

# Behoes From Our Lake

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## President's Message

By *Bernie Reyes*

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In the recent past we have been faced with some difficult and divisive issues. The Board of Directors has grappled with these issues and has endeavored to solve them. The roads, ATVs, and lake trespassers with snowmobiles amongst others have caused some of the decisions made by the Board to be questioned. It is impossible to please everyone since not all in the community agree on the solution to any given issue. The community must realize that the Board of Directors represents the community at large. There are 17 members serving on the Board representing all the different areas of the community. When the Board makes decisions, it is with their respective viewpoint and your interests in mind. The officers of the Board are the ones entrusted to carry out the wishes of the Board. The Board adheres to the rules set forth in the Walker Lake Constitution and Bylaws by passing rules and regulations as the current circumstances warrant. When the community is concerned about an issue, the community is expected to attend the meetings and make their wishes known. If they do not attend and ignore the meetings, then their wishes will go unfulfilled.

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## Preservation of Walker Lake

By *Keith LaPan*

The time has come for all residents of Walker Lake to take a stand and voice their opinions about the environmental and planning issues that will determine the quality of life and the future look of our community. In an effort to foster dialogue and discussion, a group of concerned property owners invite you to be a part of the solution to the potentially serious environmental crisis looming before us. We want to hear from you!

Let's share ideas and brainstorm together to assure that Walker Lake continues to be a place that we all want to live. We feel that everyone should have the right to build here and enjoy this lovely community. However, there is a right way and a wrong way to do it.

*"Who is Shaping the Future of Walker Lake?"*

*Community Forum*

*Read Clubhouse*

*February 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm*

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## Treasurer's Report

*By Art Politano*

Hello all members of the Association here at Walker Lake. I want to thank you for your support and confidence in me, in electing me to the Treasurer's position not too long ago. As you are all well aware, this is my first report for the newsletter, so I will be very brief this first time, sparing you the immense verbiage that is surely to come from me in the very near future.

*"Remember that invoices paid by February 15<sup>th</sup> are discounted 2%"*

As of the printing of this newsletter, WLLA is in a very strong position in regards to our accounts in Wayne Bank and our reserve accounts in Smith Barney. Kellee has done a wonderful job in getting out the membership dues invoices, and WLLA has been in a very good position with the amount of dues that have already been collected to date. Having the first discount works wonders in having members send in their payments as soon as they receive their invoices, and this has had a very positive effect on the monetary reserves of WLLA.

Due to higher expenses for the past couple of months, money has had to be taken out of the reserve account at Smith Barney. This was due to

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I have been called at home and had letters written to me accusing the Board and me of ignoring people's wishes. Once again I remind you that the officers of the Board carry out the Board's wishes. They do not set policy but carry out the wishes of the Board and by extension, the community at large.

*There is a seat available on the Board of Directors. Be advised that any seat filled now is only until the next election in July. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact the WLLA office. Look for Election information in the next newsletter!*

The community should realize that it must take responsibility for some of the actions it wishes the Board to take. We are a group of volunteers that give of our time and experience, such as it is, to help in keeping the Walker Lake Association running smoothly. This, however, doesn't relieve others in the community of their responsibility. When you witness rules being broken, it is your responsibility to report the problem. You must be willing to identify the people responsible and if necessary, sign a complaint form in the office. It is not enough to call me or the office when you see a crime being committed. You must be willing to call the police, identify the perpetrator, and sign a complaint. Our Crime Watch will do this when they witness a crime. The community must do this as well. Calling the Watch chair or the office or me will not help. We have no arrest powers or other recourse except for the police. If a crime is being perpetrated then you must be the one to take action. You are the witness.

We, the Board, are here because we care about you. Care about us too. Take responsibility.

## Crime Patrol News

While doing a patrol the morning of Christmas Eve, a crime watch volunteer noticed a hand waving up from the snow. He went to investigate and found that a woman had fallen on the ice and couldn't get up. She was bleeding and bruised. He helped her into her house and waited until she called someone. She could easily have frozen to death if he had not seen her. Please, if you live near someone who lives alone, try to take a few minutes to check on them, and if you have neighbors who are not here for the winter, keep an eye out for their house also.

For the winter months and for security purposes, Sandy Beach (Twin Lakes Rd.) has been closed off. There is a chain across the entrance. For community members in good standing who would like to use the beach during the winter, keys are being given out at the office. The chain is very heavy and difficult for one person to move so it will eventually be replaced by a lighter cable. Keys will still be necessary.

We are also still in desperate need of crime patrol volunteers. If you think that these patrols are not necessary or that you can't make a difference, just think about the woman who was found by a crime patrol volunteer. If you would like to volunteer, please call us.

Thanks,  
Patti & John Innaco  
Crime Patrol  
409-1876

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Some points to consider:

- suspension of clear-cutting and establishment of reasonable standards of how much timber can be removed or must be replaced when clearing lots for building
- review and enforcement of existing community building code regulations (e.g., maximum height of new house construction)
- WLLA purchase and preservation of undeveloped lots as clean and green space
- pursuit and development of state grant monies to establish and maintain green space/walking trails
- quality of life issues (noise, traffic, road degradation, pollution, decrease in trees and wildlife) as a result of population growth

Please join us at the clubhouse on February 17th at 2 pm for a forum on planning issues that affect us all.

*Volunteers needed  
for Crime Patrol!  
Call  
John or Patti  
at  
409-1876*

*Only when the last tree  
has been cut down,  
Only when the last river  
has been poisoned,  
Only when the last fish  
has been caught,  
Only then will you find  
that money cannot be  
eaten.*

— **Cree Indian Prophecy**

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the unexpected early snow and frost that we have experienced in the area and this cost was borne by WLLA towards payments to TLC, our present maintenance contractor. However, with the influx of dues monies coming in recently, we will be able to replenish what was taken out of the reserve account, plus some. This will be done as soon as possible, so as to begin to collect the interest on the principle amount of monies in the reserve account. Finally, we should be experiencing, to a degree, fewer expenses within a few months, (I

predict this will occur by the beginning of May 2008), and this also will have a positive effect on the financial standing of WLLA. By the time of my writing the report for the next newsletter, I will fill you in with exact financial numbers, as has been done in past Treasurer's reports. Or, you can always get "specifics" by stopping by the office, and also when you attend the membership meetings once they begin again very shortly.

## ATV BAN STILL IN EFFECT

One of our community's most divisive issues is the use of ATVs and snowmobiles on WLLA property. Confusion about whether ATVs are banned or allowed continues to abound. **ATVs are not allowed to be used on any WLLA roads or property.** WLLA's official Rules and Regulations that were sent out to every landowner are clear about this. This rule remains in effect and can **only** be changed by a vote of the Board of Directors.

At the September 2007 General Membership Meeting, a group of community members voiced their opinion that the ban on ATVs should be lifted. A vote was taken of those members present with a majority voting in favor of lifting the ban while creating regulations for the safe use of ATVs. This vote by community members **did not change the rule prohibiting ATVs.** Only a vote by the Board can change the Rules and Regulations.

The Board is well aware of the differences of opinion on this matter and is well aware of the impact of a decision on all homeowners in our community. For these reasons, a postcard survey will be sent out to all landowners within the next few weeks to assess the wishes of the entire community on the use of ATVs in Walker Lake. Be sure to fill it out and return it so that the Board of Directors can act fairly on behalf of the majority.

Please consider the following points in filling out the survey:

There are individuals in our community who own ATVs and for whom the use of these vehicles is

part of the pleasure of "living in the country". For these individuals, ATVs are not only fun but also useful for such things as carrying fishing equipment to the lake, plowing, etc. We have responsible ATV owners in our community who would follow safety and State regulations on ATV use.

There are also individuals in our community for whom the pleasure of "living in the country" is the peace and quiet and fresh air that Walker Lake has to offer. For these individuals, the noise, smell, and dust created by the use of ATVs disrupts the enjoyment of their homes and interferes with their quality of life.

The biggest concern of many residents is safety. Safety should be the concern of everyone, however we have had several recent instances of ATV riders not only speeding on our roads, but also speeding at night with no headlights on, narrowly missing individuals walking their dogs.

As with any rule or law, the ability to enforce the rule or law and impose penalties when warranted is essential. Please be aware that if it is determined that the majority wish to allow ATVs, it is likely that we will have to hire an outside security firm, at a cost payable by the entire community, in order to ensure compliance with safety regulations.

Look for the postcard survey coming soon in the mail.