



Pine Brook Press

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

SPRING 2004



HOA MEETING APRIL 28 RE. PINE BROOK'S BIG DECISIONS

On May 4, Pine Brook Hills will vote on two issues of critical importance to the community: the reservoir and fire district consolidation. The Press interviewed Bob DeHaas and Melinda Kassen for pro and con views on the reservoir. Steve Maxwell explains the reasons for consolidation.

PRO: "The Reservoir is A Necessity"

An interview with Bob DeHaas. Bob grew up in PBH and has worked for the Water District for the last 18 years, 16 of them as Manager.

PRESS: You've spent a lot of time writing and speaking in favor of the reservoir. Why are you so sure that this is the best thing for Pine Brook Hills?

DeHAAS: We are clearly in a drought cycle and have been for close to ten years. This year is potentially another 2002 (or worse). Will we make it through, if weather conditions are worse than 2002? There's no way I can guarantee that, using the existing system of tanks. We came too close in 2002... The reservoir does two things: it gives us a set cost for water instead of a fluctuating, undependable one and it resolves the winter water issues while also supplying wet water* for a summer drought.

** Wet water, for those who thought there was no other kind, is what water managers mean when they talk about REAL water, the water you use, as opposed to paper water or water rights. ed.*

PRESS: What's the issue with the winter water?

DeHAAS: The winter water rights are the real problem. We don't have senior rights for a good part of the winter, so we have to negotiate a water lease every year. There is no other place to lease or buy water that we've been able to find and we've been looking for over ten years. It's an annual lease and there may be competition for it, especially with a drought. If we can't lease the water, the restrictions of '02 will seem like a cake walk. Trying to supply just the minimum needed water could run our wells dry, accelerating how
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Proposed Consolidation of the Pine Brook Hills and Boulder Heights Fire Districts - What it Means for You

By Steve Maxwell

When the first residents moved into Pine Brook Hills in the early 1960s, they were on their own in terms of fire protection. However, due to the high fire risk that we live with here, a volunteer fire department was soon formed. Throughout the last forty years Pine Brook Hills has enjoyed the benefits and protection of a volunteer fire department - initiated, operated and staffed entirely by volunteers from within our community.

Over the years, it has become more and more difficult for small volunteer departments to provide adequate fire protection services. With changing demographics and a generally more mobile and hectic pace of life, many small volunteer fire departments struggle to survive. With these concerns in mind, the Pine Brook Hills Fire Protection District and the Boulder Heights Fire Protection District decided in 1999 to band together to provide fire protection, fire mitigation and emergency response services under a single organization, called the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority (BMFA). Today, all of our firefighters, our vehicles and equipment and our mitigation program are organized and administered under BMFA.

The cooperative venture between the Pine Brook Hills and Boulder Heights Fire Protection Districts has worked very well. The BMFA now has a well-qualified and dedicated group of volunteer firefighters and
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ARE WE LIVING IN SIGN BROOK HILLS?

By Suzanne Adams

Signs are proliferating in our mountain community, most notably just below us on Linden Drive. In addition to the pedestrian crossing sign that migrated up the hill to a tree above our firehouse (see the winter issue of the PB Press), there is the noxious School Zone sign with its 20 minute speed limit from 7 AM to 5 PM. Have you looked in vain for that school? If so, it's understandable; the nearest school is over a mile away. Boulder's guidelines suggest that a school zone crossing is warranted if



more than 15 school-age children cross in one hour. But according to Clay Evans' article in the March 14 Daily Camera, the official child-counters on Linden found that only 9 children crossed in the space of two hours. Still, the sign remains - and with consequences. That speed-demon Helen Rhinehart, seen here in appropriate garb, received a ticket for going 31 mph through the newly posted area. Bill Cowern, Transportation Operations Engineer for Boulder, would be the man to contact about this.



WHO HELPS HURT ANIMALS?

By Cecile Duray-Bito

One of the reasons why we choose to live in Pine Brook Hills is its abundant wildlife. Most of our animal friends are healthy and well cared for by nature. But who takes care of the wild animal who is



injured, sick or orphaned? There is a non-profit organization, Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Sanctuary, whose mission is to rehabilitate

wildlife in need of special care. They provide medical treatment to sick and injured patients, raise hundreds of orphaned baby animals such as birds, cottontails, coyotes, foxes, raccoons and squirrels and then release them in their natural habitats. To raise funds for operation of the sanctuary, they have a gift and thrift shop. When you visit this boutique-style

shop you find high quality donated items: antiques, art objects, books, clothing, furniture, gifts. Come visit the Treasure Hunters Nest at 3013 Walnut Street (corner of Walnut and 30th), Boulder, CO. Phone 303.245.0800.

Joe Duray-Bito volunteers in the gift shop and Cecile will donate her paintings for sale later this summer.



PINE BROOK DITTY

(to be sung to "When It's Springtime in the Rockies")

*When it's Garbage Day in Pine Brook all the world is bright and gay –
Unless the bears are acting in their old familiar way.
If you put your stuff out early they'll spread it far and wide.
So please, until it's Garbage Day, keep your garbage safe inside!*

Our Wildlife Officer, Patrica Belanger, reports that Governor Bill Owen has encouraged Good Garbage Behavior by signing a bill making it an offense to lure a wild bear to food or edible waste. After one official warning, a first offense will carry a \$100 fine, \$500 for a second offense and \$1,000 for a third or subsequent offense. Don't feed the bears!

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

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WATER BOARD

Kirk Hendricks, Pres., 442-1308

WATER DISTRICT

Robert de Haas, Mgr., 443-5394

PINE BROOK PRESS

EDITORS

Suzanne Adams, 449-0997

Anne Singh, 417-0373

LAYOUT: Param Singh, 417-0373

STAFF: B.K. Adams, 449-0997

ADVERTISING: Cheri Cathey, 449-8844

E-MAIL: pinebrookpress@aol.com

WEBSITE: www.pinebrookhills.org

WEBMASTER: Param Singh, 417-0373

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA MEETING APRIL 28: BIG DECISIONS - Reservoir and Consolidation. Pot luck at 6 P.M., meeting at 7 P.M.

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 month at 7:00 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 449-6656 for confirmation.

GARAGE SALE - MAY 21 - 23. See page 5 for details.

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

With the excitement of Spring comes each year a reminder that fire danger will soon increase. Please be especially careful about the many potential fire hazards and perhaps check to see if it is time again to clear those pine needles out of the gutters and away from your house. The next HOA meeting will be on Wednesday, April 28, at the Community Center. I was delighted to see the wonderful turnout at our last meeting and I'd love to see that trend continue. **The potluck at 6 PM** is a great way to meet new neighbors and to socialize with the ones you know. If you can't come until later, though, **please join us for the business meeting at 7 and the important presentation, "Q & A on Consolidation and the Reservoir" at about 7:40.** Topics to be discussed at the HOA business meeting include the 2004 House Tour, the Pine Brook deer sign and the Linden "school zone" sign. Please note, on p. 13 of this issue, the wonderful "DineArounds" that Karen Peperzak has planned for us. The goal this year is to share the fun with more and more of our community. In keeping with that goal, the events are going to cost less and accommodate more people by offering cocktail parties rather than full dinners. The HOA thanks Karen for donating made-to-order tablecloths for our meeting room events. She donated them in the name of her exciting new matchmaking service: "Introductions."



If you haven't signed up for our e-mail communications list yet, please do! It is a wonderful way for the Board to work more closely with membership, letting you know in advance what will be discussed at Board meetings (to which members are always invited!), inviting your additions to both Board and membership meeting agendas and by spreading the word if something important to our neighborhood comes up between meetings. There will be a signup sheet at the meeting.

Special note: Some people assumed that an unsigned mailing asking recipients to respond to pinebrookhills@hotmail.com with concerns about the reservoir was from the HOA. It was not. As an organization, the HOA has taken no position on the reservoir, but as individuals, all the members of both this year's and last year's Boards support the proposal.



FIRESIDE CHAT

By John Benson, BMFA Fire Chief

Greetings and welcome to spring! I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone from Pine Brook Hills for your generosity at the Auxiliary Garage Sale and Mountain Expressions Art and Craft Show. Your support has allowed the purchase of a complete "Jaws of Life," also known as an extrication set. This set gives BMFA the ability to remove victims from automobile accidents, entrapments and other incidents. During the early morning hours of Sunday, March 7, BMFA was toned to a vehicle accident involving pinned parties requiring extrication. Thanks to the Auxiliary and you, the members of BMFA had the tools necessary to perform their jobs quickly and efficiently. THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!

Some of you have requested information on home fire extinguishers, so guess what - here it is. I'll start with a few facts from the U.S. Fire Administration Data Center.

- Fires in 1-2 family dwellings most often occur in the following locations:
Kitchens 25.5%
Bedrooms 13.7%
Living rooms 8.6%
Chimneys 8.2%
Laundry rooms 5.0%
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and

home injuries in the U.S.

- Residential fires represent 24% of all fires and 77% of all structure fires

Every home should have at least one extinguisher. I prefer to have two, one for the kitchen and one for the garage. When purchasing an extinguisher (1) Choose the right size and application. A 2.5 pound or 5 pound extinguisher will work well for home use. (2) Buy a good quality extinguisher. Name brands that I feel are good include Kidde, Amerex and Badger. You can purchase these brands from local hardware stores. These are some of the bigger brands in the extinguisher world and are fairly inexpensive, serviceable and rechargeable.

Find a location for your extinguisher that is readily accessible to everyone in the house. Call the fire department at (303) 440-0235 if you would like advice about placing the fire extinguisher.

I highly recommend some type of training. Professional extinguisher companies or your local Fire Department will put on a class. These classes get people comfortable with general fire extinguisher terms and give practice extinguishing a demonstration fire. BMFA can arrange such a class if there is sufficient interest. If you find yourself with a small fire in your home, do the following:

- STAY CALM & DIAL 911 before attempting to extinguish the fire
- Get unnecessary people out of the house
- If you have a stove fire, try to put a lid on the fire. This is the quickest way to smother a grease fire on the stove. NEVER ATTEMPT TO PUT WATER ON A GREASE FIRE. THIS WILL CAUSE THE FIRE TO SPREAD.
- Keep oven or microwave doors closed, if the fire is there. This will keep additional oxygen from feeding the fire.
- Attempt to extinguish the fire with your extinguisher, making sure that you aim at the base of the flames and sweep back and forth. This will also help keep the fire from spreading outward.
- If the fire is bigger than you can control, or you do not feel comfortable, shut the door and evacuate the house immediately. The Fire Department will be en route.
- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR ADDRESS IS CLEARLY VISIBLE SO THAT INCOMING FIRE UNITS CAN FIND YOU!

If you already have an extinguisher, take time to check

it as follows:

- Check the pressure gauge, making sure that the needle is in the green, or operational, area. If the needle is above or below this area, the extinguisher needs to be checked by a professional.
- Turn the unit upside down and shake it. This will break up powder if it has been sitting for a long time.
- Check the nozzle to ensure that there are no blockages.
- Check to ensure the pin is still in place. If the pin is missing you take a chance of accidentally discharging the unit. That's a bad thing.
- All extinguishers have a date stamped or printed on the unit. If this date is older than six years the unit may need to be replaced or serviced by a professional company.
- If you are not sure about any of this, please feel free to call the Fire Department so we can assist you. Remember there is no charge for our services. Your safety is our number one goal.

FYI: our mitigation program has started up for this year. Tom Akins is the Mitigation Coordinator and will be happy to assist you. Please call (303) 440-0235 for information. Until next time, enjoy the springtime and remember to be careful out there!

In addition to his regular duties, Chief Benson recently saved a dog from a culvert and a wood rat whose tail was caught in a Have-a-Heart trap. ed



ONCE AGAIN, THE FAMOUS PINE BROOK GARAGE SALE!

By Art and Babette Markey

We have a good head start on the 2004 Garage Sale. Thanks to those neighbors who donated in our "off-season," we have filled the storage shed in Boulder Heights and half of the garage of the Auxiliary President (thanks, Carol and Vicki!).

It's now time to really get serious. Remember, this is the Fire Department Auxiliary's largest single fundraiser for its work in support of our BMFA volunteers. The last two sales provided the funds to buy the Jaws of Life (see Chief Benson's column).

We need 3 things: Donations, Volunteers and Shoppers.

1. Lots of Donations, Large and Small.

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. Since we must be able to sell what we get, we reserve the right to decline any donations.

What types of items are good: most anything that is not listed above. Here are some ideas: antiques, collectibles, furniture, jewelry, toys, books, electronics, lamps, house-wares, CDs, countertop appliances, linens, sporting goods, artwork, knickknacks, clothing, etc.

A car would be a super donation. If anyone wants to donate a running, "registerable" car, please call us. That's what really helped our sales in 2001 and 2002. All your donations are tax deductible and we will provide a receipt. You have to assign the value.

2. Lots of Volunteers

Many volunteers are needed to make the sale successful. We'll call previous volunteers; if you have not volunteered before but would like to help out, please call us at 303.440.6132. We need people to accept donations, haul our current stash out of storage, set up the rooms, price, sell, and clean up after closing. We definitely need some folks who are skilled at lifting and hauling. We are a fun group to work with, so come out and join us!

3. Lots of enthusiastic shoppers with wallets full of spending money (sorry, no credit cards).

Since what one person can no longer use can become another person's treasure, you need to come shopping to see what treasures you can find to buy and to support our firefighters. We always have an amazing assortment of goodies. This is one of the best sales in the area, so spread the word amongst your friends and acquaintances.

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

Collecting donations at the Pine Brook Firehouse:

Saturday, May 8	10 AM - 2 PM
Sunday, May 9	10 AM - 2 PM
Saturday, May 15	10 AM - 2 PM
Sunday, May 16	10 AM - 2 PM

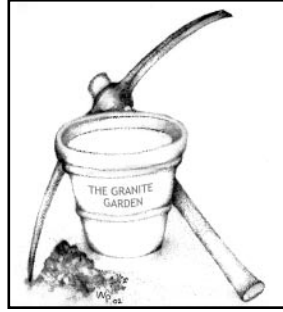
The Big Sale:

Friday, May 21	9 AM - 4 PM
Saturday, May 22	9 AM - 4 PM
Sunday, May 23	9 AM - 4 PM

THE GRANITE GARDEN

By Barbara Hosmer

Springtime projects for the garden can really get you looking at all your plantings with a new perspective. What survived the drought and the deer? What's next for the landscape or deck containers?



The temptations are many when I visit the plant stores and nurseries, so here are a few suggestions for gardening in our challenging climate:

1. The Deer List of plants that deer are less likely to eat will be with me in my car wherever I travel. If I decide to buy something that catches my eye, I will check this list before I plunk down my money. The Colorado State Extension Service has a good list. See the websites listed at the end of this column.
2. Containers! To best protect container plantings from the heat and risk of drying out, choose large containers that are made of plastic, glazed pottery or other material that will slow evaporation but also have drainage holes. You can help keep the soil cool and limit evaporation by using plastic bubble-wrap to line the inside of the pots. Use high quality potting soil (do not use soil from the yard). You might also want to add water-retaining polymer crystals to the soil. Frequent watering washes nutrients from the soil, so add a slow-release fertilizer to the soil. Select plants that have the same light and water requirements for the same container, and cover the soil surface with tiny bark chips or moss to reduce surface evaporation and keep the roots cool.
3. When you water container plants, you want the water to drain out the bottom, but then discard the water rather than let it sit in the saucer. This is because salts leach out of the soil. If you only water a little each time, the salts stay in the soil and cause problems for the plant. If the drained water is allowed to reabsorb, the salts are returned to the soil. If you see the white or tan crust on the top of the potting mix on your older plants, it is from a buildup of soluble salts. The remedy includes scraping off the visible crust, soaking and draining the pot several times, and adding new potting mix to the top of the pot.

4. Watering requirements for new plantings: new perennials will need 1 to 2 gallons of water two times a week. A ten gallon tree or shrub needs 10 gallons of water twice a week. A five-gallon potted xeric shrub will need 5 gallons of water once a week. Be sure to mulch all new plantings, one to two inches for perennials and three to four inches for trees and shrubs to keep moisture in and heat out.
 5. Remember, deer like to eat tender new growth, so be sure to protect yours with fencing or smelly distasteful repellent.
 6. Useful websites: www.ext.colostate.edu, (see publications and Plantalk) www.coloradogardening.com, and www.highcountrygardens.com.
- Happy Spring!



Wanted:

I am looking for a person to live with us.

WHEN: September 2004-May 2005

WHERE: We live in a beautiful home in North Boulder in the mountains (7 minutes from town) so a car is necessary.

HOW: I will give you FREE RENT if you can help me take care of my 8 year-old approximately 10-15 hours a week.

Chloe is a very fun and creative child!

Please call if you are interested in exploring this possibility.

Shanly Weber 303-938-1763

QUIZ OF THE MONTH!

Guess the amount of **NEW DONKEY-TAIL SPURGE** in Pine Brook Hills for April and WIN A **FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO**



NOXIOUS SPURGE MAGAZINE!

SPURGE! LOOK FOR IT!...COMING SOON TO YOUR BACKYARD!

From the Committee to Purge the Spurge

A WORD FROM YOUR WILDLIFE OFFICER ON WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)

By Patrica Belanger

I recently attended a Wildlife Symposium where Laura Austgen, PhD, from the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at CSU made a presentation on West Nile Virus (WNV). WNV was first detected in North America in 1999. The virus was originally spread in a bird-mosquito cycle, in which infected mosquitoes would transmit the virus to birds. Recent studies have now shown that many bird species, once infected, can transfer it back to uninfected mosquitoes. WNV has been isolated from some bird species' saliva and excreta. The mortality rates differ depending upon the age, species and strain of the virus. American crows have high death rates while other birds are comparatively resistant.

Traditional treatment for birds infected with WNV has been supportive care including fluid therapy, antibiotics and nutritional support. Despite the best efforts of many rehabilitors, many of these symptomatic birds die shortly after treatment has begun. One of the speakers at the symposium, Karen Shaw Becker, a veterinarian from Chicago, did have a greater than 85% success rate implementing homeopathic medicine in the treatment of WNV.

West Nile Virus in Dogs and Cats

Many dog and cat owners have expressed concern about the potential effects of WNV in their pets. Could close contact with a companion animal put them at risk? Currently, both the experimental data and the rarity of clinical reports of disease in dogs and cats from WNV suggests that infections are typically sub-clinical in nature. However, both dogs and cats can develop severe or even fatal disease from the virus infection. Dogs that do become ill have varied in age and often present much like horses, with ataxia and variable presence of fever. In recent studies, none of the 19 dogs infected with mosquito bites showed any signs of illness, although all but one had varying amounts of WNV in their blood stream. Most cats exposed to WNV via mosquitoes tested positive but very few developed clinical signs. Saliva from infected dogs and cats did not contain the virus.

WHAT TO DO

Should you find a bird or small animal that seems to be exhibiting signs of WNV, call me or the Division of Wildlife. Because the virus has been found in bird and

mammal carcasses, do not touch any injured/dead birds or wildlife without wearing disposable gloves and a face mask. If you wish to remove dead birds or mammals from your property, it is best to double wrap them in plastic bags and throw them in the garbage along with the gloves and mask you were wearing. Wash your hands thoroughly and keep your pets away from the area. For those of you who have cats, letting them wander may increase the chance that they will find a dead or sick bird infected with the disease.



THE NEW PINE BROOK HILLS DIRECTORY

By Suzanne Adams

By now you should have received a copy of the 2004-2005 Pine Brook Hills Directory. Many thanks to Bob Olliver for his delightfully creative work on the design and illustrations. Do please study the emergency exit map on the inside of the back cover, and become familiar with the ways out of Pine Brook. That information could be critical if wildfire blocked Linden Drive.

A new feature on p. 14 identifies the tracks of animals common to PBH. Who visited you in the night? A fox? A mountain lion?!

Is the directory perfect? Alas, no. Ben Levi's phone number should be 546-0679; Aria Seidl offers healthy and tasty meals, not "meats," as her Personal Cook ad would have you believe. Any other corrections will be cheerfully interpreted as offers to compile the next Directory.

The cover by B.K. Adams is not photo-manipulated. The rainbow (actually, faintly, a double rainbow) and the sun on the treetops are just the way they looked from Alpine Way. The picture confirms what we all had suspected: Pine Brook Hills is the gold at the end of the rainbow.



RESERVOIR: DeHaas, continued from p. 1

fast the wells are dying.

PRESS: Our wells are dying?

DeHAAS: In my opinion, yes. The hydrologists agreed. The wells can't sustain their production.

PRESS: Let's talk about cost. Many people were disturbed to read that the cost of the bond issue will be higher than they had originally been told. Why the increase?

DeHAAS: That figure is a "worst case scenario." On the ballot, we have to state a number higher than we think the cost will actually be, because we don't know what interest rates will be when we come to sell the bonds. The interest rate used in the recent mailing and on the ballot is 5.5%, almost 1.5% higher than current rates. On the basis of today's rates we expect the increase in the taxes to be something like 2.3 times the current amount, which is very close to our original estimate. But we have to have a safety cap, because if the cost exceeds the figures in the ballot issue, the bonds can't be sold.

PRESS: Did it bother you to have to state it that way in the ballot question?

DeHAAS: Sure! I was definitely annoyed! But what can you do, other than inform people as best you can. Look, we understand that this increase in taxes will not be easy for a significant portion of the community, and we certainly wouldn't ask it of them if it weren't necessary. Unfortunately, there are no inexpensive ways to create reliable water supply. If we had any alternative that would cost the same or less than this project and still provide adequate water, would we build the reservoir? No. We haven't been studying this for weeks, months or years. We've studied this for decades. The changes in weather and water rights have made the reservoir a necessity.

PRESS: What would be the cost of water if we don't build the reservoir?

DeHAAS: The sky's the limit. Really. There is no way to foretell.

PRESS: How do you think that the reservoir will affect property values?

DeHAAS: Having the reservoir puts the area in such a secure position that at a minimum it preserves property values and probably adds to salability.

PRESS: People are worried about how it is going to look.

DeHAAS: Initially, it will be very noticeable. After a few years I think few people will notice it. The spillway would

be 200 - 220 feet wide, tapered, and 60 feet high. The grass-covered berm would cover all but the top five or six feet of the rest of the dam. On the uphill side, when the reservoir is full, you would see about five feet of concrete.

PRESS: Some people feel that the reservoir is twice as big as it needs to be.

DeHAAS: It isn't. There's a safety margin, but not a huge one. It's planned not just for today but for what might happen in the future. At full build-out the shortage of water is approximately 64 acre feet just for indoor use - no outdoor watering, no allowance for firefighting, no allowance for loss. And we have to allow for loss. Last February we lost 600,000 gallons due to broken pipes in two vacant houses. Water main breaks can easily lose 10,000 to 20,000 gallons in one event. Reducing the reservoir by half would only result in a height reduction of 10 feet and a cost savings of less than 10%. That's penny wise and pound foolish.

PRESS: What about water for fire fighting?

DeHAAS: We need it. In the Wonderland Fire, if we hadn't had the volume of water to provide our firefighters, we could not have fought the fire as aggressively. Predictably, the result would have been the loss of homes and possibly the inability to stop the fire before it swept through the subdivision.

PRESS: But we did have that volume of water.

DeHAAS: We came close to running out. If the fire had occurred in early September, we might not have had the water. Will we be that lucky next time? Do you want to count on luck?

PRESS: Are other communities making similar plans?

DeHAAS: Sure. Pinewood Springs is looking to build a reservoir. Their community is all over the newspapers every time we have a drought because they have to haul in water here and haul rates go through the roof. Parker is building a reservoir. Boulder bought the Barker Reservoir.

PRESS: Are you surprised that this issue has been so controversial?

DeHAAS: No. Not at all. I view controversy as overall good, because it promotes solid discussion. You want people to ask questions, get informed. How would the community react if we hadn't addressed the problem when we knew it was there? It would have been irresponsible. That's why you have a Water Board and employees, to recognize these problems and find solutions.

CON: "WATER STORAGE SHOULD BE BASED ON NEED"

An interview with Melinda Kassen, a water rights attorney with Trout Unlimited.

PRESS: We've experienced severe droughts here in Colorado and the prospect, with snowpack 30% below normal in our area, is for another dry summer. The reservoir seems to offer us the chance to store water when we have it, for use when we don't. Why do you oppose it?

KASSEN: I'm not against storing water; I'm against storing twice as much as what PBH needs. I believe in meeting real needs. We need 40-50 acre-feet of water, not 100 or 200. Taking all of it encourages waste.

PRESS: The Water District's figures project that we will need another 64 acre-feet of water at full build-out (450 homes), not allowing for any outdoor use, losses through broken pipes or mains or fire suppression.

KASSEN: But those figures assume that we'll meet the entire water need through storage. We do have some water available to us now. The Water District is asking for all that it has a right to, not for the additional increment that the community needs. Water storage should be based on needs.

PRESS: If the size of the reservoir is your major concern, what size do you think it should be?

KASSEN: I haven't done an independent analysis, but taking Bob's numbers at face value, it should be 40-50 acre-feet. At that size, the storage may or may not mean cisterns or tanks. I think that the Water District started its process backward - they conceived a reservoir based on the maximum water right they might get from the court, rather than planning to meet projected unmet needs. Yes, we need a margin of safety. If PBH needs 64 acre-feet total (and I'm not sure what level of indoor conservation Bob used to derive that number), we probably want to have 70 available. But the Water District started by asking for a 200 acre-foot reservoir, and they are still seeking one that holds 100 acre-feet.

PRESS: The question of winter water rights seems to be central to the argument for the reservoir. We don't have senior rights to winter water and our annual lease can't be counted on, either for its cost or continued availability. Aren't those valid concerns?

KASSEN: My understanding is that the District

projects a 20 acre-foot winter shortfall. Other options to meet that need may also be feasible. There has been national press coverage of the City of Aurora's deal to use irrigation water for municipal use on a temporary basis. More and more urban water providers in Colorado are using temporary rights to fill their water needs. Cities pay farmers to make these temporary transfers worthwhile for both parties. So "temporary" isn't necessarily bad.

PRESS: You mentioned conservation earlier. PBH already uses less water than comparable communities. What more could we do? Low-flow toilets have been required in new construction since the early 90's, for example.

KASSEN: Are we maxed out on efficiency? Where is Art Markey's survey with plumbing appliances, etc.?^{*} My house was built in 1980. We've retrofitted one bathroom, but not two others. But we bought a highly efficient washing machine, using 15 gallons, instead of 45. These machines aren't required.

**The survey results were printed in the Autumn, 2003 P.B. Press and can be accessed through www.pinebrookhills.org. -ed.*

PRESS: What do you feel would be the worst thing that would happen if the reservoir were built?

KASSEN: It's a personal aesthetic. I chose to live in a mountain community that doesn't have bluegrass lawns, that doesn't need that kind of water. I don't want to see a 60 foot high concrete wall right behind the community building. I also don't want to see Pine Brook become a water supplier to sprawling developments on the plains. That may happen if the District stores more water than the community can ever use efficiently. Other people have other issues. I don't suggest that mine are the only issues, or the only valid issues. My issue is that water managers should build to meet real needs, as opposed to meeting speculative needs. Other people may have concerns about the money, aesthetics, dam breeches, maybe even mosquitoes.

PRESS: Water needs for fire...

KASSEN: Yes, the fire department needs water. Look, my basic objections come to this: the current figures don't take into account the current availability of water, and if we have excess water it'll be sold to others. I'm opposed to oversized water projects. I don't believe that Pine Brook's unmet need is not real, but I don't want a Pine Brook reservoir to make money by selling water to other people.

The reservoir decision is important and complex. In order to give each side a fair hearing, Bob and Melinda were each offered space for a 100-word rebuttal of the other's arguments. First, Bob answers Melinda:

Unfortunately, the opponents of the reservoir either misquote the District's statements and numbers or do not understand them. For example, the 64 acre-feet of water at full build out is the shortage for the year. The potential winter shortfall is not 20 acre-feet; the potential winter shortfall is as much as 49 acre-feet. Now add unexpected losses and summer drought issues. Temporary transfers on paper do not guarantee "wet" water (water from your tap). Bottom line: this project is designed to meet real needs, not speculative needs - unless you call droughts and global warming issues speculative.

- Bob DeHaas

...and Melinda's response:

The Water Board has changed its numbers over time. On cost, we've heard doubling, tripling and now 2.3 times current taxes. On need, using existing average consumption rates, at build out, the District will need 110 acre-feet (AF) annually, including current water supplies. While the Board started out seeking 200 AF in 2002, I was told there was only a 50 AF shortfall at a July 7, 2003 meeting. Now, it's a 64 AF gap and a 100 AF reservoir. Long term drought and global warming may affect both future consumption rates and expectations. But the Board hasn't presented reliable, verifiable numbers to make its case.

- Melinda Kassen



FIRE DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION....continued from page 1

emergency responders. On many occasions - most recently during the Wonderland Hill Fire of 2002 - this volunteer force played a critical role in helping to control potentially catastrophic fires in our neighborhood. The economies of scale made possible by BMFA have enabled us, for the first time, to hire a full-time Chief and a Mitigation Coordinator.

In the May 4 elections we will have the opportunity to ensure the future success of BMFA by voting to consolidate the two districts into a single fire protection district. A formal consolidation would retain all of the advantages that we have achieved to date through the Authority, plus it would achieve a number of additional organizational advantages and cost efficiencies. At the moment, each of the two districts as well as the BMFA must have a separate Board

of Directors, a separate annual budget and financial statement, and so on. Consolidation would reduce all of these requirements from three sets of administrative activities controls to just one.

The more important long-term benefit of consolidation is that it allows us to plan for the future with confidence. The Authority as it stands now could potentially be dissolved by the decision of just four persons on just one of the two Boards of Directors. A consolidated district could only be dissolved by the voters in the communities it serves. Our firefighters want to know that they are giving their time to an organization that will endure.

Usually with the promise of additional advantages there is also an additional cost - but not this time! If the consolidation is approved by the voters in both Pine Brook Hills and in Boulder Heights, the new mill levies in Pine Brook Hills will remain the same as they were before - **the taxes we pay for fire protection and emergency response services will not increase.**

In fact, consolidation of smaller fire districts into larger and stronger districts is becoming a key strategy to avoid costly tax increases by ensuring that viable volunteer fire departments can be sustained. Often, the only alternative to consolidation into larger districts is to hire paid firefighters, or to contract with much larger paid departments. When volunteers are replaced with paid firefighters there is inevitably a huge cost impact that has to be supported by substantial tax increases.

Therefore, in the upcoming elections, residents should consider voting "yes" on all three consolidation ballot issues. **Issue A** is straightforward: Shall we consolidate? **Issue B** asks whether taxes should be increased to a mill levy of 6.189. Although it sounds like a tax raise, it isn't. This is exactly what we are paying now. **Issue C** only applies to those few properties outside the Pine Brook Water District and not accessible by fire hydrants; most of us won't see this issue on our ballots.

There is an additional fourth ballot issue that is also critically important. Its approval is not required for consolidation, but it is important that residents vote in favor of this issue as well.

Issue D: Voters will also be asked to authorize the new consolidated District to collect, retain and spend the full amount of all revenues from all sources.

Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution places limits on the amount of taxes and other revenue that

special districts can collect and spend. **Unless we pass Issue D, we might not be able to use grants or even homeowner contributions for our fire mitigation work.** While most of our tax revenue is spent for fire trucks and the cost of operating the department, recently we have developed a successful fire mitigation program that has been paid for primarily by grants and individual homeowners. In fact, about 50% of the BMFA's total revenues this year may come from other than property tax sources. We need fire mitigation in our wildland/interface environment. It is critically important that we be able to use grants and homeowner contributions to pay for it.

For more information on this important vote, call Allen Saville, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Pine Brook Hills Fire Protection District, at 303-415-9500.

Steve Maxwell is a former member of the Pine Brook Hills Fire Protection District Board of Directors and former Chairman of the BMFA's Mitigation Committee..



TASTER'S CHOICE FOR TODAY'S LION: YOUR DOG, YOUR SELF

By Anne Farr Butterfield

A month ago on Balsam Lane, a scrappy Pomeranian named Hercules was snatched from his kitchen



door, one foot away from his owner's knee. The next day a deer was killed nearby; one day prior, a dog was killed on Wagon Wheel Gap. Entrails of a large animal were found at the corner of Linden and

Timber soon after. Was it one lion or two? And why is all of this happening in a populated area?

"Not surprising," would be the opinion of David Baron, author of the recently released book **The Beast in the Garden**. This is a must-read for Pine Brookers, for it takes the provocative view that lion nature has changed due to its history of contact with humans.

The view of the Department of Wildlife and many Boulderites is, "We humans are barging into the lions' den and are meeting the natural consequences. Nothing should be done." But Baron takes a disturbing view by asserting that while we're in lion country the important fact is that the lion has become less shy as it rebounds from near extinction. Lions' memory of fearing humans has been wiped out and been replaced by generations of hunting without harm (or even con-

test) from humans or wolves. Lions have gotten cocky, and why not? In Baron's research our pretty pumas no longer turn tail at dogs barking up a storm; instead they come straight in for the kill.

Lions aren't staying in the outback. Baron reports that a healthy lion was seen on a patio at Boulder Community Hospital. To accommodate these majestic beings, do we really expect to carry mace, batons, or airhorns when jogging alone? Perhaps yes -- but do we also believe that families with small children shouldn't live in Pine Brook Hills?

We prosecute animal abusers because they often escalate into abusing humans. Lions may be escalating their way straight into our living rooms. Maybe we should take Baron seriously and demand more tracking of cases and invasive management from DOW. Perhaps we should keep shotguns.

Today's lions enjoy shelter in the form of abandoned mining shafts. The lions use them for nursing cubs and eating, and they patrol their territories over multi-day trips linked by their favorite caves and shelters. This brings two speculations. One, reducing the number of shelters might effect a sort of birth control. Two, lions seem to "scope out" prey (like a fenced yard with a dog) and return at a time of their choosing. While lion strikes may be less frequent than lightning strikes, they are not as random. If your dog is outdoors in a predictable way, especially overnight, that may increase its chance of being snatched.

Another fact to take seriously from Baron is that lions will retreat if you give them a stinking, heinous fight. With a lion, do NOT play dead. Instead, be a major pain. Two people from Baron's book survived attacks by getting truly mean; one gouged out his attacker's eye. That lion was later found basking in a tree in a Lakewood backyard.

Hercules' "Mom," Allison Levine, echoed Baron's opinion on the Department of Wildlife's response to lion kills: it's too passive. "The lion kill - along with DOW's response generally - has definitely led to our decision to move out of Pine Brook." She adds, "It's wrenching, because this place has community like none other. But we have a baby; I don't want her to grow up with Mommy constantly hovering."

Allison and her family will be missed. When they are gone, we in Pine Brook will be left with what lurks in the garden. Our lions are growing in number and culinary tastes, and just as with our pets and our kids, our pumas' undesirable habits will only get worse if they don't meet serious consequences.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors,

We've attended community information meetings and carefully read all material on both sides of the debate over the proposed reservoir. We are not convinced by the arguments against the reservoir and we think the benefits are significant.

Here's where we come down:

1. We acknowledge the unfortunate increase in taxes. That must be weighed against the cost of not having enough water for household use and the potential for huge loss due to fire. We also are of the opinion that the reservoir will bring an increase in property values which will help offset the cost of taxes, due to lower fire risk and reliable water supply.
2. We agree that a 60' concrete structure in the middle of the community is not an aesthetic change we welcome. However, the berm on the downhill side will obscure much of the concrete structure, additional trees can be planted, and the artists' projections of the appearance of the dam suggest that the impact can be neutral if well managed. The engineers' reports on the roller-concrete dam convince us of its safety.
3. Independent experts have confirmed that there should be no increase in the mosquito population.
4. There is also concern about the size of the reservoir. The Water District's proposal is for 100 acre-feet. This size would solve our problems in getting winter water, see us through several summers of drought and make water available for firefighting. Given what we know it appears that a smaller reservoir saves little and risks much.

There is competition for water in the arid West. Nobody is going to help us out if we don't take responsibility for meeting our own water needs. Do we think the City of Boulder will weep for us??

Vote **YES** on the reservoir.

Jake and Cyndy Brooks



Dear PBP Editors:

We believe that the water reservoir is a needed addition to Pine Brook Hills.

Water is necessary to maintain quality of life. The precipitation we have received the past few years has been dropping. Analyses have shown that PBH efficiently conserves the water we have and our ability to

further reduce usage is limited. As summers get hot and creek water becomes scarce, we risk the potential of a major wildland fire in Pine Brook Hills without the means to effectively fight it. Recall, our fire department alone used 200,000 gallons to fight the Wonderland Lake Fire from the ridge.

No one likes additional taxes nor do we want to have to modify the natural environment. However, this is one of those times when we need to bite the bullet and make a prudent decision for the future of our community.

Your friends and neighbors,
Jim and Kathy Eyster



WAY TO GO

By Suzanne Adams

"How well are our local agencies prepared for bioterror attacks?" we often ask ourselves as we brush our teeth. It is informative to revisit a simulated terrorist attack using Denver as a test city.

In the spring of 2000 the Federal Government conducted a test to see how Denver would respond to a covert biological attack. 2500 officials participated, at a cost of close to \$10,000,000. The experiment began on a Wednesday night at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, where pneumonic plague was released through the fresh-air ducts by a hypothetical lone terrorist. The results of the experiment suggested a city in chaos, with a health-care system shut down, governmental offices and society itself collapsing. However, the city showed its resourcefulness in one way, which has been called "an inspired stopgap measure." City officials commandeered refrigerated trucks from the Coors Brewing Company for body storage and transport.

Are you reassured?

Source: Germs, by Miller, Engelberg and Broad



QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

from sba

Our roads in PBH are pretty good, certainly much better than they used to be. But if you occasionally experience a critical thought about them, consider this provocative news item:

"Yes, the operator should have seen the deer, and yes, it should have been removed."

Walter Bortree of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, on a road repair crew that paved over a dead deer.

FUNdraising Party in Pine Brook Hills to Support Local Pine Brookers' Book Drives for African Schools



By Pam Creswell

There is a lot of interest within the Pine Brook Community in helping the children of Africa. Six of our friends and neighbors, in three totally separate projects, are coordinating book drives for African schools. Suzanne Adams is sending a library of theater books for college level students. Jo Noble, as reported in the last Pine Brook Press, is gathering books for village schools in Uganda. Uriah and Diane Bueller, and Mike and Kathi Imperi, are heading up a book drive, in conjunction with Mike's high school students, for schools in Kenya. These book drives are carefully planned efforts and should be a tremendous benefit to African children. There is one problem however: the latter two projects need money to ship the books.

SOLUTION ? ANOTHER PARTY AT PAM AND MARSHAL'S HOUSE!

Pam Creswell, Marshal Swanton and friends will again this year be hosting a cultural themed Party. The event, "Voyage to Africa," on Saturday, June 5, will feature authentic African décor, dinner, dancing, drumming and marimba performances. Wine will be included and costumes are strongly encouraged. For even more entertainment, there will be a Silent Auction and "Girls on Top," the fabulous Rhythm and Blues Dance Band will play.

WANT TO HELP?

Many Pine Brookers helped with last year's "Silk Road Party" to benefit school children in Afghanistan. A great time was had as friends and neighbors joined in the group effort. Even the lavish Middle Eastern dinner was prepared by volunteers at "cooking parties," under the guidance of the caterer. If you would like to join in the fun - cooking, decorating, donating items or services to the auction, sending out invitations to your friends - please let me know. And remember, if you are interested in having some truly serious FUN, be sure to attend the Party!

All Pine Brookers are invited so if you haven't received an invitation by now, contact me at 720-406-9783.

SUMMER SOCIALS IN PBH!

Announcement from Karen Peperzak, Social Chair

The DineArounds, introduced in Pine Brook two years ago, have been hugely popular. The concept is simple: various Pine Brookers offer to host a party, the cost of which is shared by the guests. The parties are open to everyone in the community and have proven to be a delightful way to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Come to as many as you choose! The only requirement is to send in your check well in advance so that the hosts can prepare appropriately. Keep this page for summer reference!

- Friday, June 9:** Karen and Marc Peperzak will have a cocktail party from 6:30 to 9. Please send your check for \$20 per person to Karen at 1024 Linden Drive as your reservation.
- Saturday, July 24:** Cocktail party at Kim and Dale Hartzell's from 6:30 to 9. Call Kim at 786-7601 and send a check for \$20 per person to 1257 North Cedar Brook Road.
- Saturday, July 31:** Square Dance at the Firehouse, hosted by the Pine Brook Hills Homeowners Association. It's free and fun for all ages. More information in the next Pine Brook Press.
- Friday, July 30:** Sue and Art Rancis will have a cocktail party from 6:30 to 9. Reserve a place with a check for \$25 per person to 125 Meadowlook Way.
- Friday, August 9:** Elizabeth and David Korevaar will offer a party for 50 with a French theme and will include a 45 minute concert of French music performed by David Korevaar (see David's website at <http://www.davidkorevaar.com>). Festivities begin at 6:30 with French wine and hors d'oeuvres catered by Big Bang. The Concert will start at 7:30 and will be followed by wine and cheese. Please send your check for \$40 per person to 415 South Cedar Brook Rd.
- Friday, September 10:** Kathy Moritz will host a garden cocktail party from 6:30 to 9. Please call Kathy at 440-3576 for your reservation and send a check for \$20 to 414 South Cedar Brook Road.
- Saturday, December 4:** Hold this date for the PBH Holiday Party at Pam Creswell and Marshall Swanton's home. Dinner Dance!

If anyone else would like to host a DineAround, please call Karen at 303.440.0692.

Pine Brookers are sometimes accused of being "social." How absurd. ed

Lot 118 for Sale

Lot 118 (owned by the late R. Marshall Coon) is for sale. It is a buildable, 2.97 acres, with water hook-up and scenic views of the plains. Appraised at \$300K. Anyone that is interested, please contact Jon Kotke (estate executor) @ 303-449-6161. Thank you.



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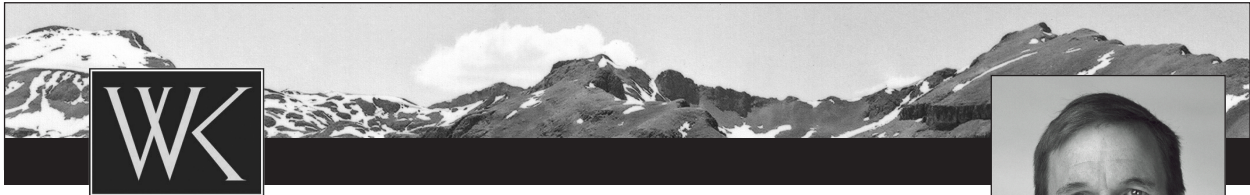
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THE LITTLE BUG THAT COULD

By Bruce Benninghoff

Can a little beetle less than 3/8ths of an inch long kill a big tree that has survived for a hundred years or more? Probably not alone, but in great numbers they can devastate a forest.

If optimal habitat is provided for any organism, it will flourish. Optimal habitat for bark beetles is a forest under stress. That condition exists in Pine Brook Hills, due to the drought, overcrowding and the parasite Dwarf Mistletoe. Populations of both Mountain Pine Beetle and Ips Beetle are at epidemic levels over much of Colorado. In this issue we are going to focus on the Ips beetle, because Ips beetles are a current threat. They spring into action as soon as the weather sustains daytime temperatures of 50 degrees. The beetles are emerging now from under the bark, where they have overwintered, to attack new trees.

WHAT DO WE DO? There are two ways to combat them. The best long-term strategy is to manage our forests so that they are better able to endure the stresses we can't control (drought). The short-term strategy is to protect the most valuable trees with chemicals.

LONG-TERM: Thinning the forest so that each tree has less competition for soil moisture, nutrients and sunlight will give them a chance to defend themselves from beetles. A healthy tree will try to produce enough pitch flow to push an attacking beetle right back out the hole he came in, or encase the beetle in pitch to smother him. The evidence of this defense is called a pitch tube. It looks like white to yellowish or pinkish popcorn kernels on the bark surface. A tree may be able to 'pitch out' 10 beetles; it can rarely pitch out a hundred attackers.

Ips beetles usually attack the tops of trees. If the tree is not vigorous enough to produce the massive amounts of pitch required to 'pitch out' a large number of beetles, the male beetles burrow under the bark to prepare the nuptial chamber. The females are attracted to that tree by the pheromones released by the male. After mating, the females excavate galleries where they will lay their eggs. This often creates a 'Y', 'H', or sometimes an 'X' pattern. The resulting larvae feed on the cambium (the living layer) between the

bark and the wood. This girdling activity is one way the beetles kill the tree. The other way they kill is through the introduction of blue stain fungus. As the fungus develops it clogs the vessels that transport water up the tree. Its presence is indicated by the blue color imparted to the sapwood.

Usually the pitch tubes are the visual clue that alerts us to the presence of the beetles. Currently, many trees are so severely stressed by the ongoing drought that they are not producing pitch tubes at all. So how do we know where they are? Watch the woodpeckers. They know!

What do we do when we detect their presence? Once the beetles are under the bark, they cannot be treated with chemicals. The tree must be cut down, which by itself will not prevent the next generation of beetles from maturing and emerging from under the bark. To prevent the emergence of the next generation there are several options:

- * Move the infested logs and limbs at least a mile away from other pine trees.

- * Burn them immediately.

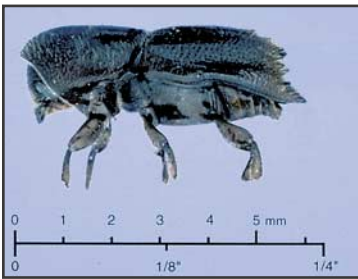
- * Apply the solar treatment with plastic as outlined in Colorado State Forest Service Insect Information Series, MPB #1, Solar Treatment of Mountain Pine Beetle Trees

- * Remove the bark from the larger portions of main stem to expose the larvae/pupae/immature adults to predation and desiccation. Chip all the slash (limbs). This is the method I recommend because there is no burning, no chemicals and the results are immediate.

The catch is that the tree will still be green when this needs to be done. If the treatment is applied after the needles have turned red (or straw colored) it is too late! The beetles have already flown from that tree and are now busy attacking new trees. To limit the mortality caused by the beetles, treatment must be applied when they are in the tree - not after they have moved on!

SHORT-TERM: Protect your most valuable trees by having them sprayed with solutions of permethrin or carbaryl. The treatment must be applied BEFORE the beetles hit the tree as a deterrent. The chemicals cannot penetrate under the bark to kill the beetles in place. Because Ips beetles produce two to four generations per year, this must be done at least twice

per year.



Ips Calligraphus Adult- Note spines that surround concave rear end. John L. Foltz, University of Florida, www.forestryimages.org



Pitch tubes indicate bark beetle attacks. Pitch tubes on severely stressed trees will be smaller or nonexistent.

Why should we battle the beetle? Aside from aesthetics, a forest of dead trees is an increased fire hazard. And we have enough of that already.



FIRE BOARD ELECTION ON MAY 4

The community will elect three members to the Pine Brook Hills Fire Protection District Board of Directors. These Directors, with their counterparts from Boulder Heights, also serve as Directors of the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority. If the consolidation vote is approved, the winning candidates from both districts will serve on the new Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District. There are four candidates and three positions. The candidates are listed here in the order you will see them on your ballot.

Allen Saville is the currently the Chairman of the Pine Brook Hills Fire Protection District and Chairman of the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority. Allen has a law degree from The University of Virginia and masters and doctoral degrees in planning from Virginia Tech. He has been a consultant for almost 30 years in the areas of strategic planning, performance improvement, organizational design and development, executive coaching, leadership development and change management.



Rob Bozeman: Volunteer firefighter for two years, PBH resident for over five. Lives in non-hydranted area of PBHFPD and is visiting all homes in that area to explain tax implications and advantages of fire

district consolidation. Recent retiree from IBM: career included project management, business analysis, technical marketing and customer relations. Served in US Army as Intelligence Officer in Viet Nam and later as Intelligence Liaison Officer to NATO Air Force Headquarters. Education: degree in Geology and Fulbright Scholarship to Australia. Goals if elected: smooth, effective transition to consolidated fire district and continued improvements in the protection of our Interface environment.



Suzanne Adams: Currently Chair of the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority Mitigation Committee and Secretary of both the Pine Brook Hills Fire Protection District and Boulder Mountain Fire Authority Boards of Directors. Primary interest: Fire Mitigation. Attended Colorado Mitigation and Wildfire Conferences since '01.



Community Background: Pine Brooker since 1991; Former President, Pine Brook Hills Homeowners Association; Editor: Pine Brook Press and PBH Directory. Education: BA, Stanford University; MA, Northwestern University. Goal if re-elected: to work to establish a long-term, effective and affordable fire mitigation program for the district.

James W. (Jim) Eyster. Education: PhD, MS, BME in engineering, The Ohio State University. Employment: Retired. Previously, president of computer outsourcing company; chief information officer; engineering professor at Virginia Tech. Experience: Volunteer fire fighter and medical first responder for the past 4 years. President, Pine Brook Hills Homeowners Association 2000-2003. Platform: Given the fire consolidation vote will be successful, I will work for a smooth transition to the new fire authority. Additionally, I will work to ensure that our tax dollars are used to provide the most effective and efficient fire protection program for the Pine Brook Hills area.



VIEWS FROM PINE BROOK



Pine Brook's early evening view of the North Flatiron, also known as Sunset Rock.

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