife outside their windows, working in the garden, taking strolls and sharing the area with family and friends, especially their grandniece and nephew.

Ray and Andrea never miss the dramatic presentation of the Christmas Carol at Grey Towers which has become a family tradition. They enjoy events presented at the Milford Theater and seeing the Bill Mays Trio perform when in the area. If friends visit from outside of PA they are sure to get a tour including a drive along the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, a stop at Roebling's Aqueduct, the Columns Museum, and that funky Rohman's Pub in Shohola! Area restaurants that are favorites are Peter's Europa House, The Tom Quick Inn, the Settler's Inn in Hawley, and for quick comfort food they frequent Stewie's in Matamoras and John's of Arthur Ave. in Milford.

Ray and Andrea at Peyto Lake in Banff National Park, Canada



SNOW AND WINTER-RELATED REMINDERS:



As I write this, we had only one snow event this season in which we received a few inches of snow before warming up quickly and getting some rain. We have been fortunate thus far this fall that when we have received precipitation the temperature has been above freezing. For the newer residents, there have been winters where it first snowed before the end of October, and you don't get to see your grass again until April. One never knows what the snow season will bring but the

road committee plan is to prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

Walker Lake itself is a little more than 1,200 feet above sea level. Other parts of the community are a bit higher. The elevation plays a major factor in how much snow we receive versus other areas such as Milford where Delaware Valley High School sits about 500 feet sea level.

For many of us that came from areas like New Jersey, New York City or Long Island there is a stark difference not only in elevation, but we are also further away from the Atlantic Ocean. While the ocean can fuel many a big storm, the air temperatures are normally warmer closer to the ocean which reduces accumulation.

What it comes down to is the reality that the Walker Lake community is in "snow" country. This means residents must be prepared if they are must or plan to travel in the snow. This is not just within our community but northeast Pennsylvania as a whole. Let's face the roads in New Jersey and New York are maintained at a different level. None of the three states have a "bare pavement" policy, although it is a given that both NJ and NY throw more resources at a much higher cost than PA into their snow fighting operations.

Our Walker Lake community doesn't have a "bare pavement" policy either. While there is a general plan when it comes to snow fighting and plowing the roads, each storm is inherently different. Type of precipitation, the track of the storm, temperatures throughout the storm, expected accumulations, wind speeds, and rate of precipitation per hour all come into play. But the bottom line is to get the roads open as quickly and safely as possible once all the precipitation has ended. The WLLA Board is committed to providing the service to do just that. But residents must realize that it takes time to get all the roads plowed in the community.

Salt and Anti-Skid

Once again this winter we will continue to use the green colored ClearLane salt on the paved roads. This salt is more environmentally friendly as less salt usage is needed and we do not have to mix it with anti-skid. As a reminder though, just like any salt product it can be irritating to dogs with sensitive paws. Make sure you clean the bottom of their paws after taking your fur baby for a walk especially on wet roads after snow fall. Plain anti-skid will be spread on unpaved roads. We do not use any salt on unpaved roads.



Clean dog's paws after taking for walk on paved road after a winter storm

Important Winter Notes

First as a reminder, WLLA regulations stipulate that no ATV or snow mobile use is permitted on any of the roads, in WLLA owned common areas, on the frozen lake, or dam area.

Next, the plow will start plowing once there is a snow 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. There

will also be storms where we delay the plowing of roads. For an example if we know that forecast is predicting that the snow will change to sleet, or freezing rain. It is much safer if we let the ice forms fall into existing snow, then plow it off than to let the ice fall directly on the road surface where it freezes and then we have a bigger problem.

If there is an ice storm spreading starts as soon as needed.

Make sure the drainage ditches and culvert pipes along the roadway by your property(ies) are clean and able to handle the melting snow runoff.

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, 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. While Facebook is not the official way complaints should be filed, we understand with the limited hours of the office when it comes to snow issues posting on Facebook will normally facilitate a quicker response if warranted.

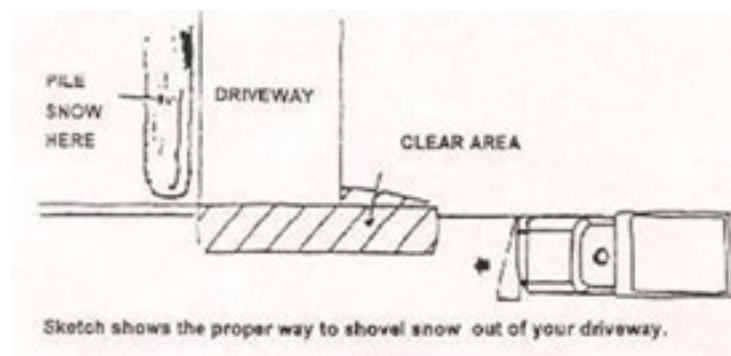
Driveway Shoveling Tip

How many times have you shoveled out your driveway only to have the plow come by and leave a pile of snow at the end of your driveway? While it may not eliminate that from happening totally, here is a little tip that can greatly reduce the amount of snow that gets plowed back in front of your driveway. Remember the more snow the bigger area is needed for a clear area.

When you shovel your driveway clear an area to the right of your driveway as shown in the diagram on the left. This will give the chance of the blade of the plow to empty the snow before it gets to your driveway. It may take you a couple of storms to figure out how much of a clear area you will need.

Enjoy the winter, but come on spring!

— Michael DeVita, WLLA Road Chair



REGARDING BEAVERS:

Please be aware that there is a beaver den on Walker Lake. Here are instructions on how to keep their damage to a minimum and also our Redbook rule (page 38) on the beavers:

5) Trapping for household rodent control is permitted. Other forms of trapping are prohibited. WLLA hires a state approved trapper to remove beavers because of the damage they do to the trees and because of the huge hutches they produce on the lake. The beavers are trapped and released on State Game Lands.

I have spoken to a wildlife company that relocates wildlife and to a representative of the state game commission, both of whom said that they cannot live-trap and release a beaver until spring. The beavers have established their winter home and food supplies and it would be inhumane to trap and move them now. In the spring, once the beavers are gone, it is a good idea to remove their den since if the den is left up a beaver could swim down one of our streams and see the den and decide to move in. During the winter months when the beavers will still be living on the lake you might want to protect your trees by wrapping them in wire I have included some instructions below that might be helpful:

1. Purchase wire mesh at least 30 inches wide for protecting tree trunks from beavers. Use material wide enough to extend at least 2 feet above the average snow level in your area to ward off winter gnawing. Choose ½-inch hardware (carpenter) mesh, or less visible 2-by-4-inch wire mesh if you're concerned about aesthetics.
2. Cut a length of mesh with wire snips, leaving the prongs exposed on one end. The material should be long enough to go completely around the trunk of the tree while allowing an additional 3 to 6 inches of space between the tree and the wire mesh to facilitate growth of the tree trunk.
3. Encircle the tree trunk with the length of wire mesh.
4. Bend the prongs at one end of the mesh around the other end to form a cylindrical enclosure around the tree trunk. You can use zip ties or short pieces of wire instead of the exposed prongs to fasten the ends together, if you wish.
5. Check on the cage every spring and fall to make sure that the tree's girth hasn't outgrown it.

—Kathy Zimmermann, Office Specialist

REGARDING FIREWOOD-MOVING AND SPOTTED LANTERNFLY:

The state of Pennsylvania prohibits the movement of all types of firewood into the state from out-of-state sources, except for [heat-treated, kiln-dried, and/or USDA certified firewood](#).

Within Pennsylvania, [over 40 counties](#) are under quarantine due to the harmful tree pest known as [spotted lanternfly](#). As a result, firewood and other outdoor items should not be moved out of these counties; if necessary, complete this [checklist](#) to comply with quarantine requirements.

Regardless of the county you are in, Pennsylvania (PA) state authorities agree it is best to buy firewood near where you'll burn it, buy certified heat-treated firewood, or gather firewood on site when permitted. The Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources has issued a [statewide park advisory](#) with the following recommendations:

- Buy and burn locally cut firewood (preferably within 25 miles)
- BURN ALL firewood brought from another area
- Encourage friends and neighbors not to move firewood
- Do NOT remove firewood from a [spotted lanternfly quarantine area](#)

Further restrictions on the movement or use of firewood in PA vary across land, park, and campground authorities. For example, it is prohibited to bring outside firewood into [Allegheny National Forest](#) or the campgrounds of the [Delaware Water Gap](#). To ensure you are in compliance with local firewood regulations, please inquire about any rules in your specific area or destination.

This summary is accurate to the best of DMF staff abilities as of 6 June 2022.

Pennsylvania State Web Resources

- [Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Firewood page](#)
- [Pennsylvania Order of Quarantine, Firewood](#)

Pest-specific Information:

- [Spotted lanternfly information, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture](#)
- [How You Can comply with Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Regulations, updated 2021](#)
- [Spotted Lanternfly Checklist for Residents](#)
- [VIDEO: How to remove spotted lanternfly eggs](#)
- [Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine](#)
- [Spotted Lanternfly Business Toolkit, 2021](#)
- [Spotted Lanternflies – Squish Them, 2021 Article](#)
- [Emerald Ash Borer Information, PADCNr](#)
- [Visual Guide \(Booklet\) to Threats to the Forest: Insects, Plants, and Diseases, 2020](#)

REGARDING GYPSY MOTHS:

https://www.nccdpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Gypsy_Moth_Management.compressed.pdf

REGARDING FEEDING OF DEER:

https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeSpecies/White-tailedDeer/Documents/feeding_deer.pdf

SPEED LIMITS:

Please slow down on all the roads in our community. If you see someone walking on the road at any time of the day or night please slow down as you approach them and go by. Driving fast can kill people (including the driver). Two stats: Traffic is the biggest single killer of 12–16-year-olds. Surprisingly, at 35mph you are twice as likely to kill someone you hit as at 30mph. Faster driving gives you a shorter amount of time to respond to something in your path, and even a fraction of a second can mean the difference between life and death. We live in a small community, and we do not want to see anyone get hurt.

DOGS:

If your dog poops you must scoop. Please remember even as the weather chills you must pick up all dog droppings. There is nothing worse than seeing the mummified remains of dog poop next to the roads in the spring when the snow melts. Please be a good neighbor and ensure you clean up after your dog.



YOUR COMMUNITY REALLY NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE:

Private communities such as Walker Lake operate one of two ways: by utilizing volunteers from the community or by hiring a management company. Hiring a management company would significantly raise the assessments, and even worse is that money raised and spent on a management company brings no extra value to the community. The money paid to a management company doesn't fix the roads, make the lake or beaches any cleaner, or help with the upkeep of the clubhouse, office, or tennis courts. Essentially it is just money going out the door to pay for management with no true actual return for the people in the community.

As we know, Walker Lake uses volunteers to manage the community. The officers, board of directors, and all the committee's chairpersons and members are all volunteers. But we just don't have enough people volunteering. Actually, we are headed to a critical point of not having enough volunteers if the current trend continues. If we don't have enough volunteers our hand will be forced into using a management company which will cause additional assessments so we can pay the company. Just like taxes no one likes higher assessments; it will be even more painful knowing that we are paying big bucks to a private management company.

Walker Lake needs several interim board members. As an interim board member, a person has an opportunity to serve through the upcoming election cycle. If the interim member wants to run for a full-term in July they may do so. If not, they would serve through the August meeting (as the yearly board term starts with the September meeting. You may attend board meetings in person or via Zoom. So even if you're not a year-round resident, you too can be involved.

Additionally, we will need a Communications Committee Chairperson in 2023. Carol Reynolds will be stepping down from that position. The Communications Committee Chair manages the *Friends of Walker Lake* Facebook page, oversees the quarterly *Echoes from Our Lake* newsletter, as well as working on ways to better communicate with the entire community. The chairperson is assisted by other persons on the committee. We are also looking for a Road Committee Chair. Michael DeVita stepped down as the chair in October due to personal commitments but agreed to continue to be the acting chair for several more months. Those several months are almost up, so we need someone to step up to take the lead. Michael will still be a committee member along with several other current volunteers, but we need someone to chair the committee.

Interim board members, and these two committee chairs are the most pressing needs; however, there are also other committees that could use members. To find out more about the duties of the board you may contact the office. If you would like to better understand what the Communications Committee or Road Committee entails, contact Carol Reynolds, or Michael DeVita, respectively.

Please deeply consider giving some time and getting involved by volunteering. Let's add additional volunteers and not a new additional assessment to pay a management company.

IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY !

TO ALL WALKER LAKE LANDOWNERS WITH PROPERTY ON WLLA OWNED ROADS

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations in the Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Redbook, all landowners (and tenants) are responsible for maintaining proper stormwater drainage to and from the roadways bordering their properties. This is for everyone, not just those that have ditch lines or culvert pipes along their property. For those that do have ditch lines or culvert pipes, these must be cleared of leaves and any other debris at least once a year. This cleaning must be done to remove all leaves and make sure the culvert pipes, if any, are clear and open. Also, any vegetation growing along or inside the ditch line must be cut and removed. When cleaning the leaves and other debris do not put them on a property you do not own, even if it is vacant land, unless you have permission of the owner. For those without ditches and/or culverts along their property, you are still responsible for keeping the area along the roadway neatly trimmed and ensuring the stormwater is properly managed.

This type of stormwater management is essential to helping extend the life of our roads. Poor stormwater management is a major factor in early pavement failure, be it asphalt or gravel roadways. Please take this responsibility seriously. Don't wait to be officially notified by the office to take care of your stormwater management responsibility.



FIREHOUSE:

Shohola Fire & Rescue has advised us that they are planning to sell the Walker Lake station and property. Any requests for more information or concerns should be directed to Shohola Fire & Rescue.

—Carol Gillen, Treasurer



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Address Service Requested

TO:

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Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Officers

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Vice President: Carol Reynolds
Treasurer: Carol Gillen
Secretary: Carolyn Kalinich

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