



Heron River Homeowners' Association Newsletter

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HOA President's Message

Tis' The Season

It has inspired me and the other members of the board, to see how many Association members have volunteered this year to make Heron River a great place to live, relax, and play. The articles in this edition of ***The Heron*** help illustrate my point about volunteers and volunteering.

The new snow has fallen, making our subdivision festive and a winter wonderland. Enjoy the winter weather and if you see a neighbor that needs some help or a little assistance, reach out with that wonderful act of kindness.

On behalf of the board of directors, wishing all members, families, and friends the very best of the holidays....May you all have true blessings and we look forward to a very prosperous and happy New Year!

Ron Thompson, President

Members Attend Disaster Preparedness & Holiday Safety Talks

Disaster Preparedness - Ada County Community Outreach Specialist Myla Jeffries spoke at the Community Center in September on planning for disasters. "She stressed the importance of individual preparedness since some county services may not be available for the first 36-48 hours of a disaster. Being prepared for those initial days and hours is critical. Having a preplanned evacuation plan if you need to leave your home is essential.

Please see TALKS on page 3

Seventeen New Neighbors Welcomed

The Heron River Welcome Committee greets our newest neighbors with a gift packet and useful information about Heron River as well as answers questions about the local resources. Welcome Committee volunteers Tana Crance and Arna Day worked with Ron Thompson, HOA President, and Christa Spain, HR Women's Auxiliary President to develop the Welcome Program and the gift packet.

In August, Carol Fleischer was the very first to receive a visit from the committee. In the past four months, seventeen new neighbors have been welcomed. The HOA funds the welcome gifts. Response from the recipients has been extremely positive.

Water Features Turned Off for Winter



The Board of Directors shut off all water features until March 1st to avoid frozen pipes and to save up to \$7,500 in HOA electric bills.

Resounding Success for newly formed Heron River Women's Auxiliary

Organized and started this July, the Heron River Women's Auxiliary has accomplished an amazing number goals by hosting events and by

starting programs all while growing their membership, according to their President, Christa Spain. In just six months, they held two community events, **National Night Out** in August and the **Chili Cook-Off** in October.



Connie Duerling (right) wins first place in the Chili Cook-Off. Tana Crance presents plaque.

They started the **Welcome Committee** with co-chairs Tana Crance and Arna Day who welcome new homeowners. The Heron River **Bunco Ladies** have three groups of players. Cathy Cudney started and chairs the **Bunco Ladies** which raised an amazing \$285 this December for Star OutReach.



Women's Auxiliary ladies pose during coffee at Arna Day's house in November.

During December, please donate a toy in the **Toys For Tots** box in the gym. The Star Fire Department will collect your donations. On December 16, they hosted the **Neighborhood Holiday Party**, and on December 17th, **Santa and Mrs. Clause** visited the Center to the delight of the Heron River children.

All Heron River residents are welcome to become Women's Auxiliary members. Contact Christa Spain at (208) 830-4899 or email her at christaspain.hr@gmail.com.

Spotlight on Your Neighbor



Blue Heron Inn Bird House built by Ed Clark.

When the garage door is open, you might hear the table saw's whine and see Ed Clark cutting, sanding or drilling on his next project. Ed started his woodworking hobby ten years ago, and he makes the cutest bird houses, beautiful furniture, and other artful wood items just for fun. His wife Linda said after he made his first bird house, she encouraged him to keep at it. And keep at it he has by making the most detailed, artistically designed and crafted bird houses any person or bird will probably ever see.

Ed and Linda found Heron River after looking around the Treasure Valley for a good community in a rural setting. They love Heron River's location with many birds to see and some who visit their bird feeders backyard. They moved here in September 2015.

When Ed was born, he literally put the town of Wendell, Idaho on the map. Ed's birth put the town's population at 1,001 and that was enough to put it on the map. Linda grew up in Pennsylvania. Ed and Linda married and ended up living in Porterville, California.

Ed spent six summers fighting forest fires with the U.S. Forest Service. One summer, he and 12 other crew members became trapped by a raging forest fire and nearly died. As the fire totally encircled them, a tanker plane swooped down and dropped fire retardant, allowing them to escape the oncoming wall of flames. The plane was extremely low, and as it banked to climb, it crashed, killing the pilot who knew full well that he had saved their lives. Ed worked for a private civil engineering firm that specialized in surface water and hydrology. Ed then worked for the

City of Porterville as a Public Works Inspector until his retirement. Ed is a Charter Member of the Antique Barbed Wire Society winning numerous awards with his collections.

Linda worked as a legal secretary in a Porterville law office for a number of years. Then she worked for the City of Porterville eventually becoming the city's Public Transportation Manager. Linda also taught business classes during evenings for ten years at the local junior college there. They moved to Heron River after she retired from her job with the city.

Ed and Linda have three adult children and one granddaughter. Linda's sister recently moved to Middleton, and one of Ed's older brothers, Dell and his wife, Peggy, recently bought a new house in Heron River.

TALKS Continued



Carol M. Fleischer, Watch Committee Chair (left) introduces Lauren Hooker, Community Relations Officer (center), and Deputy Lakey (right) to our residents at the Community Center for the "Holiday Safety Tips" talk.

The most frequent cause of disaster in our area is extreme weather with high winds, violent thunderstorms and heavy rains. Ms. Jeffries relayed that Idaho is ranked #6 for earthquakes based on frequency, but most are not even felt. Other disasters include wildfires, floods, mudslides, utility failures and hazardous materials. The newly updated NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service website is an interactive resource. Simply enter your address and it will display how much flooding can occur based on the amount of water released from upstream.

To find this interactive website, Google search for "Boise River Inundation Map."

Holiday Safety Tips – ACTION Deputy Terry Lakey, Star Police Deputy Zach Hessing and Community Relations Officer Lauren Hooker of the Ada County Sheriff's Department spoke on December 6th at our Community Center. They explained that many crimes of opportunity happen in December.

Tips to stay safe and secure are:

- 1) Keep all valuables out of sight in your car. If you are shopping place your packages in the trunk and don't carry too many packages at once. Don't put your purse in your trunk as you leave your car. Someone may be watching.
- 2) Be aware of your surroundings and any suspicious person(s).
- 3) Park in a well-lit area and carry your keys in your hand so you don't search for them when you arrive at your car. Use the panic button on your key fob if you feel threatened.
- 4) Never leave your purse or wallet unattended. This includes turning your back on your purse when grocery shopping. Many wallets are stolen from unsuspecting shoppers.
- 5) Prevent package thefts by tracking your packages to know when they will be delivered. When possible, have the delivery company text you when they are delivered. Have a trusted neighbor get your packages if you are not home.

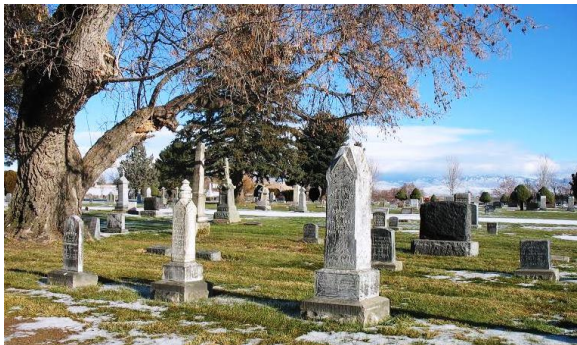
Deputy Hessing stated that he has only had one call in the past 6 month involving Heron River. Star is a community with fewer crime incidents and our Heron River Neighborhood Watch program further reduces opportunities for criminal activity. *When you see something – say something* by calling the **Non-Emergency Dispatch at (208) 377-6790**. Do not ramble. Be specific in your concern and answer all questions directly. Who, what, when, where and vehicle and suspect information are helpful. If you can take a photo, without putting yourself in jeopardy, do so.

History: Oregon Trail & Heron River

Did the Oregon Trail come through the Heron River subdivision and the City of Star? Surprise!

Yes, one later branch of the Oregon Trail came right through Heron River as it followed the north bank of the Boise River. Portions of this trail became Valley Road which is now West State Street. The old trail was later used by the stage coaches to get from Boise City to Gray's Station in the area of Moon Valley Road.

Check out Star Cemetery on W. Floating Feather Road. It has headstones of those who died along the Oregon Trail. The oldest are dated 1871. One hand-hewn stone gravestone dated November 9, 1972 is for Hester A. Riley. She and her husband, William came from Pennsylvania and she died near here while apparently traveling on the Oregon Trail.



Some of the older head stones and monuments stand in the Star Cemetery.

Neighborhood Watch Captains Needed



Volunteer and become a Neighborhood Watch Captain. The Meadow, Creekside and Waterview neighborhoods all need a few more Watch Captains.

Captains are the vital link to the success of the program and it takes minimal time each month to be a Captain.

Captains are assigned specific neighbors' homes in the vicinity of their own house. Captains get to know these neighbors, explain how the neighborhood watch program works, and confirm that all their emergency contact information is up to date.

Contact Carol M. Fleischer to learn more about being a Watch Captain volunteer. Her email address is carolmfleisher@gmail.com.

Who Answers My HOA Questions?

Development Services, Inc., or DSI, our Heron River management service will answer your questions.

Call or email Lashae Hernandez. She is our Heron River representative. Her phone number is (208) 939-6000. Lashae@dev-services.com. Their website is www.dev-services.com.

DSI manages Heron River Homeowners' Association along with over 70 other residential homeowner's associations. They were selected in March 2016 by the Heron River HOA board of directors to manage Heron River based on their cost effective services and professional reputation.

The Heron Needs Your Help

Help write, photograph, edit, or design the next issue of *The Heron*. Volunteer needed. Contact Douglas Pfeiffer at cell (208) 780-9923 or email him at pfeifferdouglas@gmail.com.



The HOA Board of Directors
*Wishes you a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*

President

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