

# MUIR WOODS

Homeowners Association

November 2008

## CLEANER IRRIGATION WATER - PROPOSAL

By President Lee Coulson

We currently have a self cleaning screen at the intake to our irrigation system. The Nampa-Meridian Irrigation Company says the current filter "basically keeps everything that is larger than an eighth of an inch out of the water". Some of the particles that make it past the screen include sand, algae, small weed seeds, etc. The irrigation company plans to rebuild the manifold this winter and is willing to install a self cleaning 200 micron filter if owners would like. They indicate that they have installed these filters on several other systems in their district. Since the filter would only benefit Muir Woods home owners, the cost associated with purchasing the filter would be the responsibility of Muir Woods owners. That cost would amount to approximately \$80 per lot and would be a one time charge on your individual irrigation bill.

Some benefits of fine filtering at the irrigation source include the following:

- **Sprinkler and line filters stay clean longer.** Dirty filters reduce pressure, which reduces coverage and causes dry spots. Extremely dirty filters can reduce pressure so much that pop-up sprinklers will not pop up at all and drip systems stop completely.
- **Components last longer.** Even fine grit is very abrasive over time, so keeping filters clean helps make components last longer. Dirty filters contribute to pop-up sprinklers getting stuck in a popped-up position, which makes them vulnerable to breakage.
- **Cleaning is easier to schedule.** The level of grit in the water is always changing, so it's difficult to keep a regular cleaning schedule that's not oppressive. Sometimes filters will stay clean all summer, and sometimes they need cleaning every few weeks. It's no fun coming home from vacation and finding a severely degraded system due to a surge in grit while you were away.

Before deciding to give the 'go-ahead' to Nampa Meridian Irrigation District, the Board would like to hear the opinion of Muir Woods owners. If you have an opinion in this matter, please vote online by visiting [mwhoa.org](http://mwhoa.org).



## HOLIDAY DECORATING

Muir Woods is known for its great home lighting displays. And yes, the holiday decorating contest will be open again this year at Muir Woods. A group of volunteers will judge.

To be included in the contest, have your displays up by December 15.

1st Prize—\$100

2nd Prize—\$50



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President:** Lee Coulson

**Vice-President:** Brian Edgar

**Treasurer:** Bruce MacMahon

**Secretary:** Esther Williams

**Landscape:**

Mark Jaszowski  
Karen Christensen

**Social:** Ann Brown

**Architectural Control:**

Scott Paulik  
Karen Christensen

**Neighborhood Watch:** Russell Strader

To contact your  
Muir Woods Board of Directors, visit  
[www.mwhoa.org](http://www.mwhoa.org)



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### **Planning Changes to Your Home?**

If you are planning changes to your home, if you want to add any type of outbuilding or structure, or if you are making major changes to your landscape, you must submit your proposed project to the Architectural Control committee. You may obtain an application at [www.mwhoa.org](http://www.mwhoa.org).

## **TRAFFIC CONTROLLING DEVICES**

### **Do we need or want them in Muir Woods?**

By Brian Edgar

How do we solve the problem of fast moving traffic on our quiet neighborhood streets? The MWHOA board was presented with this question last spring and asked to explore the option of installing traffic controlling devices (speed bumps).

In May, ACHD conducted a traffic study on Muir Ridge and Goshen streets which provided the following data:

- A number of vehicles travel on both streets well over the posted speed limit of 20 MPH. In fact, one vehicle was recorded at 50 MPH on Muir Ridge.
- Muir Ridge has a higher traffic volume than Goshen and meets the minimum requirements for speed bumps.
- Goshen does not currently meet the minimum traffic volume for speed bumps, but will be re-evaluated in the future.

Based upon the traffic study, ACHD identified locations for three speed bumps along Muir Ridge from Cloverdale to Goshen. The estimated total cost for three speed bumps with all signage and street markings would be roughly \$8,500.

Unfortunately, the traffic levels/speeds recorded on Muir Ridge and Goshen do not meet the requirements for ACHD to pay for the installation of speed bumps.



ACHD will perform the work, but either MWHOA or individuals who live in the subdivision would have to pay for the speed bumps.

**Next Steps:** The Board needs your input before we can move ahead with any decisions whether or not to install speed bumps. Please feel free to contact me, Brian Edgar, or any of the board members if you have any questions or would like to provide us with your thoughts on the installation of speed bumps.

# LANDSCAPING REPORT

By Mark Jaszowski

We had a great summer season and Progressive did a fine job managing our property. I was pleased to see how well everything is coming along. We lose a few trees each year and this year was no exception. We lost three trees and had one replacement donated.

Fall is a great time to fertilize trees. The root system is very active from leaf drop to dormancy, setting the stage for new spring growth. You should water your high-value trees deeply now; this will see them through the dry, frozen winter months. A tree that goes into winter well watered experiences less dieback and has a much better chance of surviving the dry winter months.

The irrigation is off and it is time to winterize your irrigation system if you have not already. If you are still on city water, consider protecting your (expensive) backflow preventer. They experience the most damage during this season. It doesn't take much of a cold night to freeze and crack them. Water trapped in small chambers makes backflow valves vulnerable. **It is safest to simply remove your valve with a pipe wrench and bring it in the garage for the winter.** For less than a dollar, you can buy two 1 1/4 inch pipe caps and blank off the outside pipe ends after removal.

**Consider closing your foundation vents now to save winter heating bills.** You should only leave them open if you suspect you have a lot of moisture under your crawl space to dry out.

Tip-o-the-hat! **A group of neighbors have been working to build replacement benches for the tables in the commons.** At one table, the three concrete benches have been cracked and are unsafe for kids. We built benches to replace them that are exactly like the benches at the

other tables. Additionally, we will now have four benches at each table. Thank you to Scott Paulik, Bruce MacMahon, and Russell Strader for working on this project. Scott also did the shopping for materials. We built eight Trex benches at a cost of about \$50 each including the tie-downs. It would have cost us much more had we hired a contractor to do this work. Tell them thank you when you see them.

**I'd like to thank all our neighbors who walk their dogs on a leash and clean up responsibly after them.** While your good example is not always followed, it makes a real difference in the property and for a nice place for the kids to play. Thank you for being responsible neighbors on behalf of the kids who run around out there.

Again, this summer Morris got his morning workout taking care of our property on behalf of us all. Morris saved us about \$2300 in sprinkler repairs alone. We used those savings to upgrade the sprinklers in the island beds at the entrances and in the internal streets. **We replaced all the 6-inch pop up heads with 12-inch pop up heads at a cost of \$900.** This was necessary to provide for adequate water coverage as the shrubbery has matured to the point where a 6-inch head was no longer doing the job. **This fall we will be adding bark and we tarred the pathways to protect them from freeze damage and extend their service life.** While we have some funds for this kind of maintenance, Morris's voluntary labor greatly extends what we can do. I get a long list of work he has performed before every Board meeting. His daily work and attention to our property makes an incredible difference in the character and quality of our neighborhood. Morris' daily work and others who volunteer to help here and there makes my job easy. **Thank you!**

## Some Concerns...please be careful

**Break-in:** Recently a homeowner had an intruder come in while she was at home. They left when she called 9-1-1. This shows that we are all vulnerable even in our great neighborhood and is another reason to support our Neighborhood Watch. **Lock cars and doors—even when you are at home.**

**Dog injury:** A resident dog knocked over an individual walking in the common area. The dog was not attacking — just jumping — but the injury could have been avoided had the dog been leashed as is required.

**Keep dogs leashed when not in your own yard.**