

PingBrookPrgss

A Newsletter for, about and written by Pine Brook Hills Residents

WINTER 2001



ALMOST A FAMILY BUSINESS: WATER DISTRICT MANAGER BOB deHAAS

West of the 100th meridian (which runs through the western part of Kansas) precipitation drops to an average of 20 inches or less, and human presence is determined as much by water, or lack thereof, as anything else. The West is arid country interrupted by mountain ranges wringing scarce moisture out of eastbound clouds. Last summer's drought showed how dependent we are on those clouds shedding some moisture in the right place - the

drainage areas for our water supply. Water is important here.

On a winter morning
I stood with Bob deHaas, Pine
Brook Water District Manager,
and his assistant Shawn Beauprez looking down at Four Mile
Creek. It is a modest creek, flowing at a few hundred gallons per
minute, and would be inconsequential in wetter lands. Here, it is the
primary source of our water. Last
summer it dried up completely
and we were on water restrictions.
Today, the flow is more than ade-

quate to satisfy the needs of the district's 380 homes and approximately 1300 residents.

Keeping clean water flowing reliably in our taps is Bob's job and one he takes very seriously. After all, it is practically a family business!

Bob's parents are Dutch and grew up in Indonesia. After World War II, they moved to Holland, Canada, upstate New York and finally to Pine Brook Hills in 1966. Bob was in the $6^{\rm th}$ grade. There were less than forty homes here, but there was a new water system. He got to know the system quite well because his mother, Trudy Lay, became responsible for its operation and his father served on the Board of

Directors. In those days there were always problems. When water mains broke all water was lost and it would take days or weeks to recover. Today a break is fixed in 4-6 hours. Bob remembers his mother dropping everything to rush off to the many emergencies. As a teenager he had a jeep and would drive his mother to the emergency du jour. Once there was a break at the top of a hill out of reach of digging equipment. Bob and some friends dug up the main line by

hand. The water system became as familiar as his own home.

But managing a water district was not what he wanted to do. As a child he rode horses everywhere among these hills. In high school he trained and broke horses. A veterinarian is what he wanted to be. So after Boulder High School, he enrolled in Animal Science at Colorado State University. However, it took just one semester to be convinced that while horses were wonderful, Animal Science was not for him.

Bob went west to Grand Junction and switched to something completely different--Police Science. At twenty one, he accepted a job with the Rifle, Colorado, police department. He took to police work, becoming a sergeant within two years.

In 1976, Rifle was, what Bob calls, in the police vernacular, an "active" town. The potential wealth from oil shale had created a boom town. He broke up hundreds of bar fights, took part in many drug raids, and kicked down doors just like on TV. His most harrowing experience came while responding to a domestic disturbance. An irate husband thought that police

had no business interfering and waited in ambush with a 12 gauge shotgun. Bob was hit everywhere - the right leg had forty odd holes, there were shots in his face, hands and eyes. A bullet proof vest prevented more serious damage. Pieces of lead still in his body activate security screens at airports.

Other incidents had lesser consequences. During a high speed pursuit one night his partner wanted to abandon the chase. Bob suggested that they continue for a little while because he suspected that the car they were pursuing was low on gas. Sure enough, about ten minutes later, that car rolled to a stop, out of gas. They had the culprits and were feeling quite satisfied. But looking around they quickly realized that they did not have the slightest idea where they were. Completely lost, they spent the rest of the night out there until morning light allowed them to get their bearings.

By 1987 the oil shale boom fizzled and the economy of Rifle took a severe downturn. So Bob moved back to the Eastern Slope, intending to work as a police officer, when the job of PBH Water District Manager opened up. Now that was a job he knew how to do. He has been responsible for our water ever since. It is more peaceful here; nobody in PBH has ever shot a water district manager.

Bob lives here with his wife, Kathy, a hair stylist at Chez Salon in Boulder, and three daughters, Jade, Kristy and Leslie. He is teaching Jade to drive on the same roads where he rode horses many years ago — roads on which he cannot get lost! He has been active in the community and was the volunteer fire chief for many years. He is still the Captain for the PBH part of Boulder Mountain Fire Authority. Fireman <u>and</u> Policeman! He has lived many a boy's dream.

Under Bob's management our water district has grown from a system supplied by deep wells to a combination of surface water (70%) and wells (30%). It is almost two separate systems. Four Mile Creek services the areas above the Community Center/Fire Station on Linden, and the wells provide water below. The major difference in the water is the hardness; the well water is about twice as hard.

Riding along during the daily inspection and recording of storage and functional data, it is clear that the system has been vastly upgraded and

improved during the last thirteen years. There is a membrane filtration plant, the second to go online in the state, that is extremely reliable and produces water greatly exceeding state and federal standards. The monitoring system is state of the art; problems are pinpointed and fixed without the consumer being aware that anything was wrong.

As we drove back from Four Mile Creek to the office on Linden, the conversation kept veering to the defining question about water in the West - availability. Bob thinks like a dry land farmer, worrying about rain in summer and snowpack in winter. He has become a weatherman, using internet data from two weather stations at each end of our drainage area to predict stream flows. He has to tackle legal issues, protecting our district's water rights under arcane water laws. He has created a well managed modern system, but I sense he would consider his greatest accomplishment would be acquiring enough water sources to shield PBH from everything except a hundred year drought.

The office is bright and cheery, but it was only recently completed, as part of the Firehouse remodel. Where, I ask, was the water office prior to last March? Why, in Bob's basement, where else? It had been there for the last thirteen years. I knew that Bob and Shawn are the two full-time employees. But there is also a part-time employee. It is Bob's mother, Trudy. Definitely a family business! And a well run one at that.



NEWCOMERS WELCOME!

By Shoni Kahn and Sally Powell-Ashby

Tuesday, February 13, 2001 at 7 p.m. is the highly anticipated date of the next "Newcomers Get Together!" If you have recently moved to Pine Brook Hills be sure to mark your calendar!

The "Newcomers Get Together" meets at the Community Center/Fire House about every six months and has proven to be a great way to get to know your community. It's informative, it's fun...and it's short!

P.S. Due to imminent memory loss by the committee chairs, please RSVP after February 1, 2001, to Shoni Kahn (303) 786-8919 or Sally Powell-Ashby (303) 440-0507. Thanks!

PINE BROOK HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PBH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION - Quarterly meeting on Wed., Jan. 24. Potluck supper at 5:30 p.m., Program at 7:30 p.m., at the Community Center.

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

AUXILIARY FIRE AND MEDICAL - Meets 1st Sunday of every month at 6:30 P.M. at the Firehouse.

BIBLE STUDY - Meets weekly. For info, call Greg or Donna Johnson at (303) 449-1692.

FIRE BOARD - Meets 2nd Monday of every month at 7 P.M. at either the Pine Brook or Boulder Heights Firehouse.

FITBALL (aka Swiss Ball) - meets Friday mornings, 8-9 a.m., at the Community Center. Free, but you need your own ball, 449-0997.

PBH WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB - Next meeting on Tues., Jan. 23, 7 p.m. at the Community Center to discuss "Stella in Heaven." 415-1111.

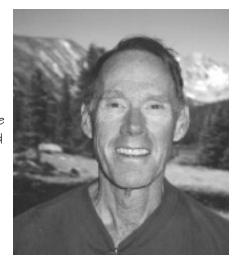
PHILOSOPHY CLUB - Next meeting on Tues., Feb. 6, 7 p.m. at the Community Center. If interrested call Quentin or Eileen McKenna at 415-1111.

WATER BOARD - Meets 1st or 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 P.M. at the Firehouse. See marquee on Linden for dates.

ALluminations

By AL Gerrish, HOA President

The next Homeowners Association quarterly meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, January 24. Please come and join your neighbors for a good time that is both fun AND informative! It's a great opportunity to get to know your fellow PBH neighbors, learn the latest Pine Brook news, do your part in making Pine Brook a stronger neighborhood and have fun. In addition to the pot-luck social beginning at 5:30 and



the quarterly business meeting at 7:30, the program will include a presentation on the increasingly popular winter sport of snowshoeing. Featured speaker will be local Boulderite Claire Walter, author of the book <u>Snowshoeing Colorado</u>. Come find out where to go, what equipment to buy and how to get the most fun from the "energy efficient sport utility vehicles of the winter backcountry." So come, meet your neighbors and learn about a sport that is so well suited to our area.

By the way, if you missed the last HOA quarterly meeting on October 25, it was a great program about our most valuable commodity, water. Pine

Brook Hills Water Manager Bob deHaas, ably assisted by Bob Olliver, gave a very informative account of how Pine Brook Hills obtains, maintains and protects its water supply. Thanks also to Melissa Klassen, water rights attorney, and Kirk Hendricks, water board president, for giving their perspectives on the legal and management issues. Also thank you, Pine Brook Homeowners, for your approval of Ballot Issue 5A and your help in defeating Amendment 21. Your votes helped to ensure that our firefighters will be properly funded and that additional emphasis will be placed on fire mitigation.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Al Whitfield

nce again, with the start of a new year, we look to the residents of our community for their continued support. The major source of income for the Homeowner's Association is the voluntary annual dues of \$50 (feel free to contribute more; many do). This income, along with that from other fund raising events, provides support for the Association's many activities benefiting our community. Last year these activities included wildfire mitigation (we paid \$6000 for chipping), publication of the Pine Brook Press, and a significant contribution toward completion of the Community Center/Fire House. In 2000, over 75% of our residents were paying members! Join your neighbors in helping to make Pine Brook Hills an even more beautiful and safe community. Checks should be made to PINE BROOK HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION and sent to Al Whitfield, Treasurer, Pine Brook Hills HOA, 137 Alpine Way, Boulder, CO 80304. Thank you!

ON THE WATER FRONT

With Bob deHaas

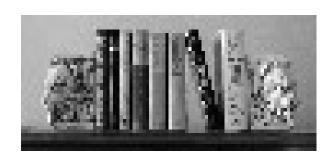
Well, the year 2000 is over and done with, but it sure went out for us with a bang. In the last 2½ months of 2000 we had 5 water main breaks! The last one was on December 31. This was not a typical year; normally we might have 1 or 2 breaks in any given year. It's been a long time since we had 5.

While we realize that seeing us working in the roadways, interfering with traffic flow, is not what anyone wants to deal with, we would remind everyone that these are YOUR water mains, which deliver the

water to your homes, that we are working on. Please help us out and slow down when you see the road construction signs out. We usually do our own traffic control to help contain costs. We realize that we are not professionals at traffic control, but with a little cooperation from everyone we can keep traffic going with very little delay.

For the year 2001 we have several projects planned to improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of the water system. Hopefully we will have a normal to above normal winter snowfall so that drought and water supply will not be a concern!

Thanks to everyone for your support and cooperation.



WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Compiled by Deborah Springer

D-DAY, by Stephen Ambrose Reviewed by Charlie Springer

At dawn on June 6th, 1944, the main invasion of Normandy began. Ambrose begins by describing the planning and preparation for the attack on Germanheld France. Then he goes into detail about the predawn airborne and glider assaults, describing the invasion of Utah, Omaha, Juno, Gold and Sword Beaches. The author relates the story from both the Allied and the German perspectives.

For me, one of the most intriguing aspects of this book is the realization of how differently the Battle of Normandy would have been conducted today, rather than a half century ago, because of the changes in technology and society.

HEARTS IN ATLANTIS, by Stephen King Reviewed by Jill Gibbs

<u>Hearts In Atlantis</u> is one of King's newer books. Written in 1999 it is truly spellbinding. I took it on a long

plane ride and it kept me riveted for hours. The story is based in the Sixties and explores, through four defining decades, the haunting legacy of the Vietnam War. Although I am not a King fan I found this book to be one of his best; it is not one of his usual horror stories. The characters become real friends. I cried and laughed along with them and felt a real loss when it ended and I had to say goodbye to all of them.



PHILOSOPHY - THE GREAT QUESTIONS

Conversations on Topics of Interest By Eileen McKenna

Our first "Philosophic Pot-luck" on December 5 was a great success. Nine people came out in the snow to meet at the Community Center and choose a video to watch and discuss. We had a few videos to choose from and decided on Joseph Campbell's "Message of the Myth" from the "Power of Myth" series moderated by Bill Moyers.

The video was about an hour long and generated an interesting and absorbing free-form discussion that lasted until 10 p.m.

We will be meeting again at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, so if you have an interesting video on an esoteric or exotic subject that you would like to share with the group, please bring it.

Please call Quentin or Eileen McKenna at (303) 415-1111 if you have any questions.



THE PINE BROOK PRESS NEEDS YOU!

Our neighborhood quarterly is organic and homegrown. As such, it eagerly invites your participation as writer, editor, graphic artist, letter-to-theeditor writer, proof-reader, and/or "publication specialist" (that means folding and labeling the paper). The Press is published in January, April, July and October, with deadlines at the end of the months preceding publication. We'd love to have news about you and your neighborhood. We'll even consider gripes and complaints, should there ever be any in this best-of-all communities.

Give us a call at 449-0997, write to Pine Brook Press at 25 Alpine Way, Boulder, CO 80304, or e-mail Pinebrookpress@aol.com.

MOUNTAIN LION SIGHTING IN PBH

by Anne Singh

If you remember, it was a very cold morning on Sunday, the 10th of December. It had snowed during the night and it was very quiet; no one was out and no cars had gone by. Param and I had gotten up early only to find our kitchen pipes frozen. After a lengthy search and call routine through the yellow pages we found a plumber who said he could come soon. So we were on the look-out for his truck. Eventually, at about 10 a.m., I thought I heard his truck and went upstairs to my study where I have a window facing the driveway. So I looked, expecting to see him, but there was no truck. Everything was still silent. Then I noticed something on the driveway, about 30 yards from the house. Whatever it was, it was sitting quietly on the edge of the driveway gazing down into the gully. I couldn't recognize it, however, which puzzled me. It didn't look quite like any animal I had seen around here before. Finally, "cat" came into my head but it was much too large for a house cat. I noticed that it was tawny, with a particular kind of pattern. Suddenly, I just knew that I was looking at an honest-to-God mountain lion sitting there on my own driveway. I could hardly believe it. My neighbor, Suzanne Adams, had told me once that she had been waiting 9 years to see one. And now there it was on my driveway after I had been living here only a little more than a year.

At this time, I was overcome with excitement and went racing down the stairs yelling, "Param, there's a mountain lion on our driveway!" I called Suzanne hoping she would be able to see it too but, alas, it got up and took off down the gully after l (foolishly) opened the front door in order to get a clearer look at it without the impediment of a screen. Although Suzanne never did see it, Bart went out to examine the tracks (he found adult lion tracks a mere 3 feet from their bedroom windows) and determined that there were three lions around that morning, two younger ones and an adult. Perhaps they were the threesome spotted earlier in the summer. I saw one of the juveniles but that was a good enough thrill for me. My only regret is that I did not get a photograph to share with all of you, the readers of this newsletter. Maybe next time!

THANK YOU, MOUNTAIN EXPRESSIONS VOLUNTEERS

By Susan Maxwell

The success of Mountain Expressions each year is due to the small and large efforts of many people. The

Auxiliary sincerely thanks all of you (<u>and</u> any we have inadvertently left out). Thank you, also, to all the Pine Brookers who took the time to attend the show. Although the weather lessened our turnout a bit, the sale was still a good fundraiser for our fire department.

Artists: Tricia Eyster, Babette Markey, Diana Waddell, Debbie Springer, Harriet Edelstein, Larkin Hosmer, Jean Watson, Cindy Fowler, Kit Peiffer, Donna Johnson, Judy Tupy, Ellen Caukin, Ellen Steiner, Ruth Johnson, Marcia McHaffie, Sandy Hensen, Susan Maxwell, Barb Stengel, Pat Belanger

Bakers: Marion Olson, Kathy Eyster, Sue Landwehr, Jo Wiedemann, Vicki Schilling, Suzanne Adams, Maria Kline, Pinque Barber, Nancy Tamura, Susan Brochstein, Judy Tupy, Donna McCraith, Weesa Parker, Jane Engel

Publicity: Kathy and Lindsay London, Anita Griffin, Susan Brochstein, Eileen McKenna, Don Whittemore, Vicki Schilling, Suzanne and Bart Adams, Nancy Tamura

Construction and Set-up: Ken Larkin, Steve Maxwell, Nancy Tamura, Kathy Eyster, Judy Tupy, Sue Landwehr, Vicki Schilling, Cecile Duray-Bito, Don Whittemore, Sean Beauprez, Bob deHaas,

Art Markey, Donna McCraith, Jane Engel

Crafters: Vicki Schilling, Weesa Parker, Kathy Eyster, Nancy Tamura, Jane Engel

Hosts/Hostesses and Clean-up: Art and Babette Markey, Vicki Schilling, Nancy Tamura, Donna McCraith Jane Engel, Judy Tupy, Steve and Rebecca Maxwell

THANK YOU also to our "corporate sponsors": Boulder Veterinary Hospital, One Way Inc. Disposal Service, Panera Bread, Rocky Ridge Construction, Scott Engel at the Daily Camera, and TechKNOWLEDGYy Strategic Group.

OPINION PIECE

By Susan Maxwell

The combination of our recent water restrictions and the chipping project got me thinking. Is living in Pine Brook Hills a joy or a responsibility? Of course, we all know it is both a tremendous joy and a significant responsibility to live in our foothills community. What tips the scale to the positive side is this fact - the responsibilities can be joys, too.

Responsibility

- 1) Land steward we must watch for and remedy pine beetle damage, get rid of noxious weeds, and monitor our creeks and roadside ditches for litter.
- 2) Wildlife protector we must resist feeding or taming wildlife, keeping in mind these possible scenarios: feed deer, attract mountain lion to homes, "nuisance" lion has to be sacrificed; put out accessible bird food or trash, attract bears to homes, "nuisance" bear has to be sacrificed.
- 3) Fire mitigator we must try to make our community defensible during a fire by trimming trees, hauling slash.
- 4) Water saver we must conserve water in times of drought, to maintain firefighting capability in our small independent water district.
- 5) Safe driver we must constantly use extra caution on our mountain roads snow, ice, gravel, narrow roads with blind curves and lots of cyclists and walkers.

Joy

- 1) The chance to truly connect with the land by being observant and caring is a privilege.
- 2) We can see wildlife every day without taming or or feeding them.
- 3) A few hours of "honest" work is good for most of
- 4) Having our own water district is a point of pride.

Conservation is a valuable skill.

5) If you slow down, you can admire the scenery and avoid the exercisers.

6) Community volunteer - we must keep our fire depart- 6) A little volunteering will warm your heart. ment, water and fire boards and Homeowners Association humming.

So, I say jump into the responsibilities. None of us can accomplish all of the above list all the time; numbers 2 and 5 are the hard ones for me. However, we can make efforts in that direction. Try spreading the land steward and fire mitigation activities out over months so they are not a burden, and when you do decide to devote part of a day to cleaning your creek and roadside ditches, or trimming and hauling slash to be chipped, do it with your neighbors - make it a party - we all have decks just waiting for potluck dinners after hard work as a team.

And the community volunteer part - devote a little or a lot of time - there are hundreds of ways to do it. The efforts of the fire department and its auxiliary, the water and fire district boards and the Homeowners Association are critically important <u>and</u> they breathe vitality into Pine Brook Hills. Someone I talked to at the Home Tour last fall put it this way: she thought she was moving into a mountain **subdivision** but soon found that Pine Brook Hills is a mountain **community.**

Do you ever think about how pristine, natural and beautiful our foothill area would be without all our homes? I do, and I think the fact that we have the privilege of living in homes here makes our responsibilities into necessary joys.

BEFORE YOU BUILD IT, COME TO ARC

By Genna Murphy

The Architectural Review Committee was estab-I lished to ensure that property owners in Pine Brook Hills build structures on their land that are in harmony with the natural terrain and character of the neighborhood. We receive many inquiries about exactly what kinds of structures need to come before ARC review. The past year of review has demonstrated how necessary it is to bring any building you may be contemplating through ARC before you build. For the record, the two most contentious debates this past year centered not around a new house or a big addition but on a proposed pool and on a second story on an existing garage. If you are contemplating any of the following changes to your property, it will save you money and time to have the project reviewed by ARC before you move forward.

1. A NEW HOME OR ADDITION REQUIRING A SITE PLAN REVIEW

Anyone who plans to build a new home in Pine Brook is required to file a site plan for review with Boulder County. Before submitting this site plan it is best to obtain ARC review to insure that the building fits into the terrain and character of Pine Brook. The county listens closely to the opinions of ARC; therefore, this is an important step in helping your site plan to gain county approval.

2. AN ADDITION THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A COUNTY SITE PLAN REVIEW

If your addition is under 1000 square feet, you will often not be required to file a site plan with the county; however, you must bring this proposed addition before ARC before you file for a building permit. If you file for the permit and then find that the addition is not in compliance with the covenants of Pine Brook you will have to comply and re-file for a new permit.

3. EVEN GARAGES AND OUTBUILDINGS?

Yes, even garages! One of our most complicated reviews this past year centered on a second story addition onto an existing garage. You may think that a garage addition or a new garage is a simple matter, yet any structure can be in non-compliance if it adversely impacts the harmony of the natural terrain and the character of your neighborhood.

4. YES, EVEN YOUR POOL, ESPECIALLY YOUR POOL! Pools are by far one of the most divisive building issues in Pine Brook. ARC does not concern itself with the

in Pine Brook. ARC does not concern itself with the politics of water use, but with the impacts of pools on the existing neighborhood. Pools tend be recreational centers on a lot and may bring with them increased noise, adverse visual impacts, and specific landscaping problems. Before you apply for a building permit for your pool, consult ARC to work out noise issues, placement of lighting, and landscaping to soften any negative visual impacts.

5. DECKS

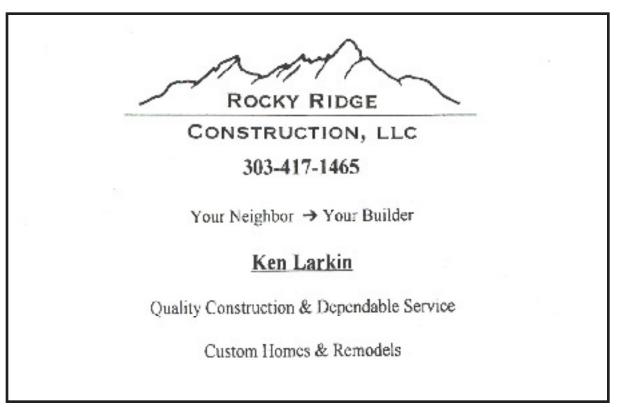
It is advisable to bring your plans for deck replacement or new decks before ARC to ensure compliance with the covenants. Decks maximize many views in Pine Brook, yet they must not be built in such a manner as to negatively impact the visual terrain.

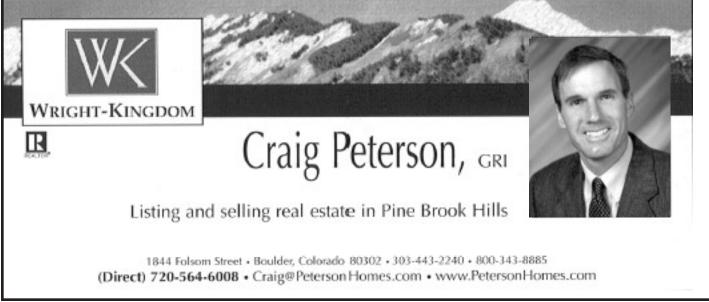
5. A HOUSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

If you are planning to change the color of your house, please come to ARC with the color samples. Often color samples are much darker than the actual finished house. One homeowner found that the "tan" color sample resulted in an apparently white house exterior. Pine Brook covenants makes it clear that any building constructed on a lot should be "stained or left in a natural state so as to preserve natural color, or stained or colored in neutral or earth tones in

harmony with other structures in the subdivision." ARC is here to help you with your choice of colors so that the color you want is the one that ends up on your home!

The Architectural Review Committee is an all volunteer committee and our commitment is to maintain the natural beauty of our unique mountain neighborhood. We hope you will bring your projects to us, so we can assist you in living with harmony in these wonderful foothills of the Rockies. So, before you build it, please come to ARC.







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EXPERIENCED BABYSITTER!

Lia Livingston, age 11 1/2, is looking for babysitting, animal care, and plant watering jobs. Loves children and pets.

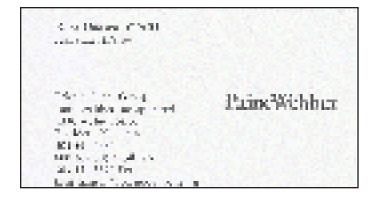
Please call LIA at 720-406-1982

LOOKING TO RENT IN PBH

Mature single woman looking for a rental in PBH. Excellent local references. Looking to rent a cottage/garage apartment or bedtoom in a house share. Please call Susan at 444-2771.







PINE BROOK HILLS WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

By Eileen McKenna

The book club will meet at the Community Center at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, to discuss "STELLA IN HEAVEN" by Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper columnist and author of more than 30 books, ART BUCHWALD. This is a humorous, light-hearted book and a quick read, giving homage to a long marriage, sadly over.

On March 27 we will be discussing "A MAN IN FULL" by TOM WOLFE, author of more than a dozen books, Yale Doctor of American Studies, and prime fictional chronicler of America at its most outrageous and alive. This is a heavy, colorful, funny book about money and politics in the deep South. It is a slow read and worth every minute.

These books are available at a 10% book club discount from the Boulder Book Store on the Pearl Street Mall, just east of 11th Street. You will find the books downstairs on the book club shelf listed under "Pine Brook Hills Book Club."

Please join us for a cup of coffee while we talk about these books. And let us know what you want to read next.

Questions? Call Eileen McKenna at (303) 415-1111.



PBH's POPULAR ACCIDENT LOCATIONS

pine Brook Hills has at least three "Special Spots" for accidents:

- 1. Timber Lane opposite the Owens' house (#1942). This picturesque spot featuring a small creek holds a magnetic attraction for cars. The road is banked the wrong way here, so if you have a bit of speed and hit some ice at this shady spot, you may join the crowd who have stopped in at this popular venue.
- 2. Linden Drive just below #2146. Cars with a herd instinct favor this spot for leaving the road at least 14 cars have decided to go cross-country here, some sailing through the air to land in the Knapp's back yard.
- 3. The "S" curve on lower Linden below Arrowleaf Court. Recently yet another car met its demise at this common stopping-off spot.

None of these places looks particularly dangerous, but ice and sand can make the difference. Please go slow, in summer and, particularly, in winter. Thanks!

DAVID POSTLE: A RENAISSANCE GUY IN A BUSINESS SUIT

By Marsha Walker

Walking into Panera's on the Pearl Street Mall early one morning, we were greeted by a smiling guy behind the counter.

"Hi, welcome," he says. "Hey, we're neighbors!" "We are?"

"Yes. I'm David Postle."

"Oh, right, you're the one with the mailbox with the stone feature that says 'Postle!"

"That's me. I've been living there since 1986, right across the street from my pal, Marshall Coon."

"David, is this your restaurant?" I asked.

"It is. Would you like to have a little tour?"

"Yes! I love little tours."

So my husband Jack and I got a behind-the-scenes glimpse at Panera's Bakery/Café, and we marveled at

the enormous change in the space (where the old Potters used to be) and enjoyed its friendly atmosphere, which begins right there with the man at the top.

It seems that David, a businessman/ entrepreneur, has had an office on the Pearl Street Mall for the last 15 years, and he, like so many of us, had been looking for the quintessential quick, reasonably priced and fairly healthy restaurant he could pop into for a coffee and bun in the morning, or a salad or

for a coffee and bun in the morning, or a salad or sandwich any time of the day. Not finding a place downtown that fully satisfied his requirements, he decided to open Panera Bread.

David refers to Panera's as "Quick Casual": not fast food and not full service, but a bright, easy kind of place with a bakery and coffee section and a lunch counter. It's a spot where people can enjoy eating outdoors and watching Boulder pass by. David, the affable and gracious guy that he is, seems to have a wave and a kind word for at least half the town.

David Postle is a mid-westerner, born in Ohio to parents whom he credits as having "instilled the importance of a positive attitude about life and people.

They helped me believe in myself and my ability to do anything I set my heart on accomplishing."

"Had he indeed succeeded in everything he set out to do?" I wondered.

"No," he said, but added that he's never been afraid to take risks and to try things that interest him. Early on it was "rolling billboards" - advertising on the sides of trucks. While in New York putting that deal

together David noticed a long line of "suits" queued up at a little stand on Wall Street. They were waiting for something called frozen yogurt, of all things. Not finding frozen yogurt in California (of all places) was enough to prompt his venture into the "alternative ice cream" business.

Then in Atlanta he came up with something similar to dinner theaters, but instead of live performances, films were offered with dinner and drinks, a package deal for \$20. After that came a foray into the gourmet pizza business and even a Wendy's franchise here and there. He still remains involved in some of these ventures, and the others are, in a sense, history lessons.

"I started out thinking I wanted to be a lawyer

but the world of business captivated me, and still does. We've opened another Panera location at the Louisville/Superior exit near the theater complex, then on to Flatirons Crossing, Loveland and Ft. Collins."

"Hmmm. This sounds like a franchise operation."

"Yes, because it is. I know the "F"
word conjures up a behemoth operation and
domination over everyone, but our concept

is something more niche-like. Our aim is not to run anyone out of business but just to fill what we think is a real need. Panera's is a 'soft' franchise, similar to Wok 'N Roll, Chipotle or Noodles. We believe there's room for all of us in this type of operation."

I asked him about his leisure time.

"It's hard on my social life, believe me. Before Panera I skied, hiked, golfed, played tennis and went rock climbing, but for now it's all work and no play. At night I read books, non-fiction, and lots of business journals to keep up. Architectural Digest and the New Yorker I read for a little pleasure."

David Postle at age 53 is feeling good. He's a handsome, eligible bachelor and his Panera is a hit. He is generous with his customers, his staff and the community: daily tips go to various non-profit agencies locally, and food left over at the end of the day is donated to Community Food Share.

So David, three cheers to you! We're pleased to have you living here amongst us in PBH, and those of us who are already your steady customers down on the mall say, "We love your buns." Long live Panera's!

VIEWS FROM PINEBROOK



From above Alder Lane

By Eve Berg

Pine Brook Hills Homeowners Assoc.

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