

# 2017 Year-end Newsletter

## 2017

Many of the residents of Abiqua Heights lead very busy lives and their time is taken with work and children and the happenings in the neighborhood are relegated to the “if I have time” portion of the world. Many of the community never find that time so here in a few sentences are the highlights. New park benches were added to the Commons as was a dog waste station. The basketball court had lines painted and a hopscotch course was added to the play area. A new landscape maintenance company was hired and the Commons is at its very best. And finally, the Pond Improvement Project was completed with 106 truckloads of rock, mud, and cattails being removed from the big pond. All of this was done without an increase in dues.

## 2018

Next year the AHHA hopes to level portion of the grassy play area in the Commons to make it both safer and more usable. The pathways will undergo needed maintenance and there is consideration for upgrading pathway materials to make access for strollers and the disabled easier. The addition of more picnic tables and a possible shelter are in the early planning stages. As always, the Board welcomes your input and consideration on all matters so please feel free to approach a Board member or email [board@abiquaheights.com](mailto:board@abiquaheights.com).

## Youth Committee

The contribution of two young people from Abiqua Heights on the committee to establish the now enacted Fishing Policy for the community has sowed the seed for the possibility of more youth involvement. If there is sufficient interest the Board wants to establish a Youth Committee to participate in the process of governing the community. The Board would receive input from the younger portion of the community and the young participants would gain some real life experience.....you know, crushing disappointment when your ideas are not considered or enacted and/or exaltation when you accomplish something. Please follow the link below for more information.

## The Neighborhood

Two issues seem to plague the neighborhood year after year and both seem easy enough to overcome in theory but harder in reality. Pets, poop, and parked cars all create issues in the community. Dogs need to be leashed and their waste needs to be picked up. Not only is it the right

thing to do it is the law. Everyone thinks their pets are wonderful but your neighbors may not hold them in such high esteem, especially if pets (dogs and cats) use neighbors' lawns and beds as their bathroom. Some people are allergic, some people are fearful, and others don't want your pet to become "their" pet.

Officially the AHHA has no jurisdiction over parked cars. The City ordinance allows cars to be parked for 72 hours before their presence becomes a nuisance. If you have an issue with a neighbor's car please consider taking the time to speak with the neighbor before calling the City/police. More than likely nothing will be done and all that is accomplished is a waste of time and money for the city.

### **Leaf Collection**

The last free leaf drop-off day for the City of Silverton will be Saturday, December 2. From 9 – 1 the city will take your leaves at the City Shops. There is no charge for this service.

### **Volunteers**

If you have any time to give back to your community please consider volunteering for a committee position or even a position on the AHHA Board. The community is best served when the members participate. Positions are available for all of the committees (ARC, Amenities, Welcoming) as well as the Maintenance Team. There is also one open position on the AHHA Board. The Board is looking to appoint a fifth member to fill out the Board. The Board functions best when there are five members involved, so please consider serving the community as a member of the Board.

### **Thanks**

To all that volunteered on a committee, served on the Board, and/or shoveled barkdust and cedar chips, your community is indebted to you for your service. Your work has saved the AHHA enough funds to make the projects undertaken in the last few years possible. Special thanks go to Mike Schwingel, Larry Tingwall, Jack Conner, and Roger Tallman for their tireless work on the the committee overseeing the Pond Improvement Project.

Lastly the community wants to thank Steve Barrett for his years of service on the Board. Steve has served on the Board almost continually for the last ten years and he has been the president of the Board for the last five years. No words can thank him or his family enough for the hours of work he graciously contributed to the Abiqua Heights community. Thank you, Steve.

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The holiday season is here, take the time to enjoy your community, your neighbors, and your family during this special time of year.