

December Newsletter

Board News

The regular work of the AHHA Board for 2019 has been completed. Other than a little maintenance in the Commons and decorating the young sequoia tree for the Holidays, the only obligation left for the Board is to wish all the members of the community Peace, Health and Happiness in the New Year.

It has been stated here more than once and maybe it is a little redundant, but the Board wants to thank the entire community for their support and cooperation throughout 2019. Special thanks go to all that serve on any of the AHHA committees.

There are links below for the Financial Reports for November, the minutes for the November AHHA Board meeting, and the approved budget for 2020. The last updated directory for the members is also available below by following the link. If you have questions or want any additional information about the documents, please email the Board (board@abiquaheights.com).

Tree Decorating in the Commons

The young sequoia tree in the Commons will be decorated on Saturday, December 7 at 2 PM. Everyone wishing to help or add decorations is welcome. Last year was the first year the tree was decorated, and it seemed like it was enjoyed by everyone that visited the Commons. Please come and join in the effort.....sorry for the late notice.

As stated in the last community newsletter nearly all of the content of the newsletter for the last five years has been the work of one member of the community. To make sure other agendas and view points would find their way to the community, all the Board members as well as any member of the community were offered the opportunity to participate in this, the final newsletter of the year.

There were only two comments received from the community.

"I would like to thank the board for the excellent job they do and have done. You don't have to print this in the newsletter though; just wanted you to know you are all appreciated."

"R.. and I are happy to receive the newsletter by email!"

The Board was more verbose!

President Karen Garst

Before I became involved with AHHA, I had heard horrible things about HOA's. However, my experience with AHHA has been terrific. Everyone on our board chips in - Todd is Mr. Commons and does the newsletter and takes minutes, Larry has an uncanny mechanical ability and fixed the pump house, Wayne does all the bookkeeping (whew!), and David did a policy manual and a survey. You couldn't ask for a better group!

Secretary Todd Ferrell

I have been around here longer than any of the other Board members and I served on the AHHA Board with nine different groups. Many of the groups were competent and productive but I have never worked with a group as special as the present group of Board members. I would like to thank Karen Garst, Wayne Trucke, David Ortega, and Larry Tingwall for their work, dedication, and friendship while serving the community.

It has been and is my pleasure to work on behalf of this Board and the community. If you get a chance to thank any or all of them, please do so.....they deserve your thanks.

Treasurer Wayne Trucke

The board has been asked to write something for the December newsletter (as have all members of AHHA) so here are some of my thoughts.

There have been many good changes to the neighborhood. All of the lots have been sold and all but one lot has a home built. The Commons looks better than any other time since we moved here in 2012. New oak trees have been planted. The pond, under the supervision of the Board and Mike Schwingel, was deepened and cleaned and a fund has been set up to allow for future cleaning. Fish were added to the pond after the cleaning. An area by the pond that was eroding has been repaired. A play area in the commons has been evened out so that sports can take place on a "level" field without worrying about stepping in a large depression. The pathways have all been redone with better material making it easier to walk on. The sign to the neighborhood has been lighted. Two new benches and two new tables have been added to the commons. A new basketball backstop was installed, basketball lines were repainted

and a hopscotch was added to the court area. A storage shed has been added eliminating the need to rent storage space. The pump house and pump were repaired. A Little Library has been added to the Commons. A pet waste station, new plants and a bat house have been added. These are just a few of the things that can be observed as one walks through the Commons. Other things such as watering trees, pulling weeds, checking the overall health of the Commons, are also being done. The main Committee in getting most of the above done was the Amenities Committee: Chaired by Karen Trucke with members Larry Tingwall, Roger Tallman, Ron Garst, and Todd Ferrell.

There are many other people (most have been thanked in the newsletter but are too numerous to name here) who have helped in maintaining the Commons by volunteering for work parties. But I have noticed that when these volunteers are mentioned in the newsletter there is one name that is always left off the list, Todd Ferrell. If you visit the Commons you have probably seen Todd there working on something, such as watering trees, checking the pond, pulling weeds, etc. Todd is the person who organizes the work parties and is always there working with all the volunteers. Todd is also the person who writes the monthly newsletter and he does an excellent job. If you see Todd around the neighborhood give him a big thank you for all the work he does.

Through Todd Ferrell's ongoing work, Larry Tingwall's mechanical expertise, Ron Garst's biology expertise, and the AHHA Board's work, we have a Commons that we all can enjoy.

Abiqua Heights is your community. The Commons is yours to enjoy. If you want your neighborhood and your Commons maintained please get involved either by volunteering to assist with maintenance in the Commons, volunteer for a committee, or volunteer for the Board.

The Board is currently working on obtaining a radar sign to show people their speed and to ask that they slow down. Please be considerate of others and keep your speed at 20mph as we have many children in the neighborhood and many people who like to walk in the neighborhood.

Board Member David Ortega

I want to add my "amen" to the comments about the joy of working together with members of the current board. It has been such a pleasure to work with a group of neighbors that have become my friends. My experience these past four years has caused me to reject the proverbial axiom that "serving on an HOA board is a thankless job." The truth is that I have received more expressions of gratitude and appreciation than complaints. Most recently, our work has been greatly rewarded and facilitated by the work of the ARC Committee chaired by Don Kaminiski. Serving on the board was one of the blessings on my Thanksgiving list. Thank you for allowing us to serve to make our community a welcoming place to live in.

