

TWO SMALL SIGNS CAUSE A RUCKUS

By landowner Corky Hughes

Ginny and I put up two small signs two feet by four feet, Sunday night May 24, 2015, on Prairie Ave.

Monday was Memorial Day, Tuesday phone calls and Wednesday we got a call from Kootenai Planning Dept. asking if that was our sign on the Prairie property. What is going on. They had received numerous calls on Tuesday, it was the topic of discussion at the morning planning meeting. This was a stern call. Mind you the planning department is the best it has ever been, with more customer service than we've ever seen. I immediately told them what we were doing and don't spend any time on this.

Ours is a 9 acre project we have been working on for almost 2 years. The reason we put the signs up in the first place was, quite a few cars were stopping on Prairie while we were watering our new trees and asking what was this going to be. I had already purchased a descriptive sign but my wife Ginny said NO... Lets have some fun, bring a little smile to everyone. She wanted to include a question, "What do you think should go here", but that didn't happen. I agreed to let her roll with it. She had the signs printed at a cost of \$200 "Ouch!". She put up two signs "Coming Soon" and "Drive in Theater".

I immediately went across the street to a neighbor who objected to our original project and explained what we were doing. I did not want to cause any more stress than we had already put her through. She thought it was hilarious.

The reaction to the signs was immediate. Within an hour we got our first call. A neighbor wanted to know how soon it was going to open, his kid couldn't wait. Calls came from friends, "Is it true?"

We are still hand watering the trees along Prairie and on Wednesday, two cars stopped during the 4 to 6 hours we were out there, not to mention the six or so that honked and waived. One couple parked at the curb and just wanted to talk about their memories in Bozeman, how they use to have dusk to dawn movies at the Drive In and how they turned the pickup around with their lawn chairs in the back to watch the movie. BBQ's were allowed in the back row. Many of us remember our kids going to sleep in the back of the station wagon. I am sure many of you have fond memories and this will bring a smile to your face, just like Ginny said it would.

Roxie with Kootenai County Code Enforcement called on Thursday May 28 to say we were in an agriculture zone and the sign was not in compliance. Outdoor Theaters were not permitted in that zone. I ask what we needed to do to get the sign permitted and Roxie said we needed to apply for a zone change and be granted

before we could put up a sign for our Outdoor Theater. She said "Will it come down today". I said yes.

We would like to apologize to the residents of Kootenai County for spending your tax dollars, paying for all the county employees who took time out of their day to deal with this. We are very sorry for any anxiety this may have caused any neighbors that we did not notify. We also apologize to the county employees that had to interrupt their day.

Lets hope our next sign meets the zoning requirements.

Thank you Ginny for bringing a little sunshine into my life during my stressful time.