



Pine Brook Press

A Quarterly Journal for, about and by
Pine Brook Hills Residents

AUTUMN 2005



ON THE SOON-TO-BE-WATER FRONT

By Bob DeHaas

The construction of the reservoir is steadily moving forward. The State has issued the construction permit. The process now will change from digging down to building up!

If the weather cooperates and we can hold to our schedule we should be able to have the dam completed by the end of the year. The goal is still to start storing water in March and to try to bring it on line sometime in May. Remember, you can watch the progress at pinebrookwater.com

As of October 1 the water restrictions were lifted. The cooler weather and the little rains brought Four

Mile Creek back to life! Also, the vegetation along the creek is going into its dormant cycle, using



Man-made hills and our own (temporary) cement plant arise near the community center as the reservoir takes shape.

less water and leaving more for us. So while we have water again, it is not plentiful, so please watch your usage. The other good news is that while the restrictions were in place we had over 95% compliance. This is just one of the reasons why managing a water system for Pine Brook is a pleasure. I always know

that when it comes down to it, the community will do its part to make our water resources stretch. Thanks for everyone's cooperation and patience.

NEW FUEL BREAK PLANNED FOR PINE BROOK HILLS

GOOD NEWS! The Pine Brook Hills Homeowners Association has been awarded a matching grant of \$22,000 to create a shaded fuel break on the Timber Lane loop. This means that the community can apply \$44,000 to mitigation work where we need it most. The grant is from the Western States Wildland/Urban Interface Project. As was the case with the two previous fuel breaks undertaken by the HOA, the voluntary HOA dues donated by

Pine Brookers will supply the matching funds. The



HOA members consult with Anchor Point experts on the Timber Lane Fuel Break. Clockwise from lower left: Steve Lynn, BMFPD Mitigation Coordinator; Chris White, Mark McDonald and Rod Muraga, Anchor Point Fire Behavior Specialists; Suzanne Adams, Tim Triggs and Pam Creswell, Pine Brookers.

project will be free to the homeowners whose properties will be affected.

Why Timber Lane? The Anchor Point district-wide wildfire risk assessment done last year identifies fuel reduction on Timber Lane as one of the two highest priority projects in Pine Brook Hills. John Benson, our Fire Chief, agrees; "I think it's a great idea. I believe this project will greatly ensure the safety of

both residents and firefighters.”

Coincidentally, we had two fires in Pine Brook Hills in recent months - both on Timber Lane! The first was a lightning fire. Pine Brook Water District Operator Shawn Beauprez happened to be installing a fire hydrant near the scene, spotted the smoke and rushed to the fire. He was soon joined by BMFPD firefighter Bob Olliver; the two of them quickly extinguished the flames. The second fire was caused



Scott Kohla of BMFPD scans the interior of car burned on Timber Lane on Aug 18th.

Photo courtesy of Boulder Daily Camera

by a car parked on tall grass at the side of the road (a reminder to us all to cut the tall grass by the roadside!). This more dangerous fire consumed the car and ignited the trees nearest the road (see picture above). Fortunately for us, both events occurred during the day and were quickly spotted. Had they happened at night we might be joining the hurricane victims in looking for new housing.



THE FIRE SCOUTS ARE ON THE JOB!

Our fire district is now under the watchful electronic eyes of 124 Fire Scouts, the early fire detection devices invented by Pine Brooker RJ Smith. 40 of the Scouts are in PBH, 80 are in Carriage Hills and Boulder Heights, and four are looking our way from Sunshine Canyon. Each small sensor mounted on the outside of a house can send a signal of any fire to a dialer inside the house, which sounds an alarm and automatically calls the cell phones of four firefighters who “know the drill,” according to RJ. Most of the current Fire Scout installations were paid for by a grant from Homeland Security, but individual homeowners can and do buy Fire Scouts. They cost \$200 for each sensor and \$200 for the dialer. Depending on its view, a home could use between one and four sensors (only one dialer). RJ does not charge for installation within the district.

Picking the locations for the Scouts was a matter for careful consideration, but one home was a clear

choice - 470 Fountaintree Lane. Probably many Pine Brookers are not even aware of a PBH street called Fountaintree. Neither were the sole residents of the street, Kit Tennis and his wife Anita Sanchez, before they bought a home there 25 years ago. Fountaintree is WAYYYYYY up there. With its bird’s eye view of PBH, their home was first on the list of prospective Fire Scout installations.

Watching RJ hanging out over space while putting up the Fire Scout on Fountaintree was interesting. He, however, said that this installation was nothing. In one Carriage Hills house, he had to place the Scout above a third story window. The job needed two hands, so he was holding on to the window frame - with his knees. (He’s a bit worried about having his wife see this story.) He resists doing those precarious installations now, as he does recognize them as potentially “life limiting.”

Kit acknowledges the fire danger at his location. The family has been evacuated five times, the first one being the 1980 Wonderland Fire (the 2003 Wonderland Fire was the most recent evacuation). Anita directed traffic and Kit pulled hose during that earlier fire; “I didn’t know what I was doing, but I did it.” The second evacuation was when a man on Olde Stage accidentally set his mattress on fire and threw it out



RJ Smith and Kit Tennis discuss installing a Fire Scout in the Tennis/Sanchez home on Fountaintree Lane.

the window. That was not a good plan - 44 homes were lost. A “mini evacuation” occurred when children playing with matches on Bow Mountain started a fire. Possibly the most exciting evacuation scenario was one year in March, when an arcing power line during a windstorm set the hillside on fire. The roar of the wind was so loud that neither Kit nor Anita could hear the phone

Continued on page 6.

**PINE BROOK HILLS
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

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VICE PRESIDENT

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Kathy Eyster, 786-7586

WATER BOARD

Kirk Hendricks, Pres., 442-1308

WATER DISTRICT

Robert de Haas, Mgr., 443-5394

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings are at the Community Center/Firehouse unless otherwise noted.

HOA MEETING OCTOBER 26, 7 p.m. Meeting to elect new HOA officers at Creswell/Swanton Residence, 12 Boulder View Lane. 720-406-9783. No potluck this time.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE - Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 P.M.

BIBLE STUDY - Meets weekly. For info, call Greg or Donna Johnson at 449-1692.

FIRE BOARD - Meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 7 P.M. at either the Pine Brook or Boulder Heights Firehouse. Call 440-0235 for specifics.

FIRE AUXILIARY - Generally meets the first Sunday of every month at 7 P.M. Call 786-7586 for confirmation.

WATER BOARD - Meets first or second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. Call Water Office at 443-5394 for dates.

STRAIGHT FROM THE PREZ

By Pam Creswell

Wow! Have you all checked out the progress on the new reservoir? It is hard to envision the scope of the project without driving over and taking a look.

Because of the project and the subsequent lack of available parking, we will have to hold our Oct. 26 General Membership Meeting at my home, 12 Boulder View Lane, at 7 P.M.. Because of limited seating, we will not have a potluck or a program and will keep it a brief meeting. The only important issue on the agenda is to vote for the new HOA officers for next year's board. We have an excellent slate of candidates chosen by our Nominating Committee but anyone else who would like to run for a position can be added as a candidate at the meeting.



It is hard to believe that my two years as President are coming to an end. Because of term limits, I will not be running for President next year. Tim Triggs, the current Vice President, will be running for President. If elected, Tim, with his knowledge, skills and dedication, will be a wonderful President. We are happy that Mark Menagh, who has been an active participant in our Forest Health Initiative (the "Beetle Busters"), is running for Vice President. Alex Baris has served us well as HOA Treasurer for the past two years and has agreed to run again for that position. Our Nominating Committee was able to persuade Margit Mestdagh, who runs her own web services company, Web Yodel, to run for Secretary as well. In moving into a

supporting role this next year, I will be running for the Board position of Member at Large and have offered to be the Chair of the Welcome/Newcomers and the Social Committees. (I am looking for either Co-chairs or committee members so please call me if interested. I'm really excited about some of my ideas for the next year and would love to hear yours!).

I sometimes wonder if all of our residents really appreciate how special and wonderful our community is. I have been so impressed with the dedicated volunteers and the supportive atmosphere here in Pine Brook Hills. It has really been an honor to work with some of these people and to be an active part of the community myself. I strongly encourage all our residents to find ways to be more active within our community. There are so many opportunities, such as volunteering for the Fire District, the Fire Auxiliary, the HOA Board, the Beetle Buster Program, or for the many HOA Committees that support the residents and that make our community so special. The rewards of these positions far outweigh the effort involved and you not only help develop other residents' sense of community, but you also strengthen your own. Feel free to call me for more information on any of these wonderful volunteer opportunities. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you these last two years as your President!

FIRESIDE CHAT

By John Benson, Chief, Boulder Mountain Fire
Protection District

In light of what has happened in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, now is the time to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in an area free from hurricanes, earthquakes and tornados. We have a lot to be thankful for. Even though we are not faced with those challenges we are still faced with one of the greatest threats to humankind. That threat is wildfire.

As we look toward the onset of fall, I am reminded daily that Boulder County is a long way from the end of fire season. If you have been listening to the news you can see just how volatile our vegetation really is. The Foothills Fire, which Boulder County agencies responded to in September, is just a reminder of how dry the fuels are. With no end in sight to the heat, this problem will only intensify as we go farther into the fall season. I urge everyone to be extremely careful in dealing with sparks or flames. It will only take a second to have a fire run out of control.

Now is the time to prepare your property for the fall and winter season. I have included a few tips which I hope will help you to make your home and property safer.

- 1 Make sure your grasses are cut around your structure.
- 2 Keep all woodpiles up hill and away from houses or other structures.
- 3 CLEAN your gutters (remove needles and debris from your gutters and roofs).
- 4 Please ensure that any heat or flame producing devices are kept away from flammable and combustible materials.
- 5 Please keep vehicles on designated roads, driveways and hard packed surfaces free from flashy fuels.

With higher natural and propane gas prices looming on the horizon, many residents will rely on wood for heating purposes. The number of chimney and attic fires is also likely to increase. Below are some helpful tips to prevent chimney fires and attic fires.

- 1 Have your chimney cleaned by a reputable cleaner before using your fireplace, stove or other wood burning device.
- 2 Have your stove inspected for proper clearances from walls and floors.
- 3 Make sure all piping joints are secured and have no gaps or holes, especially in attic spaces.
- 4 Make sure heating devices are installed in accordance with manufacturers' specifications.
- 5 If you are in doubt about your wood burning device, give BMFPD a call for assistance.

We have done a great job keeping BMFPD a safe place to live and play. Let's all continue to be mindful and proactive with this endeavor.

REMEMBER TO PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY ON A DAILY BASIS.

Until next time, enjoy the fall colors and have fun out there.

PS: Three members of BMFPD have gone to Louisiana to help with hurricane relief: Rob Bozeman, Jim Farrell and Greg Nichols.



RETURN OF THE BEETLE BUSTERS!

Sometime in mid September the annual flight of the mountain pine beetles concluded. The beetles have now chosen and infested the trees where they will mate, lay their eggs and hatch their many young. The beetles will remain stealthily hidden under the bark until next July, when they will emerge again to **KILL** somewhere between 3 and 10 trees for every tree currently infested.



That is, that's THEIR plan. OUR plan for them is somewhat different. The Forest Health Volunteers known as the "Beetle Busters" are responding now to invitations from homeowners to inspect properties for the presence of the beetles. This is the best

time of year to do this work, because if the beetles are detected and the trees cut NOW, there are several options available for treating the downed trees so that the beetles won't survive to **KILL** again.

Stopping the beetle epidemic is not just a matter of aesthetics. It's not simply that we prefer to live in a green forest of living trees, rather than a black forest of sticks. Dying trees are tinder for wildfires. News accounts of a recent wildfire in Breckenridge reported that the acreage consumed by the fire was mostly in pine trees killed by the mountain pine beetle. A sick forest is a fire-prone forest.

Call Tim Triggs (303.444.4093) or Suzanne Adams (303.449.0997) to request a free inspection by a trained Beetle Buster.

BETTER YET, BECOME A BEETLE BUSTER YOUR-SELF! Training and lunch will be provided. **WE NEED YOU!** Call Tim or Suzanne to indicate your interest in joining.

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**HELLO? HELLO?? TIME FOR A NEW PINE
BROOK HILLS PHONE DIRECTORY!**

Have you received a bright red flyer in your mail recently? Don't throw it away!

Every two years the PBH HOA sponsors a new edition of the Pine Brook Hills Directory. The Directory is something of a lifeline for our mountain community. It contains names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses, organized both alphabetically and by street. Too, the Directory has additional important information from the Fire Department, Water District and Homeowners Association, including the crucial emergency evacuation map. E-mail addresses facilitate timely communication on matters of community concern.

Putting the Directory together is time consuming, but it is made much easier when residents complete and return the information on the red sheet. This can be done by mail or electronically by going to pinebrookhills.org, clicking on "New Telephone Directory" and completing the form online.

We are fortunate this year to have a noble volunteer in Bert Johansen, a twelve-year PBH resident who has offered to compile the Directory's information. Equally noble volunteer Bob Olliver has agreed to do the layout once again, as he has done for the past four Directories. The Directories have in recent years had a cover showing a scene from PBH, either fanciful or realistic. This year Bert is requesting that anyone with a potential phone book cover (capturing some aspect of life in PBH) submit it. The winner earns Fame and Glory and a sense of having Contributed to Community Life by being cited on the back cover as cover designer.

Return that red form! It's important!



LICENSE PLATE MESSAGES

License plates can carry varying messages. One of the most delightful is Bob Olliver's "ZIPADDUDA." Another plate, on the car of a gentleman in our community, reads NEVERENUF. A young Pine Brook philosophy student found that this license plate provoked thoughts about materialism and acquisition of wealth - until he saw the license plates of the man's wife (and mother of their five children), which read "5ISENUF." Ah! Different referent!

FIRE SCOUTS *Continued from page 2.....*

ringing to warn them of the approaching flames. Firefighters Bob DeHaas and Kirk Bach drove up through the smoke and pounded on the doors, but the the family didn't hear that either. Finally Bob kicked a door in - and still no one heard him! Kit says that 120 mph winds are not unusual, shaking the house and tearing off any windows left open.

In reference to that March fire, RJ commented that the capacity of the Fire Scout to spot arcing electric lines is one of its greatest advantages, because the issue is stopping a fire before it gets too big to control. "These are the most horrible nightmare times - the fires that start in high winds. With the Scout, we can spot the fire before it even starts, when we see an arcing power line."

Kit said, "I LIKE having the Fire Scout here." RJ responded, "I'd like having them everywhere."

**COURT CASE SETTLED**

By Param Singh

PBH resident Douglas Clark, 60, pleaded guilty, on October 3, to two felony counts and one misdemeanor count on charges stemming from incidents last Fall. The two felony counts were for stalking, sending threatening notes and causing emotional distress to two neighboring families. The misdemeanor count was for threatening to cause bodily harm and sending an obscene message to another family. He received a three year deferred sentence on the felony charges and a concurrent two year deferred sentence on the misdemeanor charge. Both sentences have attached conditions, including community service and anger management class. As part of the case disposition court records will not be sealed. Charges of assaulting a neighbor's pet were dropped.

A separate civil lawsuit is ongoing.

Addressing the court, one of the victims described the continuing fear and trauma Mr. Clark's actions had caused the family and the neighborhood.

Mr. Clark expressed remorse and apologized to the victims. He said that he did not foresee the consequences of his actions and hoped to begin making amends through the restorative justice system.

Judge Lael Montgomery noted, during sentencing, that Mr. Clark had no prior criminal record and was not, in her opinion, likely to commit future offenses.

NO MOUNTAIN EXPRESSIONS THIS YEAR

By Susan Maxwell

Due to construction of the Water District reservoir, the Fire Department Auxiliary will not hold its November arts, crafts and baked goods sale in 2005. However, several of the artists are listed below with contact information. If you were planning on doing some shopping with us, perhaps you will find the exhibitor you had in mind below. These artists have committed to contributing 10% of any sales that result from this publicity - so mention the Pine Brook Press when you contact them. Thanks.

AND, remember Mountain Expressions will return in early November 2006 - we hope you will, too.



Diane Bueller and Barbara Platts: Jewelry
303.546.0294

Paula Connolly: Corn husk dolls
303.449.9799 (prkc@comcast.net)

DJ Donovan-Johnson: Painting
303.449.1692

Gwen Earl: Knit dish clothes and scarves
303.443.4338

Cindy Fowler: Weaving
303.442.6496, 303.250.9766 (cafweave@aol.com)

Evelyn Gray: Oil paintings (including portraits)
303.443.4086

Susan Knickle: Beaded skirts (worn over pants)
303.938.1232 (sknickle@comcast.net)

Mary Marchand: Fabric purses
(quilt2liv@yahoo.com)

Babette Markey: Stained glass
303.440.6132 (abmarkey@comcast.net)

Susan Maxwell: Watercolor cards and paintings
303.444.9851 (scmbonniestudio@comcast.net)

Amy Munding: Art quilting
303.447.0578 (amymunding@comcast.net)

Kit Peiffer: Handmade cards and post-it books
(kit.peiffer@att.net)

Susan D. Rider: Paintings and cards
303.449.1717 (sdrider@webaroni.com)

Diana Waddell: Silver jewelry
303.440.8543 (rwaddell@ix.netcom.com)

Jennie Wahrer: Quilts, dolls
970.390.3092 (jenniewahrer@yahoo.com)

Jean Watson: Paintings
303.449.9345

THE GRANITE GARDEN

By Barbara Hosmer

With summer behind us, I asked a number of very experienced Pine Brookers about their "lessons learned"-- what worked, what didn't work, what new things were tried, and what they plan to do next year. There are wonderful people in our mountain community who are happy to share their experiences with those still looking for a balance of landscape and garden vs. critters and bugs.

Each year is different. Fewer people complained of the need to trap wood rats or mice this year to keep them from the plants on their decks. But several people, including me, were shocked to see a genuine prairie dog in their yard. And I heard complaints about too many chipmunks, earwigs and grasshoppers. The rolled-up wet newspaper trick did not work very well against the earwigs. Folks also talked about past problems with fungus gnats being solved using Fine brand insecticide they found at McGuckins.

At least two praised the results of the product Spectracide weed killer as more effective against spurge than Round-Up. Some of our neighbors are also making a concerted effort to get rid of cheat grass because it is so quick to burn when it dries out. It's proving to be a tough job, and the plan includes serious pulling, the use of weed killer (Roundup, etc.), and over-seeding



with better grass and wildflowers.

Many of us tried new plants and shrubs, with mixed results. As usual, plants on the "deer-resistant" lists were still eaten. Potentilla, listed safe on every deer list I've ever seen, got eaten. Not just browsed... eaten voraciously. Autumn Joy, a sedum... eaten completely. Lilac bushes, weigela bush, purple smoke bush, pyracantha, peonies, roses, pink coneflowers (but not white) and daisies were all eaten and needed to be protected with either spray deterrent, egg/hot-sauce mixture, netting or cages to keep them alive. Deer made the extra effort to get onto a high deck at one house to eat some beautiful basil that the owner thought was safe.

Several people have tried the water spray deterrent. The motion detector trips the water spray. One foothills gardener that had a family of deer living in her yard said the deer finally got the message and have stopped browsing her yard.

"So what were the lessons learned?" I asked. "What will you try next year?" No one I talked to was willing to give up. The general consensus is the plants that seem to be quite safe around the deer, without a lot of protection, include Russian sage, catmint (low spreading and tall), butterfly bush, Oregon grape (mahonia), iris, lavender, (although one person says something ate the blossoms in August), lambs ears, and thyme. Folks will plant more of those. Deck plants that people were pleased with this year included wax begonias, geraniums, lamium (dead nettle), tomatoes, petunias, pansies, bougainvillea, mums and larkspur.

Several noted that their iris plants were wonderful this year and that amending the soil where they were planted made a big difference. Others said their drip-irrigation systems on their decks didn't keep up with the July heat and required extra hand watering. I plan to continue my ritual of always using the water from my salad spinner to water the plants near the house. We also capture the cold water from the shower in a big pitcher before the water gets warm and toss it outside on the plants. We did it all last winter and the plants that got this year-round water are so much bigger and healthier this summer.

Many commented on changes in deer browsing that they have observed happens in August. Plants that were generally left alone earlier in the year were suddenly fair game as deer food after August first. A few found that switching between deer repellent spray and

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Deer munching deer-proof plant

the egg/hot-sauce mixture worked better. Those who complained about grasshoppers plan to get Nolo bait out early next spring while the grasshoppers are little. Nolo bait is dated for freshness, so getting new bait is important. Those who had problems with spider mites and earwigs plan to try Dr. Bonner's castile soap next year. You can buy it at Wild Oats or King Soopers.

Ilene Lasher highly recommends joining the Boulder Garden Club. She joined this past year and is glad she did. She has offered to be a contact if you are interested. Ilene found a lot of very helpful information, interesting presenters, and good resources by attending their monthly meetings at the East Boulder Recreation Center. Membership is only \$14/yr. Ilene also joined the Culinary Garden Club which she has also enjoyed. There's such a wealth of information and experience, and even some plant and seed sharing.

To those who were so kind to share their garden thoughts with me, thank you! To the many whom I was not able to contact, I hope you will share your experiences in the future. If you have suggestions or words of wisdom to pass along, please email me at hosmerb@comcast.net. Happy autumn.



CONTROLLING THE WEATHER

It's a truism that everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it. However, in Siliguri, India, this truism isn't true; people are more proactive, according to this article from the Press Trust of India:

SILIGURI, June 6 - A pair of golden frogs were united in wedlock by people anxious to appease the rain gods and bring relief from the sweltering heat in a Malda village in West Bengal.

With temperatures hitting 44 degree Celsius yesterday and drying up of all water sources, the villagers of Mangalpura performed all the formalities associated with a traditional Hindu marriage last night. Exchange of garlands, putting the vermilion mark on the bride (female frog), amidst sacred chants of the priest Mr. Tarapada Sil made it a perfect amphibian wedding.

The guests, however, had to remain satisfied with a piece of sugar-candy as the single course menu of the ceremony. The newly-married couple was later released in an almost dried up pond.

The priest said that he was sure that it would rain heavily within a day or two.

Did it work? On July 26th the gods responded. But they missed their target. On the other side of the country, Mumbai (Bombay) got 37 inches of rain in a 24 hours, a record on the Indian subcontinent.



But in view of the fall drought, should we consider a little matrimony for our geckos? The gods wouldn't miss twice in row, would they?



A ROOKIE'S PERSPECTIVE

By Bert Johansen

I have enjoyed living in Boulder for the last twelve years, having moved here to escape the pressures of big city living and to experience the joys of four real seasons (California weather was pretty monotonous by comparison). I remember my house hunting experience and how relieved I was when I discovered Pine Brook. It appeared to me then as the community that I had always dreamed of living in, with plenty of space for everyone, including wildlife, trees and views. I knew water had always been a potentially critical issue in Colorado and in Pine Brook, but I was willing and happy to play my part in making things work along with everyone else - in fact, the day I moved in, we were already rationing water! Needless to say, I have always been a big supporter of our reservoir project and I was so pleased when our community voted to go forward with it. THANK YOU SO MUCH to Bob DeHaas and the

many individuals who had the vision and the tenacity to make it a reality!!

But back to the point...as I said above, I have enjoyed living here for many years but that's about all I ever did - I enjoyed living here, but I hardly ever thought about the support and protection that was taking place all around me all the time that made it possible for me to live in blissful ignorance in this idyllic environment.

I didn't think much about it, however, until about a month ago when I joined the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District as a volunteer firefighter



Bert and Rosie. (Bert is on the left).

and attended a four day Rookie (a rookie at my age?) Training. I'll tell you, my eyes were opened pretty quickly to some of the realities of living in our community that I had never understood.

Two things dawned on me suddenly: how fragile and

susceptible Pine Brook really is, and how much we all owe to the continuing vigilance and sacrifices of the small group of individuals (about 50) who make up the BMFPD.

Did you happen to notice the picture in the Camera recently of the firefighter with a thermal camera peering into the burned out remains of a car on a mountain road? Go look on page 2. That car burned up on Timber Lane, just down the hill from my house. That volunteer firefighter (who is actually Scott Kohla, the Director of Student Affairs for the Leeds Graduate School of Business at CU and a member of our community) was part of the Boulder Mountain Fire response group that put out a potentially devastating fire before it ever had a chance to become a major news item in Colorado. That thermal camera was purchased for the BMFPD with complete funding from a recent spring Garage Sale (another all-volunteer effort on the part of our Fire Auxiliary) at a cost of \$5,900- pretty inexpensive when you consider the cost of replacing even one home lost to a forest fire. And there are numerous medical and fire incidents that take place every week in Pine Brook and Boulder Heights - we hardly hear about them because they are taken care of so quickly and completely by the BMFPD.

Talk about a dedicated and professional group of

volunteers, led by our very experienced Chief, John Benson, and Wildfire Mitigation Officer, Steve Lynn! Many of them have been a part of this organization for years, training regularly three times a month, while some often attend more extensive classes for more advanced certifications. The group includes both fire and medical responders; they come from all walks of life and they are all members of our community.

Just like me, I'd bet that most of the people reading this never had any clear idea about what really goes on behind the scenes here in our neighborhood (not to mention all the other groups of volunteers who support us here!). So the next time you look out across the beautiful hills and trees of Pine Brook, you just might remember and thank that small group of individuals who are dedicated to safeguarding this little part of Colorado that we call home.

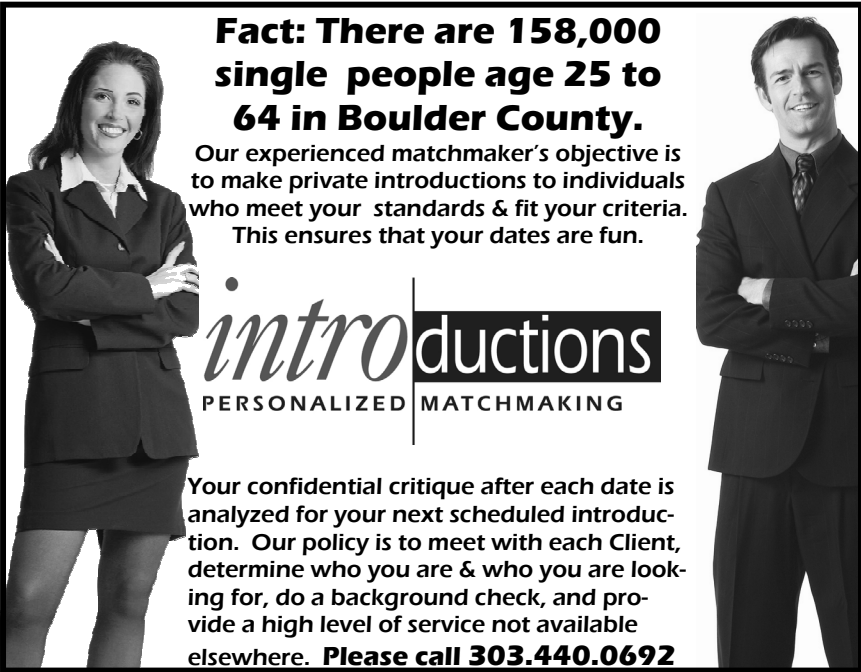


BEWARE OF PACK RATS

The Summer 2005 issue of the Press reported on possible Lyme disease in PBH. One person and three dogs have been positively identified with the debilitating disease. However, most medical professionals here, including the Colorado Health Department website, continue to state that Lyme is not present in Colorado, primarily because ticks that transmit the disease in Texas and the two coasts are not present in Colorado.

However, a 1994 paper by Maupin et. al. (*J Infect Dis.* 1994 Sep;170(3):636-43) from the Centers for Disease Control in Fort Collins, reported that the spirochete bacterium responsible for Lyme, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, is endemic in populations of the Mexican wood rat, *Neotoma mexicana* (aka the pack rat) in Northern Colorado. Transmission is by the tick *Ixodes spinipalpis* which is mostly restricted to packrat nests. Since human interaction with this tick is rare, medical authorities tend to discount Lyme occurrence here. But in PBH we have lots of opportunities to be in proximity to pack rats and *I. spinipalpis*.

Lyme can be a very nasty disease. The most characteristic sign of Lyme disease is a slowly expanding circular red rash. Other symptoms include headache, fever, malaise, stiff neck, muscle and joint pains and enlarged lymph glands. It can lead to heart, joint and nervous system problems. The most effective tick repellent is DEET. Be careful out there.



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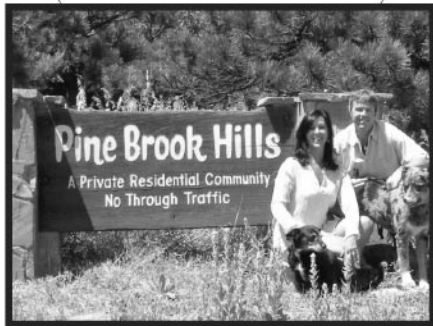


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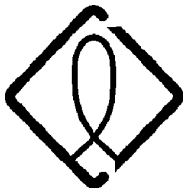
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GEORGE and BETTY BRAMHALL: THE PINE BROOK INCREDIBLES

Pine Brook Hills is losing two of its most amazing citizens. That's the bad news. The good news is that they are only moving down to Boulder. The Bramhalls have been Pine Brookers since 1970, 35 very active years. Both are vigorous athletes - bicycling, cross country skiing, and most impressively, orienteering. The picture below shows them wearing their medals - a second place for George in his age group (85-90) and a third for Betty in hers (80-84), won at a World Cup Competition which drew 1,130 competitors last summer in Edmonton, Canada. The mere fact that there were only two competitors in George's group and three in Betty's doesn't discount the accomplishment - you have to finish to win a medal! Also of note, there were only three American winners among the competitors. The Bramhalls were two of them. The third was a Hungarian who simply married an American!

Betty defines orienteering as "Running around



in the woods finding yourself," but she quickly adds, "It's the best sport anybody ever invented - It's an adult treasure hunt!" Armed with only a compass and a map of an unknown ter-

rain indicating places to be found, each competitor starts out alone, picking a route - through swamps, in Betty's case, where she nearly lost a shoe. Experience and physical fitness count. Because other countries train their orienteers from age 5 or so, the goal of the US competitors has been Not To Finish Last.

The Bramhalls usually also compete in bicycle racing and planned to attend a competition this year. But a driver in Boulder plowed into George's car. A measure of George's toughness: although the car was totalled, he came out of it with only a cracked collar bone. Betty was sorry to miss the event - she had won that competition in every year but one. But she com-

pensated by bringing down pine beetle trees with her chainsaw.

When the decision was made that it was time to move, they chose Frasier Meadows in Boulder, along with twelve members of their bicycling group. There are things that they feel they will miss, like the wildlife. They were excited by the presence of a mountain lion two houses away. They enjoy the spotted skunks - beautiful animals with a pop art pattern rather than a stripe. Another memorable animal visit came last fall. A damaged garage door refused to close completely for two days. In that time, a bear got into the garage and went directly to a freezer. Each fall Betty makes apple pies and freezes them. The bear got the freezer open and ate three pies. Chances are, that won't be a problem at Frasier Meadows.

It's good to know that they won't be far away, in case any of us are in need of inspiration.



PACKING LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS

By Pam Creswell

Do you have a desire to offer something to the homeless people who stand on corners with signs? Are you also aware that with the high numbers of these people having substance abuse problems, professionals say that giving money is more detrimental than helpful? A friend recommended that I share my solution with others who might be interested. I pack several lunches at a time and set them behind the passenger seat of my car. I can grab one easily when I see someone asking for "money or food". The food needs to be items with a long "shelf life" and be easy to open and eat. I get, for instance, pop top cans of tuna or chicken, dried fruit, granola bars, individually packaged servings of crackers with peanut butter, etc. (I put in V-8 juice but wonder how many people actually drink it.) The goal, obviously, is to provide a nutritious meal. I put in a napkin and plastic fork and put the whole lunch in a gallon size transparent zip lock bag, so that the recipients can see immediately what they are being given. While I originally suspected that some people might turn up their noses at the food, I have given out dozens over the years and have never once had a response other than a sincere thank you. I really encourage others to try something similar. You will be glad you did.

TOUR DE MAXWELL

While the world focused on Lance Armstrong and his bid for a seventh straight Tour de France victory, Pine Brook's own Steve Maxwell was testing his mettle on several race stages, biking them on the same day as the race, usually before the actual Tour and its 189 riders. He can honestly say he finished ahead of Lance - several times!

Many readers of the Press may have seen Steve biking up and down Linden from his home in upper Pine Brook. (He always wears a helmet and looks extremely focused!) The idea of going to France germinated before the 2004 race. So, last year, along with a friend from Silverthorne, Jim Shaw, he decided to bike parts of the Tour in 2005.



Steve (middle) with Kevin Livingston (right).

They joined a tour group of like-minded riders and biked about 400 miles in six days doing stages in Alsace and the Alps. (The actual tour is three weeks and 2200 miles.)

Their group had riders of varying abilities. Steve generally finished at the front of their pack. One of their guides, Kevin Livingston, was a mountain "puller" for Lance Armstrong. His comment on Steve - "Not too bad for an old guy."

It wasn't all hard work. They stayed in nice hotels, had great dinners and wine. Steve did gain a reputation as the guy who drank the biggest beers - the 1.5 pint "extraordinaire." However, he got some grief because of his gear - he rode in mountain bike shoes and they were not color coordinated with his clothes! The atmosphere is like a nation-wide Boulder-Boulder.

He hopes his wife, Susan, will join him on the 2006 tour. His ultimate dream: Cairo to Capetown in 17 weeks!

The photo at right is at the top of Courchevel near Albertville in the French Alps. Imagine biking the steep stretch of Linden



between North Cedar Brook and the Community Center for sixteen miles.

PINE BROOK HILLS KIDS' PAGE

BEING BACK IN PINE BROOK HILLS

By Ayla Besemer

Hi! My name is Ayla Besemer. I was born here in Boulder. When I was 6 years old I moved to California. It was nice there, but I like Pine Brook better. I am 9 now and back in Pine Brook Hills...



Yippee!!!

My backyard is a mountain. I love to go outside and look at the different leaves and rocks. I just love all of nature here. When my friends come over we hike around in the rocky areas behind my house looking for animal

tracks and interesting treasures hidden in the crevices of rocks. I also love all the animals, especially the little fawns and beautiful foxes. Sometimes I feel like I live in the Discovery Channel because of all the amazing sights I see. I am looking forward to our first snow and sledding down my mountain, building snow forts and making angels in the snow. I definitely love being back home.

The idea for a Kid's Page in the Pine Brook Press came from me thinking about how much I like to share stories and the things I like to do, and how much I like to hear what other kids like to do and think about. If you kids would like to send any stories, craft ideas, recipes or anything fun like that, send it to: Ayla Besemer, 1431 Timber Lane, Boulder CO 80304, or to abesemer@besemer.com.

FALL CRAFT:

Here is a fun craft I love to do. The squirrels and birds love it too! :-)

You will need:

- A pine cone,
- Peanut butter (or any type of nut butter),
- Bird seed,
- A knife (can have a blunt edge).

What to do:

Take the knife and spread peanut butter inside the pine cone. Then sprinkle it with bird seed (or roll it in the seed). Attach the string to the top and hang it outside. The squirrels and birds will have a hardy meal!



Rocks, Trees and Sky on Fountaintree. See Fire Scout story on page 2.

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