

January 30, 2018

Hello Neighbors,

Happy New Year and many thanks to all of you who contributed to safe and clear roads by paying your road dues; cutting vegetative matter (fuel for fire) alongside your parcel; and sharing your views with us.

GRANT

The good news is that we have been accepted into the grant funds for the 'Eel River Road Sediment Treatment and Inventory Project'. Survey work is expected to be completed this spring with road and ditch work done 12-18 months later. Because the grant is comprehensive we are planning to contribute \$9000 to the survey section of the grant. After that we need to contribute 1/4 of the amount of the actual work. The total amount of work could be upwards to \$250,000. We anticipate that if we did a good part of this, the roadwork would be minimal in years to come. We will know more of what to expect after the survey in the spring, but we do know that we have to tighten our belt in the 2018 and 2019 to be able to buy into the grants. Additionally, we are looking for funding to initiate as much work as possible in 2019. We could really use some help here and would love to hear your opinions. Please contact any of us with ideas, possible loans or contributions, pay ahead road dues, in kind help, etc.

FIRE

As you all know, our county experienced devastating wildfires in 2017. While it would be difficult to stop a fire late in the year, there is plenty we can do to mitigate or stop summer fires. Our roads are natural firebreaks, and by clearing alongside the roads we can effectively create wider firebreaks - thus limiting the area of the fire, allowing residents to get out and emergency vehicles to come in. Help yourself and your neighbors by clearing 10' alongside the road: cutting grass, low branches, brush, & dead trees.. Face it, if a fire gets up past the gate entrances we could all be trapped. SWARM has considered helping with these costs, but with the grant buy in costs we are unlikely to be able to contribute. As is, we can barely afford to keep rock on the road, replace culverts, etc. We will be looking for your ideas, donation, labor, and organizing help in this effort.

Organizing a phone tree for emergency notification is still in the works. We have received a lot of interest and contact information from members. *For those of you who have not sent in this information please fill out the form included with ways you can help and your contact information.*

FEES

We continue to struggle financially to maintain the roads, save up for the grant, pay our administration costs, and hopefully contribute a little to clearing alongside the road. To this end we are again raising the base fee by 20%. The base fee for 2018 is \$272.16. Additionally each parcel is charged a mileage fee - this does not change for 2018, however, as previously noted, the nonresident exemption will no longer be in effect. Each parcel will be charged the same regardless of residence: \$66.15/mile. We are sorry to raise the total costs but clearly we need to this year. *Please note: the invoice design has changed. Please send your payment plan back to us in the enclosed envelope and include the payment slip that comes with the invoice.*

PAYMENT PLAN

We prefer everyone to pay on time (within 2 months of the enclosed invoice).. But, for those who are delinquent in payments, we are now including an opportunity to get on a payment plan in order to get caught up.. Basically if you opt in to paying on a quarterly or biannual basis at an agreed upon rate, and you pay on time, we will waive any interest fees that would otherwise accumulate in the year. We will be sending out statements to delinquent members detailing this plan soon. For those of you who owe substantial amounts we would need to look at this on an individual basis. You can also call Catrina or John or Paloma to arrange to be in this plan.

Thanks for reading this!

Catrina Fish, President (2nd Gate)	Paloma Hill, Treasurer (2nd Gate)	John O'Claire, Secretary (3rd Gate)
Zack Hansen, 1st gate	Dennis Kettler, 1st gate	Cyrus Burch, 3rd Gate
Brad Sears, 3rd Gate		

For contact information, minutes, and financial information goto <http://www.sherwoodgates.org/>