



# Pine Brook Press

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

Spring 2014



## PBH: PRESENT AND FUTURE

Every two years, the PBH Home Owners Association transitions to a new president. Many thanks to Dave Davies for his hard work on our behalf and many thanks to Allen Saville for agreeing to become our new leader. "It seemed like a good time to take stock of where we are now and think about where our community



Dave Davies

Allen Saville

would like to grow," commented Allen when asked about the February 25 HOA meeting. Board members and those with leadership roles in the HOA gave status reports on some of the significant issues on the horizon for our community.

### The Role of the HOA

"I suggest that it is important to have a good understanding of the purpose of the PBH HOA. Without it we have no compass to guide us. With it we have direction and criteria for decision-making," noted Allen as he opened the evening's presentations with an update on the HOA in general.

Allen and the HOA Board suggest the following to clarify what the purpose of the Home Owners Association is.

To cultivate a strong, sustainable, vibrant, and attractive community and to enhance the quality of life and well-being of the residents of Pine Brook Hills.

The Board proposes that PBH can achieve that purpose by committed focus on the following:

- Maintaining a strong sense of community and belonging for residents;
- Encouraging a high level of participation, community service, and volunteerism;
- Continuing attention to safety and security;
- Attending to community infrastructure;

- Appreciating and cultivating of the natural beauty and attractiveness of our community;
- Maintaining intelligent and civil forums for public education and communication about our community topics and issues;
- Providing opportunities for PBH residents to meet, connect, and socialize;
- Identifying and continuing to monitor the needs of our PBH community; and
- Building and maintaining healthy and communicative relationships with organizations that impact PBH.

### Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District

Chief John Benson thanked the community for the support he has received in his 11-year tenure with the District. Recent donations by community members and the HOA have enabled the Department to purchase carbon monoxide detectors, vehicles, and other equipment that have added to resources available to our volunteer firefighters.



John Benson

Chief mentioned that fire prevention is key to the safety of our mountain community. He reminded residents who use wood-burning fireplaces to be sure that they are checked and cleaned regularly, as the debris that can be in flues and chimneys is a fire hazard. He pointed out that our roads are not in good shape after last fall's floods and the winter wear and tear. Driving safely and courteously is essential to staying safe on diminished roads.

BMFPD is currently working on revamping its flood response plan to ensure that lessons learned last fall are incorporated into future planning. He encouraged residents to take advantage of mitigation services available, in particular to watch for trees that may be in danger of falling from erosion.

### Pine Brook Water District

Bob de Haas, Water District Manager, reported that

the reservoir is full due to rain and snow this winter. There has been no need to pump any water since the floods last fall. The District experienced some damages from the floods. The Water Board estimates that total costs related to repairs will be near one million dollars. They have commissioned an engineering study to determine the best way to repair the emergency back-up wells that were damaged. The Water Board has created a capital fund to ensure that there are dedicated funds within the budget for all repair work.



Bob de Haas

**Spurge Purge**

Myrtle Spurge is a noxious weed that is toxic to people and wildlife, and has become a serious infestation in PBH. Fortunately, a team from Wildlands Restoration Volunteers will be available in PBH this spring to help eradicate the weed. Be sure to check out the article by Lauren Poulos on page 11 for more information about how you can get involved in the effort and/or effectively eliminate spurge from your own property.

**Wildland Fire Mitigation**



Steve Lynn

BMFPD has been fortunate to have a mitigation team available to our District since 1999. Since all “Mit crew” members are firefighters, having them in-district, means we always have firefighters near-by, should an emergency arise. Steve Lynn, Mitigation Coordinator, gave the

following recommendations to help keep our homes safe and be proactive about mitigation.

- Be aware of any current fire danger in the area.
- Clean roofs and gutters at least twice a year, especially during the autumn and spring.
- Stack firewood uphill or on a side contour, at least 30 feet away from structures.
- Don’t store combustibles or firewood under decks.
- Maintain and clean spark arresters on chimneys.
- Screen off any openings in attics, eaves, siding, and foundations to reduce the likelihood of embers and firebrands entering them.
- When possible, maintain an irrigated greenbelt around the home.
- Connect and have available a minimum of 50 feet of garden hose.
- Post reflective lot and/or house numbers so that they are clearly visible from the main road. There should also be reflective numbers on the structure itself.
- Trees along driveways should be limbed and

- thinned as necessary to maintain a 14-foot vertical and 12-foot wide clearance for emergency vehicle access.
- Maintain defensible space constantly.
- Mow grass and weeds to a low height.
- Remove any tree branches overhanging the roof or chimney.
- Remove all trash and debris from the defensible space.

The Mitigation Crew is able to help homeowners with keeping their property free of fire hazards. See the article on page 7 for more information about the services available.

**Architectural Review Committee**

Mike Von Hatten, newly elected chairperson of the ARC, noted that in the past the focus of the committee has been on reviewing new construction and exterior remodeling. The ARC is becoming increasingly aware of its role in preserving the natural environment and ensuring that PBH remains a safe, healthy, and beautiful area in which to live. The ARC is in the process of defining “nonconforming and detrimental issues” that they are charged by HOA Covenants to address and developing community standards that can be used to provide clarity regarding the expectations of residents and the ARC.



Mike Von Hatten

The Committee is examining ways that the ARC could support neighborhood enhancement by accentuating and improving PBH assets, such as improvements to the PBH entry and area near South Cedar Brook Road that was damaged in the floods. For more information about the ARC see page 12.

**Safety and Security**

Allen reported for Paul Shippey, Safety and Security Chairperson, that the team is researching the feasibility of installing cameras at the entrance to the neighborhood.

**Roads**

Peter King-Smith, representative to Boulder County’s LID Advisory Committee, noted that the team is currently working with the Transportation Department and County Commissioners to advise about how the LID funds are used. He and Bob Loveman, the second PBH representative, will continue to send updates to the community via the PBH Forum and through links on the PBH website. See the update on page 12 for additional information.



Peter King-Smith

**PINE BROOK HILLS  
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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

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

**HOA Quarterly Meeting, Tuesday, April 29, 6 P.M.**

6 P.M. for potluck and refreshments; 7 P.M. for presentations by Karen Bernardi, owner of the Bernardi Real Estate Group, on PBH real estate and Daniel DeLange, P.E., Project Engineer for Boulder County Transportation, on the three road repair projects that will be happening in PBH soon. Brief business meeting at 8:30 P.M.

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

**BOULDER MOUNTAIN FIRE SAFETY SALE**, May 3 (Boulder Heights, 50 Overlook), 10 A.M.-4 P.M., May 4 (Pine Brook Hills, 1905 Linden), 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

**BMFPD BOARD** - Meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30 P.M. at either the Pine Brook or Boulder Heights Firehouse. Call 440-0235 for specifics.

**BMFPD AUXILIARY** - Meets quarterly on the first Sunday of the month. Next meeting: June 8, 2-4 P.M. Email [auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org) for confirmation.

**SPURGE PURGE**, April 19, May 3 & May 22, contact Lauren Poulos at 303-543-1411 Ext. 5#, or email her at [lauren@wlr.org](mailto:lauren@wlr.org) for more information.

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

**PBH NOTES: RESPONSIBILITY**

By Allen Saville, HOA President

As I begin to work with the other HOA Board members and the people who head up the various HOA committees, and as I begin to receive the occasional call from PBH residents about a “situation,” I am impressed with two things:

1. There are a lot of wonderful and very talented people who are willing to contribute their talents to our community – thank you.
2. Most “issues” and “situations” could be easily avoided or remedied quickly if people merely acted in a “responsible manner.”



As is usually the case, that’s not as easy or simple as it sounds. Being responsible actually takes a bit of effort. Even with that effort, different people may have different views on what is responsible.

The “effort” part is this: In order for people to act responsibly, it is necessary to cultivate knowledge and situational awareness. In other words, you can’t expect that people will make responsible decisions unless they are informed, have knowledge about the variables in any particular situation, and are alert to and aware of what is going on around them. A responsible person would need to anticipate “what might happen” in any given situation. There is another element, but we will get to that . . .

First, let’s take a neighborhood example. In PBH we have narrow winding roads that also have steep grades and, in many instances, no shoulder at all. We do not have “No Parking” signs to mark unsafe parking areas. Nevertheless, there are lots of areas in PBH that really should be “No Parking” areas. Should you park your vehicle on a blind curve where there



is no shoulder? Certainly not. Does this happen? Yes, it does.

Being responsible in this situation would mean that you have an obligation to provide for your own safety and that of others, understand traffic dynamics, anticipate that a vehicle parked in this area might constitute a hazard to other vehicles and a hindrance to emergency vehicles, school busses, snow plows, etc. Responsible behavior in this situation would be NOT parking your vehicle on any portion of the road on a blind curve.

In PBH that might mean having to park some distance from your destination – but that is what being responsible means in our neighborhood. And this leads us to that “other element” – sometimes being responsible might result in a bit of personal inconvenience. Does this mean that people will act in a responsible manner only when there is no personal inconvenience? Hopefully, not. But, it does mean that in situations in which responsible behavior might bring with it some level of personal inconvenience, people will act responsibly only when their sense of responsibility outweighs their preference for personal convenience.

A sort of corollary to the above observation is this: a stronger sense of responsibility results in more responsible behavior. So, how can we cultivate a stronger sense of responsibility within PBH?

Let's try another example (warning – this one is harder). Part of the beauty of our mountain community is the wooded terrain. But we live in an area in which wildland fire is a constant threat. What responsibility do individual property owners have for ensuring their properties are properly mitigated to protect structures, inhibit the rapid spread of fire, and reduce the potential severity of fire?

Providing for your own safety and that of others is still the primary obligation in this situation. Knowledge of fire behavior, forest health, and the importance of defensible space is essential. Anticipating how the condition of your driveway will facilitate (or inhibit) access by big fire engines would be something to think about. And this time we probably have to add financial commitment into the equation – that is, how much is being responsible going to cost?

It takes work to get responsibility right. At the very least we have to recognize our obligation to be responsible, acquire knowledge that helps figure out the right thing to do, be alert to what is happening around us, and think about what might happen as a result of our action or inaction. Responsibility is not easy, but it is an important attribute to cultivate – as an individual and as a community.

## Mark Your Calendar: April 29 HOA Meeting

The HOA is pleased to announce that noted local realtor, Karen Bernardi, will be speaking. Karen is the owner of Bernardi Real Estate Group at Coldwell Banker in Boulder. While PBH is fortunate to have a number of successful realtors as residents, Karen was specifically selected for this presentation because she can offer an outsider's perspective. Karen knows the Boulder County area and has been selling real estate for over 29 years here.



The presentation will address topics such as:

- How does the local real estate community feel about PBH in general?
- Have the recent floods and the Four Mile fire affected real estate in PBH in particular?
- There are several multi-million dollar homes for sale in PBH, but little action. Is that typical of the market or are there other factors at play?
- PBH has a comprehensive set of HOA Covenants...not too restrictive but detailed. Is the local real estate community aware of the PBH Covenants and does that affect the marketability of PBH homes?
- What should people do to enhance the marketability of PBH Homes? For example, does tree/fire mitigation help or hinder?

In addition to Karen's presentation, Daniel DeLange, P.E., Project Engineer for Boulder County Transportation will be present to talk about the three road repair projects that will be happening in PBH soon. Dan is part of the team that is responsible for “flood-related” road repair.



Long-time residents, Pam Creswell and Marshall Swanton, were honored at the February 25 HOA meeting. Pam has served as Social Chair for the HOA for a number of years. At one point or another Pam has held most offices in the HOA. Pam and Marshall will be moving to Florida this spring.

**NEW SOCIAL CO-CHAIRS**

**V**eronique Foster is a French native who moved to the Big Apple to hold senior financial positions in International Banking. She and her husband Tom lived in New York for twenty years before moving to Pine Brook in 1996. "I fell in love with Boulder and this neighborhood," she notes. They moved for a new lifestyle and career. After running an herbal company, she has now joined Alphy International as a distributor of medicinal mushrooms because mushrooms are "extraordinary" in slowing down the aging process. Veronique is on the Board of Skillshare Network, the Boulder County timebank, and BoldeReach. Her daughter, Kelly, lives in Denver.



**Call to Action:** Sally and Veronique invite you to contact them with your interest in reviving and hosting the "Dine Arounds" with food themes that were so much fun in the past. It involves hosting and preparing at your house a dinner for no more than 20 PBH residents who contribute \$20 a dinner.



**WELCOME BABY SMITH**



Congratulations to the Smith family! Daniel & Inese have a new arrival at 213 High View Dr. - Hanley Neija Smith. Looks like the family dog is a great babysitter!

Sally Powell-Ashby and her husband John arrived in Pine Brook just over 30 years ago. Their son Brandon was two years old (all the big trucks building new homes were a plus). Thirty years later, he is an electrician with *The Solar Revolution*. Their daughter, Ava, is an Engineering/Physics major at CU (with a bent for dance and theater). John grew up cavorting in the mountains and woods of Evergreen, so this is familiar and welcome territory. Sally has long been in the Performing Arts (Dance and Theater) and is active in many areas of Boulder life. Occasionally they have the urge to move closer to town, but upon returning to their home they immediately realize that nothing compares with the beauty and community that is here.





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## ON THE WATER FRONT

With Bob de Haas

The Water District is busy recovering from all the damages from the rain/flood event of 2013. While much of the work is done, there are still some major issues that need to be resolved.

The good news is that the District has recovered the diversion facilities so that when we need to move water to the reservoir we can. Currently, the reservoir is getting water from the drainage area behind it. The amount of water that we collect in the reservoir from this drainage area gives an indication of how wet the ground still is. There is more water coming into the reservoir than what we are taking out to serve residents, so it is slowly filling up without the District having to pump water over to the reservoir.

As many residents may have noticed the District did lose some of the volume of storage in the reservoir due to debris that flowed into it. It is estimated that we lost about 3.5 to 4 acre feet of storage out of a total of 101 acre feet of storage. The District also lost the use of several of our emergency backup wells to the point that currently we cannot use the wells without compromising water quality and it would not meet the Safe Drinking Water Standards. To address both of these concerns the District has commissioned an engineering study to determine whether it is best to try to remedy the problems, or whether an alternative project would better serve the District in the long run.

We've had several instances recently of spray painted graffiti on pump houses and one instance of a water tank shot with paintballs. If you see anything please let us know. Write down any details you observe, such as license plate numbers.

The election of new board members has been cancelled, since the number of candidates running was the same as openings on the Board. The Board members are J. Kirk Hendricks, Mel Beauprez, Matt Rheingold, Rick Waters, and Mike Hupka. This mix of Board members has worked very well. We have two long standing Board members, Kirk and Mel, who have a lot of valuable knowledge of the history of the District and three newer members, Matt, Rick, and Mike, who come to the table with new ideas and perspectives.



## FIRE SIDE CHAT

With John Benson

Hello once again from BMFPD. It seems like it's been a long time since the flood of September 11, 2013, but it's been just over six months. The amount of rehabilitation work has been enormous and we still have a long way to go. I can't tell you how much time and effort has been spent with government officials making sure that we don't run into additional problems. BMFPD along with the Boulder Office of Emergency Management has been working overtime to enhance emergency response plans. We are in this for the long haul.

After attending area meetings too numerous to count, the one overarching theme is that this District encountered the most landslides during the flood event, especially Pine Brook Hills. Members of U.S. Geological Service and BMFPD have been working together to capture and record as many of those slides as possible. While some people think that since the rain and creeks have slowed in water volume, the threat has diminished, that is not the case. BMFPD is monitoring at least five areas where we are seeing ground shifting and moving. This goes to show just how wet things are under the surface. We don't know when this will end.

### What can residents do to help us?

- We are asking everyone to be vigilant and if you see something out of the ordinary, report it. The last thing we want is to have another slide that will block our roads, or worse, take aim at a resident's home. I drive the district weekly and with the help of other BMFPD staff, we are constantly monitoring and measuring to see what kind of shifting we have.
- Now is not the time to be hiking on some of these hillsides which have been impacted by the floods.
- Driving on our roads is a safety issue with the damage we've experienced from the floods. I am asking everyone to slow down going up or down the hills. It does you no good to cut the curves doing an excessive speed. Driving the roads daily, you know the strained conditions. We go from a full-width road to a one-way lane within the same block. We go from having a fairly solid surface to areas that look and feel like they have been bombed and yet we have people who drive the roads as if there was nothing wrong at all. One of these days, we are going to have a head-on collision that is either going to leave someone dead, or permanently injured. PLEASE, PLEASE, slow down when traveling our roads. If you need to leave a little earlier, give yourself some time to do that. We are going to be seeing more road construction here



in the future, and the last thing I want to see is accidents. I see residents, construction workers, and others cutting the corners right below the firehouse on a daily basis. A head-on collision will affect us all...it is a small community. The tragic loss of one affects all of us.

In addition to floods and landslides, BMFPD is also ramped up for the upcoming fire season. Our engines and personnel are ready for what may be thrown at us. We've brought on additional firefighters for this season and our mitigation program is now getting into full swing. Remember if you need mitigation or structure preparation work, contact Steve Lynn at 303-440-0325 or by email at [mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org). I am hoping that this is going to be an extremely boring year as far as incidents within our district. Rest assured that we are ready to respond to any emergency we may have in this district.

In closing I want to sincerely thank the residents of Pine Brook Hills for all of the support that you have provided BMFPD. We greatly appreciate it. As always, if you have a question for me, you can contact me at [chief@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:chief@bouldermountainfire.org) or by phone at 303-440-0235. I try to get back to everyone as quickly as possible.

Here is wishing you a great, quiet, and safe spring. Until next time, stay safe and stay vigilant.

## BOULDER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE MITIGATION SERVICES

By Steve Lynn

Creating wildfire-defensible space around the structures on your property can minimize the intensity of a wildland fire event and improve the chances of your house surviving a catastrophe. Creating a defensible space around your home allows Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District's (BMFPD) firefighters to safely do their jobs when fighting wildfire. Remember that the vast majority of the people that protect this district from wildfire are your neighbors who volunteer to protect the neighborhood. BMFPD personnel have a vested interest in mitigating every property in this fire district because protecting your property from wildfire also protects their properties.

**Defensible space** is the area around a home or other structure where fuels and vegetation are treated, cleared, or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire. The defensible space extends 100 feet from any structure (on level ground) and 30 feet from any driveway. Please note: defensible space must be increased in the downhill direction on a sloped property to properly protect a structure. Your house is more likely to withstand a wildfire if grasses, brush, trees and

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Alex is a shareholder with Kingsbery CPAs – and a Pine Brook resident. Her work covers:

- Tax return preparation for individuals, business and estates
- Litigation support
- Divorce consulting
- Business valuations
- International tax

other common forest fuels are managed to reduce a fire's intensity. According to the Colorado State Forest Service ([http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/FIRE2012\\_1\\_DspaceQuickGuide.pdf](http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/FIRE2012_1_DspaceQuickGuide.pdf)) two factors have emerged as the primary determinants of a home's ability to survive a wildfire – the quality of the defensible space and a structure's ignitability. Together, these two factors create a concept called the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ), which includes the structure and the spaces immediately surrounding the structure. To protect a home from wildfire, the primary goal is to reduce or eliminate fuels and ignition sources within the HIZ.

BMFPD provides a free wildfire mitigation and HIZ evaluation to its residents at no cost. Please call Steve Lynn (BMFPD's Mitigation Coordinator) at (303) 440-0235 or email [mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org) to request an appointment to review your property. The wildfire mitigation and HIZ evaluation provided by BMFPD will include:

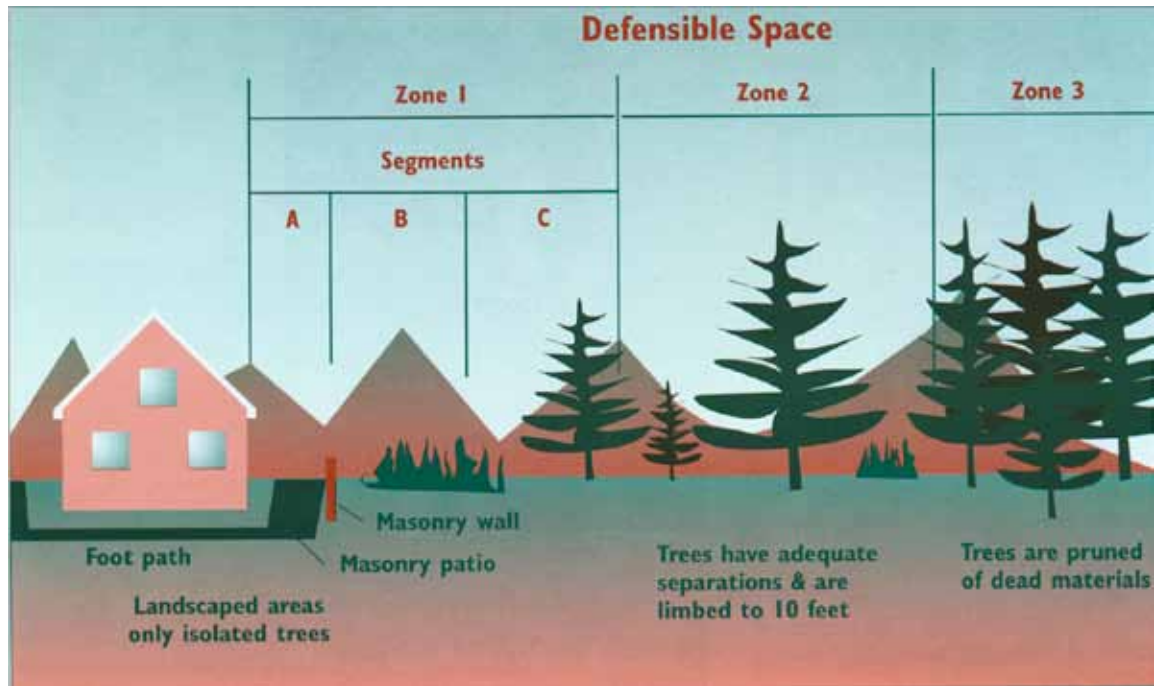
- Identifying any fuels (trees, grass, shrubs, firewood, pine needles) that need to be reduced in the defensible space;
- Determining the work needed to improve the defensible space and HIZ of a property so it maximizes the potential of the structures to survive a wildfire;
- Gridding of the property to identify any diseased or dead trees for removal;
- Listing recommendations regarding how to safely protect your structures; and
- Providing a detailed written cost estimate for BMFPD's Mitigation Crew to perform any wildfire mitigation, structure protection, or disease removal recommended by the Defensible Space and HIZ evaluation.

The site visit and evaluation are normally conducted by touring the property with the landowner and take approximately an hour to complete for the average property. The goal of the effort is to bring your property in compliance with the recommendation

of the Colorado State Forest Service for wildfire mitigation. Below is a description of the services BMFPD provides and the associated costs.

**Price List of Services Provided by BMFPD's Mitigation and Structure Protection Team**

**Improvements to Defensible Space** including tree and brush removal and chipping - \$63 per hour for a sawyer, \$95 per hour for a chipper capable of chipping 15 inch diameter logs, and \$35 per hour for chipper operators and slash hauling.



**Structure Preparation and Maintenance to the HIZ** including cleaning pine needles, leaves and other debris from roofs and gutters - \$35 per hour per employee.

**Removal of Hazard Trees, Creating Fuel Breaks, and Improvements to Forest Health/Thinning** including tree and brush removal, chipping, and slash pile burning - \$63 per hour for a sawyer, \$95 per hour for a chipper capable of chipping 15 inch diameter logs, and \$35 per hour for chipper operator, slash hauling, and slash burning.

**Culvert Maintenance** including digging out and flushing clogged culverts - \$35 per hour per employee.

**Firewood Management** including splitting, stacking, and decayed wood pile removal - \$35 per hour per employee.

Please note the costs listed above can be used to get a ballpark estimate for a project but we recommend you call (303) 440-0235 or email [mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org) for a project-specific written estimate for mitigation or structure protection services.



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

This recurring column focuses on getting to know the men and women who serve as staff and volunteers in the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District. Next time you see these volunteers, say hello and thank them for all they do for our community.

**Matthew Baris** serves as a trained Wildland Firefighter and Engineer for the Department, in addition to supporting other Department functions as needed. He founded and runs a small business that produces and imports small-batch, certified-organic, craft-distilled spirits.



**Lauri Beckwith** provides Firefighter Support to the Department. She is certified in CPR and will be Red Card certified in the spring. She lives in Boulder Heights and works as a bookkeeper. Her degree is in Physical Therapy. She loves the outdoors and enjoys spending winters Alpine Touring and



skiing the backcountry. In the summer you will find her hiking and mountain biking...anything that allows her two dogs, Sofi and Griffin, to join her outdoors.

**Ralph Burns** joined BMFPD shortly after moving to PBH about a year ago, and is certified for Structure and Wildland firefighting. He lives in PBH with his wonderful wife Donna, their best-behaved dog Rudy, and a collection of cats. Ralph is blown away by the BMFPD community organization and is honored to be included. In past years he has volunteered far from home in Nepal, China, and Haiti, and after the 2010 Haitian earthquake he funded and built a grade school there. He works as an independent consulting product development mechanical engineer, enjoys the creative aspect of inventing new devices, and is inventor to 25 utility patents. Born from a lineage of Coloradans, Ralph has spent years rock and ice climbing, and enjoys downtime spent fly fishing. He has a daughter Caitlin, currently earning her MBA, who has also volunteered around the world and rock climbs harder than her dad has even dreamt. He is happiest hopping a plane to Africa with a camera in hand.



**Nina Griffin** is currently the BMFPD Medical Captain and Safety Officer. She has been with the Department for 12 years, serving as an officer for almost four, and is a second generation BMFPD firefighter. She is certified as Firefighter II for



structure fires and has completed the State Fire Academy. She is a certified Wildland Firefighter 2 and has participated in advanced ICS, Emergency Leadership, and EMS Education courses. Nina completed 1200 hours of training to become a certified Paramedic in 2011. Additionally, she has an Associates Degree in Paramedicine. Currently, she works for American Medical Response (AMR) as a paramedic and Training Lieutenant, primarily on the county ambulance. There is a chance you will see her sporting another navy blue uniform with a different logo on it. Nina has two wonderful children. Her son Travis is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Centennial Middle School. He is an avid competitive baseball player which means Nina is an avid baseball fan. Her daughter Paige is nine years old, and a 3rd grader at Foothill Elementary. She is a gymnast. Nina is an enthusiastic traveler who just returned from spring break in Belize where the diving and Caribbean bug—as well as several mosquitoes—bit her. As a PBH native, she says the mountains outside of Boulder will always be home to her.

**Shawn Roberts** is the Apparatus Maintenance Director for the Department. He is trained as a Firefighter 1 and 2. He is a Boulder native and graduate of CU. Shawn has been a PBH resident since 2000.



**Kate Wilson** lives in Carriage Hills and currently serves as the Secretary of the BMFPD Board. She retired from a long career at IBM and now serves as a volunteer for The Colorado Shakespeare Festival Advisory Board, BMFPD, and the Carriage Hills HOA. She's been a past volunteer with many area organizations: Boulder Chamber of Commerce Board, Chancellor Richard Byyny's Community Advisory Council at CU, Denver Partners, and the Evergreen Town Race which raises funds for Alpine Rescue and a local hospice. Prior to joining IBM, Kate was Assistant to the Dean of Studies at Vassar College, and Assistant Director of Associated Colleges of the Mid-Hudson Area, an academic consortium. She received a cum laude A.B. degree from Vassar College, with a major in English and a minor in philosophy. Kate grew up in upstate New York, has lived in Colorado since 1976, Boulder since 1989. She and her partner, Alex Goetz, own a 39' sloop which they sail in the San Juan Islands and British Columbia. She also does all the "normal" Boulder things - bike, hike, ski, workout at the gym. Kate has two children and two grandchildren with all of whom she wishes she could spend more time.

## BMFPD AUXILIARY NEWS

**This year's Fire Safety Sale** promises to be as informative as in years past. Residents will have the opportunity to practice putting out a real fire with a fire extinguisher...always a popular activity. Bring household extinguishers in and have the experts make sure they are still operable. Take the opportunity to purchase needed safety equipment, such as carbon monoxide and smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and reflective address signs. This year members of the Mitigation crew will be available to review new and existing services available to residents. Each day at 11A.M. Boulder foresters will present "Firewise Landscaping and Lessons Learned from Recent Fires."

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Fire  
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the opportunity to practice putting out a real fire with a fire extinguisher...always a popular activity. Bring household extinguishers in and have the experts make sure they are still operable. Take the opportunity to purchase needed safety equipment, such as carbon monoxide and smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and reflective address signs. This year members of the Mitigation crew will be available to review new and existing services available to residents. Each day at 11A.M. Boulder foresters will present "Firewise Landscaping and Lessons Learned from Recent Fires."

**Have you "liked" the Auxiliary's Facebook page?** Take a look...it's a great way to stay current on Department and Auxiliary activities. <https://www.facebook.com/BoulderMountainFireProtectionDistrictAuxiliary>

**New members are always welcome!** The BMFPD Auxiliary builds community support for the fire department through fundraisers that provide critical safety equipment and educational activities like the Fire Safety Sale and New Resident Packets. The Auxiliary provides food and beverages for training and during emergency incidents allowing responders to remain at the scene, and sponsors events to recognize and thank department members for their service to the community. If you'd like to help, contact Ann Blonston or Catherine Von Hatten, Co-Presidents at [auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org).

## BEETLE BUSTERS UPDATE

By Brian Ridley

**M**arla Saville has organized the purchase of verbenone packets for 2014. The procedures and cost are similar to last year. Information is available on the BeetleBuster website.



Please note that the BeetleBuster website has now been incorporated into the PBH website. Many thanks to Brian Wahlert and Jo Davies for accomplishing this. Look for BeetleBusters in the "Services" pull down menu on the PBH Homepage, or go to <http://www.pinebrookhills.org/BeetleBusters>



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Many references available.





## PURGE YOUR SPURGE!

By Lauren Poulos

With the arrival of spring, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) and Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BoCo POS) are warning residents to aggressively remove the noxious weed commonly known as myrtle spurge. It may look harmless, but this plant can cause harm to people and natural areas.

Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) is a List A noxious weed, and the Colorado Noxious Weed Act (C.R.S. 35-5.5-101-119) requires its eradication.

Hand-pulling and digging are the most effective methods used to control this plant. Myrtle spurge contains a toxic, milky sap which can cause severe skin irritations, including blistering. This plant is poisonous if ingested, causing nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Wearing gloves, long sleeves, shoes, and eye protection is highly recommended when in contact with myrtle spurge, as all plant parts are considered poisonous.

This invasive weed, also known as donkeytail spurge or creeping spurge, is a low-growing perennial with trailing fleshy stems. It spreads rapidly to surrounding areas and can “jump the fence” to natural areas



to displace native vegetation and reduce forage for wildlife. The leaves are fleshy, blue-green and alternate. The flowers appear from March to May and are bright yellow-green with petal-like bracts. Myrtle spurge is commonly found in Denver, Boulder, Golden and the surrounding lands and has become a serious problem in the Boulder foothills and mountain ecosystems.

Multiple Purge Your Spurge events will take place this spring for residents to bring in bags of myrtle spurge and receive free native plants in exchange. Always bag and dispose of myrtle

spurge and don't compost. Boulder's event will take place on May 10 at 6400 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder, CO from 9 A.M. to noon.

Additionally, WRV volunteers and staff are canvassing Pine Brook Hills to encourage residents to remove myrtle spurge from their property or utilize FREE volunteer help for removal. **Volunteers will be available to help PBH residents remove spurge on April 19, May 3 and May 22.** For more information on volunteer help with removal or to sign up to help the volunteers pull in your neighborhood, call Lauren Poulos at 303-543-1411 Ext. 5#, email her at [lauren@wlrv.org](mailto:lauren@wlrv.org) or visit [www.wlrv.org](http://www.wlrv.org) and look for myrtle spurge in the project schedule.



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## ARC UPDATE

By Mike Von Hatten

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is pleased to report that as a result of ongoing efforts by the committee on behalf of PBH HOA and neighbors, Boulder County will be demolishing the abandoned building at 1204 North Cedar Brook.



This action removes a fire risk, an unsightly condition, and a safety hazard from our community. HOA and ARC representatives

attended countless meetings and court proceedings over the last six years to ensure a successful outcome.

ARC reviewed and approved new construction at Lot 118 Pine Brook Hills on Lower Timber Road and at 201 Pine Brook. Committee representatives attended the Boulder County Board of Commissioners hearing on the first property to monitor the process as it moves forward. Both projects have been approved by the County with conditions.

In addition, exterior renovation/construction projects at 535 Pine Brook Road, 547 North Cedar Brook, 982 North Cedar Brook, and 771 North Cedar Brook were reviewed and approved. Many thanks to these homeowners for complying with HOA Covenants and bringing exterior changes on their properties to the ARC for review. If you would like more detail on any of these projects, meeting minutes may be found on the PBH website.

Watch for the new ARC signs that will be posted on approved projects in the neighborhood. The new signage will provide neighbors with information about the project and give contractors details on construction guidelines in PBH.

The ARC is currently working with HOA Board members to compose a set of PBH Community Standards. These Standards will promote the construction, use, maintenance, and appearance of neighborhood properties that is environmentally harmonious, in keeping with the residential character of PBH, and that protects and enhances property values. Boulder County uses local community standards to assist in their decision-making process about compliance with County Ordinances. The PBH Standards will complement and clarify information available in the HOA Covenants. The draft document will soon be available on the PBH website for resident review and comment.

## ROADS UPDATE

By Cindy Lindsay

The Boulder County Department of Transportation has created a website to track repairs to flood damaged roads. You can track their progress at

<http://bouldercounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=29a23be31ead4f00a0373f8b40f64e30>.

The good news is that we are on their radar. The current status for PBH, as of April 10, 2014, is that all “temporary” repairs have been completed.

If you have issues on your road or notice deterioration and would like to report it, Boulder County DOT has created an online form to submit requests for road maintenance that can be found at this website.

<http://www.bouldercounty.org/roads/permits/pages/roadservicerequest.aspx>



Amy Munding took these pictures on April 2 on Pine Tree Lane.

She spoke with one of the crew who said that the man in the excavator worked the first night of the flood last fall when the teenagers lost their lives. Then this same crew worked for three weeks straight after that—16 hour days without a break.

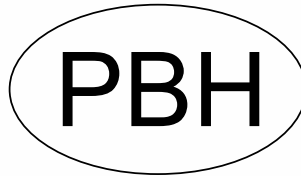


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**PINE BROOK HILLS HOA  
AGING IN PLACE INITIATIVE**

By Dave Davies

A few years ago in the process of going door to door in the neighborhood to talk to residents about revising the PBH Covenants, I was struck by how often I had the uneasy feeling that I was the only person who had visited an elderly neighbor in a long while. Many times I heard, "my husband passed away last year...I do see my children once in a while, but they live in Chicago and don't get out here much." Since then, I've been doing some reading and thinking about the idea of "aging in place." As we grow older, the need for assistance to not only live but thrive becomes more and more apparent. In the past care was often provided by family members and adult children, but with our more diffuse society we find ourselves more isolated. While some choose to move to assisted living facilities or senior centers, for others the cost may be prohibitive or the idea of leaving the family home and relying on others is not what they envision for themselves. For many, independence is key. In a spread-out community like Pine Brook Hills choosing to stay in our own homes is particularly challenging. Neighbors are a long way away and the turnover in residents leaves many feeling isolated and alone. **The HOA is proposing a modest initiative called the PBH Aging in Place (AIP) Program** to provide the support and assistance of residents to those in PBH who

would benefit.

The mission of the PBH AIP program would be to

- provide a PBH contact person to support those who wish to continue to live on their own, and
- guide those in need to the appropriate Boulder County and/or Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District resources.

The AIP Program would not be designed to

- replace available Boulder County resources, but rather help elderly residents access them, and
- provide financial assistance through the HOA, but rather connect residents to resources that might help them.

**If you would like to help with time and effort please contact me at [davedavies.pbh@gmail.com](mailto:davedavies.pbh@gmail.com) or call 303-938-0522.**



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## LID ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Peter King-Smith

The Subdivision Paving LID Advisory Committee (SPLIDAC) has completed its first few meetings and is making good progress. Bob Loveman and I are active participants representing PBH and the other mountain subdivisions. SPLIDAC members come from a cross section of subdivision types and have the primary focus of fairly representing all members of the LID from all subdivisions. It is important to note that SPLIDAC takes no position on the controversy over the formation of the LID itself, as its ONLY purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the County Commissioners regarding the fair and efficient application of the LID funds.

The first few meetings were oriented towards establishing a working framework for SPLIDAC with bylaws being drafted and overall guidelines for meetings being identified. As a result, a website is already operational with information from meetings, details of scheduled future meetings, and locations. The site also includes a form for submission of public comments to be addressed by SPLIDAC. All meetings are open to the public.

The primary subdivision paving website is <http://www.bouldercounty.org/roads/plans/pages/subpaving.aspx>

The SPLIDAC specific website is <http://www.bouldercounty.org/roads/plans/pages/splidac.aspx>

Both websites contain a great deal of information on this complex and controversial subject.

The Board of County Commissioners has indicated that they will make the first year of county matching funds of 20% or around \$900,000 available, but has not yet decided when to make available funds currently being collected in conjunction with property taxes. They are awaiting further clarification of timing and possible outcomes of the lawsuit that is challenging the validity of the LID itself, as one possible outcome could involve returning LID funds. The Commissioners are understandably reluctant to spend collected funds at this time. SPLIDAC takes no position and has no role to play in these political and legal activities.

Much work is being done by SPLIDAC with BoCo Roads and Transportation to ensure that plans are in place to move as quickly as possible with the paving project as soon as funds become available. Residents can continue to visit the website to see how all is progressing or attend any SPLIDAC meeting as this 15-year adventure unfolds.

Bob and I will keep PBH residents informed through the PBH forum and website ([www.pinebrookhills.org/Roads](http://www.pinebrookhills.org/Roads)) and at HOA meetings as new information becomes available.

## YOUR HOA NEEDS YOU!

Several volunteer positions on the HOA Board of Directors and Committees are opening soon. To volunteer or get more information, contact Allen Saville, HOA President ([President@pinebrookhills.org](mailto:President@pinebrookhills.org))

**PBH Directory Layout:** The 2014-15 PBH Directory is in production now with a Layout Director in place. The Directory team is looking for an "understudy" to work with the current designer in preparation for taking over the position in 2016. Graphic design and layout skills needed. Currently done with Adobe InDesign software.

**PBH Historian:** If you are interested in history and stories, this is the job for you! The HOA would like to start gathering historical information about our community, as well as document current events. We are in need of someone to help us reach out to community members who may have stories to tell and help us preserve the history of PBH.



## NEW HOA TREASURER

Peter S. Gaal recently moved to Boulder with his wife Daniela from Pittsburgh, PA.



Soon after completing a degree in chemical engineering at NYU, he joined Westinghouse Astronuclear Laboratory, working for more than a decade on the nuclear powered rocket engine (NERVA) program, specializing in ultra-high

temperature instrumentation and materials research. In 1976, he left Westinghouse and took over the management of the Anter group of companies, a family business. Anter Corporation eventually grew to one of the top high temperature thermophysical testing instrument companies in the world. In addition to managing the company, he was instrumental in designing and leading the development of over 40 instrument models in nearly four decades, before the company was divested. During his career, Peter served on editorial boards of several international journals, led scientific conferences and published numerous papers in the field of thermophysics.

It is a welcome reward for Peter, now, to live in the beauty of Pine Brook Hills.

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*Allen Saville*

Rocks and flowers? Aaah, of course....Springtime in the Rockies!