



SHEHOA Newsletter

December 2016

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SHEHOA Executive Board and Officers

President: Jane Carter

Vice President: Bobbi Waldner

Director/Secretary: Jody Yager

Treasurer: Mike Smith

Property Management

Property Management People, Inc.
www.pmpbiz.com

Community Manager:

James Lilly

james.lilly@pmpbiz.com

Assistant Community Manager

PMP West Virginia 681-252-0216

Direct Line: 681-252-0217 x9004

Upcoming Annual HOA Meeting

The annual HOA meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2017, at 10:00 am at Washington High School in the media center. One item of business addressed at this meeting will be to elect new leaders. The following positions need to be filled:

- Director (2-year term)
- Director* and Treasurer (2-year term)
- Director* (1-year term)
- Secretary (1-year non-voting)
- Architectural Review Committee (1-year term) (3 positions)

*The Executive Board must be made up of an odd number. In the event there is not an odd number, the Director and Treasurer position will be referred to as the Treasurer (non-voting).

In order to nominate an HOA member for any position, fill out the nomination form found on the website under the "Documents" tab. Bring the completed form to the meeting.

Update: Community Management

As a follow-up to the electronic survey sent out recently, the Board voted to continue the community's management as an all-volunteer system with professional financial management. This vote took place at the November 15 board meeting. This will continue to save the community an estimated \$4,000 per year.

As a result, we are in need of volunteers for all the tasks that keep the community running smoothly. Please see a list of our open "positions" at the end of this newsletter!

Thank You, Donna Miller

The community would like to thank Donna Miller for her service as treasurer. She has passed the baton on to Mike Smith, who was voted as our new treasurer at the most recent board meeting. Thank you, Donna—and welcome, Mike!

Upcoming Events

HOA Meeting

Saturday, January 21 @ 10am
Washington High School
Media Center

Birthdays & Anniversaries



January Birthdays

3 – Carly & Remmy Kerrigan
6 – Delores Galipo
6 – Jeff Wessel
9 – Donna Miller
12 – Gina Kerrigan
14 – AJ Brown
17 – Tina Lewis
30 – Joshua Lewis

If you would like to participate, please send your birthday (or birth month if you prefer) and/or anniversary date to regina.kerrigan@gmail.com.

The next newsletter will feature birthdays and anniversaries for the months of March, April, and May.

New Architectural Guidelines

The SHE Design Guidelines and Application Procedures have been updated. Homeowners should read this document before starting a project; the document can be found on the website. If a project is started without proper approval, a fine will be incurred per the guidelines.

2nd Annual Holiday Decoration Contest

SHE is holding its second annual Holiday Decoration Contest this year! If you enjoy “decking the halls” and would like to participate, take a photo of your outside decorations and send to regina.kerrigan@gmail.com. Photos will be posted online and the community will vote for their favorite. We are putting together a winner’s basket with fun goodies! The deadline for submitting photos is December 18.

Change to Annual Assessments

The annual assessment is now \$440 and due on January 1. PMP will send an invoice via postal mail this month.

Volunteers Needed!

We have the following committees that need volunteers:

- Community Review Committee
- Communication Committee
- Maintenance Committee
- Social Planning Committee
- Security Awareness

Please send an e-mail to sprucehillestateshoa@gmail.com to sign up!

It’s the Holiday Season: Security Tips

It seems that we busy people are doing more and more of our holiday shopping online with each passing year. For many consumers, the convenience of online shopping sure beats fighting the crowds at the shopping centers. For others, finding a good deal is inspiration enough to jump on the online bandwagon.

Yet this convenience and frugality poses a new problem: the risk of theft from our very doorstep at the hands of dishonest folks cruising the local neighborhoods, who search for the telltale cardboard box left on a porch. Another method of thieves, according to authorities, is to follow delivery trucks and take the newly delivered package within minutes.

A survey from last year by InsuranceQuotes.com revealed that 23 million people said they have had a package stolen from their door. One can only imagine this startling number growing with online shopping becoming more prevalent. Halfway through last year’s holiday season, Nextdoor announced a 36-percent rise in conversations about package theft.

Reminders

- Our web address is <https://sprucehillestatehoa.com/>
- Pay all outstanding dues ASAP! You can log on to <https://myaccount.pmpbiz.com> to view your account and pay online. You may also mail payment to PMP. See above website for details.
- We need your help. Please consider joining a committee!
- If the HOA doesn't already have your e-mail address and you'd like to receive newsletters and updates electronically, please contact SHEHOA at sprucehillestateshoa@gmail.com.

So what can be done to protect oneself from this crime? Unfortunately, if you are not home during the daytime and are getting packages delivered, there's no way around the fact that you are taking a risk. However, if you take certain measures, you're not completely out of luck if you become a victim of door-step theft. According to Huffington Post, if you can provide proof that the item was stolen, you can often get your credit card issuer to cover the loss. Hard proof would include security camera footage of the crime. Nowadays, there are more webcam-based security systems on the market that don't cost a fortune. Some of the options are Nest Cam, Piper, Canary, and Perch, according to HuffPost.

A double benefit of the camera is perhaps a deterrent of the theft to begin with, if the camera is prominently displayed. Video footage is also definitely helpful to police if there seems to be a string of related incidents, though that may be little consolation to you after the fact.

Another way to have peace of mind during the holidays is to simply have your packages delivered to your work place, if possible. If that's not an option, you can look into paying for special privileges from shippers like The UPS Store. For example, "Choice Members" and "Premium Members" can have packages sent to UPS stores to safely await your pickup, according to the UPS website. This premium membership costs \$40 per year according to another website.

One of the more interesting newer concepts to prevent theft of packages is a product called Package Guard. This product is essentially a Frisbee-shaped device designed to have packages placed on it by the deliverer. When it detects a package has been placed on it, the Package Guard sends you a notification. Additionally, if it detects the package has been lifted off of the device without authorization, it will sound off a loud alarm. There is debate whether this product would actually keep your packages safe, but it seems to have gotten some traction on the market recently.

Taking some special precautions may seem like a hassle, but it's important to remember that—as safe as we may feel—there are no guarantees that our neighborhood won't be targeted. In fact, SHE has not been immune from this type of theft in the past. Some extra steps could save you some heartache and dollars if you are ever victimized.

As a side note, neighbors looking out for one another can be the best deterrent of crime. So, if you happen to be home during daytime hours, take notice of your neighbors' routines and usual vehicles. Never feel like you're over-reacting by reporting something that seems out of the ordinary. Even a casual mention of something unusual could be related to odd activity that another neighbor noticed, shedding light on some suspicious behavior that should be reported to authorities.