



THE HERON

Heron River Homeowners' Association Newsletter

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The Association President's Message

As our Summer ends and the heat dissipates, we start to see the early sights and sounds of Fall approaching. Some see it as refreshing; others feel the closer approach of white and Winter.regardless, change is always welcome in the beautiful scenic area we live in!

The board has had a new camera system installed in the Community Center and pool area. It is effective in monitoring activities in and around the surrounding area allowing us to enjoy a much more controlled environment which provides safety and protection.

The board has had over 3,000 lin. ft. of common area fences stained and we are now beginning to do the posts surrounding the back walking trails along the Kennedy Canal which will be completed by mid- October. We also will have a work party to stain the entrance sign pergolas before the cold weather sets in.

Future and approved plans will be to have a new identification sign built for The Meadows neighborhood and a joint funding program to install locked mailboxes there as well.

The subdivision seems to growing by leaps and bounds as The Preserve is over half way sold out and new ground movement in the South has started for sections 10 and 11.

The board is also looking for qualified candidates for the board; we have two seats available and if interested please notify LaRae, at Development Services by email with a brief resume of your past history and why you would like to be part of the Heron River HOA Board of Directors. Thanks for all of the wonderful volunteers this summer and the input we receive helping us make a better community.

Best regards, *Ron Thompson, President*

Our Welcome Committee is Busy



Hello to all new residents of Heron River. We are growing quickly with a 41 families moving into the four neighborhoods within

Heron River just this year. They're migrating from Utah, Washington State, Nevada, California, New York, and Maryland as well as Idaho. It's amazing, many come from Boise, Meridian and Eagle and that says a lot about the quality of living here in Heron River.

There are avid fly fishermen, master gardeners, quilters, amateur art painter (that could rival the "masters"), retired military and big game hunters, just to name a few. Many come to be near grandchildren and others to retire here and enjoy this beautiful country.

You'll see many of them riding bikes, walking dogs, playing pickle ball or tennis. They wave at everyone, (even if they don't know them) please wave back, who knows, you could become good friends.

We encourage everyone to sign up on the social network "Nextdoor" to connect with your neighbors.

Welcome, we're glad you're here.

Upcoming Chili Cook Off

The second annual Chili Cook Off will be on October 14. It begins at 4 pm at the Heron River Community Center. Seven cooks have signed up to compete for the coveted honor of having the best Chili in Heron River.



Returning champ Connie Duering will be cooking against the 6 challengers. You can donate baked goods for the auction. Dinner is \$6

for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. The dinner menu includes chili & hot dogs with all the fixings along with corn bread, dessert, and the right to vote in the battle for the best cook and best chili. The cook off winner gets their name added to the Chili Cook Off plaque which hangs proudly in the Community Center.

Summer Pool Season 2017

It was a warm summer and many of our members enjoyed the pool for fun as well as exercise. BBQs were had, and a few children's birthday parties used the Community Center and pool for celebrations.

The waterfalls had two basins running which provided the sound of falling water to the experience of being at the pool. Next year, we have plans to have all three basins running.

This year's pool committee of twelve volunteers did a fabulous job of making the pool a great place to spend some time.

One surprise was the visit of a bird who decided to swim and sunbath with us. This Double-Crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* spend 16 hours swimming in the Heron River Community Center pool.



Idaho Fish and Wildlife told us the bird is a protected species, so we could not endanger it when asking it to leave. Many suggestions were made on ways to ask it to leave.

On August 1, a group of swimmers yelled and splashed in the water while others tapped the aluminum net pole on the pool bottom. The Cormorant seemed to enjoy the attention, swam among the humans, and did not leave.

Eventually, the Cormorant flew over to the nearby pond where apparently it found the fishing more rewarding.



The team from The Pool Doctor put the covers back on our pools after they winterized the pumps and lines once the pool was closed on September 10.

Sports Court Update

Residents have organized pickle ball teams that play frequently on one end of the tennis courts with a portable net, but the Sports Court continues the fund-raising process.



Co-chairs Rebecca Milwicz and Jason Kimball report that cash and pledges currently total \$2,500. The cost to convert one tennis court for pickleball and basketball is \$5,800.

Direct contributions for the Sports Court are still welcome and you can make donation checks out to Heron River HOA and put Sports Court on the Memo line. Mail them to Development Services, Attn: LaRae Cervantes, 9601 W. State St., Suite 203, Boise, ID 83714.

Play Area Bench Was Built and Donated by Heron River Resident

Thanks to Heron River member, Ed Clark, there is a wooden bench under the pergola at the Community Center Play Area.



When Ed learned of the need for a wooden bench, he got busy and made this lovely bench to sit on this summer. As a hobby, Ed makes bird houses which were featured in a prior edition of THE HERON.

Heron River Bird Watching

Our Heron River subdivision provides ideal bird watching opportunities for residents with its riparian areas along our boundary with the Boise River as well as our canals and ponds.

Kathy Engel generously provided THE HERON with some her beautiful bird photographs she has taken in Heron River.

Kathy uses a bird book and keeps a list of the new bird species she sees, but does not consider herself an avid birder. Her interest began many years ago when she became an avid kayaker and found the wonderful world of birds went hand in hand with paddling her kayak.



The Great Blue Heron *Ardea Herodias* hunts for fish, frogs, snakes, insects, voles and small water birds in shallow water or on grasslands by remaining stationary until it strikes with its beak at lightning speed.

This Great Blue Heron was photographed on one of the ponds in Waterview. Photo by Kathy Engel.



The Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* breeds in North American including Southwestern Idaho and they migrate from Central and South America. They build large stick nests, mate for life and are devoted parents. Young are full grown at six weeks and leave the nest at eight to ten weeks of age when they take their first flight.

This pair of ospreys was seen around Heron River hunting over our ponds, canals, open fields and the Boise River to feed their young chicks during this past summer. Photo by Kathy Engel.



The Belted Kingfisher *Megasceryle alcyon* is dimorphic meaning the males and females do not look alike. This is a male Belted Kingfisher which lacks a rust-colored “belt” below the white “belt” of the females. The male bird feather patterns are more colorful than females, but the female Belted Kingfisher is one exception with her rust-colored belt! Photo by Kathy Engel.

Perhaps some of our residents would be interested in starting a bird watching group here in Heron River. The Golden Eagle Audubon Society in Boise is Southwestern Idaho’s chapter of the National Audubon Society in the Treasure Valley if you want to learn more about local birds

The HOA Board of Directors

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