



Pine Brook Press

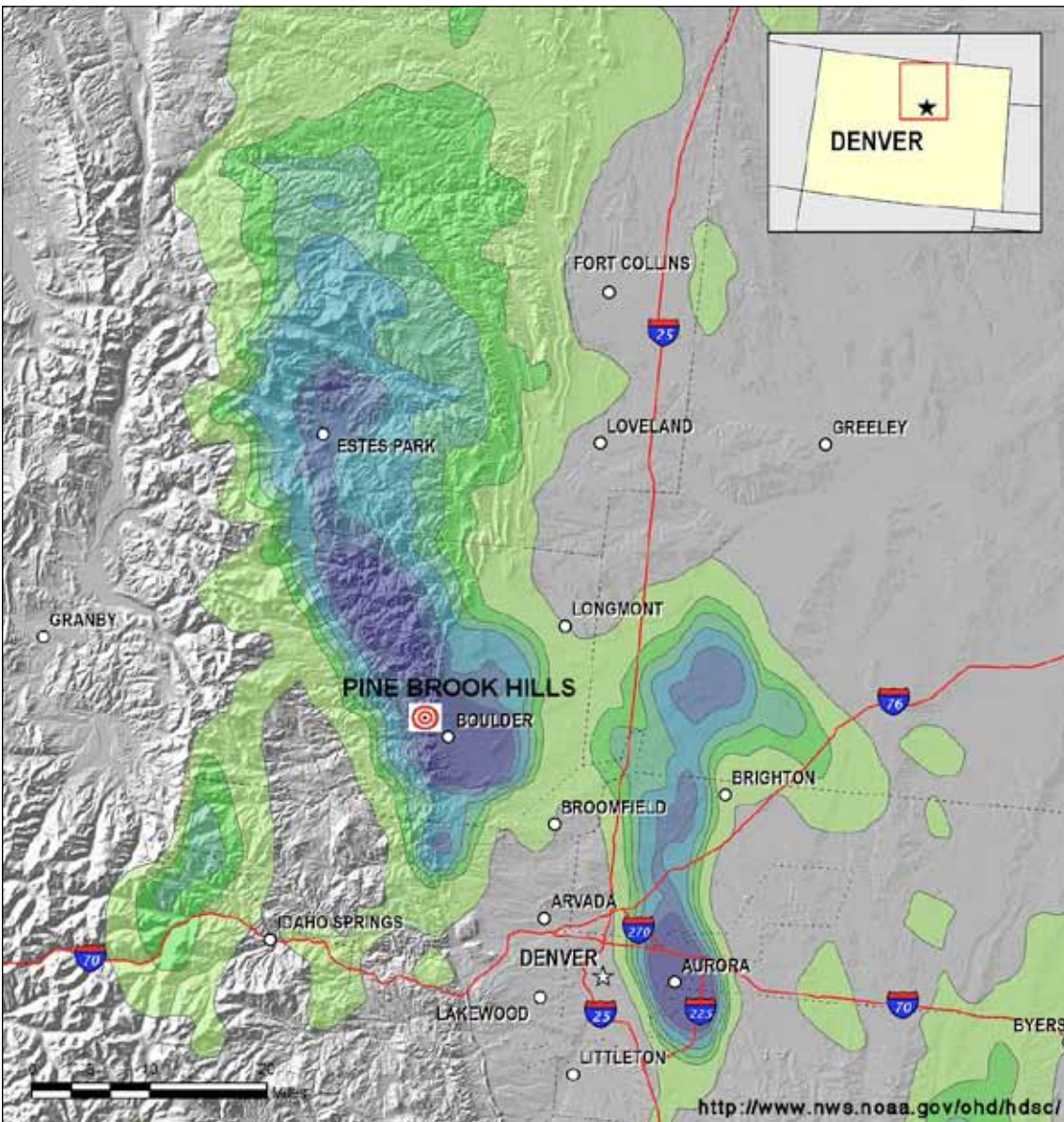
A Quarterly Journal for, about and by
Pine Brook Hills Residents

AUTUMN 2013



AND THE RAINS JUST KEPT COMING....

When the rain started on September 9, no one realized it would continue for days and result in as much as 24 inches in some parts of the Foothills as it slowly moved through the area and caused extensive river flooding and rock and landslides. The map below, developed by NOAA, shows the hardest hit areas. In any given year the probability of receiving the heaviest rainfall that we actually got in a 24 hour period is less than 1 in a 1000! Pine Brook Hills was not the only area to experience damaging results from the flooding, but it certainly was in the middle of the event.



Some of the most serious damage in Boulder County, including two deaths, occurred near Linden Avenue in lower PBH as water rushed through the normally quiet streets and canyons. Mountainsides gave way, roads washed out, and homes were hit by mud and rocks loosened by all the water.

Annual Probabilities for the maximum 24 hour rainfall amounts measured from September 9 to 16 along the Front Range.

- > 1/10
- 1/50 - 1/10
- 1/100 - 1/50
- 1/200 - 1/100
- 1/500 - 1/200
- 1/1000 - 1/500
- < 1/1000

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

During the recent weeks as Pine Brook Hills residents have worked to recover equilibrium and rebuild damaged property and roads, many stories of kindness, bravery, and heroism have surfaced. The following vignettes are but a few of the stories about how the members of our community pulled together to help one another, and others who found themselves in PBH during the floods. They highlight the spirit of this place we call home.

Landslide Rescue

At 1AM on September 12, I received a call from friend and neighbor, Pam Frisby. Pam's home had been demolished by a huge landslide (photo on right). Her upper floor had partially fallen into the basement and her husband, Dan, was trapped. My husband, RJ Smith, and three other neighbors, Farrell Lowe, Matt Ladwig, and Stewart



Landslide against the Frisby home on North Cedar Brook.



The rescue crew, from left - RJ Smith, Farrell Lowe, Stuart Dorman and Matt Ladwig.

Dorman converged on the Frisby home.

They soon realized the home reeked of natural gas, but not knowing where the shut-off was, they had Pam open all the windows to reduce the risk of an explosion.

They called through the floor for Dan and heard his voice, so they began tearing out the bathroom floor where they'd heard him. After they sledge-hammered their first hole in the floor, Dan could see the beams of their flashlights. They were still about nine feet away from him, so they started another hole only to sever some electrical lines that began sparking. Their perseverance paid off. They pulled Dan through the hole in the floor just as the water had risen to his neck. The only injury Dan suffered was a small cut on his head, which was stitched up by another wonderful neighbor, Stacy Ranniger, who is an ER Doctor.

Pam said, "We are so thankful for all of you for helping us on that terrible night. You saved Dan and words can't convey our appreciation."

I love my neighbors on North Cedar Brook. We all came together on the flood of 2013.

-Judy Smith (North Cedar Brook Rd)

The Kindness of Strangers

We moved out of our house on upper Timber and some friends temporarily moved in because they needed a place to settle after an unexpected transition. That family has a two-year-old daughter and a newborn baby that was born at the house!

When the storm hit, the mother was alone with the one-week-old baby and the toddler, while the father was away on a business trip. Like everyone else, they lost power and gas, and had little food with them since they were in our house temporarily. Neither we, nor the father of the family was able to reach them to see if they were alright. He was unable to reunite with the family once he was back in town because of the roadblock. It was scary to not know how they were.

I managed to text neighbors, Cynthia Eskew and Joe Evans, to ask them check in on the mother and two children. I never heard back, since Cynthia's cell phone lost its charge. What we learned a few days later was that Cynthia and Joe took the family under their wings, coming over to help them cook food on a camping stove, making sure the house was secure, and attending to whatever else they needed. Joe also went to bat with the Fire Department and National Guard to allow this family to be some of the first Pine Brook residents to evacuate. The family was reunited on Friday the 13th. Everybody was rattled, but fine.

Thank you to Cynthia and Joe for taking care of strangers while you had your own home, two kids, and pets to take care of. How moved I was when I finally learned that they had done this for them and for us.

-Jenny Epstein Kessem (Timber Lane)

continued on page 4

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

BOULDER MOUNTAIN HANDMADE 2013 Art, Craft and Bake Sale, November 9 and 10 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. daily. (see p. 9)

FIRE BOARD - Meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30 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 4 P.M. Email auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org for confirmation.

PBH HOLIDAY PARTY - Saturday, December 7, 7:30 P.M.

WATER BOARD - Meets first or second Thursday of every month at 4:30 P.M. Call Water Office at 443-5394 for dates.

PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

By Dave Davies, HOA President

The old adage “may you live in interesting times” has certainly resonated with us these last few weeks.

I guess the following is one of those moments that will always remain with me—my wife, Jo, and I were in a line to get ice cream in the quiet, calm sunshine of the village of West Glacier in north Montana. We were in cell phone range for the first time in a week having been in a rustic cabin in the middle of Glacier National Park with no phone, no TV, no internet. Jo started to go through her messages—I could hear “Oh my God, Oh my God!!” Then she handed me the phone that had a terrifying message from our house sitter and a mandatory evacuation notice on it. It took us a while to understand. Fires we sort of expect, but not floods.



This is the fourth disaster declaration area Jo and I have been snarled up in: Hurricane Andrew in the 70s, the Loma Prieta earthquake in California in the 90s, Two-mile Fire a couple of years ago and now this—the Great Flood of 2013. We have been lucky, no major problems this time. My heart goes out to several friends who have had major damage, but we will come through it.

I will retain some good memories. There was the group of lower Pine Brook residents who tied a rope around the upside down, smashed up hot tub blocking the road on South Cedar Brook, then dragged it by car down to the bottom at Linden where they used saws to cut it into manageable pieces to get it into the dumpster. Then there was the time when we realized that the police were no longer checking IDs at the bottom of Linden—we were free at last!! Another good moment—I can remember looking back up North Cedar Brook at the young pre-teen son of one of the NCB residents as he swept the road surface. He was working his tail off brushing away the debris. He must have done a mile of it.

I must take a moment to thank Bob de Haas, Chief Benson and all their staff and volunteers. They had to put up with a lot, including the rescue of our residents who were trapped. They worked through the danger of slides and other destruction, and endured the wrath of irate PBHers who just did not want to leave their homes. And of course let's not forget the neighbors who performed individual

acts of courage in rescuing trapped people, while the rains came down.

This is my last President's Patter. Unless there are other nominations, Allen Saville will take over as HOA President in January. I am sure many of you know Allen and Marla have suffered badly in this flood event, but Allen is still prepared to volunteer. It has been two years for me, although it feels like ten. I am reminded of a comment made to me by Deb Gardner, County Commissioner. She said she got her start in politics as an HOA president and it was the worst job she ever had. Clearly, Deb did not work in Pine Brook Hills. Despite the flood damage, it is still a beautiful location, but most of all, what a bunch of nice people.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

continued from page 2.....

In the Right Place at the Right Time

Little did Terri and Dennis Giannetti know that when the lightning and thunder woke them up just before midnight on Sept. 11, they would be in the midst of several rescues and their home would become a shelter for others. The first thing they noticed when they looked outside was a neighbor with a flashlight looking at the foundation of his house. Rocks and boulders had been hitting the home and his nine-months pregnant wife was inside. As these neighbors gathered a few belongings and moved to the Giannetti's to stay safe, they all noticed activity on Linden.

From their home they could see something was going on...a car turning around then proceeding slowly down the road, but they did not realize Linden was covered with water and rocks. Not long after, there was a knock on the door that turned out to be a BMFPD fire fighter and a young man both covered in mud and very wet. The fire fighter immediately shifted to rescue mode, asking the young man for details about who else had been in the abandoned car and relaying that information to other emergency workers. They took the two in, helped them dry off and change to clean clothes, all the while going outside periodically to look for others.

After several hours, they heard a horn honking. The neighbor who was taking shelter at the Giannetti's and the fire fighter went to the intersection and found a second teenager still in the abandoned vehicle and were able to rescue her and bring her back to the house. During the night, they all fielded calls from the worried parents who could not get into the neighborhood.

The next morning, their neighbor went into labor. A fire

rescue team got her out of the neighborhood and to the hospital where she delivered a healthy baby girl. The two teenagers spent the day at the Giannetti's where they were interviewed by a victim's advocate and the sheriff, who later delivered them to their waiting families.

Terri and Dennis' home suffered very little damage in the storm and its location put them in the right place at the right time to provide a safe, warm, and welcoming haven for others. They continued to provide shelter, opening their home to Diane Nichol and Kirk Webb for a week while they helped in the District...it was the Webbs who then gave shelter to the Savilles...a circle of kindness and support.

Waiting for Word

On the morning of September 12, Andria and Burt Lewis awoke as we all did to the reverse 911 call letting them know of potential flooding in the neighborhood. They went outside to see how their property was faring and found four strangers standing at the end of the driveway under umbrellas looking at the water and the road. The "river" running near their house was thick and loud, so they walked to the edge of the property to talk to them.

Two of the four said their son was missing. For awhile, they insisted on waiting outside to watch the search and rescue efforts, but eventually agreed to come into the house where Andria and Burt supplied dry clothes and hot tea for several hours as they waited for word on the missing teens. When the bad news came that the son's body had been found, his mother, her sister, his father, and his father's best friend stayed with the Lewis' as the search continued for the other body. The waiting turned into seven hours as Andria and Burt helped the family deal with their loss. They prayed, cried, lit candles, and told stories about their son while Andria and Burt stayed with them for support.



River of mud on North Cedar Brook across from Frisby home.



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Andria contacted other family members and helped them prepare for the next steps. She sat with them during sheriff's interviews and helped them contact local victims' advocates.

When it was finally possible for the family to return home that evening, they made plans to reconnect next month. They started out as strangers, but came to rely on each other's strengths to get through an unimaginably difficult situation.

Rescuing the Rescuers

Allen and Marla Saville's story highlights one of the unique aspects of the flood. Our own emergency personnel were among those who suffered significant damage to their homes and property, often finding themselves trapped and unable to help others or get to their own loved ones.

When the storm started on the night of September 11, Marla Saville was home alone. Allen was on duty with a number of other fire fighters dealing with flood evacuation, structure collapses, missing persons, and road issues. Little did he know his home, with his wife in it, was one of those hit by a landslide. When a boulder the size of a Volkswagon crashed through the back of the house 20 feet from Marla, she was unable to get a call through to him. Fortunately, her subsequent text message got through minutes later. As soon as he heard, he immediately returned home with several other firefighters to evacuate her and their pets. But in the 20 minutes that they used to gather belongings and load the car, there were 4 landslides on their driveway making it impassable and trapping the vehicles at the top of the driveway. They abandoned their car and the Department Command vehicle and walked out with only what they could carry.



The Saville Residence.

After waiting for about an hour for the high water on Linden to subside, they were able to walk to the Fire Station where they spent that night. Marla and Allen were able to return to their home the next morning to finish getting the pets to safety. EZ Excavation was beginning to clear roads in the area and volunteered to clear their drive so they could get

the Command vehicle out. That allowed them to get their car and some other belongings, as well. Neighbors, Kent and Cathy Hansen, took them in for more than two weeks, as their home remains uninhabitable.

Former PBH residents, Diane Nicholl and Kirk Webb drove up from their home in Texas to help in their support role with the Fire Department. Kirk and Diane's home in PBH has a new boulder field in the front yard as a result of the flooding, so they decided to take it off the market until spring. They offered it to the Savilles while they deal with their rebuilding issues.

When Jim Eyster sent out an email to firefighters for help moving the Saville's belongings from their house to the Nicholl/Webb home, 20 firefighters with four pickup trucks showed up to help. All in all, the Savilles have had 35+ people offer shelter to them and many others who've offered other kinds of help. While the repair of their home is uncertain, the on-going support and assistance they've received from neighbors and the Department is something they are very thankful for.



Undercut on Timber Lane.

They Just Don't Quit

Although a number of our Fire Department staff had significant flooding and damage at their own homes, this story about a Third Arm (TA) volunteer demonstrates what happened to many of them. One of our TA volunteers had several inches of mud and muck in her basement where she and her husband had their home offices. She had worked for a week doing the TA jobs she was trained to do. However, as it became clear that something had to be done about the mud in her own house she wasn't sure she was up to the job.

The last night that everyone was still on duty at the station, when this volunteer realized the enormity of her own mess, all the firefighters and Third Armers in the room said they would come over after they were finished working and shovel the mud out of her lower level. Sure enough, nine firefighters and TA members showed up with shovels in hand and worked until about 10 P.M. to get all the muck out of what had been this couple's home business. The group made a huge dent in the clean-up, despite having worked tirelessly for days on other district emergencies.

- Kathy Eyster (*Wildwood Lane*)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

That PBH DIY Spirit

The flooding affected each of our homes and roads in different ways. On North Cedar Brook, we were all dealing with mud and rockslides covering our road, as well as undercuts, where the water had washed away the earth underneath our pavement. Although the intersection of our road was patched and passable by nine days after the storm, the rest of the road was only one lane wide in many, many spots—not a safe situation with our switchbacks and blind curves.

By October the roads were still in this state. We were looking at our first prediction of snow, and realizing that the



North Cedar Brook work crew in action.

plows would not be able to come up our road... so we did something about it.

On Sunday, October 6 at 8 A.M., a 30-person crew of PBH residents converged to clear 1/3 mile of road and fill in the undercuts, including one 125 foot long by 10 foot wide by 6 foot deep cut that would have swallowed any vehicle that unknowingly drove into it.

North Cedar Brook residents, Eric Erickson, Sharon Switzer, Bob Reed, Leslie Silverman, Tim, Calvin & Klaus Heiman, Jeff, Stasi & Ellis York, Barbara & Steve Dobbs, Martin Rybczynski, Rich Gray, Ryan Franz, Alex Browning, Farrell Lowe, Dale Hartzell, and Brian Gruthoff grabbed shovels and wheelbarrows to move dirt and rocks from the top of our roads and shored up the pavement.

From other roads in our neighborhood, Dave Davies, Derek Lee, Karen Branyan, Will Kohler, Wendy Acheson and Dee Marlin joined in the fun.

Food, drink and babysitting were provided by Tracy Heiman, Grace Franz, Dena Garton, Maggie York, and Deirdre Nagle. Former PBH resident Larry Bennett, now of

Longmont, came by with sandwiches for the hardy souls who were still working at 4 P.M.

Non-residents who drove through our work site remarked on what a fabulous community of people we have here and one of them even joined in to help. Their comments, and the teamwork exhibited by all present, made me damn proud to live in Pine Brook Hills.

-Stasi York (North Cedar Brook)



Washed away section of North Cedar Brook from Linden (above) and from North Cedar Brook (below). Reconstruction photos on page 15.



FIRESIDE CHAT:

An Interview with Chief John Benson

PBP: The Department performed so well in the recent floods. What do you attribute that to?

Chief Benson: Every part of the Department worked together for a common mission—life safety. Our staff is well-trained and better prepared than ever. We had a flood plan in place that was developed after the Four-mile Fire in collaboration with other fire districts and Boulder County, and it was invaluable in helping us to start addressing issues early.

We had so much support from residents and had many resources at our disposal. We had crews join us from all over: Utah Task Force 1, an urban search and rescue team, Juniper Valley Type 2 Wildland crew, the Yampa River Type 1 Wildland crew, and emergency responders from across the Front Range (too numerous to name individually). We had a number of dive teams and swift water rescue teams, as well. All of these resources helped us do our jobs effectively.

PBP: What went particularly well?

Chief Benson: The new radio tower that was installed recently helped facilitate communication. The Incident Command Center at Station 1 helped us to coordinate efforts effectively. The training that was provided through the Boulder County Flood Plan that I mentioned gave personnel tools they needed to stay safe. The Everbridge System warned people as it was designed to do, giving residents advance information needed to protect themselves. We were able to minimize the loss of life and we

experienced only one minor injury to one of our firefighters. BMFPD decided to not evacuate anyone due to rising waters. The residents of BMFPD heeded the warnings about staying high and dry, instead of getting out and trying to leave their homes. This prevented a major loss of life.

PBP: Could you describe some of the unique challenges your team faced?

Chief Benson: No one expected that much rain or wide-spread flooding. Many of our own fire fighters were trapped in their homes or neighborhoods and could not get out to assist other people because of the water.

The sheer number of rescue calls and gas leaks that we received in a short period of time and the inability to respond to those calls due to high water was a huge challenge.

PBP: What are the lessons from this event to help us in the future?

Chief Benson: Never underestimate the power of water, the land and what can happen at any time. Because of this event, our current flood response plan will be rewritten to take into account all of our tributaries and the topographical area for which we are tasked with responding.

Just because the flooding is over, we aren't out of the woods. The loosened rock and debris may be affected by the freeze and thaw effects of winter and become more susceptible to slides. Our roads are in need of repair and that will take time. The shoulders don't exist in places calling for us to drive with courtesy and due regard. Next spring, as the snow melts, we will have to be vigilant about

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mud and rock slides.

We also learned how this community and our surrounding neighbors pull together to get things done. We were so fortunate that in the first couple of days of the event businesses helped our emergency workers...Moe's donated bagels; the Shell Station on Broadway donated burritos. Colorado Power Sports donated the use of an ATV and trailer to help us respond to areas that are inaccessible to larger engines and standard size vehicles. And then of course, there was the donation of a new HTV for the Department by the Flatirons Community Church, along with gift cards for firefighters and their families who were personally displaced or affected by the flood. The support of the community and our residents has been amazing and is greatly appreciated.



Car buried by a river of mud.

Trees and snow are not always this much fun.

Photo: Andreas Tille

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SPOTLIGHT ON OUR FIREFIGHTERS: Department Officers

This recurring column focuses on getting to know the men and women who serve as staff and volunteers in the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District. This issue spotlights some of our officers and those with special roles in the Department. All volunteer their time and effort.

Greg Anderson is a Captain with BMFPD handling Logistics which includes supervising the fire stations, apparatus, technology, and mapping. He joined the Department in 1990 and has served for 23 years. He was Chief of Pine Brook Hills Fire from 1997-1999 and served as Chairman for the Consolidation Committee that merged PBH Fire and Boulder Heights Fire to form BMFPD. Greg lives in PBH on Alder Lane. He works as a Technology Executive and Management Consultant and enjoys skiing and mountaineering when he is not at work. Greg has climbed all 54 14'ers!



Andrew Churnside currently serves as Assistant Chief for the Department. He joined BMFPD in 2000 and is certified for Structure FF1, Hazmat Operations, and EMT-Basic. He is Wildland Red-carded, a Type A Sawyer, a Heavy Engineer, and an Incident Commander. Andrew holds an Associate Degree in Fire Science. He grew up in Boulder and lives in Heatherwood with his wife, Jessica, his son, James, who is two, his daughter, Lauren, who is four months, and their Border Collie, Cody. In his free time, he enjoys fishing and being outdoors in the mountains.



Andrew Colfelt is the Director of Information Technology and Webmaster for the Department. He is a firefighter and an engineer with certification as a Wildland Firefighter-Type 2, Class A Sawyer, and Heavy and Light Engineer. When not involved with BMFPD, Andrew is an Information Technology Consultant and serves as the Chief Driving Instructor at the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the BMW Club. He enjoys photography, golf, and diving.



John Covele is the Rookie Coordinator. He ensures that new firefighters are trained and up to speed. He is trained in structure firefighting, wildland firefighting, and is an EMT-B on the medical team. John has three kids, coaches Little League baseball, and writes iPhone apps for emergency responders.



Greg Huckabee is an Incident Commander and Water Supply Manager for the Department. He is certified for Structure FF-II and as a Heavy and Light Engineer. He is a Crew Boss trainee and Engine Boss trainee for Wildland Fires. Greg enjoys doing anything outdoors with his wife, Marysue, and his daughter, Anna.



Paul Munding is the Communications Officer for BMFPD, responsible for all radio and communications equipment. He's been with the Department for 11 years. He is an Incident Commander, Apparatus Engineer, and Type 2 Wildland Firefighter. When he is not working at his "day job" with Intel Corporation, Paul enjoys fly fishing and woodworking. A PBH resident, he is married to Amy who is a studio fiber artist and a regular contributor



to Boulder Mountain Handmade, as well as the Third Arm Phone Tree. Paul and Amy have two high school aged sons—Joshua and Nicholas—who are active in academics, music, Ultimate Frisbee, and theater at Boulder High.

Bob Olliver currently serves as Operations Captain for BMFPD. He is an Incident Commander, Structure Firefighter, Red-carded Wildland Firefighter, Emergency Medical Responder, and Light Engineer. Bob grew up in Chile and speaks fluent Spanish. He has been with the Department for 15 years and lives on Timber Lane. He feels this is a great way for him to give back to his community. He worked for Apple in the '80s and now works as an illustrator and doing computer graphics. He loves hanging out with his Golden Retriever, Astro, and enjoys the Colorado mountains, the outdoors, wildlife, and nature. Bob likes to travel, spend time with his family and friends, and does photography on the side. He is also an Eagle Scout and Scout Master.



Colin Schaffer is the Stations' Director for all three of the BMFPD stations. He is a Red-carded Wildland Firefighter, a Squad Boss Trainee, a Structure Firefighter, a Heavy/Light Apparatus Engineer, and a Type A Sawyer. He is a member of the local Wildland Task Force and serves on out-of-district dispatches. Colin is married to his sweetie, Zelda, and has lived in Boulder Heights for 25 years.



He holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He grew up in the small town of Leola, South Dakota—the Rhubarb Capital of the World!

SAVE THE DATE!!



*Pine Brook Hills Annual Holiday Party
Saturday, December 7, 7:30 P.M.
At Pam Creswell and Marshall Swanton's home,
12 Boulder View Lane*

**BOULDER MOUNTAIN HANDMADE
2013 ART, CRAFT AND BAKE SALE**



The BMFPD Auxiliary fundraiser, Boulder Mountain Handmade Art, Craft, and Bake Sale is returning for another year to the Community Center. Please show your support for all our first responders who work tirelessly time after time for our

benefit! Come and admire many wonderful pieces of art and crafts that are handmade by artisans living in our very own fire district. Feel good that the money you spend here is used by the Auxiliary to support the department. Funds provide food and supplies for emergency responders during events and training sessions, discretionary equipment for the fire department, and fire safety education for residents in the District.

Among many offerings will be nature photography, greeting cards, jewelry, quilts, hand-woven fabric items, watercolors, herbal products, paintings, wooden crafts and birdhouses. Returning artisans include Amy Munding, Kit Peiffer, Jean Watson, Marla Saville, and hand weavers Fumi Scurry, Linda Toomre, Emmy Spencer and many others.

There will be a room full of crafts made by Auxiliary members who, under the direction of Nancy Callis, have put together a wonderful selection of items in many different price ranges. You will find hostess gifts, baby gifts, and many other items you will want to keep for yourselves.

The bake sale is becoming known as one of the best in Boulder. Led by Della King-Smith, it broke all records last year for both selection and sales. Volunteer bakers from throughout the district make favorite recipes from scratch. Peruse the selection and then take something home to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Come and find a treasure or two for yourself or someone you love. Sip a complimentary cup of warm apple cider while mingling with neighbors and the artists themselves, most of whom will be present and would love to talk about their work. The event is held from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. both Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10. Many items are unique, or made in limited numbers, so shoppers are advised to shop early.

NEWCOMER NEWS

Compiled by Jo Wiedemann

Dan and Inese Smith met in Boulder and have been married five years. Dan grew up in New Hampshire and has spent the last 20 years adventuring around Colorado and the west with Boulder always as his home base. Inese was born and raised in Latvia and relocated with her family to Wisconsin at the age of 12. Inese moved to Boulder 10 years ago and is currently pursuing her CPA. The Smith family also includes Moby, the great white labrador, and a baby due in the spring. Inese and Dan are very happy to have moved into the foothills and feel fortunate to have joined the Pine Brook community.



**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM/
MITIGATION UPDATE**

The ERT/Mit Crew has helped several flood impacted residents remove damaged trees over the last month and has returned to performing wildfire mitigation on several large projects on Lee Hill Drive, Antler Drive, Meadowlook Way, and other locations throughout the district. Road conditions have prevented the Mit Crew from completing one or two projects that are on roads too fragile for their equipment, but they hope to return to those area as soon as repairs are made this fall.

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OCTOBER IS FIRE AWARENESS MONTH

As we move more activities indoors for the fall/winter months, we run greater risk of house fires. That's why October is National Fire Awareness month. Your BMFPD Auxiliary reminds residents to take a few minutes this month to examine your home safety equipment, update it if needed, and refresh yourselves on basic fire extinguisher operations.

YOU CAN SAVE YOUR OWN HOME! Since starting the Fire Safety Sale and Store in 2011, BMFPD reports that three residents of the district were able to extinguish fires in their homes before serious damage occurred; they used the techniques and/or equipment they obtained from the Department.

The District-wide Fire Safety Sale was rescheduled for spring 2014. In the meantime, if you need fire safety equipment, visit the BMFPD Fire Safety Store online.

BMFPD Fire Safety Store
Open 24/7

Bouldermountainfire.org/FireSafetyStore is open around the clock and stocked with home safety equipment selected by Chief Benson. McGuckin Hardware gives BMFPD a good group-buy deal, so residents can purchase the right gear at below-retail prices. All products can be picked up at Station 1, and come with free instruction from Chief Benson or a member of the fire department.

- **Fire Extinguishers:** These go dry over time. BMF stocks two sizes rated for all categories of home fires, so residents can replace theirs with sizes that are easy to operate. Bring your old extinguishers to the station, and BMF will recycle them free!
- **Smoke Detectors:** BMF only stocks detectors with 10 year life and 10 year battery, so you can be safe even if you don't check them every six months. Code requires a smoke detector in EVERY bedroom and on every living level.
- **CO Detectors:** If your home uses propane or natural gas, or if you have an attached garage, Colorado law requires CO detectors. BMF offers one with a simple digital display and battery backup.
- **Reflective House Number Kits:** Yes, your house number is important for life safety. If medical or fire responders can't see your address from the road, they may lose valuable time reaching your home. Chief Benson says, "If we can't find you, we can't help you." BMF staff offer assistance to residents installing fire safety

P-A-S-S to put out a fire:
Pull the safety pin from the handle. The pin is located at the top of the fire extinguisher.
Aim the extinguisher nozzle or hose at the base of the fire.
Squeeze the handle or lever slowly to discharge the agent. Letting go of the handle will stop the discharge.
Sweep side to side approximately 6in or 15cm over the fire until expended. Stand several feet or meters back from the fire: fire extinguishers are manufactured for use from a distance.
 The fire may flare up somewhat as extinguishing begins due to the flames being pushed away from the burning material (the real target) by the agent and gust of propellant. Do not be alarmed so long as it dies back promptly.

equipment. If you or a neighbor need extra help updating your gear, please ask for help.

Buy: bouldermountainfire.org/FireSafetyStore



ROADS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The devastating floods of September 2013 have dramatically changed the condition of our roads in Pine Brook Hills, but we are in a 'the more things change, the more they stay the same' situation.

By the time you read this, the County Commissioners will have officially placed a Public Improvement District (PID) to fund subdivision road rehabilitation on the November ballot. ALL SUBDIVISION RESIDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON FUNDING SUBDIVISION ROAD REHABILITATION IN NOVEMBER, so educate yourself on the issues to determine if the PID on the ballot or the LID that will be imposed if the PID fails is the best option for you. For a statement about this ballot issue from the HOA board, please see: <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/pinebrookhills/conversations/messages/5536>

In terms of storm damaged roads, the county is creating a plan to address roads county-wide. No PBH roads are specifically mentioned in the priority list for road repair. There is currently no timeline for a comprehensive county-wide road repair plan. Here is the only available (as of Sept. 26) information from the county Department of Transportation:

Question: When will there be a plan for road repairs in Boulder County – including subdivision road damage?

Response: We are currently working on several parallel tracks:

- Restoring minimal safe access to areas that do not have any access so residents can inspect homes and utilities can be restored (Overland Rd. to Jamestown, 4 Mile Canyon/Gold Run/Wall Street, Bow Mountain, Wagon Wheel Gap, 61st/66th etc.).
- Constructing 4 wheel drive/ATV access to areas with severe damage so we can assess needs, develop scopes of work and allow potential contractor access so they can make informed proposals/bids for minimal safe access that can be maintained through the winter (Lefthand Canyon, James Canyon, Longmont Dam Road).
- Shoring up damaged/unsafe infrastructure (63rd/ Lefthand Creek bridge, restoring Boulder Creek and S. St. Vrain Creek to its original course at 95th and 119th, East County Line Road so we don't have to build new bridges across the re-aligned creek).
- Creating a comprehensive damage assessment of all infrastructure so we can set longer term priorities.

Question: Will there be any FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration) money targeted to road repair and, if yes, will any of that money be applied to repair subdivision roads?

Response: FEMA and FHWA (Federal Highway Admin-

istration) funding is available for restoration of storm damaged roads. The county is still in discussions with FEMA and FHWA/CDOT to determine which roads may be eligible for funding from each possible funding source. Each agency has its' own set of rules and procedures. Some funding may be available for flood damage repair on impacted subdivision roads. Depending on the specific situation, a local match for FEMA funding is required before funds are allocated.

No federal or state funding is available for general repair or rehabilitation of non-flood related damage. Funds provided through approval of a subdivision PID or LID will be needed to complete road rehabilitation over the next 5 – 15 years as proposed by the county.

PBH BEETLEBUSTERS

From January through September 2013, the Pine Brook Hills BeetleBuster team has responded to about 50 requests for inspections. They identified approximately 40 trees with Mountain Pine Beetles (MPB) hits. Noticeable this year is an apparent increase in Ips infestations and, as with last year, an increase in the number of failed MPB hits. If you need a property inspection, please fill out the request form on our website at www.beetlebusters.net. Please note that the BeetleBusters do not run inspections when there is snow on the ground. Similarly, if the ground does not look stable or if there are overhanging or unstable rocks, the team may choose to limit the inspection—for example, we may use binoculars to evaluate trees on potentially unstable slopes.



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PLEASE NOTE:

NO GARAGE SALE IN MAY 2014

The BMFPD Auxiliary is taking a one year hiatus to study fund-raisers, including garage sales, to determine what makes a good fit for and is sustainable by our community. Watch for updates and consider donating your reusable goods to other Boulder charities.



Running out of room to hang wet towels.

PINE BROOK DAM AND RESERVOIR CELEBRATION

The Pine Brook Reservoir and Dam were first conceived about 11 years ago as the community came out of the 2002 drought. Bob de Haas and the Board of Directors for the Water District at the time concluded that building a dam in our own valley made more sense than buying water rights elsewhere or building in another location.

Once the environmental studies had been completed and preliminary plans developed, they took their plans to the Pine Brook Hills voters in 2004. The community approved the plan by a 3 to 1 margin with a heavy turnout (75% of the eligible voters) to raise property taxes to pay for construction of our own dam.

The dam is a roller compacted, concrete type construction. With Bob and the Board's foresight, there was never an issue of failure due to our recent flooding. The dam was built to withstand a flood more than 30 times the one we recently had. In Bob's words, as far as the dam was concerned, this event was "not even a hiccup."

On October 19 Bob and the PBH HOA invited the community to celebrate with them. While the dam itself was dedicated when it was completed in 2006 and officially named the Robert de Haas Dam, Bob felt it was time to honor all those who had a part in its development. At the celebration, representatives of the companies who built the dam: TCB Engineering and ASI Constructors, Inc were recognized for their contributions. Original Water

Board members, J. Kirk Hendricks, Mel Beauprez, Marie Zanowick, Art Markey, and Brian Hanson were honored for their contributions, along with the other employees at the time, Shawn Beauprez and Trudy Lay. Most of all, the celebration acknowledged the PBH community for its approval and support of the project from its inception. Bob and the current Board have installed a plaque on the dam spillway to recognize all these contributors.



In addition to the official celebration, residents of North Cedar Brook Road made a presentation to Bob de Haas for almost single-handedly getting North Cedar Brook (NCB) rebuilt after it washed away in the floods. Residents of NCB and all the roads that feed into it—Pine Needle, Fountain Tree, Valley View, Meadowlook Way, and Ridge Road—gathered contributions to present Bob with a gift certificate to let him know what a great job he had done in rebuilding the road so they could get to their homes. Residents all signed a card and presented Bob with a plaque and a piece of asphalt from the gash in the road. Martin Rybczynski, a representative for the group, said they all felt that Bob had exhibited the spirit of service characteristic of this neighborhood and independence characteristic of the western frontier.

Bob and his family have lived and worked with the Water District for years. His family moved to PBH in 1966 and his parents served on the Water Board. At that time residents took care of the water system until full-time staff were brought on board in 1982. Bob himself started work with PBH Water in 1987.

As Bob puts it, the PBH Dam has shown its value to the community as its water supply, as a resource for fighting fires, and now for its ability to withstand floods.



Bob, on left, at North Cedar Brook Reconstruction.



Wagon Wheel Gap at Lee Hill Drive.

The Scale of Destruction and Reconstruction



Jeep washed 300 yards from Beaver Way garage to Linden.

Reconstruction of North Cedar Brook at Linden (above and below).



Volunteers removing a rogue hot tub from South Cedar Brook.

PINE BROOK PRESS
1907 Linden Drive
Boulder, Colorado, 80304



Bobcat, with tracking collar, on upper Timber Lane.

Photo by Keith Brown and Ramon Diaz