



Pine Brook Press

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

APRIL 1, 2003



NEXT HOA MEETING APRIL 30 (SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)

BEARS EMERGE FROM HIBERNATION



May invade decks. For one family's adaptation, see below.



IN AN ATTEMPT TO INCREASE ATTENDANCE AT HOA MEETINGS, THE BOARD EXPANDS THE DEER SIGN CONCEPT

BEAR SCAT COMPANY

Bears drop them, we collect them



Business picks up in Spring, so place your order now! The supply is limited.

Products coming soon: Beary Scented Bath Crystals, Exfoliating Scrub, Candles, Low Carb Muffins and Organic Bear Milk.**

We Support Organic Movements

ABOUT THE FOUNDERS

Karen and Marc Peperzak founded the Bear Scat Company after discovering massive amounts of bear scat on their deck. Many fine food products have been tested on neighbors at Dine Arounds, usually without their knowledge.

***Warning:** Will cause stomach upset, cramps, and diarrhea even when used properly. Do not get in eyes or between teeth.

HOME ON BRISTLECONE WAY HAS NOVEL APPROACH TO BIRD PROBLEM

Many of us have experienced the distress of having birds drill holes in our cedar-sided mountain



homes. "The nuthatches were turning this place into a nut-house," said the owner. By installing multiple condominium type avian resi-

dences, the homeowners created affordable housing alternatives for the birds and achieved peace and tranquility with their feathered friends.

LOCAL PRAIRIE DOG ADOPTS FERAL CHILDREN.



As an expression of gratitude to the people of Boulder County, prairie dogs have offered to adopt several feral children in Pine Brook Hills. "It's the least we could do," said one prairie dog, "and it increases diversity in our colony."



CHILDREN SAID TO BE ADAPTING WELL. "We like life in the holes. We feel we're really getting back to nature."



SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES!

FIRE BOARD BUYS CHIEF A TRUCK



THIS ISN'T IT

The BMFA Board of Directors decided at their meeting on February 10 to use donations received after the Wonderland Lake Fire to buy a pick-up truck for use by the new BMFA Fire Chief John Benson.

During the fire last summer both Pine Brook Water Department pick-ups were used to haul hoses and transport fire fighters. The new pick-up would be both transportation and a command center for the Chief, as it is equipped with radios to allow communication with other districts and locations during an incident.

The Board plans to put a logo on the truck that



THIS IS IT

will identify it as the gift of a grateful community. The truck would become a kind of moving billboard, thanking people for the outpouring of support following the fire. As one Board member put it, "People can feel they now own a piece of the Department."

Chief Benson took the truck on its "maiden voyage" to Colorado Springs on March 3, to pursue mitigation grant applications for the district. "It works fine," he said. "The truck will be seen by everybody and will show how tight-knit this community is. I don't know of any other community that would be doing something like this. It's a tribute to the kind of support the community gives its Fire Department."

**PINE BROOK HILLS
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA MEETING WED., APRIL 30. Potluck at 6, meeting at 7:30: *The Aftermath Of War, A Panel Discussion on Aid and Reconstruction.* Also election of Nominating Committee Chair to suggest candidates for HOA Board.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE - Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M.

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

FIRE BOARD - Meets the 2nd Monday of every other month at 7:00 P.M. at either the Pine Brook or Boulder Heights Firehouse. Call 440-0235 for specifics.

FITBALL - Come join the Bouncers on Tuesday mornings, 9 - 10 A.M. Free, but you need your own ball. Please call 449-0997 for encouragement and further details.

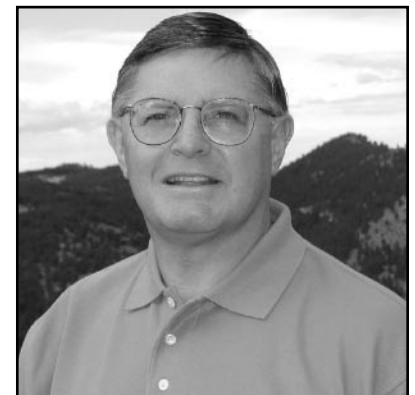
WATER BOARD - Meets first or second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. Call Water Office at 443-5394 for dates.

UNCERTAINTY

By Jim Eyster

Uncertainty is never fun and causes far too much concern and stress. Currently in Pine Brook Hills we have uncertainty regarding the summer fire season, potential drought conditions, budgets and government funding. All these concerns, however, are greatly overshadowed by the international crisis with Iraq.

Although we have some control over our local problems, State and Federal budget cuts may directly impact our plans. To date, neither the HOA nor BMFA have been given any feedback concerning requests for financial assistance from the State or Federal governments. Last year the HOA received a \$14,400 grant and BMFA received grants totaling over \$100,000 to help with fire mitigation. If we don't receive the requested funds again this year, it will have a dramatic impact on our mitigation plans and what we will be able to accomplish.



On the international front, we have even less control over what will happen. As I write this article, war with Iraq appears to be imminent. If we do go to war, regardless of our personal perspectives on the war, the one

thing we do know is that we need to support our men and women in the armed forces in every way possible and pray for their safe return.

After the war, the Iraqi people will require tremendous assistance from the rest of the world. To help us better understand their plight, Pam Creswell, HOA Vice President, has organized a very interesting panel discussion for our next Homeowners meeting on April 30 (SEE BOX BELOW).

HOA MEETING, WEDNESDAY APRIL 30

Potluck at 6 pm, Meeting at 7:30 pm
Community Center

The topic will be: ***The Aftermath of War, A Panel Discussion on Aid and Reconstruction.***

Scheduled panelists bring extensive years of experience with the UN and NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations). They will discuss the historic and the anticipated roles of these organizations as well as the potential contributions to be made by private citizens and small organizations. Additionally, we will invite an Iraqi or Afghan to join our panel. Since knowledge is the basis for understanding, we hope this discussion will help us better appreciate the process of reconstruction.

FROM THE HOA TREASURER

By Jim Woodruff

Thanks to all of you (200+) who have been prompt in replying to our dues request. Good news: it is not too late for those who have not. Simply enclose a check for \$50 (more is welcome) made out to "Pine Brook Hills HOA" in an envelope and either mail it to:

Pine Brooks Hills HOA
C/O Jim Woodruff, Treasurer
27 Hawk Lane
Boulder, CO 80304

or drop it in the Homeowners drop box at the entrance to the Community Center/Firehouse parking lot.

Your response will ensure full HOA support to the Pine Brook Press, community social events and fire mitigation activities in 2003.

Thank you.

ON THE WATER FRONT

With Shawn Beauprez and Bob de Haas

Approximately forty people attending the March meeting of the Water Board heard the second presentation on the proposed reservoir project. We want to get the information out to as many people as possible so that the community stays well informed. How are we going to do this? The Water District is putting together packets that will be mailed out to all Pine Brook residents at the end of March or the first part of April. The packets will be quite thick, but they contain very important information for all residents of the Pine Brook Water District.

The packets will be made up of three parts. The **introduction** will discuss the proposed reservoir and why we feel that this is the best option to provide a reasonable level of service during years of drought. The second part is the **feasibility report** that the engineers have developed for this project. The third part will be the **water quality report** (Consumer Confidence Report), which is sent out annually.

We are asking that everyone please take the time to look at the packet, particularly the introduction, so that you can be informed. On your next water bill there will be a Yes or No question asking whether or not you support moving forward with the reservoir project. This is a non-binding vote to see where the community stands. Your votes will remain confidential; we are simply going to track the number of Yes, No, or Not Sure votes that we receive. Your response on this item would be greatly appreciated. **If at any time you have a question on this project please feel free to contact the Water District at (303) 443-5394.**



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FIRESIDE CHAT

By John Benson, Fire Chief

Greetings from BMFA! I would really like to start off by thanking the residents of Pine Brook Hills. Everyone here has been extremely supportive and helpful to my family and me. The number of people coming into the office to introduce themselves and offer any help they can has been overwhelming. I never expected that type of support. This is something you would never see in my former community. It seems everyone is for themselves these days, but not here. There is a real sense of community support. I would especially like to thank Allen Saville, Bob de Haas, Matt McHaffie and all the BMFA officers for guiding me and helping me to hit the ground running. The community is very fortunate to have such a bunch of dedicated individuals.

You will notice that the Fire Department has a new vehicle. Thanks to the generosity of the community, the district was able to obtain a new Ford three quarter ton four-door pickup truck. This truck is equipped for carrying out command functions, transporting firefighters and equipment to and from incidents, accessing those hard-to-reach locations and carrying our firefighters to and from training sessions. It will be a very valuable asset both now and in the future. The purchase of this vehicle was done solely with donations from the community. That is a pretty good indication of just how well this community supports its own fire department. I have had other departments ask me how we were able to purchase such a nice piece of equipment. I just smile and explain, "This was done solely by community effort."

Boulder Mountain Fire Authority has become a recognized leader in mitigation. Well, don't expect that to change. **BMFA is pleased to welcome John Pellouchoud as the new 2003 Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator.** John brings an extensive background in the wildfire arena and he has been a BMFA member since summer 2001. His first order of business is to hire the summer mitigation crew members. I will have more information at the HOA meeting on April 30, 2003. This year one of the big projects is the Sunshine Canyon Fire Break. Grant requests to fund this have been submitted and plans are already in the works. Anyone in need of mitigation work, please feel free to contact the station here at (303) 440-0235. Your name will be put on the list and you will be

contacted by John Pellouchoud. BMFA is committed to the wildfire mitigation program and its continued success. The chipping program will also continue this year. Let us know if you have done your own mitigation work and are just in need of chipping.

It appears that this year, like last year, is going to be a worse than normal wildfire season. The current predictions are for higher than normal amounts of moisture until July. Then we are supposed to have above average temperatures all the way through February of 2004. This may change. Still, the threat of a severe wildfire season is looming on the horizon. The staff of BMFA is already gearing up and is anticipating a very serious fire season. There are many things a homeowner can do to help prevent the possible loss of homes:

1. Keep all combustibles and flammables away from the house; this includes wood and flammable and combustible liquids. Anything that can catch fire needs to be removed.
2. Woodpiles should be stored away from the house; any type of firebrand may get into those piles and cause a huge problem.
3. Have your roof and gutters cleaned. The loose pine needles and debris are an easy target for a hot ember to ignite. This is especially true when homes are covered with wood shake shingles.
4. Rake up any dead needles, grass, pinecones and other combustible materials from around your house. This may prevent one of those embers from sparking a fire around your home. Remember, some of these firebrands can be carried a mile or more and cause huge problems for homeowners and firefighters trying to protect structures.
5. Whenever possible, enclose those decks. Firebrands look for a place to land and any opening they find can mean disastrous results.

These are only a few tips that can help you as a homeowner to help the Fire Department in the event of a major fire. I understand there has been a company out and about in the community selling (or trying to sell) home protection systems using foam. Before purchasing such a system contact the BMFA to find out the legitimacy of that system. This will be another topic that I will address at the next HOA meeting.

Once again, thank you for making my family and me feel welcome in this great community. Please feel free

to call or drop by any time to chat. I look forward to a long-lasting relationship with this organization and its supporters.

Until next time, enjoy and be safe out there.

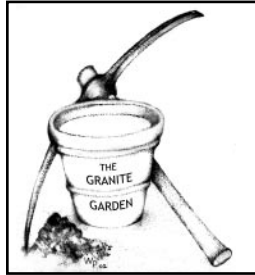


THE GRANITE GARDEN

By Barbara Hosmer

Oh, those d--d (determined) deer! Even plants on the "deer rarely browse" list are not entirely safe from deer munching. Young deer will sample almost anything. If enough deer sample the same shrub, it's history. In general, deer will spit out what tastes bad and may remember to stay away from the same plant in the future. With that in mind, PBH folks try lots of smelly concoctions to discourage the deer from browsing. One successful product tried last year is called Repellex. Available in concentrate, already mixed and systemic tablets, this product adheres to leaves and is sufficiently stinky to stay on the plants and provide protection through a few rainfalls. If you decide to try it, wear clothes you plan to wash right away and wash your face and hands immediately after using as the mist that ends up on your skin tastes AWFUL (better yet, consider using a mask when spraying!). Don't spray it on your plants if there's a breeze blowing or it will waft right into your house. Also, don't decide to spray just before you expect guests to arrive, unless you don't want them to stay long! Fortunately, the smell is not so bad the next day. The systemic tablets may be strong for small shrubs, particularly if you can't water very often, but they have successfully discouraged deer munching without having to spray. Other products worth trying include Deer Away and Not Tonight Deer. Check with your favorite garden supply source locally, mail order or on the internet for more information on these products. If you are particularly frustrated, there is a Michigan company that specializes in plants that deer are less likely to browse. You can see pictures of the plants, order online, request a catalog, or join a message board just for deer-related stories and deer-fighting ideas at www.Deerlandscape.com

Remember that spring is tick season. Important facts from the Colorado State Extension Service website include the following: In Colorado, Rocky Mountain wood tick and American dog tick are the most common



ticks associated with people. Colorado tick fever is by far the most common tick-transmitted disease of the region. Despite its name, Rocky Mountain spotted fever is quite rare here. No human cases of Lyme disease have originated in Colorado. DEET is the most effective tick repellent. Apply it to pants or other areas of the lower body. To remove a tick, grasp it with blunt tweezers, as close to the skin as possible. Ticks are highly sensitive to carbon dioxide, which is exhaled by animals as they breathe, and seek it out. They often are poised at the top of vegetation so they can readily cling to passing animals or people.



Adult Rocky Mountain wood ticks. Picture shows "engorged" vs. "hungry" appearance - grossly enlarged! (Photo courtesy of Colorado State University Extension Services).

Light colored clothes help you spot the bugs more easily. Ticks take several hours to settle and begin feeding, so you have time to detect and remove them. After walking through areas where ticks might be present, carefully look for and remove any ticks you may have picked up. Matches and petroleum jelly are not effective. Be sure to wash and disinfect the site and your hands after any tick contact. A rare but potentially serious condition from tick feeding is tick paralysis. This occurs when certain ticks (in Colorado, particularly the Rocky Mountain wood tick) remain attached for a long period and produce an ascending paralysis. Early symptoms, such as difficulty walking, progress to more generalized symptoms, such as limb numbness and difficulty breathing. This condition is completely reversible when the tick is removed.

I encourage everyone to visit the Colorado State Extension website for a wealth of useful information. Go to www.ext.colostate.edu, and below the heading for Information Online you will see many categories including gardening and insects. Many of the "fact sheets" include helpful pictures to identify problems such as signs of pine beetle infestation, dwarf mistletoe, houseplant pests and more. Happy Spring!

GARAGE SALE ALERT

By Babette and Art Markey

It's now time to get serious about the 2003 Garage Sale! Remember, this is the Fire Department Auxiliary's largest single source of funds for its work in support of our BMFA volunteers. But the only way that it happens is with the help of all of you.

We need 3 things: Donations, Volunteers and Shoppers.

1. We will need lots of donations to have a successful sale. Here are our guidelines:

What makes a good donation: things that are in good usable condition, clean and in working order.

What we won't take: building materials, chemicals, pre-Pentium II computers, guns, large appliances, mattresses, custom window coverings.

What types of items are good: Most anything not in the 'won't take' list. Here are some ideas: antiques, collectibles, books, electronics (computers should be Pentium II or better please), furniture, lamps, housewares, jewelry, toys, kitchenware, CDs, musical instruments, clothing, accessories, knicknacks, countertop appliances, linens, artwork and frames, sporting goods, etc. Your donations are, of course, tax deductible.

One item that has helped us bring in as much money as we did the last two years was the donation of a good used car! An extra dose of appreciation is waiting if you could donate one this year! **Please contact us early to discuss this if you are considering donating a car.**

2. Many volunteers are needed. We need people to accept donations, set-up, price, sell and clean up after closing. No experience needed! If you have previously worked at our garage sale, we will be calling you to enlist your help again. If you have not previously worked with us and would like to give it a try, please call us at 303-440-6132.

3. Without a great many shoppers we would have just a firehouse full of donations and no place to go with them. So mark your calendars and tell all your friends about our stupendous sale. We were in Florida last week and met a woman from Denver. She has asked to be notified so she can come up to the sale! So spread the word; we have one of the best sales in the area and

the more people who know about us, the more money we can bring in to support our wonderful volunteer fire fighters.

Here's the schedule. Please mark the dates on your calendar.

Collecting donations at the Firehouse:

Saturday, May 3	10 AM - 2 PM
Sunday, May 4	10 AM - 2 PM
Saturday, May 10	10 AM - 2 PM
Sunday, May 11	10 AM - 2 PM

The sale (also at the Firehouse):

Friday, May 16	9 AM - 4 PM
Saturday, May 17	9 AM - 4 PM
Sunday, May 18	noon - 4 PM



NEWCOMER NEWS

By Mary Barakat

The Pine Brook Hills community welcomes the following new residents:

Geoff Lynch	2535 Linden
Todd Rosenstock	1431 Timber Lane
Kim Rohmann	1043 North Cedar Brook
Adam O'Hare	395 Pine Brook
Ken and Ellie Doykos	220 High View
Dylan Wetherall	984 Pine Brook Road
Steve Cannon	168 South Cedar Brook
Bill Rodgers and Diana Harpold	599 Bow Mountain Rd.

A Pine Brook Hills community directory has been mailed to each new resident. It is full of great information about many important issues relevant to living a comfortable, safe lifestyle in our mountain homes.

Please contact me at (303) 442-4526 if you have any questions or concerns. This is an active, fun place to live, so enjoy!

WHAT DO WE VALUE? HOW DO WE LIVE?

By Marie Zanowick

Are you interested in learning about how to protect your environment through small, personal lifestyle changes?

North West Earth Institute (NWEI) has developed four discussion courses designed to provide an enjoyable, supportive setting in which to examine personal values and habits, engage in stimulating discussion and make personal changes if desired. Since 1993, tens of thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations have been involved in NWEI courses.

Courses consist of 7 to 12 people who meet weekly for about an hour to discuss readings from a course book. Course books, each about 100 to 150 pages in length, contain a diverse collection of essays, articles, and book excerpts organized around weekly themes to create lively discussion. Questions and a suggested meeting format are included as well. The courses are:

1. Voluntary Simplicity, an eight-session course addressing the distractions of modern society that keep us from caring for ourselves, our relationships, and our environment.
2. Exploring Deep Ecology, a nine-session course addressing core values and how they affect the way we view and treat the earth.
3. Discovering a Sense of Place, a nine-session course focusing on knowing and protecting our place.
4. Choices for Sustainable Living, a nine-session course exploring the meaning of sustainable living and the ties between lifestyle choices and their impact on the earth.

Each meeting consists of two parts: an opening and a facilitated discussion. Except for the first meeting, sessions are opened and facilitated by members of the group on a rotating basis. This structured, yet non-didactic, format encourages trust, respect, and a sense of community among group members. Participants can seek personal clarity without group consensus. The meetings create a supportive environment for personal change.

I have facilitated these classes in my office at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and would like to bring them to our community. If you are interested in forming a discussion group, please call me at 303-449-4750. We need at least 6 people in order to have a meaningful discussion.

LOST DECK DEPARTMENT

Lost any decks lately? A house on Valley View Lane has. Neighbors have wondered about the glacial pace of construction of the house, which had been abandoned for some months. Ken Larkin, chair of the Architectural Review Committee, said that the owner, who was building the house as a speculation, has run into financial problems. Recently an apparently disgruntled construction worker sawed off the front deck. The house is currently for sale. Buy now and design your own deck!



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Pine Brook Press,

Before the community rushes to build a large new reservoir, it would be prudent to ask a few questions. New storage is expensive. In the case of the water board's proposed reservoir, water taxes would double for thirty years. For a 40-fold increase in storage, that may be a pretty good deal, but there are other issues.

First, do we really need 40 times the storage capacity we already have? Pine Brook currently has 1.5 million gallons of water storage capacity in tanks. The reservoir would hold over 60 million gallons. While the community was within two weeks of running out of water last summer, 2002 was the worst drought in 300 years. And, we didn't run out, even during such an extreme event. So, do we really need that much more? If not, less dramatic alternatives (like more tanks, underground cisterns, cutting a deal to expand one or more of the ponds that already exist on Four Mile Creek where we have water rights) are likely wiser. Another way of asking this question is whether there is such a thing as being overly conservative when it comes to water. Is it appropriate to increase the cushion? Yes - but by 40 times current capacity? Second, does the community want a 90-foot dam looming over the community center? A 90-foot dam is VERY large. Most existing and proposed 90-foot dams hold 100-1000 times what Pine Brook Lake would. Even if not a neighbor of this structure, all Upper Pine Brook residents will see it during their daily commutes. Certainly, this massive, concrete, stair-stepped wall will dramatically change the aesthetics of the community center. And there will be safety issues: to keep young children from exploring the dam's face will require a tall fence, given the otherwise easy access. While in many communities, the addition of a reservoir adds to aesthetic and property values, it may not in Pine Brook.

Third, do we want to be a community with no, or very few, watering restrictions? I'm proud of how little water Pine Brook uses. Unlike the vast majority of Coloradans, most Pine Brook residents haven't tried to change the natural landscape by carpeting this semi-arid terrain with blue grass. Living in the red zone (urban-wildland interface) creates certain responsibilities and it's worth asking whether a reservoir that relieves almost all watering restrictions

is appropriate, even if the community decides that it can afford the price.

The water board seems to have made up its mind, but the community must still vote. Before deciding, I hope that we will continue to explore alternatives and ask enough questions to make a fully informed decision.

Sincerely,
Melinda Kassen



Dear Editor:

I wish to clarify a few points from the "Can You Help" article in the previous Pine Brook Press. I contacted both Leslie Lacy of the County Attorney's Office and Nancy Wurl, Boulder County Elections Manager. The election results have been certified and neither the County Attorney's Office nor the County Election Department is looking for any additional information on the voting results, as claimed in the article.

All county officials I talked with stated that from their standpoint, the election is over and has been certified.

This issue has already deeply divided the Pine Brook Loop neighborhood and many of us were looking forward to some healing and closure following the election. In the spirit of community, I ask that those who are trying to make an issue of the Pine Brook Loop Road Paving election results to move on. We look to our community leaders to foster this good will.

Steve Zanowick
755 Bow Mt. Road



APRIL EDITORIAL

Letter from an Editor

As our little community newspaper is "going to press" - actually being formulated on our home computers - our country is going to war. In such a time of heavy hearts and worried minds it may seem frivolous to have an April Fool's Issue of the Pine Brook Press. If it seems so, please forgive us. Another point of view might be that while fully acknowledging the sorrow of the world we were trying to retain the sanity of smiles. All of us love the community, the country, the planet. Our prayers are for them all.

SBA

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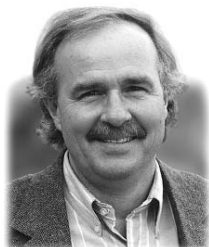
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Doug Parker has lived in the mountains (Sunshine Canyon) for 30 years. Call him at

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for more information or to receive a free brochure.



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ANNOUNCING.....PINE BROOK DINEAROUNDS, SUMMER 2003

By Karen Peperzak

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON
HAPPY HOUR**
Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres

June 27th 5:00 - 7:30 \$20 per person
At the home of Karen and Marc Peperzak
1024 Linden Drive
Please send Karen your check by June 20th.



July 18, Friday at 6:00 \$43.25 per person
Payable to **Boulder Dinner Theatre**. Send your check to Karen Peperzak: 1024 Linden Drive. Checks must be received by June 10th. **30 seats reserved**. Price of Show includes choice of Entree, salad & bread. Cash Bar.
See menu choices at theatreinboulder.com

THE GOLD HILL INN & BLUEBIRD LODGE



Come join us, high in the Rocky Mountains, at the historic Bluebird lodge built in 1872; for an evening of mystery and suspense. A limit of twenty guests insures a very intimate and unusual theatrical experience. Begin with a champagne reception, surrounded by characters from the past with stories to tell and secrets to divulge (or withhold). Later, in the dining room, keep your eyes and ears open as you enjoy a meal prepared by the famous Gold Hill Inn. You just may be sitting next to a "killer." You and your team-mates will survey the scene of the crime, look for clues and interrogate suspects. Solve the mystery over dessert and brandy and win a prize.....At last the mystery is over, or is it?

August 24, Sunday at 5:00 \$80 per person
Murder Mystery includes: Champagne reception, 5 course dinner featuring Stuffed Rock Cornish Hen, Wine, tea, after dinner drinks, tax, tip and Murder Mystery. Send your check to Karen and payable to Gold Hill Inn. Checks must be received by July 24th. See sample menu at:
goldhillinn.com 401 Main St. 443-6475
'Til Death Do Us Party Productions is a unique theatre company which provides suspense, humor and excitement with each performance. Each murder is set in a particular year and our actors are trained in period mannerisms, history and styles. Very often, a good knowledge of the historical events of the period can aid in solving the mystery. Guests are encouraged to dress in the costume of the period; however, this is not a requirement. **Karen: 303 440 0691**

JOIN THE FORUM

By Steve Mestdagh

A PBH Forum has been created. Its purpose is to allow us to discuss issues surrounding our community, i.e. the lake, house sitting, fire danger, turkey sightings, whatever. The group is also open to other Boulder area mountain residents. To access the Forum go to www.pinebrookhills.org on the web and click "Forum."

To make the forum effective, we need a critical mass. Please join and tell your neighbor.

I have heard that the process of joining is a bit complex. After some digging, I found an easier method.

You send me your email and I will sign you up to the email list.

When someone sends mail to the group email address, pinebrookhills@yahoo.com, it will go to all members of the group.

Current members who have elected not to receive email will see the new messages posted on the website, just as they do now. Members can unsubscribe at any time.

Since it is so easy to join you have no excuse! Send your email to me (s_mestdaugh@yahoo.com) and I will sign you up. If anyone has any questions, please email me.

Please join and contribute to the community.

A SCHOOL IN AFGHANISTAN, WITH HELP FROM PINE BROOK HILLS

By Suzanne Adams

How much money does it cost to educate an Afghan child for an entire school year? \$20, as a group of Pine Brook women learned recently at a meeting hosted by Pam Creswell. Pam has been investigating the possibility of establishing a school in rural Afghanistan, where literacy, at about 10%, is among the world's lowest. The speaker, Jim Mitchell of AfghanEd, a Boulder-based organization, explained the process by which a village school for 300 children could be established, teachers trained and paid and books and supplies provided, for as little as \$6000.



The proposed school is no madrassah. The curriculum, which focuses on reading, writing, math, social studies and, as a practical matter, landmine awareness, has been established by the Center for Afghanistan Studies at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and is approved by the government in Kabul, the Ministry of Education in Exile, UNESCO and UNICEF. Because most of the international governmental aid to Afghanistan is directed to Kabul, AfghanEd aims to provide basic education in the outlying parts of the country, where the need is most desperate. Special emphasis is placed on including girls. Villages where there are no schools, or where the schools are operating under great difficulties, are evaluated by American and Afghan educators for their ability to sustain a school once it has been established.

The schools already created on this model have been very successful. The concern that children might drop out to help their families during harvest season has not been realized. Quite the contrary. Both parents and children are so eager for education that the schools have had to institute two and three sessions a day to accommodate all of the children

who want to attend.



To raise money for the project, a spectacular party, "A Night on the Silk Road," is planned for June 7, from 7 until midnight. The Creswell/Swanton home will be "magically transformed into a sumptuous Middle Eastern palace," according to Mary Barakat, who is in charge of decorations. A silent auction will take place in a bazaar-like setting. The band "Girls on Top" will play, and delectable food and drink will be lavishly provided. Of the \$75 per person cost, \$40 will go to the school. "Reservations are by invitation only," Pam explained, "But since Pine Brook is such a close community, all residents are considered our friends and neighbors and are of course invited."

Reservations can be made through Pam Creswell or Mary Barakat (Coordinators) or through any of these additional Pine Brook hostesses: Sally Ashby, Alex Baris, Penny Bennett, Cyndy Brooks, Kim Hartzell, Debbie Springer, or Dianne Whitfield.



Other Pine Brookers involved in creating the event include Suzanne Adams, Karen Christopher, Kathy Eyster, Veronique Foster, Cindy Lindsay, Beth McKnight, Jo Noble, Eleanor Patten, Marla Saville, Anne Singh, Anne Stanaway and Betsey Turner.

(Photos courtesy of AfghanEd)



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