

Pine Brook Press

A quarterly journal for, about, and by Pine Brook Hills residents | SPRING 2019



HOA MEETING: APRIL 30

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2019 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING - APRIL 30

6:00 PM - POTLUCK DINNER

7:00 PM - PRESENTATION

Tyler Asnicar, Boulder District Wildlife Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife
"Managing Wildlife in Pine Brook Hills"

Meetings are held at the Community Center/Fire Station (1905 Linden Drive) unless otherwise noted. All residents are welcome to attend.

HOA BOARD MEETINGS – Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Upcoming 2019 meetings: April 23, July 23, and October 22

FUTURE HOA 2019 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – July 30 and October 29

BMFPD BOARD – Meets the second Monday of every month at 4:00 PM.
Call 440-0235 for specifics.

WATER BOARD – Meets the third Thursday of every month at 4:30 PM.
Call the Water Office at 443-5394 for specific dates.

BMFPD AUXILIARY – Meets quarterly on Sundays. Next meeting April 28, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Email auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org for more information.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE – Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00PM.

BMFPD AUXILIARY FIRE SAFETY SALE – May 4 and 5, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily, Saturday – PBH, Station 1, 1905 Linden Drive; Sunday – Boulder Heights, Station 2, 50 Overlook Road

NEW RESIDENT WELCOME – May 4, 1:00 to 2:30 PM, during the Fire Safety Sale

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

Email your high resolution
PBH images to
press@pinebrookhills.org.

Thanks to Kevin Smith
for capturing this
Spotted Ground Squirrel,
an unusual sighting for PBH.





PRESIDENT'S PATTERN By Rob Quinn

“Spring is Nature’s way of saying, Let’s Party!”

– Robin Williams

Help us salute the coming of spring by joining us at the next PBH HOA meeting. That meeting is on April 30, 2018, with a potluck supper at 6:00 PM and our general meeting beginning at 7:00 PM. Among other things, we plan to have a presentation by Tyler Asnicar, Boulder District Wildlife Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, on managing wildlife in Pine Brook Hills.

We’re #1 and #2. Pat yourself on the back. I commend all of you for having the foresight and good taste to live in Pine Brook Hills. Thanks to a tip from a neighbor, I see that [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com), a ranking and review web site, did a comprehensive assessment and ranking of the top 50 best places to live in Colorado for 2019, and PBH came in as the no. 2 best place to live in the entire state of Colorado: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/realestate/where-are-the-best-places-to-live-in-colorado-niche-study/ar-BBNDvZR> . What’s more, that same [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com) ranking rated Pine Brook Hills as the #1 place to live in Boulder County: <https://www.niche.com/places-to-live/search/best-places-to-live/c/boulder-county-co/>. Congratulations. If only we could get the US Census Bureau to correct its current designation of our neighborhood as a Census Designated Place with the name “Pine Brook Hill.” Look at Google Maps. If you have ideas on correcting this, contact me.

Noise pollution in PBH. With spring and summer upon us, it is time to think about noise pollution in PBH as we begin to enjoy the outdoors in the beautiful weather ahead. One of the

more common complaints I have heard since I joined the HOA Board in 2016 has been noise pollution – mostly construction and pet noise. Evolution has trained us to have a stress response to unexpected noise, and it affects many of us in PBH. A healthy soundscape leads to a more enjoyable life here. At the same time, many of our residents enjoy their pets and many of our residents need the weekend or even weekdays to do handyman, mitigation and construction projects that create noise. Where is the balance? I think that the best way to find a balance is to communicate with your neighbors. Occasional loud sounds are more tolerable than continuous noise. If a neighbor’s pets or construction are creating continuous noise, talk to them about it (not email). Try to resolve the issue with mutual respect and work towards a solution. If you can’t resolve the issue after good faith discussions, contact the HOA, as we have Covenants and Community Standards that can come into play. We can try to mediate the issue to your mutual satisfaction.

I am pleased to report that some of the HOA committees have attracted new volunteers in 2019. It is always a pleasure to welcome new volunteers. There are still more rewarding opportunities available for HOA volunteers and I would love to discuss them with you. Call me at 303-447-0970.

I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Please contact me at any time at
president@pinebrookhills.org.

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ON THE WATERFRONT

By Bob de Haas, Pine Brook Water Manager

WATER MAIN REPAIRS

During February and March we experienced four water main breaks in a row. The question always comes up “Why?” There are several factors at work:

The Weather

This winter we’ve had wide temperature swings, along with variations in snow conditions, ground moisture, and frost depth. These fluctuations promote movement of the earth and rock formations.

Original Installation Issues

In all cases where mains have broken, we have found that normal installation standards and procedures were not followed when they were installed years ago. Trenches should be dug deeper than needed so that bedding can be placed in the bottom of the trench under the pipe, around the sides of the pipe, and over the top to provide protection to the pipe. Not only was this extra space eliminated, but proper bedding materials were not used—available dirt and rocks were used to fill the trenches. When ground moves around these improperly installed pipes, there is no “give” and the pipe “snaps.” When the rock formations in the area are layered, as in lower PBH, the layers move differently, creating unequal stress. In upper PBH this variable movement tends to be where granite meets fountain formations. In some instances, water main breaks are caused by pipe failure due to improper handling of the pipe when it was installed which damaged the protective coating on the pipes.

The Board is working on a long-range plan for the District to include eventual replacement of the water mains. They are now almost 53 years old, but they are in very good condition.

In most cases, the pipe looks almost as good as if it had just come from the supplier. The plan will address how to fund the water main replacement. Current costs are around \$750,000 for a mile of pipe, and there are many, many miles of original pipe. With advances in technology there is hope that this cost may come down.

In the meantime, the District is upgrading its ability to detect leaks and pinpoint where they are to reduce the loss of water and impact to our roads, thus reducing the cost of each break. Those savings will pay for the leak detection equipment in just a few years.

ADDRESSING WATER HARDNESS

The District is studying the addition of a phosphate compound to our water. This compound keeps the hardness in the water in solution even when heated. Homeowners will experience a number of benefits with the addition of this compound:

- Reduced or eliminated spotting on dishes and fixtures
- Longer hot water heater life
- Longer life of fixtures in general

Adding a phosphate compound also keeps manganese in solution. The District treats for and removes manganese, but you never get 100% of it. This compound will help prevent some of the water color issues.

We are currently researching products to ensure that we don’t trade one problem for another. The equipment and chemical costs are not high. We will apply for approval by the State Health Department, including completing an engineering study, and then begin installation of the necessary equipment.



Eastern Fence Lizard by Jim Adams

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN PBH

Interested in getting involved in the community? Want to learn some new skills? Looking for a way to meet your neighbors? Volunteering in PBH is a great way to meet those goals. Contact one of the Board members or the contact people listed below to let them know of your interest.

HOA Opportunities

- **Enhancement Committee** – Enjoy working with others to enhance PBH? Get involved in upcoming projects—let Mike Von Hatten know you are interested. mvhconsultant@earthlink.net
- **Pine Brook Press** – If you have an idea and want to submit an article, we’d love to have it. If you snap a good photo in the neighborhood, send it our way. press@pinebrookhills.org
- **Aging in Place** – Are you interested in helping to research the scope of need for supporting those who want to “age in place” in our community? Would you like to be involved in building a network of support? Contact Rob Quinn (president@pinebrookhills.org) to find out more.
- **Forest Health/Beetle Busters** – If you are interested in being a member of the FH/BB team or working on myrtle spurge removal in PBH, contact Jim Adams at forest.health.bb@gmail.com

BMFPD: The Fire Department Needs

- **Firefighters, Medics, and Scene Support** – contact Chief Benson if you’d like to find out more or get involved. chief@bouldermountainfire.org
- **Auxiliary** – provide behind the scenes support for community education, provisioning, recognition, and fundraising. Contact Catherine Von Hatten for more information or to get involved. auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org



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FAMILIAR FACES: THE MCCORMACK FAMILY By Penny Triggs, PBP Contributing Author

My husband was the one to suggest featuring Lee McCormack in our community newsletter, as he waved Lee's book, *Mastering Mountain Bike Skills*, in front of me. Lee co-authored the book with Brian Lopes, a five-time World Cup champion in the Mountain Biking world. Lee himself has a prominent reputation as the world's leading technique instructor. He teaches riders at all levels to ride better, safer, and faster.



The idea that I should seek out this remarkable man living in Pine Brook Hills did not disappoint. I caught up with him one morning in January by phone, when he was in his work space across town having recently returned from teaching mountain bike skills in California. Without hesitation and with candor, Lee spoke of the trajectory of his life so far. At times, he offered raw disclosures of his struggles and his triumphs, starting from childhood. Lee described being “overweight and in terrible shape” through his teenage years when mountain biking was becoming a trend. “The sport,” Lee said, “resonated with me. I rode constantly for a year. Riding took the weight off and has kept it off.”



Lee McCormack

As a young adult, Lee worked in the Bay Area as a newspaper journalist in infographics. He was also immersed in designing software in the dot com industry. He was part of a team that won the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for public service. Lee survived multiple layoffs during the boom and bust years, saying, “I am a work horse! I was willing to put in long hours and take on extra, all of it in a stressful work environment.”

A sudden and significant turning point came about for Lee after watching the movie ‘Whale Rider.’ He was deeply moved by themes in the film, ones that made him question where he was in his life. “It ultimately felt fatalistic to me,” he said. “I was asking myself, what’s happening here?” His True North was feeling compromised.

The following week he turned his back on lucrative earnings and “stepped into a void.” Throughout those years in the Bay Area, Lee had retained his passion for biking. He got involved in the national racing circuit/series around the U.S. Lee said, “I knew, though, that this wasn’t my destiny.” It was around this time, when he was in his 20s, that he and his former riding companion, Brian Lopes, wrote their book.

Lee shared that after years of what felt like successes to him, work years in which things came easily, the feat of writing the book demanded everything of him. He spoke of his vision, his high standards, his self-worth...all of it tied up in putting a superior book together. Never had he felt more challenged.

Fast forward to now. Lee met and married his wife Arlette here in Boulder, and together with their nine-year-old twin daughters, Finn and Fiona, they have settled in Pine Brook Hills.

“I’m a teacher now,” Lee said, “an expert in my field of biking, and I’ve created a niche for myself.” He went on to say, “My students come from all over the world, and with my interest in biomechanics, I focus on the body, the mind, the heart, and the logic within the sport.”

Lee has a patent on an exercise machine that he has named the Rip Row. It’s described as ‘a total body workout training tool’ for bikers.

Readers interested in knowing more about his training and classes can reach him at Lee@Leelikesbikes.com.



Lee and Arlette McCormack



Finn and Fiona McCormack

Though I started my story with a focus on Lee, once I got to know him, I wanted to know more about his family. I met up with Arlette in a local coffee shop. I felt immediate appreciation for her. She quickly took a deep dive into many aspects of her life, speaking with warmth about her family, her work, and the gratitude they all feel for living in the beauty of Pine Brook Hills. When house hunting several years back, Arlette enthused about the views from their property, the fact that there was a pottery studio, and added that the “flat driveway was a plus!”

We spoke at length about her work as a potter, much of which she does at the Pottery Lab in south Boulder. “It’s a wonderful place,” she said, “a peaceful environment in which I can settle and work with focus, and slip into a meditative mindset.”



Arlette McCormack's pottery

PBH WELCOMES NEW RESIDENTS!

JON, NIKKI, LIAM AND COLE HEMBURY are excited to be here in Pine Brook Hills! They embarked on building a house from scratch back in 2016 when they purchased a vacant forested lot in the neighborhood. After a tenuous new construction build, they are happy to be settling in. Liam (age 9) and Cole (age 7) both attend Foothill Elementary. PBH puts the family closer to Boulder for all the action with sports and activities for the boys, as well as work for Jon and Nikki. The boys like to play soccer, baseball, basketball, football, and just about every sport that is available in Boulder. Jon and Nikki are both from Northern Ohio originally (GO BUCKS!) and after marriage lived in Tucson, Arizona and Lyons, Colorado, prior to building in Pine Brook Hills. Jon and Nikki both studied Engineering in college. Jon currently works in quality at a medical device manufacturing company and Nikki works in project management for weather and environmental systems and data. As a family, they love the outdoors and can be found outside in the neighborhood. The Hemburys have two dogs that bring a ton of joy to their family. They look forward to meeting all of their new neighbors.



Jon, Nikki, Liam and Cole Hembury

THANKS TO MEGAN BOLITHO,

HOA Newcomer Welcome Coordinator,
for collaborating on this column.

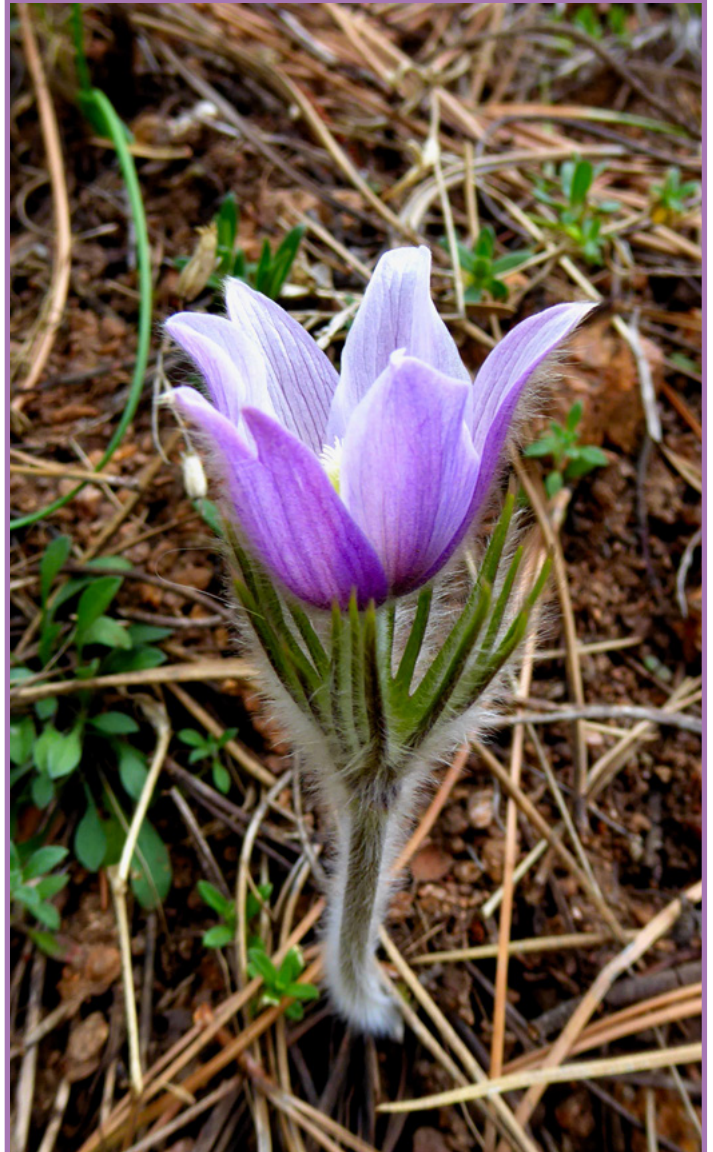
If you are new to PBH, or know someone who is,
contact her for more information about the
neighborhood and details about
participation in the column in a future issue.

Please email
newcomer@pinebrookhills.org

PBH GARDENERS GROUP!

If you have seeds, plants,
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to find out what grows well in
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the discussion at the PBH
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Pasque flower by Jim Adams

UPDATES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

By Mike Von Hatten, HOA Enhancement Committee Chairperson

If you've dropped by the Community Center (Station 1, 1905 Linden Drive) lately, you've likely noticed the improved entry way. A new exterior door was installed with a new keypad, a low threshold to minimize tripping hazard, a closer with hold-open feature, and an interior push bar for fast, easy exit. The former carpeted, metal-edged stair treads were replaced with rubber treads and risers to improve safety and to make maintenance easier. Stainless steel handrails replaced the former wooden ones to comply with safety codes.

The Enhancement Team did much of the demolition work, removing the old wooden handrails and stair carpet. Volunteers also painted the stairwell walls after the handrails were installed. Thanks to Jim Eyster, Brian Ridley, Allen Saville and Kevin Smith for joining me in this work. To expedite completion of construction work, since the entry and stairs are critical to the functioning of the Center, Blue Ribbon Builders installed the door, handrails, and completed the stairway work.

The project was a collaborative effort of BMFPD, Pine Brook Water, and PBH HOA. Funding was provided by BMFPD and PBH HOA.

Upcoming Enhancement projects will include the Spring start-up and maintenance of the Community Memorial Garden and PBH entry sign. The major project this summer will be the addition of motion activated solar lighting for the Community Center parking lot.

You can participate in the Enhancement projects by joining the Enhancement Team or by making contributions to the PBH Community Fund. Contact Mike Von Hatten for information: mvhconsultant@earthlink.net.

FUNDING SOURCES FOR MITIGATION EFFORTS

By Mike Palamara, BMFPD Wildfire Mitigation Crew Superintendent

Each Pine Brook Press issue provides an opportunity to highlight different aspects of the wildfire mitigation program in the fire district. This issue focuses on the various funding sources for mitigation efforts, including grants and funding opportunities being targeted in the next few years.

As wildfires have become more of a concern, grants to fund mitigation efforts have increased. However, the cost of fighting wildfires has also increased beyond anticipated budgets in recent years. The additional funds needed for firefighting must come from somewhere, and occasionally funds previously set aside for mitigation are tapped for wildfire suppression. It is a dynamic situation causing variation annually in grant funds that are available for mitigation work.

We are currently managing a few wildfire mitigation grants from various sources.

One of our funding sources is a Colorado state grant that helps offset the costs of work done more than 100 feet from a home (known as Zone 3). Projects must be at least one acre in size and must meet the Colorado State Forest Service's standards for fuel breaks. This grant provides \$900 per acre to match the monies that a person (property owner or otherwise) puts forth. We use this grant to multiply PBH's HOA funds so that we can accomplish more mitigation work without additional costs to community residents. We anticipate having this grant available through December of 2020.

We currently have a federal grant that also provides funds for Zone 3 treatments. It funds the full cost of some predetermined mitigation projects, but requires a match in our crew personnel time, including planning the projects, and providing public education events relating to wildfire. This project is scheduled for completion in April of 2020.

Wildfire Partners is a funding source for individual residents that provides support for wildfire mitigation directly around homes. Information on their program is available at wildfirepartners.org. They are awaiting word on continued funding and are optimistic that funds may be available as early as April of this year.

We are currently working on a joint grant application with Boulder County Open Space to complete wildfire mitigation in the areas where Mt. Sanitas meets private property. We are hopeful that this project will be completed at a greatly reduced cost to PBH.

In the future we plan to continue to apply for cost-offsetting grants so that we have funds available to multiply residents' mitigation funds.

If you have any questions or would like to see what might be available for your property, please feel free to contact our team by calling (303) 440-0235 (Station 1) or (303) 859-4661 (Superintendent's Cell), or email mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org.

GET YOUR NEIGHBORS TOGETHER FOR SOME SUMMER FUN!

By Sarah Wahlert, HOA Social Committee Chairperson

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner! It's a great time to consider hosting a block party. These neighborhood gatherings give you a chance to catch up with your nearby neighbors and meet some new neighbors. You define your "block" which can be as small or as large as you want. The HOA has put together a guide on planning block parties to make it super easy and will also reimburse up to \$100 in expenses per party. If you are interested in hosting, please send an email to social@pinebrookhills.org.

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REPLACE INVASIVE CHEATGRASS WITH NATIVE ARIZONA FESCUE

By Jim Adams, HOA Forest Health/Beetle Busters Chairperson



Raked Arizona Fescue, early May



Cheatgrass, early July

REMOVING CHEATGRASS near your house and replacing it with Arizona Fescue creates a natural “lawn” that is easy to maintain and does not support surface fire. Cheatgrass is an invasive, noxious weed that harms ecosystems by causing loss of plant and animal species and by increasing fire-susceptibility. It burns fast and hot. Arizona fescue is a perennial native bunch grass that inhibits the growth of other plants – and it thrives in Pine Brook Hills. You still have to rake pine needles and dead vegetation away from your house to mitigate against fire, but Arizona Fescue will reduce the risk of surface fire.



Bad Grass

Cheatgrass has a weak root, strong stem, sparse leaves, and seeds that are securely attached to stems. It is easy to pull and bag and can be sent to the landfill. Removing the plant stops its growth because it is an annual that reproduces by seed. Its penetrating seeds can harm animals.

Arizona Fescue can be transplanted or grown from seed. It has dense roots that secure soil and prevent erosion. To transplant, dig out a large ball of soil around the root and place it in a hole that is the same size. Then soak and compress the ground around the root. Arizona Fescue is drought-resistant. When it is established, it does not need watering.

If enough folks are interested in growing Arizona Fescue, Forest Health – BeetleBusters can buy the seed in bulk and distribute it. We can help you find Cheatgrass and other bad plants on your lot. Contact forest.health.bb@gmail.com.



Transplant Arizona Fescue, early July

GROWING ARIZONA FESCUE FROM SEED IS EASY

- Rake the bare ground to open the surface.
- Sprinkle a thin layer of compost about 1/4 inch thick.
- Sprinkle the grass seed over the area, ensuring contact between seed and compost.
- Rake it and walk on it.
- Water to germinate the seed, and keep the ground moist until the grass is strong – about 3 inches high.
- Covering with “EZ-straw” helps growth.

ON ANOTHER NOTE...

A practical Myrtle Spurge removal training event will be held at the PBH Community Center on a Saturday morning when the growing season is underway. If you want to attend, please RSVP to forest.health.bb@gmail.com and watch for an announcement on our social media.

Learn more about all these issues at

<https://www.pinebrookhills.org/ForestHealth/index.html>



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BMFPD AUXILIARY NEWS

By Ann Blonston, Auxiliary Strategic Communications Team

Understanding Fire Behavior

In January BMFPD Auxiliary hosted a community meeting where Chief John Benson discussed wildfire behavior in the context of the devastating Paradise, CA fire. Chief told residents how the terrain, vegetation and residents' location in Paradise compared to conditions in the BMF fire district. He shared information on efforts BMF is making now to reduce the risk of an outside fire spreading into the BMF neighborhoods via community fuel breaks. He reported on a new plan for evacuations that is more nuanced than in the past, relying more on the extensive knowledge of how fire travels in BMF communities. A summary of his presentation can be found on the Auxiliary website: <https://www.bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org>.

Fire Safety Sale, May 4 and 5

The annual Auxiliary-hosted Fire Safety Sale gives residents an opportunity to update home fire safety gear, including fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors. Participants can practice putting out a live fire with the help of our volunteer responders. Bring your extinguishers to have them tested and to see if they are subject to manufacturer's recall (and free replacement). All expired extinguishers are recycled free of charge. Attend mitigation briefings (11:00 AM) at either station. Watch for information on evacuating your family and your pets and enjoy fire truck tours for our youngest residents.



Enjoy fire truck tours throughout the sale.



Bring in your fire extinguishers and have an expert check them.



Practice putting out a live fire!

New Resident Welcome

The Spring New Resident Welcome is set for Saturday, May 4 at BMFPD Station 1, 1905 Linden from 1:00 to 2:30 PM during the Fire Safety Sale. Assistant Fire Chief Bob Olliver will present an introduction to BMF and how residents get service in medical, vehicle accident, or fire incidents. He will share critical information for staying safe in mountain communities in a 45-minute presentation, followed by time for questions and answers. Residents who are new (or newer) to the district are invited to attend the session.



Fire Safety Sale

Get new extinguishers, detectors, and safety training for all ages

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
BMFPD Fire Station 1, 1905 Linden Drive
Sunday, May 5, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
BMFPD Fire Station 2, 50 Overlook Rd.



Join Chief John Benson to find out more about mountain living.

BMFPD AUXILIARY

Interested in what the BMFPD Auxiliary does? The next quarterly membership meeting is scheduled for April 28 at 3:00PM at BMFPD Fire Station 1, 1905 Linden Drive. All residents are welcome. Join in and learn more about how to support the fire department. Details about the organization can be found on the Auxiliary's website: <https://www.bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org>.

SO, YOU LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS?

By Allen Saville, BMFPD/HOA Liaison and Peter King-Smith, HOA Roads Committee Chairperson

A conversation begins. An acquaintance from another place asks: "So, you live in the mountains?"

"Yes, I do," you say. "Pine Brook Hills, just west of Boulder – it's a fantastic place with lots of wonderful people." "What's it like living up there?" the acquaintance asks.

You respond, "It's just beautiful – lovely mountain terrain, beautiful trees, interesting rock outcroppings, and the views are breathtaking. There are animals too – lots of deer, foxes, turkeys, and even bears and mountain lions – all kinds of critters to see."

"Wow, sounds wonderful," your new friend says, duly impressed. "Are there any downsides?"

You ponder and then respond, "Well, our roads are pretty narrow and winding, and when it snows, some places can get sort of slick, before things get plowed. And, we do live in a forest, so there is the threat of fire – like in California – but we have a great fire department and most of our residents are pretty good about fire mitigation measures . . ."

Okay, let's stop there. Think about what has just transpired. You have said that you love living in the mountains, but also that you are aware that there are some attributes of mountain living that are deserving of special attention. Let's look at some of the responsibilities that we all have:

Responsibilities

- Drive slowly, even when you have a bit of a straight stretch – your neighbors deserve no less and those critters can, and do, appear out of nowhere.

- Keep a reasonable distance between you and the car in front of you in case it needs to stop for wildlife or slippery conditions. Give yourself enough room to brake safely. Instead of tailgating a car that's driving the speed limit, how about respecting that safe driver?
- Have good snow tires on your vehicle in the winter months, so you won't get stuck; a vehicle with all-wheel, or 4-wheel drive is a good choice.
- Don't park your vehicle on a blind curve or in a place that is in the roadway, making a hazard that others will have to avoid. The Sheriff has been called to ask people to move vehicles that were parked on both sides of roads so as to actually block traffic! Keep in mind that large emergency vehicles need to be able to use our roads at any hour – day or night.
- Go even SLOWER around curves and remember that staying in the proper traffic lane is mandatory.
- Be polite about sharing the road with walkers, runners, and bikers. It is your responsibility and you should be prepared at all times for them to be on the roads – do not assume that they will not be there.
- Know where school buses stop for children and anticipate that they will be on the roads at certain times. Vehicles have actually passed fully stopped school buses with all red and yellow signal lights flashing with kids crossing the street – utterly irresponsible and really lucky that no one was killed.
- Especially in drier weather, but really at any time of the year – do not park a vehicle in high grasses. Hot parts of your vehicle can easily start a fire which will first set your vehicle on fire and then become a serious problem for the entire neighborhood.
- Know how to drive in snow and ice, and have your vehicle(s) suitably equipped. Do not leave your vehicle in a place that will block others, especially emergency vehicles.

Please be a good neighbor! Drive responsibly, and show respect for your fellow PBH residents and their children as well as our treasured wildlife. Be especially careful in snowy, icy, and wet conditions not only for your own safety but for that of all your PBH neighbors.



"Frosty Morning" by Susan Schiff

DEER KISSES

By Penny Triggs, PBH Contributing Author

Here now there are banks of soft snow.

The wind comes up, brief gusts, blankets of snow blow sideways...

We look up from our work, see out the window clouds of snow crystals roiling.

Then...completely still again.

The bursts of energy have settled, everything buried in white.

There is bright sun, but the air is deeply cold.

A peaceful landscape cloaked in silence.

We see a deer, settled, resting, a bird on her back.

Together they look out at the world.



Affection is exchanged.

The bird cleans her coat, busy pecks and pulls.

She turns and licks him, a gesture of gratitude, of pleasure.

She blinks her eyes gently

I think these are deer kisses...



Editor's Note

If you are inspired by something you see or hear, send your PBH stories and poems our way at press@pinebrookhills.org



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Sunrise by Wade Griffith