



ECHOES FROM OUR LAKE
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WALKER LAKESHORES
LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
Inaugural 2015 Edition
Volume 136

President's Message – Happy New Year from your Fearless Leader

Post-holiday greetings to all! I trust and hope that the season was happy and safe for everyone.

A brand new year, 2015, is already well underway and may it be a very happy, healthy and prosperous year for all. We welcome 2015 with great anticipation. The Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association (WLLA) has completed another accomplishment-filled year of managing the affairs of WLLA and its members and improving the amenities available to the community. It may appear to have been a rather quiet winter so far on the Association front...but definitely not so. A goodly number of people (all volunteers) have been busy for the past twelve months, working on projects and implementing them on our behalf, even in the depths of winter. I am very excited about what they have been able to do and am equally excited about those projects still in progress. What a treat it will be to fill you in on all this stuff in the near future and in future newsletters.

As you are all aware, the continuing theme of my thinking is placing emphasis on everyone's participation in the on-going activities of our Association so that living at Walker Lake, or just visiting now and then, is a very satisfying experience. Let us all make a firm and strong resolution to make 2015 a better, more responsible and caring year for our community here in Walker Lake. Let us further resolve to honor our neighbor's rights, to honor the GOLDEN RULE and truly care for our community. Let us volunteer our services so our community grows in appearance and becomes more attractive to current and new members.

In keeping with this resolve, your Executive Board, Board of Directors and Members in Good Standing, request that everyone find some way to volunteer and contribute to the continued growth of WLLA in 2015. Be it a simple act of helping clean up a community area, lending a hand with one of the many social events or volunteering for a Board position and committee, we all have talents and abilities that can go towards bettering our community.

Thank you for considering these resolutions. I look forward to working on your behalf in 2015. Please join me.

Social Events in the Works

As always, Fran and her committee are working hard on a variety of social events. Here are some highlights and details of things coming up in the near future. If you have any questions on an event, give Fran a call at 570-296-5528 or contact the office at 570-296-7788.

Editor's Note: Just a friendly reminder, help is always appreciated and appropriate in putting these events together and making sure they run flawlessly. Please consider volunteering for one or many! All interested volunteers can contact Fran.

Information about social events is posted on the community bulletin boards and at the clubhouse in addition to appearing in the newsletter. Since events may occur before a scheduled newsletter, be sure to check those other locations for the latest and greatest regarding our social schedule.

There will be a Casino bus trip to Mt. Airy on Saturday, February 14 (St. Valentine's Day). The cost is \$20.00 per person. The bus will pick everyone up at firehouse at 9:30am and will drop us off at the casino. We'll leave the casino at 5:00pm for the return home. On our last trip there was a winner of \$30,000 on a penny slot machine! Unfortunately it was not anyone on our bus. But, there is always a chance. These trips have been a lot of fun regardless of the amount won (or lost).

On Saturday, March 14th there will be a Saint Patrick's Day Pot Luck Supper at the Clubhouse beginning at 4:00pm. There will be a sign up sheet in the office to sign up and let us know who will be coming and what you would like to bring to share; either a main dish, salad, dessert, bread, an appetizer or snacks.

Another trip to Lancaster is in the planning stages for the spring. More details to follow.

Our annual Association picnic will be on Saturday July 18th 2-6pm. Konrad's Kitchen again will do the catering. It should be a good one going with an oldies type theme. More to come later.

New Year's Resolutions

Have you set up your 2015 Resolutions? It is never too late to start..although setting them around 11:00 pm on December 31 might qualify as "too late." The usual fare includes losing weight, stop smoking, get a raise, be a better person...blah, blah, blah. All these end up doing is making us feel guilty when we don't make the goals, particularly if they were set in the midst of a New Year's revelry. So, how about some unusual ones to try instead? Here are a few from the web and my own imagination. Use them as is or to stimulate unique resolutions of your own.

Are you a foodie? Why not set an eating record at your favorite eatery, if they offer such a thing. If they don't, help them start one and be the first participant. If it is bold enough you just might make Guinness!! There are a few television shows about such escapades.

Break your own personal record in some category like longest nap, doubling the size of your ball of twine, growing a giant pumpkin in a community garden. You know the other growers would love looking at a 2 ton orange behemoth all summer. How about the longest finger drumming set of your life? Make sure plenty of people are around to enjoy this particular performance art event.

Learn something new like juggling, while on a unicycle, while on a high wire. Go whole hog. Learn to brew beer and then drink it without sharing. Learn an obnoxious party trick that would make a high school freshman proud like belching the entire alphabet. Or refuse to speak except in spoonerisms. And people think mimes are intolerable.

Only buy dark colored clothes and dye what you already have so they blend with the rest. Look stealthy, serious, morose, Goth – or all the above.

Celebrate some really weird holidays. Here are a few to consider.

Saturday, January 10	Peculiar People Day – say hello to every odd person you see
Thursday, February 12	National Plum Pudding Day – invite Jack Horner out for a meal
Tuesday, March 17	Submarine Day – take in the races on the Delaware
Thursday, April 23	Talk Like Shakespeare Day – put on your best Elizabethan tones, you'll be ready for the Renaissance Festival in no time
Thursday, May 14	National Chicken Dance Day – try and get this tune out of your head now
Friday, June 19	World Sauntering Day – consult the Ministry of Odd Walks
Friday, July 3	Compliment Your Mirror Day – like you haven't already...
Saturday, August 15	National Relaxation Day – aaah!
Tuesday, September 1	Emma M. Nutt Day – no idea on this one...
Wednesday, October 14	Be Bald and Be Free Day – when you are bald you never have a bad hair day
Sunday, November 8	Cook Something Bold and Pungent Day – my personal favorite. Limburger anyone?
Saturday, December 5	Day of the Ninja – now you see why you need the black clothing resolution!

Check out the rest here: <http://www.holidayscalendar.com/holidays/weird/> ,
here: <http://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/index.htm> ,
and here: <http://www.brownielocks.com/month2.html>

Seriously, when it comes to resolutions, don't worry about it. Just do everything in moderation and enjoy life every chance you can.

Winter Reminders

Winter is back! Just seems like yesterday that we were enjoying the annual picnic and the new pavilion complex. So a couple of reminders and other tidbits of information are offered here to help make the season safer and more enjoyable for us all.

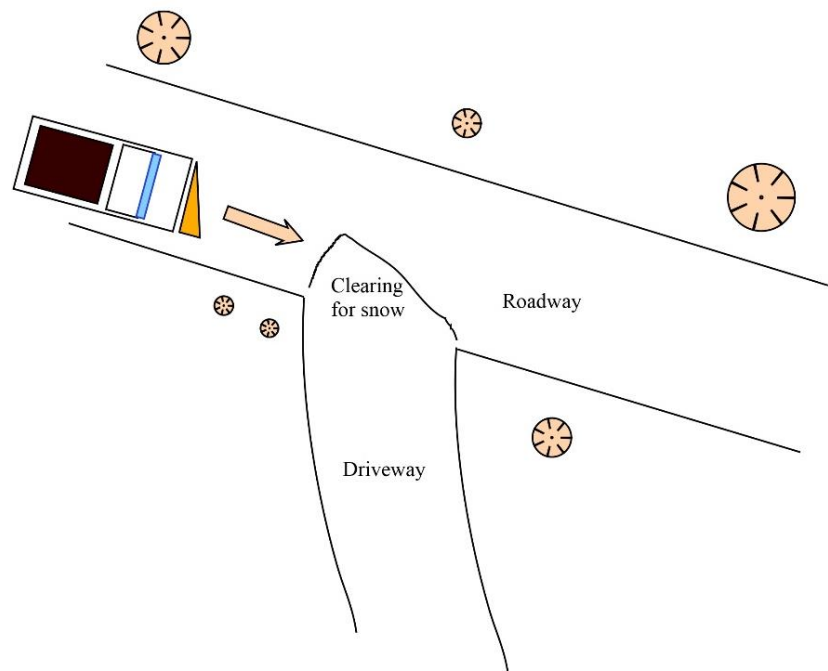
First of all, our regulations stipulate that no ATV or snowmobile use is permitted in the development or on the lakes.

Next, our snow removal service will start plowing once there is an accumulation of 2". 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 otherwise plowed byways.

If you have a plowing issue or emergency, please call the office, 570-296-7788 or 1-845-234-7379.

Please bring trash and recycling cans back off the road once they are emptied to keep our development looking its best.

Here's a handy tip I developed while living in the lake effect snow of upstate NY. When the snow plows roll through, they always fill in the end of your driveway. And that snow is a bear to remove. It is heavy and compacted. To minimize this, when you are clearing your drive, work out into the street and clear an opening on the upstream side of the drive. Taper this down towards the downstream side. Now when the plow comes through, it pushes the snow into the large opening you have created then pushes it right on past your driveway and down the road. Viola, little hard pack to remove from the end of your driveway!!



Save on Your Heating

If you want to save some of your hard earned dough on this winter's heating bills, here are a couple of ideas. They work in my household so I feel confident they will work in yours too.

The most effective action is to turn back the thermostat a few degrees. If you do not have a programmable thermostat, I highly recommend getting one. If you have the money, I recommend a Nest learning thermostat. This is a set and forget device. You establish the maximum and minimum temperatures and then the thermostat "learns" your routine and adapts the temperatures to match.

The Honeywell Lyric is another excellent choice in this category. It has a cool geo-fencing feature that links to your cell phone. When you get beyond a certain range, it puts itself in the away mode.

Otherwise, any Honeywell standard programmable thermostat is my recommendation. If you typically keep the stat at 72°, try it at 69°. For night and away modes, don't go much more than another 5 - 6° cooler. If you do, the furnace has to run longer to catch up and eats into your savings.

Be sure to tune up your furnace and if you have forced air, replace the filters regularly.

Be sure to seal your windows. Using the 3M stretch film on the inside is an excellent way to lock out drafts. If you don't want to go that route, hang heavy drapes over windows. Next, compartmentalize your home. In areas that are not used frequently, close doors and vents. Let these spaces go to a lower temperature.

Of course, a nice wood fire is a great comfort item. They always said that wood heats twice, once when you cut it and then again when you burn it. If you work up your own firewood, you know it heats many more times than that! Be sure to clean the chimney before the season to prevent chimney fires. For open fireplaces, close the damper when you are done with the fire to prevent heat escaping.

Gadget Goodness – Start 2015 off with a Tech Treat

By Tom Tate

Didn't get all the cool tech / gadgetry you wanted during the holidays? Then treat yourself to a little something-something to get the New Year off on the proper footing. Being of the gadget (and foodie) bent myself, I delved into my stack to see what might be fun to suggest for your consideration.

How about something for your smartphone? Try Lapka, www.mylapka.com, to create your own Mr. Spock tri-corder. It combines special modules with a smartphone app to measure various aspects of your personal environment including radiation, humidity, bacteria (organic in their parlance), EMF and for those evenings on the town, a breathalyzer so you know to call a cab.

For those with a DIY streak, Ryobi has introduced a suite of tools along with an app called Phone Works. The tools interface with your smartphone via the app providing laser measuring and leveling, inspection

scope, moisture meter, infrared heat detection, stud finder and some other cool features.

<http://www.ryobitools.com/phoneworks/>

Moleskin, merchant of those really cool journals and other notebooks, is keeping their paper and pen based products relevant in a digital world. I love the quality of their paper and construction and also love writing by hand. Moleskin has teamed up with Evernote and Adobe to allow you to write in their journals then use your smartphone's camera to convert your musings, art and other creations into electronic versions that reside on your electronics. <http://shop.moleskine.com/>

Craft beer is all the rage these days and you can join the fun by brewing high quality beer right in the comfort of your own home. Some of these craft brewers are releasing kits of their most popular offerings. I tried one and it turned out nearly identical in taste to what they sell in the bars. My favorite purveyor of beer making supplies and kits is Northern Brewer. Look for their reasonably priced starter kits at www.northerbrewer.com and get brewing. If wine is more appealing to your palette, they also offer wine making gear.

How about a do-it-yourself home security system? You can get really carried away and built it pretty much from scratch or buy one from SimpliSafe. No long term monitoring contracts and setup is dead simple. I have one on my new home and it works beautifully. Depending on which monitoring level you choose (you do not have to choose one at all), you can receive texts of system activations or control if from your smart phone from anywhere in the world. www.simplisafe.com

Say you like riding your bike but now that Old Man Winter is here, your two-wheeler is mothballed for the duration. Why not stay in shape and stay outdoors with a fat tire bicycle. These dudes are bizarre looking but are terrific on snow and sand. Plus, they are beginning to offer versions for hunters. Feed your biking passion at www.fatbikes.com.

Okay, I promised Art no bacon article this year but I cannot leave without at least one bacon offering. The fine folks at Williams-Sonoma are offering a bacon making kit just in time for Christmas morning feasts. Grab some high quality pork belly (I bet Prime Time Meats can help there) and with just one week of curing you'll have your own bacon masterpiece. Tastes great and you did it yourself.



Want to research your own tech, gadget and foodie goodies? I recommend www.uncrate.com. A daily visit will surely help you uncover just the right thing to start 2015 off right. Have a happy, prosperous and healthy 2015!!

Coyote Caution

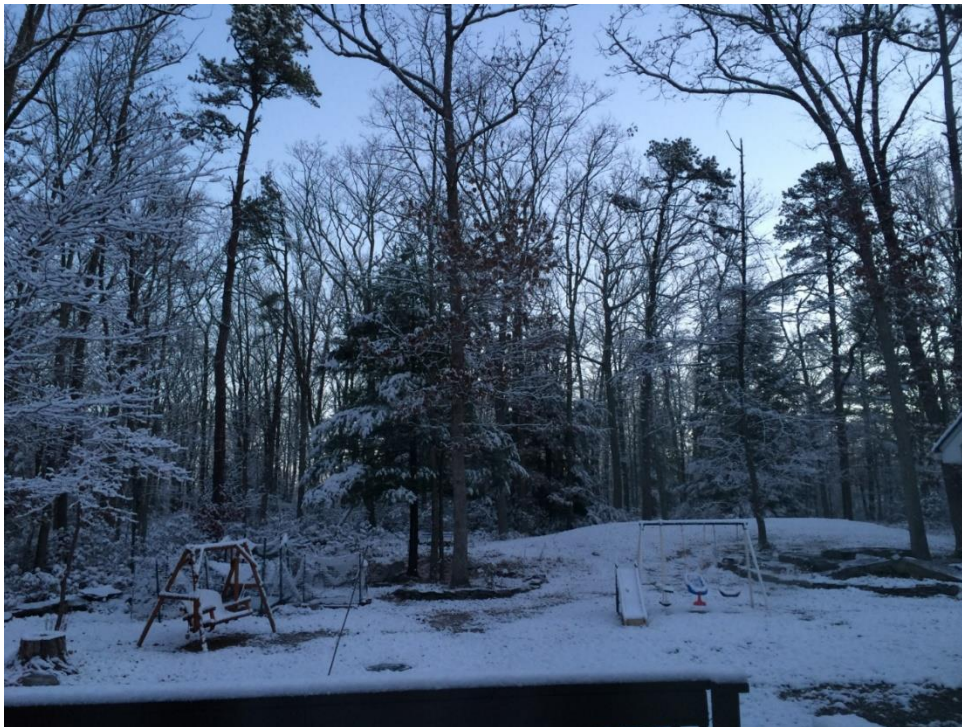
While this tip is relevant all year round, it is especially important in the winter when game sources become scarce. Coyotes are becoming ever more numerous in our area and their prey is largely small game. Keep in mind that your pet dogs and cats are “small



game” to the coyotes and therefore fair game. Do not leave your pets outside unattended for any length of time, even larger dogs. A pack of coyotes can take down fairly good sized animals. The included photo is from a local trail cam, courtesy of Rose.

Winter’s First Showing

Scot provided a very nice phot of winter’s first touch on our Association. This is for all you snow birds who have chickened out and moved to warmer climes for the duration! See what you are missing?



Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association
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TO: email recipient

This WLLA newsletter may contain legal notification of information from the Board of Directors and the WLLA office. Please read it carefully.

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<http://walkerlake.com/>

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