

METRO NEWS



METRO BOARD MEETS MONTHLY ON THE 2ND TUESDAY STARTING @ 1:30 PM, FOREST LAKES COMMUNITY CENTER - SPRING/SUMMER 2003

A FOREST LAKES METRO DISTRICT PUBLICATION

.Forest Lakes Guide to Services

- **Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD)** - Provides Water, Sewer, Road and Recreation. (970) 884-2925
- **Forest Lakes Property Owner's Association (FLPOA)** - A Voluntary organization of Forest Lakes property owners providing Non-Metro services relating to covenant and architectural enforcement. 1782 Pine Valley Rd., Bayfield, CO 81122 (970)884-1900.
- **Upper Pine River Fire Protection District**—Emergency medical and fire protection services. 911 or (970) 884-9508.
- **La Plata County**— Sheriff, Building, Planning and other Departments including the Assessor, Treasurer, Clerk and Recorder and various other County services. (970) 382-6200.
- **San Juan Basin Health Department**— Individual sewage disposal systems and public health related services. (970) 247-5702.
- **La Plata Electric Association (LPEA)** - Provides electric power to Forest Lakes. (970) 247-5786
- **Qwest**—Provides telephone services to Forest Lakes. (800) 573-1311.

DISTRICT 2002 FINANCIAL AUDIT COMPLETED

Governmental entities, including special districts such as the Forest Lakes Metropolitan District are statutorily required to have an independent audit of their finances conducted annually and submitted to the Colorado State Auditor. The District's auditor, Chadwick, Steinkirchner, Davis & Co., P.C. has successfully completed the 2002 preliminary audit which has been submitted to the FLMD Board of Directors for review and comment before finalizing. This is the first year the audit has been prepared by this firm which reported no significant accounting deficiencies in the audit. Financial records were in good condition, cash positions increasing and revenue streams remain strong. The audit will be available for inspection at the District offices upon finalization.

DROUGHT CONTINUES



The Metro Board is asking all residents to continue to conserve water. The District monitors and repairs water main leaks and has made significant water system improvements to reduce water losses. The Board has also moved to only water shrubs and trees at the front entrance to help conserve drinking water. AT THIS TIME the Board is asking for voluntary conservation efforts to continue. If watering your lawn, please follow the odd/even yard watering restrictions in effect using the last digit of your address and the calendar date with no watering between 10 AM and 6 PM. Please limit watering to twice a week with no weekends

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

- The District has completed significant improvements to the water system including the design and installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system (SCADA). The District contracted with Mountain Peak Controls Inc., Golden, CO for the work on the automated control system which was implemented at the end of April this year. Installation and startup went exceptionally well allowing the addition of some of the wastewater data to be added to the system earlier than anticipated.
- The District also completed and brought on line, Well #3 which is now serving Forest Lakes residents.
- Approved main extension work will be conducted in the fall this year.
- Required sampling for lead and copper levels in the drinking water have been pulled this summer from designated sites.

SERVICES IMPACT FEE REVISED—This one time fee adopted in 1995 generates funds from new construction used to develop the Forest Lakes water, sewer and road facilities and systems. The fee was increased to keep up with rising labor, material and equipment costs, last revised in 1999. Most work is done in house by Metro maintenance personnel through the Board approved main extension application process. Not all areas can get main extensions approved as facilities are not in place to serve those areas. As tanks, pressure reducing stations, booster stations, wells and related facilities and systems are installed, these areas can then be served. Funds generated from the impact fee are not sufficient to do both facility and system improvements in the same year which delay some projects to maintain the system integrity. Through this process the Board expects to avoid issuing additional debt in the form of bonds to finish developing the infrastructure to provide services to all lots.

DISTRICT MASTER PLANS

The District is currently updating water, sewer and road master plans. The goal of these updates is to assess where we are, where we would like to be and how we are going to get there. Master plans were generated from the District's original filing of the service plan that have been affected by the actual development of the facilities and systems.

FOREST LAKES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

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METRO NEWS

ROADS

Metro's current budget is over \$150,000 a year for the road department, while it collects about \$130,000 a year from the road fee. This amount covers road and equipment maintenance, snow plowing, fuel, supplies and salaries. The General Fund also includes funds for debt service used to pay back bonds that built some of the roads, insurance and lease payments on equipment used in road work. The current road fee was not implemented with the intent of watering, cutting, grading, hauling material, contract crushing, compacting, cleaning ditches, and applying magnesium chloride on every road, every year. If a true need for more road maintenance is there, the fees will have to be increased in an attempt to provide this level of service, if supported. Metro is now plowing and maintaining 21 miles of roads which is about the same distance from Forest Lakes to Durango. A little help from mother nature will extend the life of an improved road without raising the fee.



ADDRESS SIGNS AVAILABLE FROM COUNTY

Looking for a free, brightly colored, reflective sign with your address on it? The La Plata County Building Department, located in the County Courthouse in Durango, will provide you a sign for the asking. Please get your sign and post it by the driveway/road access as soon as possible to help emergency personnel find you.

USE WATER WISELY



Conserving water protects clean drinking water, saves you money in water and sewer rates. Stop Leaks—In just three (3) months, a continuous stream through a 1/8" diameter hole at 60 psi, will waste 296,000 gallons which is approximately 3,288 gallons per day or almost half of an average households monthly minimum water billing in just one day.

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES

Please do not ride your ATV's on the greenbelt (open space) properties which includes the ski hill and lake. As you have noticed, we now have two lines of erosion beginning to take place which will cost money to stop. Please avoid an unnecessary increase in your fees and stay off of the ski hill so that others can enjoy it as well. Please remember as public roads, the restrictions that apply to County roads also apply to Forest Lakes roads. If the ticket doesn't bother you then think about the liability or your physical well being if you meet a cement truck.

DRIVEWAYS AND CULVERTS

Does your driveway look like this? If not, you need to fix it. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain their driveway, including the culvert. Installed properly water running off of your driveway should not cross the road and the top of your culvert should be low enough to avoid damage from road maintenance activities, including snow plowing.

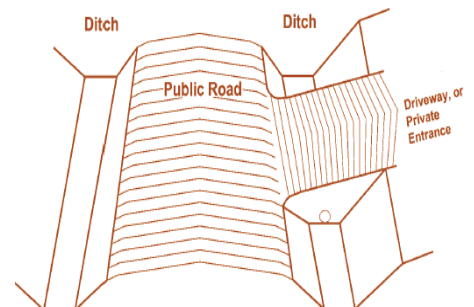


Figure 8: Proper matching of driveway and road edge

FOREST LAKES VITAL STATISTICS

- 538 Housing Structures
- 1123 Residents
- 21 Miles of roads now open
- 18 Miles of Water Mains now installed
- 6 Miles of Sewer Mains now installed