



Photo by George Evans

Winter 2022 ISSUE

PO BOX 1263

LAKE SANTEETLAH, NC

OFFICERS (2022 – 2023)**President.....Bette LoBue (727-519-3902)****Betteannl@verizon.net****Vice President...Bill Piel (305-238-7836)****williampx@aol.com****Secretary.....Carolyn Piel (828-479-9010)****carolynpx@aol.com****Treasurer.....Beth Carlton (828-479-3664)****carltonbeth09@gmail.com****SANTEETLAH TOWN COUNCIL****Connie Gross, Mayor****Tina Emerson, Chief Finance Officer****Diana Simon, Councilwoman****Jim Hager, Councilman****Ralph Mitchell, Councilman****TOWN OF LAKE SANTEETLAH STAFF****Kim Matheson, Town Administrator****Emily Hooper, Town Clerk****Scott Kamps, Public Works Technician****Lamar Williams, Water System
Operator****TPOA PLANNING COMMITTEE****Frances Connor****Mary Roemer****Mary Williams****PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings from Lake Santeetlah!



With a brand new year already in full swing, your Board of Directors and Planning Committee have begun putting together interesting speakers, party events and projects for 2022. Our primary goal remains to help neighbors to get to know each other and work together for the good of our small community. Hopefully, that threatening monster, Covid, will burn itself out and let us get back to whatever "normal" is early in the year!

Plan on joining us for the annual Welcome Party at Chalet Village in June. The Planning Committee will need volunteers to help set up canopies, tables, etc. Contact a member of the Committee to offer your services for this and other events!

Meetings are another way to meet and plan with fellow property owners. We currently meet the second Monday of the months of June, July, August, and September at seven o'clock in the evening. We plan to have interesting speakers and a brief social time at our in-person sessions. Note that should Covid or other unforeseen restrictions occur, we will meet via Zoom.

For those of you who are fortunate enough to live at the lake permanently or all season, we invite you to join one or more of the following groups:

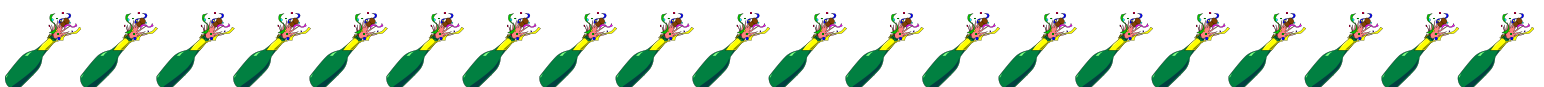
The Planning Committee [To help plan speakers and events, contact any PC member.]

Adopt-a-Highway [To volunteer for one hour of litter pick-up per month during the summer, contact Beth Carlton or Kevin Haag.] This is not only good exercise, but you never know what oddities you might stumble across when you are rooting through litter along the roadway!

Nominating Committee [To select candidates for Officers for 2023-2024, check with any Board member.]

Thank you for considering how you can help out this coming season! Meanwhile, have a wonderful winter and stay warm!

Sincerely,

Bette LoBue

Mayor's Corner

By Connie Gross



First, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year and a belated Merry Christmas. I would like to take a moment to thank Jim and the other previous Council members for their hard work. I am realizing that being a mayor is not easy. I am not going to please everyone all of the time; however, I will give this job all that I have.

One of the things I have always loved about Lake Santeetlah is the relaxed atmosphere. I love the lake and am lucky enough to be able to cruise the lake almost every day. My dogs also enjoy the ride. I am a member of Cedar Cliff Baptist Church, and I will pray for guidance and strength to fill the position of mayor every day.

I want to share something I learned as a kid from my dad. He always told me to “shake hands, state your name and business.” This has helped me through many situations during my sixty-five years here on Earth. It helps me think clearly and make decisions that I can stand by. I don’t like knee-jerk reactions. I feel there is a solution to every problem. Occasionally, some people may not like the solutions and that’s okay. If we work together, we will stand strong.

My goals are simple. I believe in improving our town infrastructure. My focus will be on roads, internet access and the water system. Everyone benefits knowing where our water pipes are buried. Everyone will benefit from better roads. Everyone will benefit with better and more reliable internet. Another goal is to provide an open and transparent council. I am looking forward to hearing from all of you and providing a voice for all residents.

In our first order of business at our December 6 council meeting, I asked that we move the council meetings to the evening so more working professionals could have an opportunity to attend meetings. Our meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month (except for November, Veterans Day).

At the December 9 meeting, I was asked that we put a hold on the front entrance project. It was discovered that there were serious flaws in the contract. Several of us met with the contractors and these issues are being worked out: 1) The contractor will provide proof of required insurance. 2) A complete property survey of the town-owned front entrance property is required before work can be restarted. The complete survey will be on record at the Graham County deeds office. 3) Water lines will be identified so we don’t accidentally cause a water leak. If there are water lines in the way of construction, decisions will be made to move the lines or use materials in the construction that can be taken apart to get to any possible leaks. The construction company and council are committed to working together on the front entrance.

The citizens of the Town of Lake Santeetlah want to be heard. My job is to listen with an open mind. I’ll be clear, I’m not for big city politics. I believe people are entitled to their own property rights. With your support we will identify town issues, make improvements, and move forward. I look forward to hearing from you. My email address: Mayorconniegross@gmail.com

Planning Committee Report

Frances Connor

The TPOA Planning Committee met in September via Zoom. We are looking at hosting a Welcome Back Party on June 11, 2022 at Manierre Park that will be catered as it was in 2021. We enjoyed a large turn-out for the event last year and hope to see even more homeowners in June. The rest of the summer activities are still being decided, but we hope to have food trucks come visit mid-Summer and perhaps end the year with a Band Party. Of course, as we write, Covid is still a major concern, and we will, of course, make any necessary changes. If anyone is interested in joining the Planning Committee, please contact Frances Connor (fconnor@outlook.com) or Mary Roemer (marycroemer@gmail.com).

Adopt-A-Highway

By Beth Carlton

Every year from June through September, TPOA members take an active role in the NCDOT Adopt-A-Highway program. For thirty years volunteers have met once a month to collect litter from the roadsides of the Town of Lake Santeetlah. While mowing is paid for by the Town within its limits and by the State along Route 129, it is incumbent upon volunteers to maintain the cleanliness of the right-of-way areas. When traffic through Town increases with seasonal visitors and construction, it becomes a challenge to keep the roads litter-free and attractive.

TPOA Litter Pickup is the second Tuesday of the months of June, July, August and September at 9 a.m. at Town Hall. The State provides trash bags, grabbers, and orange safety vests. Volunteers bring their own gloves, walking shoes, and sunscreen. Everyone comes ready for a good morning's walk, spending an hour with friends, and the desire to contribute to the Town's welcoming beauty.

When you are at the Lake this summer, consider joining the volunteers for Litter Pickup/Adopt-A-Highway. It's an adventure!

Green Elephant Fund

By Beth Carlton

Included in the Dues Notice each year is a space to indicate contributions to the Green Elephant Fund. TPOA members give generously to support, for example, programs at the schools, the volunteer fire departments, food distribution centers, the public library and the Graham County Historical Association. In 2021 TPOA donated over \$6000 to local organizations. Please consider making a contribution to the Green Elephant Fund when you submit your dues for 2022. Our support is truly appreciated!

Around the Mountain

By Bette LoBue

Happy 2022! A new year, a new slate, a tabula rosa—except it seems as if we are in a Ground Hog Day loop that keeps repeating itself until we get it right and Covid fades into the sunset! Therefore, in order to have a truly happy new year, we have to make our own joy. So raise a glass of whatever your pleasure and say a prayer for a safe, healthy, and happy 2022, and start looking for the joy!

Getting a head start on finding the joy, thirteen members of the Piel family gathered for a joyous Christmas celebration at Carolyn and Bill's lovely home on Snowbird Trail. One of the highlights of the gathering was cutting down a fifteen-foot Christmas tree at a local farm. Afterwards, the entire family participated in decorating the tree, and a joyful time was had by all!

In early December, Scott Kamp found a severely injured fox just off of Cherokee Trail. The fox was beautiful and alive, but unresponsive. At the request of the Graham County Health Department, she was humanely euthanized. There was no known direct human contact with the fox or any reported cases of rabies in the area.

Over the Christmas holidays, Bob and Becky Wehr enjoyed the warm winter weather and the close-knit company of family and friends. They wish a Happy New Year to all of their friends at Thunderbird.

Diana Simon shared that a fun time was had by all at the pre-New Year's party hosted by Beth and Roger Carlton in their lovely and hospitable home on beautiful Lake Santeetlah. The festive event was attended by newcomers, old-hatters, and full-timers who live at Thunderbird Mountain.

Thank you, Anne and Jim Hager, for your hard work and effective leadership in successfully promoting a November 2 referendum for Robbinsville wine and beer sales. Thanks also to those who worked with them in this endeavor.

Around the Mountain (from page 3)

Revenue from these sales can really be used by Graham County.

Keith Predmore was invited to attend the University of North Carolina's School of Government Advanced Leadership Course. He was among only 160 elected officials selected to participate in the course. Keith has attended eight classes to date. Good luck with your studies, Keith. We are looking forward to your sharing some of those leadership skills with us when you have finished the course!

Keith shared some more interesting news! He has been hired as the "Owner's Representative" for the \$15 million dollar renovation project of the Naples Players Community Theater in Naples, Florida. What makes this story particularly appealing is the fact that the theater was his very first project as a professional management consultant for his own company twenty-three years ago! Keith feels especially proud to have been chosen to work for them once again. Congratulations, Keith, for being selected for this prestigious job!

A final visual for you: Everybody had better be nice, and do you know why? It is because there is a watch dog patrolling the area. Her name is Siobhan Predmore, and she is a standard French poodle. According to her owner, Siobhan continues to monitor activities throughout the town and all AROUND THE MOUNTAIN!

Tourism Development Authority

By Diana Simon

Thanks to all who contributed towards the new and improved front entrance. It will be a fabulous welcome to all homeowners and visiting guests. The rental occupancy taxes we collect are being used to further beautify our community. TDA contributed \$5000 towards the renovation of the front entrance. The TOLS sign has been sent to the "signage spa" for revitalization. Besides the improved sign, the TDA is contributing funds towards landscaping.

NOTE: Get involved! TDA needs a new board member who is willing to help promote the Town of Lake Santeetlah and our beautiful Graham County. Meetings are held quarterly. Please contact the Town Office to let us know of your interest. Thank you!

Pet Stations

We are in need of a volunteer to stock and service the two Pet Stations that are located on Thunderbird Trail. These handy stations help to ensure that pet owners can take care of their pets' needs as they walk the trails on Thunderbird Mountain. Past volunteers, Karen Anderson and Keith Predmore, would be more than happy to explain the duties relating to the pet stations. Please contact any Board Member to help with this continuing project. Thank you!

It's Not Too Late!

Due to delays concerning the Front Entrance Project, you can still order one or more bricks in honor or memory of loved ones. Go to townoflakesanteetlah.org and click on "Documents". Scroll down to "Front Entrance". Download "Brick Order Form", fill it out and attach your check, made out to The Town of Lake Santeetlah, and, "Front Entrance Project". Thank you for your support!

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