

# S.W.A.R.M. WINTER NEWSLETTER

(Skyview-Willowbrook Association for Road Maintenance)

January, 2009

## The NEW SWARM Board for Year 2008-09

1st Gate Reps.	Valerie Kanonchoff	459-2006
	Craig Mountain	459-3427 / 367-9897
2nd Gate Reps.	Maggie Graham, Chair	984-6610 / 459-3466
	Catrina Fish	984-6373
3rd Gate Reps.	Linda Jarvis, Treasurer	489-4300
	Brian Corzilius, Secretary	894-4634
	Gidon Relin	367-3322

## SWARM Website <[www.sherwoodgates.org](http://www.sherwoodgates.org)>

We are happy to announce that SWARM now has a website! If you haven't done so already, you can go on line to find out everything you've wanted to know about your road association. No computer? Go to the library and ask a librarian to help you. See our status as the nonprofit corporation for road maintenance for this area, read the by-laws and articles of incorporation, treasurer's reports, and more. Contact the "webmaster" if you have suggestions.

## TREASURY SUMMARY

2008 INCOME	1st Gate	2ndGate	3rd Gate	Combined
Beginning Balance	248.68	22.68	12,347.31	12,618.67
Deposits thru 12/08	3,208.47	3,659.50	20,603.08	27,471.05
<b>EXPENSES for year</b>				
Rock and grading	1,643.54	245.00	14,371.01	16,259.55
Miscellaneous*	786.59	786.59	2,827.30	4,400.48
3rd Gate Bridge ( 2008 only) .....			15,215.54	15,215.54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,430.13</b>	<b>1,031.59</b>	<b>32,413.85</b>	<b>35,875.57</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCES</b>				
	<b>1,027.02</b>	<b>2,650.59</b>	<b>536.54</b>	<b>4,214.15</b>

\*Includes printing, postage, accountant fees, insurance, etc.

Believe it or not, there are over **\$84,000 in unpaid assessments!** If that could begin to come in SWARM might stand a chance at keeping up with the work that is needed. If you have an outstanding balance, please consider sending even a little each month . That would help. Our road grader tells us that what the roads need now is mostly ROCK. With rock costing anywhere from \$600 to \$1000 a load, our funds will not go very far. . .

## PLEASE FIND 2009 BILLING ENCLOSED

As you can see current (and back) assessments are badly needed to provide funds for work on the roads as our gate accounts are very low. Get your checks in soon.

**SWARM NEWS page 2:** Each of us plays a role, beyond simply paying our annual road assessments. These include the activities outlined in the "SWARM MEMBERS' Job Description" paper (which you received earlier or find it on the website) as well as directives made under Cal Fire (CDF) property guidelines (e.g. brush clearance along roads and road and address signs). Here are some issues that many of us may not have considered!!

- Did you know our road easement extends 30 feet each way from the center of the road as shown on our deeds? This means if you plan road-frontage fencing or water tanks they should be set back sufficiently for utility lines, flow of traffic and road care.
- Are you aware that Cal Fire requires gate setbacks of 30 feet to ensure a fire truck (or your vehicle) can stop to open the gate without blocking traffic.
- Did you know it is each property owner's responsibility to install a culvert at a driveway (if it is on a slope) to ensure that road drainage is undisturbed.
- Call Utility Service Alert, 1 800 227-2600 before digging to find underground utility lines
- If you have a dying or crumbling tree on your property which is hanging over the road, it should be removed to alleviate danger to passing motorists.

**ROAD SIGNS:** Our local, independent, all gates Fire Safe Council is working to get road signs throughout the area. The fire chief recommends that compliant road and address signs are our best bet for getting help quickly in case of fire or medical emergency. Thanks to Walt for drilling holes for the posts and John, Charlie and Brian for installing the posts and road signs on 2nd and 3rd Gates so that much of the cost was covered by volunteer labor and donated materials. (Sadly, at least one sign has already succumbed to vandalism as of this writing.) Property owners are urged to get their own address number signs up (reflective white numbers, 3 to 4 inches in height on a contrasting background and visible from both directions). Thanks to Louis Schultz and John Cross for leading the Fire Safe effort. A very successful brush-trimming party was held recently as well as a fabulous barbecue at Burt and Joy Calonico's. Watch for further events sponsored by Fire Safe.

**BULLETIN BOARDS:** The 3rd Gate bulletin board was recently relocated to a place where people can stop and read it more safely. It would be great to have similar boards on 1st and 2nd Gates, so if you are feeling industrious, let us know!

### **OTHER TOPICS FOR OUR AWARENESS**

- **FIREARMS:** Please be aware of your shooting direction, the presence of your neighbors and the noise impact when firing. Most parcels now have residents.
- **PLEASE COVER YOUR DUMP LOADS:** Trash inevitably blows off creating litter on our roads as well as turning Sherwood Road into a badly littered "Trash Alley".
- **NONresident ATV's and their JOY RIDERS** are causing safety hazards and doing damage to our roads. What can be done to discourage this?
- And, as always, please **KEEP BRUSH CUT BACK** for better visibility along road frontages and **WATCH THAT CULVERTS AND DITCHES ARE KEPT CLEAR** to carry rain runoff.

### **Re: THE NOVEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE**

Thank you for your responses, some of which were quite thoughtful. They are being referred to your road representatives who will address them on the individual gates as necessary.

Please remember that the SWARM Board is made up of your neighbors who were elected by the community and volunteer their time and energy to work for the good of the roads so that we all have access to our properties.