

Sleepy Hollow Lot Owners Association Newsletter

www.shloa.com

Dec. 2021



	<u>SHLOA BOARD</u>	sleepyhollowhoawv@yahoo.com
President	Rick Inclima	
Vice President	Vacant	
Treasurer	Rick Roscoe	
VP Roads	Larry Znaniecki	
VP Communication	Beth Znaniecki	
VP Common Facilities	Rose Carpenter	
Secretary	Vacant	

SHLOA BOARD MEETINGS

A notice announcing the Date, Place & Time of a Board Meeting will be placed on the bulletin board at the mailboxes approximately 10 days before each meeting. If you have any questions, please contact a board member.

TO CONTACT THE BOARD: Please address all issues to the Board in writing.

Send your correspondence to:

SHLOA

65 Audubon Road

Hedgesville, WV 25427

email: sleepyhollowhoawv@yahoo.com

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE or Emergencies: Call 911

Morgan County Sheriff Non-emergency 304-258-1067

Berkeley County Sheriff Non-emergency 304-267-7000

State Police/Martinsburg 304-267-0000

State Police/ Berkeley Springs 304-258-0000

Div. of Natural Resources; Enforcement 304-267-0037

*****Remember, SHLOA is not a law enforcement agency*****

You need to call the proper authorities when you need help.

FROM THE BOARD

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As we close out another year, I want to thank all the residents who help make Sleepy Hollow a pleasant and livable community. Maybe you volunteered to help out on clean-up day, participated in a community event, helped out a neighbor in need, or picked up a bit of trash from the roadside. Every effort, both big and small, makes a difference in our community and in the lives of our residents. Thank you!

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has not yet ended and it continues to affect virtually every aspect of life, including the operations of SHLOA. In compliance with CDC recommendations, we held all our summer monthly meetings outdoors to protect members of the Board and our residents. Now that winter is setting in, we will be holding our monthly Board meetings via Zoom until the weather warms. Due to ZOOM time limits and the challenges of conducting efficient on-line meetings, owners are requested to submit any non-emergency issues to the Board in writing via email (sleepyhollowhoawv@yahoo.com) or by mail to SHLOA, 65 Audubon Road, Hedgesville, WV 25427. The Board will review all correspondence received and respond directly to the submitting owner(s) via email or mail.

As information, the SHLOA Board meets monthly (2nd Saturday @ 10:00am) throughout the year to discuss and address matters affecting Sleepy Hollow. And of course, we conduct any necessary business between monthly meetings via email, written correspondence, and phone.

Speaking of the Board, we are still operating short-handed with only 5 of the 7 Board positions currently filled. This puts additional pressure on our elected volunteer members AND inhibits the development and training of future Board members. Let's face it, the current Board is (unfortunately!) not getting any younger, and we have a narrowing window to bring on new members and pass along the institutional knowledge and skills necessary to operate the Association and maintain our growing community.

In the next Newsletter (1st Quarter 2022) we will publish a *Call for Resumes*. This is YOUR opportunity to submit your resume and have your name added to the ballot for election. Ballot elections are conducted by mail during the 2nd Quarter, with the newly elected Board of Directors beginning its term in June. Please consider running for a position on the Board in 2022. We need your talents, input and participation. As the saying goes, "nothing happens by accident."

In closing, let me express my appreciation to members of SHLOA Board for their ongoing efforts and professionalism in making Sleepy Hollow a great place to live and enjoy. And thanks again to all in our community who have helped in big ways and small. Keep up the good work!

Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a great New Year ahead.

Rick Inclima



Reminders regarding ATVs and road use in Sleepy Hollow

The SHLOA Board would like to remind all residents and visitors that community roads are open to a variety of uses by both vehicles and pedestrians. At any given time, one can expect to encounter commuter/commercial vehicles, ATVs/off-road vehicles, pedestrians, kids, pets on leashes, as well as the abundant wildlife. The speed limit is 20 mph on all roads.

Never assume pedestrians hear vehicles approaching from behind. Always slow down and yield to pedestrians and any oncoming traffic. Please be aware that there are numerous culverts and drop-offs that can often be difficult to spot by ATV riders because of vegetation or fallen leaves. Injuries and accidents can occur during operation of ATVs/off-road vehicles. As such, ATV/off-road vehicle drivers must observe posted speed limits and at all times operate in a safe and responsible manner.

Additionally, the Board has received reports of off-road vehicles illegally accessing private property in Sleepy Hollow. Off-road vehicle/ATV operators must respect the property rights of others and not trespass on private property. ATV/off-road vehicle users are reminded that under WV law, lots less than 5 acres (all lots in Sleepy Hollow) that contain a dwelling house are considered “posted property” for the purpose of being prosecuted for trespass that carries a minimum \$100 fine. As such, property owners are not required to give notice by posting “No Trespassing” signs or to necessarily be present at the time of violation (readily available surveillance devices) to report offenders to the police.

All road users are reminded to respect private property and operate in a safe and respectful manner throughout Sleepy Hollow. Please drive safe, slow down, and always observe the 20 MPH speed limit.

Sleepy Hollow Snow Plowing Policy

SHLOA follows a long-established policy regarding the plowing of roads during winter weather. The policy, which is embedded in our snow removal contract, provides that roads are plowed whenever the depth reaches 3 inches anywhere in the development. We have unpaid volunteers checking on snow depth throughout the community, especially in the problem areas. Per the policy, roads will not be plow when snowfall is less than 3 inches. Please drive carefully on winter roads and allow extra travel time during weather events.

How You Can Help This Winter

- **Remove** all vehicles from the roadway to facilitate plowing and treatment of road surfaces.
- **Do not** park in cul-de-sacs because plow trucks need to turn around and need places to push snow.
- **Do not** attempt to plow roads yourself. This can damage the roads and impede drainage.
- **Do not** apply salt to unpaved roads; salt will create significant and costly damage and turn unpaved roads to mush.
- **Please** be patient with our contractors and the SHLOA Board; we are doing our best to provide these services.
- **Please** check in on your neighbors for their safety.

Thank you!

CAUTION: Do Not Apply Salt on Unpaved Roads

Unfortunately, there are limited options for dealing with ice on unpaved (dirt) roads. Ice cannot be plowed down to dirt level. The only viable option is to spread cinders. Salt CANNOT be used on dirt roads, it will make a bad situation MUCH, MUCH worse. There are cinder barrels placed throughout the neighborhood for resident's use on icy roads. Please avail yourself to some when ice is forecast.

Applying salt to dirt roads will make them mushy, muddy and virtually impassable. Such damage often requires the hiring of a contractor to excavate and resurface the area. SHLOA will have no choice but to hold persons spreading salt on our unpaved roads liable for such costs. Please do NOT apply salt on unpaved roads! Thank you and have a safe winter.

HOW TO AVOID HITTING A DEER

- **Know where the deer are likely to be.** Areas with high deer populations are normally marked with a bright yellow sign. Deer also tend to graze in wooded areas or open fields. When driving your usual route to work, be attentive to areas where you've seen deer in the past – they are likely to cross there again.
- **Be alert at sunrise and sunset.** Deer are more active during dawn and dusk hours.
- **Use your high beams.** When possible, use your high beams for better visibility. The extra light will help make it easier to spot a deer, or other animals, lurking alongside the road.
- **Don't rely on deer gadgets.** Whether it's a deer whistle, deer fence or other type of product to scare away the deer... don't rely solely on them to keep deer away. Research isn't exact on whether or not these products truly work.
- **When you see one... you'll probably see more.** Deer travel in groups. If one comes across your path, proceed with caution in case there are more.
- **Don't swerve.** Swerving isn't always the safest option. Hitting a deer might often cause less damage than swerving to avoid it... and then hitting a more dangerous obstacle, like a vehicle in oncoming traffic.
- **Wear your seat belt.** If you do hit a deer, wearing a seat belt decreases your chances of injury.
- **Spread the word.** When friends or family head out on the road, let them know to be careful and alert. Even a simple reminder can help prevent deer collisions.

(Source: www.erieinsurance.com/blog/hitting-a-deer)

WEST VIRGINIA CODE

§20-2-58. Shooting across road or near building or crowd; penalty.

(a) In addition to any other prohibitions which may exist by law, it shall be unlawful for any person to shoot or discharge any firearms:

(1) Across or in any public road in this state, at any time;

(2) Within five hundred feet of any school or church; or

(3) Within five hundred feet of any dwelling house: *Provided*, That a person who is a resident of a dwelling house, and his or her authorized guest, may shoot or discharge a firearm in a lawful manner within five hundred feet of the dwelling house where the person lives, if the firearm is being discharged with the express or implied knowledge and consent of all residents of that dwelling house, and no other dwelling houses are located within five hundred feet of where the firearm is discharged; or

(4) On or near any park or other place where persons gather for purposes of pleasure.

(b) Any person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than \$500 or confined in jail for not more than one hundred days, or both fined and confined.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any person operating a gun repair shop, licensed to do business in the State of West Virginia and duly licensed under applicable federal statutes, may be exempted from the prohibition established by this section and section twelve, article seven, chapter sixty-one of this code for the purpose of test firing a firearm. The director of the Division of Natural Resources shall prescribe such rules as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the exemption under this section and section twelve, article seven, chapter sixty-one and shall ensure that any person residing in any dwelling home within five hundred feet of such gun repair shop be given an opportunity to protest the granting of such exemption. *Note: WV Code updated with legislation passed through the [2013 1st Special Session](#). The WV Code Online is an unofficial copy of the annotated WV Code, provided as a convenience. It has not been edited for publication, and is not in any way official or authoritative.*

Please obey all firearms and hunting laws and practice gun safety. Also, be sure to wear plenty of Blaze Orange outerwear as required by law whenever you are hunting or hiking. Have a safe and enjoyable season, and enjoy the great outdoors!

ALWAYS WEAR SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF BLAZE ORANGE DURING HUNTING SEASON, EVEN ON SUNDAYS!

Also, please don't let your pets roam, especially during hunting season. Both Morgan and Berkeley counties have leash laws, please follow them and help keep your pets and your neighbors safe.

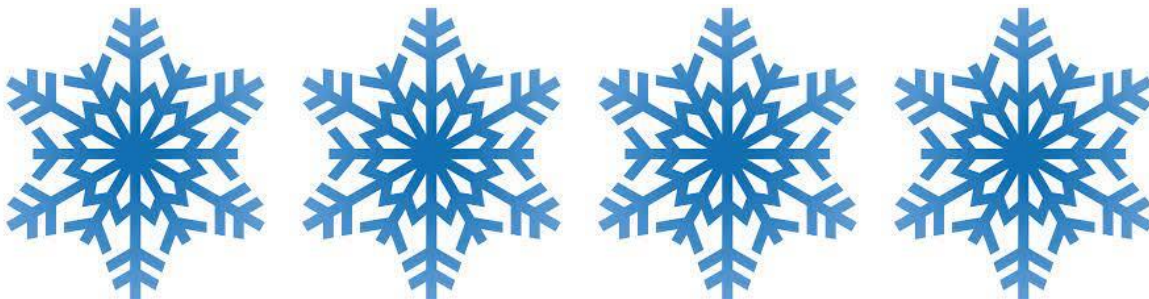
AAA recommendations for driving in snowy and icy conditions:

Cold Weather Driving Tips

- Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

Tips for Driving in the Snow

- **Stay home.** Only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it's better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- **Drive slowly.** Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.
- **Accelerate and decelerate slowly.** Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- **Increase your following distance** to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- **Know your brakes.** Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- **Don't stop if you can avoid it.** There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- **Don't power up hills.** Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly.
- **Don't stop going up a hill.** There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.



A BIG THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN TRUNK OR TREAT!!!!



EASTERN PANHANDLE HOLIDAY EVENTS

(TAKEN FROM PRIME LOCATION REALITY WEBSITE)

MARTINSBURG:

- Don't miss the Downtown Craft Market, where local artists display and sell their wares. You won't find racks of identical gifts here! Find something unique and locally made with care. 116 North Queen Street, Wednesdays-Thursdays, 11-6 pm, Fridays 11-8, and Saturdays 10-4 through December 24th.
- Christmas Tree Lighting – Beginning at 6:00 pm Friday, December 2nd, the town will be lit up and glowing, waiting for your visit. Something magical happens once the lights come on. Shops will be open and carolers will be walking the street, serenading you with traditional Christmas carols. Don't forget to visit Santa while you're there – he has something special for your little ones.
- Colonial Christmas at the Adam Stephen House – The first two weekends of December from 4 pm to 8 pm, Adam Stephen House will again host it's "Colonial Christmas." The celebrations this year have a Scottish theme, as Scotland is where Adam Stephen was born. Tartans will decorate the house, and bagpipe and dulcimer music will be featured. 309 East John St, Martinsburg.

CHARLES TOWN:

- The 72nd Annual Charles Town Christmas Parade – Hosted by the cities of Charles Town and Ranson, this year's theme is, "A West Virginia Christmas." The parade begins promptly at 2:00 pm on December 3rd, so grab your spot along the route early!
- The Charles Town Christmas Marketplace – This year the event is being held in newly-renovated Charles Washington Hall! Featuring the work of local artists, crafters, designers and artisans, find a huge variety of handmade gifts. The last day is December 3rd, from 10 am to 4 pm, so don't miss out

HARPERS FERRY:

- We have an entire post dedicated to the charm of Holidays in Harpers Ferry. Harpers Ferry always does a wonderful job honoring the history of our region. Don't miss their wonderful events!

SHEPHERDSTOWN:

Shepherdstown has many events tied to it's annual "Civil War Christmas." Always educational and interesting, if you've never experienced any of these events, I would encourage you to check them out. A full schedule can be found [here](#).

- A Christmas Carol – Friday December 2nd from 8-10, come to the Black Box Arts Center and see this Christmas classic performed on stage.
- The Shepherdstown Annual Christmas Parade – December 3rd, starting at 10 am on German St.
- Need to play Santa for your kids? New this year, The Black Box Arts Center will host your kids while you shop with their "You Shop, They Play" service happening every Saturday through December. \$10 per hour, \$5 per hour for each additional child from the same family. For more information, contact info@blackboxartscenter.org or call 304-870-4685.

- Since you're shopping anyway, check out the Shepherdstown Holiday Market, where small artists and artisans are selling their creations. Shop local! Saturdays throughout December, 10 am – 4:30 pm at the Historic Entler Hotel.

INWOOD:

- Come out for the South Berkeley Christmas Parade Join Santa and the gang in downtown Inwood for some fun, December 4th, 2 pm – 5 pm.
- Burn off some of that pumpkin pie you ate last week and run in the South Berkeley Christmas 5k. December 4th, at 2 pm, benefiting the Berkeley County Humane Society. It's a mostly flat course, so no need to do any hills training, and costumes are encouraged.

From the Board we wish all a safe and healthy Holiday Season!!!!

