

July 2020

ASPEN COVE NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM OUR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT (Dan Allen)

If you have visited Aspen Cove recently you will have noticed a transformation in progress at the front entrance gate. Following several years of decline in the condition of the entrance landscaping, the board resolved to invest in the restoration of this important element of our community's appearance.

How did this come about and why now? For the past few years in annual association meetings and board meetings we have talked about doing something to improve the appearance of our front entrance. I did not have a vision of what needed to be done until Mark Nelson, a resident and the developer of Aspen Cove, sent photos from 2009 and earlier. It was shocking to see how much better the front entrance looked then. I shared this information with the board and the board voted to move forward with a restoration project. Armed with these photos, Jared Edwards, board member responsible for gates and common areas, engaged a landscaper and got the ball rolling. The greatest challenge was finding a way to get water to the existing trees and new plantings...the failure of the old irrigation system was the cause of the demise of a number of trees. A design for the new water line and the landscape design was conceived and approved, along with the budget. This phase was then completed by mid-July.

- * Trimmed existing trees and removed dead trees and brush
- * Planted 3 aspen trees
- * Planted 2 Swedish aspen
- * Planted 4 blue spruce 15-20'
- * Planted 2 douglas fir 15-20'
- * Planted 9 5-gallon junipers
- * Built center island planter and ran irrigation for trees & shrubs
- * Ran a new main water line to valves and fixed all sprinklers to water new and existing trees

FRONT ENTRANCE LANDSCAPING



With the landscaping phase completed, we are moving ahead with other elements. First, Scott Harding, board member responsible for member communications (including newsletters), agreed to rehabilitate the display case adjacent to the entrance keypad. It now has fresh paint and attractive posters on display. The window on the left contains a welcome message. The one on the right displays announcements that will change periodically. I encourage you to check for current messages as you drive past. This one is announcing the gate code change coming August 1.

The final phase will be to move the pole now in the middle of the road and remove the exit keypad. The board has decided that the exit keypad is more of a nuisance than a benefit. Further, having to issue this code to all visitors actually constitutes a security risk. Its intent was to force drivers to stop before approaching the gate...after some incidents where excessive speed led to collisions and damage to the gate. Most residents now have clickers, rendering this purpose mostly obsolete.

This phase awaits the reinstallation of the sensor that will open the gate automatically by driving over it. In fact, there is still a sign as you descend toward the gate, instructing you to "Keep Right to Activate Gate." This sign has been meaningless for several years and has led to considerable confusion. Scott Jarrett, board member sharing the gate assignment with Jared, is managing this project.

So, this is still a work in progress. When complete, I hope everyone will be pleased with the fresh appearance and improved functionality of our front entrance.



WEBSITE and SECURITY

Gate code change: As of August first, the Contractor code will be changed to EAST (3278). To enter the front gate it will be #3278, to exit it will be 3278 (as long as the interior keypad is still existing). The rear gate will be 3278.

Remember this code is used to give out to those who you TEMPORARILY need to give access to our community. Contractors or infrequent visitors we prefer do not have your personal code. If they did, they will have your personal code for as long as you have it, which could be years. Unauthorized individuals in our community could create a safety concern and open the community to potential crimes none of us desire. The **contractor code** we change yearly to prevent it from becoming abused. Any Board member can provide the current code if anyone forgets it.

HIGHSPEED WIRELESS INTERNET FOR ASPEN COVE

CentraCom has installed a transmitter on the hill at the scout camp. This service is available in various speeds, starting at 20 Mbps for \$35.95. If your cabin has line of sight view of the towers at the scout camp, you could receive this service. This would include many locations on the East and South portions of Aspen Cove. Details on the service are available from CentraCom's website here: <https://centracom.com/centrawave>.

What about the rest of us? We have been in discussions with CentraCom about placing two additional transmitters in order to make the service more widely available. Most of our members could be serviced by placing a transmitter-tower at the water tank (on top) and one attached to the green box at the street on Skyline Drive Circle, in front of the last cabins you pass on your way to the back gate. In case you have wondered about that box, it is the location where the fiber optic cable ends and the DSL and telephone signals are split off to the various customers. This project would be funded by CentraCom...no cost to the Association.

There are a few concerns and challenges:

We have underground utilities for a reason...do any of us want to look out to a tower in our neighborhood? At the water tank the tower would be about 10 feet tall and would attach using large magnets to the top of the tank. We are waiting to obtain a photo of the transmitter so that neighboring owners can weigh in on its visual impact.

At the green box on Skyline Drive Circle the tower would also be about 10 feet and will be attached to the box. The tower would most likely be 2-inch conduit with the transmitter on top. This location is easy from a technical standpoint...The presence of fiber optic cable and power make it a slam dunk.

The water tank location is more problematic. There is no power or fiber optic cable there. They would need to run a 110V AC power line from the nearest location (about 50 yards) and verify the ability to receive a signal from across the lake (Mountain Home) as the source required to feed the transmitter.

If we elect to approve the project, it is likely to proceed in two phases: the west side first; the water tank 2nd. The main holdup now is equipment on backorder from China. CentraCom has 20 transmitters on order, including enough for our project. Once the materials arrive, we will likely place the transmitter on the west side since it may be done quickly in that location. The one on top of the water tank may take longer for the reasons mentioned above.

More information will be forthcoming. We will want to know your thoughts – how much interest there is and how everyone feels about the visual impact of the towers. Email the board: board@aspencovehoa.org.

KEEP OUR COMMUNITY GREAT

Weed control: Allen Rowe has surveyed each property and sent out weed reminders to those that still have Thistle that needs attention.

We have found that digging them up and removing them is best, but this weed killer also does great. It is designed to kill the Thistle without harming the other vegetation. IFA is where I purchased mine. The Thistle will usually begin to wilt within hours.



Everyone likes a good neighbor.....

In the last newsletter, we shared some of the concern's homeowners have shared with the board. I just wanted to keep these at the forefront of our minds, especially as there continues to be some issues.

Homeowner Concerns

1. Four wheelers, snow mobiles, and vehicles exceeding the speed limit of 20 miles per hour. FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR FAMILIES and THE COMMUNITY.
2. Trailers and multiple trailers parked long term that can be viewed from the road.
3. Back gate left open, unlocked and/or lock being stolen.
4. Recreation vehicles driving on other people's property, and in some cases, damaging drive -ways and roads.
5. Lot owners creating multiple drive-ways.
6. Cabin lots cluttered with debris.
7. Trailers hauled in the winter months.
8. Long-term storage of camp trailers (the CC&R's limit the use of camp trailers to 7 consecutive days per month.)

All of these complaints are addressed in the CC&Rs. Aspen Cove owners take pride in keeping grounds safe and beautiful. Let's continue in the tradition of our area exemplifying a well-maintained retreat.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING UPDATES

- ❖ *The most efficient way to get ahold of someone is by emailing to board@aspencovehoa.org*
- ❖ *We meet monthly so if there are items you feel need attention, feel free to let us know.*

BOARD MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS AND UPDATES FOR 2020

ASPEN COVE HOA BOARD ASSIGNMENTS - 2020		
Dan Allen	President/Roads	Bill Pay, Board Meetings, Dust Control, Snow Removal, Repairs
Bonnie Seastrand	Secretary	Minutes, Member Directory
Curtis Steele	Treasurer	Financial Accounting, Budgeting, Annual Audit
Jared Edwards	Common Areas, Gates	Maintenance & Repairs, New Development, Signs
Bob Conner	Security/InformationTechnology	Cameras, Website, Database (Dropbox), Signage
Allen Rowe	Weeds	Inspections, Notifications, Training, Assessment of Fines
Bob DalPonte	Water System	Maintenance of Water System
Scott Harding	Member Services	Newsletter, Notices, Member Meetings
Scott Jarrett	Common Areas, Gates	Maintenance & Repairs, New Development, Signs

**Attention...we have a vacancy on the board and are looking to add one additional member. If you are interested, or have a nomination, please contact us and let us know.*

PRECAUTIONS and SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ *Respect each persons' "private property". Atvs, hiking, biking.....if you are doing this anywhere but the main road, you are most likely on someone else's property. Problems can occur when this happens, including damage to the property, vegetation and the potential of unseen obstacles and potential hazards. This can include damaging water valves or other items on the property. Please help insure that trespassing on others property is mitigated by making your guests understand the rules and the reasons for the rules.*
- ❖ *Know the rules regarding outside campfires. They must be in an approved fire pit. It gets windy, so be cautious. Lastly, it's a good idea to have water and/or extinguisher while enjoying any campfire.*

- ❖ *Make sure all campfires are 100% extinguished before left unattended.*
- ❖ *Architectural committee. Just a friendly reminder that part of the governing rules of our HOA is to have prior approval before modifying structures or property in Aspen Cove.*
 - *Changes to properties need prior approval. Please contact the board at board@aspencovehoa.org to begin the process. The CC&R's explain when and what is needed if you make changes, updates, or additions to your property. This also includes fencing and plantings on your property. The CC&R's can be found on the website.*

