

# Pine Brook Press

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



HOA MEETING: JULY 30

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## 2019 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### HOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING - JULY 30

6:00 PM - POTLUCK DINNER

7:00 PM - PRESENTATION

The Fourmile Watershed by Maya MacHamer,

Coordinator, Fourmile Watershed Coalition.

*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 7PM. Upcoming 2019 meetings: July 23, and October 22

**FUTURE HOA 2019 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** – October 29

**BMFPD BOARD** – Meets the second Monday of every month at 4:00 PM. Call the Fire Department at 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 – July 28, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Email [auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org) for more information.

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

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL** – Sunday, August 25, 3:00 – 5:00 PM at the Community Center, 1907 Linden Drive. Sponsored by the HOA, join your neighbors for music, children's activities, and lots of ice cream.

## SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

Email your high resolution  
PBH images to  
[press@pinebrookhills.org](mailto:press@pinebrookhills.org).

Thanks to Pat Brown  
for capturing this  
snow Hummingbird,  
during our everlasting  
winter in May.





## PRESIDENT'S PATTERN By Rob Quinn

“I wish we could all live in the mountains, at high altitude.”

– Phil Connors, Groundhog Day, 1993

Join us and enjoy the warm summer evening at the next PBH HOA meeting on July 30, 2019 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 Maya MacHamer, Coordinator, Fourmile Watershed Coalition. Did you know that the Fourmile Watershed is the source of Pine Brook Hills' water? Wouldn't you like to know more about the Fourmile Watershed, its current health, and its challenges?

**Fire Mitigation Progress.** One of the main ongoing efforts of the HOA is to fund mitigation work in Pine Brook Hills by the Wildfire Mitigation Crew of BMFPD. We have accumulated a number of slash piles from mitigation the past few years due to some recent dry and warm winters and springs that limited burning in PBH. I am pleased to report that this spring has brought us favorable weather conditions and has allowed the Mit Crew to make some good progress on burning slash piles in PBH. This will permit them to resume some cutting and chipping mitigation work this summer. They will undertake a project in the Wild Horse Circle area in July. Keep in mind that by having the Mit Crew at work, we receive a huge additional benefit. During the daytime, we have a highly trained emergency response team in the neighborhood to respond to fire and other emergencies. We are grateful to Wildfire Mitigation Superintendent, Mike Palamara and the rest of the Mit Crew for their efforts. Please consider hiring them for mitigation work on your property.

### Volunteering (for the HOA) is in your own self-interest.

Recruiting volunteers is a continuing effort for the HOA Board. Let me see if I can persuade you that volunteering is actually a big benefit to you.

1. Volunteering connects you to others. It is a great way to meet new people and to strengthen existing relationships with people in the neighborhood you have already met. This is especially true if you are new to Pine Brook Hills.

2. Volunteering increases your social and relationship skills. If you are a bit introverted (like me), volunteering allows you to be thrown together and to regularly meet with a group of people who have common interests (in this case the betterment of PBH). This makes it so much easier to develop more friends and contacts.

3. Volunteering is a break from the routine of work. It is surprising how many problem-solving and team-building skills you develop while volunteering; and they carry over to your work life.

If you are willing, we have lots of things for you to do, no matter what your interests are, including neighborhood enhancement, forest health work, aging in place support, and others.

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I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Please contact me at any time at

[president@pinebrookhills.org](mailto:president@pinebrookhills.org)

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## ON THE WATERFRONT

By Bob de Haas, Pine Brook Water Manager

**As was reported in the last Pine Brook Press the Water District has been studying the feasibility and safety of adding Poly-Ortho-Phosphate** to the water to reduce the effects of the hardness of the water at your home (i.e. spotting on dishes and fixtures, the “feel” of the water, the amount of soap needed, etc.). We have completed our investigation and talked with numerous entities who are using this process with no negative consequences. The next step is complete an application; have it reviewed, stamped, and signed by a qualified engineer; and submit it to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. We have contracted with an engineering firm to do the review and once they are satisfied, the application will be submitted to the State. The State has up to 6 months to review and approve before we can add the chemical to our finished water – we hope it won't take that long. It is a simple process, so there is a good chance it will pass through the State review quickly. We will keep you updated and let everyone know once we begin adding the chemical. Typically it will take about a month before you will see the full benefit of this new process.

**The District has almost completed painting the second tank** with funding from a FEMA grant available because of the 2013 flood. Once completed, work will likely begin on the Wild Horse Circle tank. That will complete the tank paintings scheduled for this year. In 2020 the District hopes to paint the tank on Alpine Way.

Some of you may notice that the tank exteriors are now being painted a light tan in color instead of the traditional dark green/bronze color. This is to improve water quality. By painting the tank a lighter color it keeps the water from heating up which in turn reduces the amount of disinfection by-products formed in the water. These disinfection by-products are strictly regulated by the State and the EPA. While the District does not currently have an issue meeting these standards, we are making any reasonable improvements we can not only to meet the standards, but to stay well below them.

**During June the employees of the District attended the American Water Works Association's Annual Convention.**

This premier, national convention provides an opportunity for District staff to talk, discuss, and interact with other water entities. We have an opportunity to see some of the latest research, and just as importantly, visit exhibits showing the latest improvements to testing instruments, piping materials, and much, much more.

## SUBMIT YOUR 2019 HOA DUES

By Bob Loveman, HOA Treasurer

Thanks to those who have remitted their 2019 voluntary HOA dues. We anxiously await payments (by check or PayPal) from the rest of you! Reminder: suggested dues are \$75 although most remit more. The largest expenditures of the HOA are for wildfire mitigation work to help protect your property. Send payments by mail to 1907 Linden Drive, Boulder 80304 or go to the HOA website and pay online.



Western Tanager by Kevin Smith



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# IT'S TIME FOR EARLY SUMMER MITIGATION!

By Carolyn Rindels, Boulder Mountain Wildfire Mitigation Team Member

“April showers bring May flowers.” How many times have we heard that saying? Although true, those May showers also produce the tall, lush grasses that are seen throughout our community. Though the green-scape is pleasant to the eye, we anticipate the summer heat to change the grasses to an auburn yellow as they dry, producing additional fuel for potential wildfires.

We are fortunate to have Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District with its own Wildfire Mitigation Crew onsite, familiar with our neighborhood, and ready to help with mitigation. They offer site visits to walk your property and provide an assessment of ways to reduce wildfire threats, all at no charge for homeowners in the district.

You may have seen the Wildfire Partners’ (WP) signage by your neighbor’s mailbox as you drive to and fro within our community. BMFPD recently received the good news that they have been selected by Boulder County for a program in partnership with Wildfire Partners with matching grant availability for homeowners for yet another year. For homeowners this provides an opportunity to have up to half of the cost of the mitigation work done on your private property and paid for from this matching grant (up to \$2000).

Many homeowners have already utilized this opportunity to prepare their home and structures against wildfire threats. Once a homeowner contacts WP to receive their mitigation assessment and action plan, the homeowner can contact BMFPD for an estimate. Upon completion of the project, the homeowner contacts WP for a return visit verifying that the work is completed at which time the matching funding is paid directly to the homeowner. “We are happy to see the grant go through for another year as it allows up to half the cost of the mitigation project to be paid for by the grant on an individual’s private property. Many Pine Brook Hills residents have already participated in this program,” notes Mike Palamara.

These are steps that individual homeowners can take toward wildfire preparedness. The PBH HOA also takes an active part in mitigating the community. This month you may see the BMFPD Mitigation Crews on the side of the roadways throughout PBH with their weed whackers in hand, trimming the tall grasses from the road shoulders. As you cautiously drive past them, keep in mind that a significant portion of your HOA dues provide this mitigation work.

Taking an active step toward preparedness begins with you. Schedule a site visit by calling 303-440-0235, or inquire online at [www.bmfmitcrew.com](http://www.bmfmitcrew.com).

“We hope many more will utilize this opportunity to make both their homes and their neighborhood a safer place to live,” says Mike Palamara, Mitigation Superintendent for Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District.



One of our BMFPD Mitigation Crew members at work in the district.



The Lee Hill Fuel Break before and after mitigation.



An area home with good defensible space around it.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

### HOA SUMMER FUN By Sarah Wahlert



#### SAVE THE DATE!

The annual HOA Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, August 25 at the Community Center from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Kids will enjoy a variety of activities, including a bouncy house. The Foggy Tops, featuring Pine Brook resident, Tim Triggs, will provide music. And, of course, there will be lots of ice cream and toppings for your own customized ice cream sundae. Mark your calendar and invite your neighbors. We hope to see you there!

#### A BIG THANK YOU TO SHARI POLIS

for hosting a recent dance class for Pine Brook kids. Thank you also to Alex Blumen and Gabi DeAngelis for hosting the first block party of the season. Their time and effort to help connect neighbors is appreciated.

#### LIKE PARTIES?

We are still looking for volunteers to host block parties this year. It's a great opportunity, if you'd like to be involved. The HOA Block party kit makes planning super easy.

If you are interested, please contact [social@pinebrookhills.org](mailto:social@pinebrookhills.org).

## GET INVOLVED IN PBH!

As Rob Quinn, HOA President mentions in this issue's President's Patter column, volunteering is a big benefit to each of us personally, and certainly to our community. Consider contacting one of the HOA Board members or the contact people listed below to put your talents and energy to use for the community and get involved with your neighbors.

### HOA Opportunities

- **ENHANCEMENT TEAM** – This crew of dedicated workers planned and executed the memorial plaza at the entrance to PBH. Get involved in upcoming projects—let Mike Von Hatten know you are interested. [mvhconsultant@earthlink.net](mailto:mvhconsultant@earthlink.net)
- **PINE BROOK PRESS** – The journal is published quarterly by a team of residents. Articles, photos, and ideas are welcomed. Always looking for new team members, as well. Contact Catherine Von Hatten at [press@pinebrookhills.org](mailto: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](mailto:president@pinebrookhills.org)) to find out more.
- **FOREST HEALTH/BEETLE BUSTERS** – Photos on page 10 show the fun this team has taking care of issues in the neighborhood. If you are interested in being a member of the FH/BB team or in working on myrtle spurge removal in PBH, contact Jim Adams [forest.health.bb@gmail.com](mailto:forest.health.bb@gmail.com)

### BMFPD

#### The Fire Department needs

- **FIREFIGHTERS, MEDICS, AND SCENE SUPPORT** – contact Chief Benson at [chief@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:chief@bouldermountainfire.org), if you'd like to find out more or get involved.
- **AUXILIARY** – provide behind the scenes support for community education, provisioning, recognition, and fundraising...contact Catherine Von Hatten for more information or to get involved, contact [auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org)





“I see myself as a facilitator. I plan to follow on from where Rob leaves off. We all wish for a sense of community, to live peacefully here in these foothills. All of us on the Board want to be resources, to create opportunities for neighbors to connect, to support block parties, socials, and to encourage volunteering.”

**Meet Sylvia, currently vice president of our home owner’s association.** Sylvia and her family settled in Pine Brook six years ago, having purchased a home built by Marshall Coon in the 60s. I have fond memories of seeing the elderly Marshall out front, always smiling and waving to any of us driving by.

Following a warm welcome, Sylvia led me through the house, pointing out details from over 50 years ago: a classic chrome oven, waist-high, with doors that open out and up; a metal milk delivery box mounted on the kitchen wall that used to open to the outside; a large trailing plant in the entryway, still thriving after 60 years. Touches from Marshall live on!

Sylvia recounted her years growing up in Queens with her Polish family, followed by her decision to pursue her MBA in Poland. It was on a ski vacation with classmates in Austria that she met her future husband Bennett who is from the UK. Together they traveled with two young children, first working in Calgary, then Singapore, and eventually returning to Boulder where they had started out a few years earlier.

Currently, Ben works as an IT consultant for a software development company in Boulder, and Sylvia is a realtor. Sylvia describes herself as a Domestic Goddess on the home front, a comment we both laughed over.

Sylvia, Ben, and their two children lead an active outdoor life, favoring hiking, skiing, and mountain biking. One of Ben’s recent projects is a skate ramp in front of the house...this along with many other projects underway in their house...impressive!

Next year, Sylvia will assume the role of President of the HOA. I asked her for her thoughts on this opportunity. She responded with a clear vision: “I see myself as a facilitator. I plan to follow on from where Rob leaves off. We all wish for a sense of community, to live peacefully here in these foothills. All of us on the Board want to be resources, to create opportunities for neighbors to connect, to support block parties, socials, and to encourage volunteering.”

She went on to say, “We would love better attendance at the quarterly HOA get togethers, even if people can only come for the first 20-30 minutes. It’s a great way to meet neighbors. We have presentations on a diverse range of interests: wildlife, gardening up here, the geology of the foothills, history of the area, on and on.”

From all that Sylvia shared with me, I left our meet-up feeling assured that we will continue to have great leadership in our community. As we welcome the younger generations settling here, I can tell that Sylvia has her finger on the pulse. She is outgoing, a great networker, deeply committed to family, and has an enthusiastic light in her eye for all things Pine Brook.

# PINE BROOK WATER LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

By Signe Hawley, PBW Board Member



Over the past few months the Pine Brook Water (PBW) Board and staff have been working on building a long-term capital plan: a tool which identifies capital equipment needs and projects, the years

in which each project is anticipated to occur, and the sources of funding. The idea for creating this long-term plan was born from community meetings over the past year that identified the need for increased transparency and stronger understanding of the current and projected costs in running PBW. The development and maintenance of this capital plan is intended to ensure that the PBW Board and management team are responsible to residents of the Pine Brook Hills community with respect to the collection and expenditure of public funds. This capital plan also serves as a basis for community discussion regarding the tradeoffs necessary to ensure that the PBW is financially sustainable into the future.

It is important to note that a capital plan is not a budget, nor are expenditures described in a plan approved. Each element (component) of the plan includes a series of estimates: the expected remaining useful life of the existing asset, its current estimated replacement cost, and the inflation rate between now and the year of anticipated replacement. The plan does not incorporate future technological changes that might impact replacement costs (such as for water mains), nor does it anticipate extraordinary events arising from major fires or floods (both of which have occurred in the last decade).

While we are in the beginning phases of this work, we have created a draft cover sheet and capital plan that are available at [www.pinebrookwater.com](http://www.pinebrookwater.com) for your review. Additionally, slides from the community meeting on the capital plan can be found at [bit.ly/PBW51619](https://bit.ly/PBW51619).

We welcome your feedback! For questions or feedback on the capital plan, please contact Bob Loveman at [rloveman47@gmail.com](mailto:rloveman47@gmail.com) or Signe Hawley at [signehawley@gmail.com](mailto:signehawley@gmail.com).

## Spurge Removal

THANKS TO THE RESIDENTS who gathered this spring to remove myrtle spurge, a noxious weed, from PBH: Kevin Smith, Jim Adams, Gail Wagner, Amanda Smith, and Rob Quinn.



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Fire Safety Sale Volunteers

## BMFPD AUXILIARY NEWS: AUXILIARY HOSTS FIRE SAFETY SALE, LOOKS AHEAD TO THE 45<sup>TH</sup> BOULDER MOUNTAIN HANDMADE

By Ann Blonston, Auxiliary Communications Team Leader

### FIRE SAFETY SALE

A beautiful May weekend helped make light work for BMFPD volunteers who conducted the annual Fire Safety Sale. In a team effort, firefighters taught residents how to put out a fire using – well – real fire; scene support and incident support volunteers tested residents' fire extinguishers and helped identify those subject to recall; Auxiliary's outreach and education team conducted the equipment sale, mitigation education sessions, the semi-annual New Resident Welcome, and a fire-safety themed kids' activity area.

Residents can still get extinguishers, detectors and reflective address sign kits at the online Fire Safety Store: <https://www.bmfpd.org/fire-safety-store>

We'll deliver to your door!

### BOULDER MOUNTAIN HANDMADE

Auxiliary volunteers start preparing for Boulder Mountain Handmade Market early, and all District residents are invited to spend some time this summer helping make the event a success. Regardless of skill and interests, there's something for everyone and it's a great way to support your fire department!

### Rent a Space!

Indie artisans and specialty food purveyors are already registering for booths in the Boulder Mountain Handmade marketplace. Interested in selling your works? Fire District artists are welcomed and offered discount pricing on booth spaces. [Register here: tiny.cc/bmhart2019](https://tiny.cc/bmhart2019)

### Donate Your Art and Crafts!

Boulder Mountain Creates, the special area of BMH where all proceeds from donated works go to support volunteer firefighting, relies on the generosity and talents of residents to create the merchandise sold. Put your painting, sculpture, photographs, wood-working, or quilting talents to work for the fire department. Contact Catherine Von Hatten at [bmhcrafts@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:bmhcrafts@bouldermountainfire.org) to donate your work.

### Attend a Workshop; Meet Some Neighbors!

Participants at these relaxed, productive craft sessions make some of our most popular sale items. Email Florentina Cruz ([bmhcrafts@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:bmhcrafts@bouldermountainfire.org)) to register. Once registered, participants will receive details about location, specific times, and supplies needed.

**Tuesday, July 16, morning**

Join other stitchers to make luggage tags and dog collars. (Maximum 5 participants)

**Tuesday, July 23 and Thursday, July 25, afternoon**

Make a counted cross-stitch sled ornament. (Maximum 8 participants)

**Friday, July 30, afternoon**

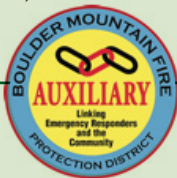
Easy craft projects for all skill levels...all are welcome, no maximum.

**Wednesday, August 14, afternoon**

Make originally-designed greeting cards. (Maximum 5 participants)

**Tuesday, August 20, mid-day**

Make up-cycled, lined, fabric eyeglass cases and purse pouches. (Maximum 8 participants)



BMFPD Auxiliary membership meetings are open to all! Join us at the Community Center/Station 1 for the next meeting on July 28 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM.

Explore Our Website & Learn About Fire Safety and Volunteer Opportunities <https://www.bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org>

## UNUSUAL PBH RESIDENT: THE WESTERN SPOTTED SKUNK

By Carron Meaney, Ph.D., PBH Resident and Co-author of *The Mammals of Colorado*



The uncommon western spotted skunk is not often seen, but can be found in Pine Brook Hills! These diminutive skunks inhabit rocky canyons, foothills, and mountain riparian habitats below 8,000 feet in elevation through much of Mexico and the western United States. They use rocky outcrops and logs for dens and can be found near where people live. They are never common and therefore are not often seen, although Pine Brook Hills provides suitable habitat.

We have four species of skunks in Colorado: the striped skunk (the common one); the white-backed hog-nosed skunk, which is rare and occurs in southeastern Colorado; the eastern spotted skunk, which occurs along the South Platte and Arkansas rivers in far eastern Colorado; and the western spotted skunk, scientific name *Spilogale gracilis*.

Western spotted skunks are black and white with broad white stripes broken up into spots, and they sport a white-tipped tail. The tail is conspicuously large and long-haired. They have white spots below their ears and in the middle of their forehead. This species weighs about a pound, with males weighing slightly more than females.

They are omnivorous and eat arthropods, including grasshoppers and caterpillars, small mammals such as mice and voles, birds and their eggs, lizards, and roots, fruits, and berries. As with other skunks, spotted skunks are nocturnal. They stay within a half mile of their den. They can climb and are excellent diggers, with relatively long claws on their front feet.

When threatened, they will stomp their forefeet and raise their back end into a hand stand posture, which with their bushy tail, makes them appear larger than they are. This video from Jim Knopf shows a skunk posturing in response to a racoon not visible off to the side (video link: <https://youtu.be/imgQ1EsyUCA>). They have anal glands, and can spray at predators with surprisingly good aim, but need to have their front feet on the ground to do so. One of the ingredients of their spray is a mercaptan, which is used in gas lines so that people can quickly smell a leak.

Western spotted skunks mate in the fall, when females come into estrus. They have delayed implantation, such that the fertilized egg does not implant in the uterus until April. Four young are born in May or early June, blind and almost hairless. While the young are with their mother, they typically follow her in a single file. They do not hibernate, but may den up in groups during cold periods. They have been known to live for 10 years in captivity. Their predators are humans, dogs, cats, bobcats, foxes, coyotes, owls, and other raptors.

A number of years ago while living on Sugarloaf, my cousin Andy came to stay. He decided to sleep outside for a couple of nights. One morning he woke up with a spotted skunk sleeping on his chest! Although not advised and requiring a permit, spotted skunks can be a fun pet/companion once their anal glands are removed. They are quite friendly and can be litter trained.

Very little is known about this elusive and infrequently-seen species. Please let me know if you have seen one!

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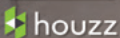
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