

EXTRA-EXTRA SKYVIEW NEWS

Saturday afternoon, April 28

In color on the website: www.skyviewhoa.com user name: skyview password: hills4u



Skyview as seen from Dobbel -- 250 Goats grazing at 3 p.m.

**The Goats are coming...
The Goats are coming...
Yikes, they are already here!!!**



Thursday morning 4/26, Terry of GoatsRus returned Christal Curry's inquiry about their services. By 3 p.m. Terry and her husband Egon toured Skyview, hosted by Dag. By 5:45 Terry called with a quote and by 7 p.m., following a discussion and favorable comments from the members in attendance, the board unanimously approved it. We expected GoatsRus to come by the middle of the coming week, which would have provided time to pass out flyers, but following a very brief phone exchange on Friday, Dag was jolted by a phone call this morning with the message that the double-decker would arrive in 45 minutes. John Kwan and Christine Forssell knocked on doors on the north side of Gamble to provide warning and were met with uniform enthusiasm.

The first load was 100 goats. A second load was 150 goats. A third will arrive later to work the southern end of Skyview. Besides fire control (and the fire department expects fires this year!) we are clearing the accumulation of dead fescue grass between Thorup and Ziele.

A question for later is how we may be able to plant some eco-friendly alternative in this area, one that will not require gobs of Hetch-Hetchy water. Please contribute your ideas!

For more on the goats and our shepherds, see page. 2

ABOUT THE BOARD MEETING THURSDAY

First was recognition of Jean Hostetter for her six plus years of service handling club house rentals here at Skyview. Besides offering a small but tangible token of appreciation, the board unanimously approved a resolution to grant Jean and her family free rentals of the club house for the next six years.

The proposal to use goats for the annual weed-whacking was discussed and approved unanimously. Boy do we move fast!

Following careful consideration of our budget situation, treasurer Philip made the motion that we change from Loza Bros landscaping to Fran Watkins landscaping. Watkins is well known to Charline Johnson and is expected to provide a higher level of service at higher cost. Approved. Expect to see continuing improvements here at Skyview as Watkins takes over.

ABOUT THE CLUB HOUSE RENTAL PROPOSAL

One email protesting the proposed \$100.- rental fee was received by Charline Johnson prior to the meeting, but nobody showed up to learn of the reasons for the proposal or otherwise discuss it.

Reasons discussed in the meeting involve the need to control and prevent abuse of club house rentals that has occurred in the past. We have had renters bring in huge groups, claiming exclusive access, crowding out homeowners who want to take a swim or have a picnic, bring bottles and break them. We have needed to call the police, but nobody was present to monitor the place, making sure no abuse occurred.

The board is not trying to fleece homeowners, but wants to provide funds for administration, clean up, monitoring etc. without discriminating in any way. It has been proposed that members who come to a board meeting and request a reduced rate or free access for meetings such as boy or girl scouts can be granted such privilege, provided that the security be deposited and the facility cleaned up well.

I have been running around a fair bit today. I was told that a petition is being organized for members to protest the fee increase. That is fine! However, in fairness, I would personally plead with petitioners to include with their petition a responsible alternative to the proposed rules. I also plead with petitioners to come to the next board meeting to help the board work out a set of rules that will make it possible to meet all legitimate concerns.

I will be happy to include suggestions in the next newsletter, to be distributed well ahead of the next meeting, May 24.

Dag Forssell <editor@skyviewhoa.com>

Here is a page from the www.goatsrus.com website:

 <p>What We Do</p> <p>The 1st Ten Years</p> <p>The Next Ten Years</p> <p>The Goats</p> <p>The Dogs</p> <p>The People</p> <p>FAQ</p> <p>Contact Us!</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">What We Do</h2> <hr/> <p>Goats R Us is a family owned and operated grazing company. Our livestock are utilized primarily for fuel mitigation and star thistle eradication, although they have also gained quite a reputation for brush reduction projects. The herd is a melting pot of breeds: Angora, Alpine, Spanish, Boer, Pygmy, La Mancha, and Nubian. The goats are separated into several herds of various sizes, depending on the scope of work. Goats R Us is hired by homeowners, private land managers, and public agencies to graze sites ranging from neighborhood yards to 30,000 acre ranches.</p>  <p>Each herd is maintained by a shepherd and his Border Collie, who live with the animals on the premises in a self contained travel trailer. In open space areas, they work "free," supervised by the man and dog team, and are secured at night in holding pens. This range work is often accomplished on horseback, reducing the use of motor vehicles in these areas. When working sites near residential neighborhoods, portable electric fencing is used to contain the goats. We also offer hand clearing in conjunction with the grazing to provide a complete weed abatement program for very dense or sensitive landscapes. Their annual visits have become very popular with the public and indeed have turned into somewhat of a local event!</p> 
---	--

OUR SHEPHERDS:

From the web site:

Our shepherds are recruited from South America, having been referred for their outstanding ability to work with livestock. While there is a long list of qualified applicants, the shepherds hired by Goats R Us are exceptional not only in their animal husbandry skills, but also in their ability to work effectively with the public. They each take great pride in their herd, dog, and work performance. Their skill and hard work are the backbone of the Goats R Us operation.

The first herd to arrive is already munching north of Gamble Court. Shepherd Ricardo is staying in a trailer parked on the side of the passage between Gamble and Markham. Ricardo is from Chile, speaks Spanish and understands some English. Ricardo will be staying here the full week and may move his trailer to the club house in several days. Each shepherd wants to stay close to his herd.

The second herd will start working at the south end. Shepherd Bautista will be staying in a trailer part way into the access road to Garin park. Bautista, also from Chile, speaks Spanish and pretty good English. He is expected to leave with his herd on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Ricardo will have a key with access to the pool house with its shower and toilets 24/7.

Please help us make Ricardo and Bautista welcome as they work here at Skyview.