



## Roads & Grounds

Report to SCE Board Meeting April 29, 2023

The Roads & Grounds are in excellent condition overall. Here is a brief summary of issues since last meeting:

-Seth Trinkle has continued to provide excellent service in keeping our culverts clear of leaves and limbs. In addition to clean ups after heavy rains, Seth does monthly detailed inspections of all the culverts. Several are near end-of-life but none need to be replaced soon. Rain events associated with climate change requires diligence by the HOA (and homeowners) to avoid property damage.

-Ed Wagler did his biannual re-grading of the roads a few weeks ago. Ella Ct & Ella St needed more work than normal which required the addition of gravel. As always, his work was excellent and reasonably priced.... but more costly this time because of the extra work on those two roads.

-we needed no snow plowing this year, fortunately.

-on two different occasions since the last meeting, trees fell across the road and needed to be removed on short notice—one on Forest and the other at the top of Alma. Additionally, Seth has preemptively felled a few dead trees leaning toward Forest Rd that would have soon fallen.

-new Private Road signs have been added along Dianne St, Alma St and at Elkins Rd just past the last set of mailboxes.

-the mailboxes have been targeted by thieves during holiday shipping seasons in the past. This has become a much more regular occurrence over the past six months. Monroe County and Bloomington detectives have been consulted. The USPS postal inspector was contacted by them. 7P Solutions (a company who specializes in pirating of package delivery) has also been helpful in setting up a tracking device as bait but the bait was never taken—much to my surprise. The problem has become more subtle over the past two months (the mailboxes are no longer being left open / wrappers are no longer being left as trash on the road) but several packages were stolen last week. I suspect this is the result of a network of thieves and we have a new one who is more subtle. An arrest was made in February of a stolen car which also had a lot of stolen mail so the original perpetrator may have been apprehended. This latest theft resulted in the Monroe County detective instructing me to file a formal complaint to the postal inspector. I am in the process of making that complaint.

-email discussions among the board about securing the mailboxes (video, lock boxes, etc) have taken place. In my opinion, there is no perfect solution. Our remote and dark location (video clarity?), the size of packages is highly variable (size of lock boxes and the likelihood of them becoming full, homeowners



needing to pick theirs up), the engineering needed to anchor and protect the lock boxes and most importantly, the brazen thieves who make a living out of organized piracy make this a difficult challenge. I will inform the board of the postal inspector's input when it is available.

Submitted by Chad Huck & Carl Bauer