



Pine Brook Press

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

WINTER 2005



BMFA HELPS WITH A DELIVERY

Literally. On Thanksgiving weekend it was snowing hard on Saturday night, November 27, when Dana and Jim Huddle and Annabelle, not quite two, went to bed, snug in their Pine Brook Hills home.

At 4:05 am Dana woke Jim up. She wasn't sure but she thought she 'might' be having contractions. They called the doctor who seemed quite nonchalant. Dana was not due for another two weeks. Nevertheless, they prepared to go down to the hospital.

Jim went out in the driving snow and started the car to warm it up. He came back in, woke Annabelle, dressed her and took her out to the car. Meanwhile, Dana called a real expert, her mom, Louise Groves, mother of seven. When Jim came back in Dana was on the bathroom floor screaming, "Jim, Jim, it's coming!" Louise called 911 and pagers went off in the homes of Boulder Mountain Fire Authority (BMFA) firefighters and medical responders and also alerted Pridemark ambulance service.

Jim was, as he later recalled, "scared to death and freaked out." The head of the baby was visible. He also called 911 and then the on call doctor. He hung up on

the 911 dispatcher who was attempting to guide him through childbirth when his phone flashed an incoming call from Dr. Kelly Clark, the on call doctor. Following her instructions, he ended up with the phone in one hand and the baby (Serafina Katherine Huddle) in the other. In a blur of activity, he placed the baby, on Dana's chest, wrapped with every towel

in the house, brought Annabelle in and put her to bed. He was getting his shoelaces to tie the cord with when he heard someone at the door.

The 911 call went out at 4:51 am. Thirteen minutes later, Lilly Pray of BMFA had made it all the way up to Upper Pine Brook from her North Boulder home. There were about 8 inches of fresh snow on the road. The initial call had only mentioned "a female with unknown

medical problem." While she was driving up, the dispatcher came on again with more details about the emergency. Lilly immediately started thinking about what she needed to assist with childbirth. She was thinking of how to clamp the umbilical cord when she saw her daughter's barrette in the car. Grabbing it, she hustled to the door of the house.

At the door she found a man whose pallor was



The Huddle Family: Jim, Dana, Serafina and Annabelle with BMFA's Lilly Pray.

ghost white, with a phone in one hand and a shoelace in the other. She told him to stay on the phone



Serafina Katherine Huddle.
DOB 11/28/2004, 6 lbs. 8 oz., 19 1/2 ins., lots of hair.

and give her the lace. She could see Dana was on the bathroom floor, smiling and laughing, the baby on her chest.

Lilly's first action was to check the baby, who had not started breathing and looked a little blue. She stimulated Serafina with a cold stethoscope. Serafina let out a yell and turned pink from head to toe.

Her pulse and respiration were fine. The lace and barrette did their job. To Jim "Lilly was phenomenal" as she took over. Lilly in turn said that Jim did everything right.

Meanwhile more BMFA members had shown up. Tom Akins, Andrew Churnside, Brian Fike and Paul Munding worked on clearing the driveway and making sure that the area was safe for transporting Dana and Serafina to Boulder. By the time Pridemark made it up to transport mother and child, it was all over. Serafina's older sister, Annabelle, slept through it all.

The Press estimates that it has been nine years since a baby was born in Pine Brook Hills. Now that Jim Huddle has come through his birthing baptism with flying colors, perhaps he should consider joining BMFA, teaming with Lilly and creating a crack baby delivery team!



SANTA COMES TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Thanks to the Boulder Heights Family Club, Santa made an appearance at the Community

Center on December 18. All families from Boulder Heights, Carriage Hills and Pine Brook Hills were welcome.



TREE SUBMITS TO BEETLE INSPECTORS

In a joint Pine Brook/Boulder Heights effort, the noble volunteers seen above (and others not available for the picture) plan to wage battle against two threats to our forest: bark beetles and mistletoe. The threats are real. The area around Grand Lake has lost most of its coniferous trees. U.S. Forest Service officials have said that in the areas not treated for beetle control, the battle is over - the beetles have won.

We're not letting that happen here.

And we're looking for more volunteers. The group will receive training in identifying the pests that attack pines. Community residents can call on the "Pest Patrol" for help in assessing the health of their trees. Because each beetle-infested tree can kill two to ten more trees, timely removal and appropriate treatment are crucial. Please call Tim Triggs (444-4093) or Suzanne Adams (449-0997) to join the buggy crew.

Pest Patrol, Left to Right: Steve Lynn (BMFA Mitigation Coordinator), Mark Menagh, Tim Triggs, Gretchen Leland, Larry Viele, Rody Kent, Suzanne Adams, Pam Creswell. Other volunteers include: Ann Butterfield, Jason Gatesman, Ed Herrick, Gail Loveman, Sue Rancis and Param Singh.



EDJUKASHUN..EDUKATION?...OH HEK!



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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

HOA MEETING JANUARY 26: REALITY CHECK: MAKE A PLAN/BUILD A KIT. Presented by the Red Cross. Potluck at 6 P.M., HOA meeting at 7 P.M., Presentation at 7:30 P.M.

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

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

FIRE BOARD - Generally meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 7 P.M. at either the Pine Brook or Boulder Heights Firehouse. The February meeting is on the 7th. Call 440-0235 for specifics.

FIRE AUXILIARY - Generally meets the first Sunday of every month at 7 P.M. Call 786-7586 for confirmation.

WATER BOARD - Meets first or second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. Call Water Office at 443-5394 for dates.

STRAIGHT FROM THE PREZ

By Pam Creswell, Pine Brook Hills Homeowners Association President

I hope you all a wonderful holiday season.

As we move into the new year, we hope you will attend the January HOA meeting. These meetings and the organization itself are for ALL residents, not just home "owners," and we always love to see new faces and meet new people at our meetings.

The meeting, which will be held on January 26th will start at 6:30 with a potluck, followed at 7:00 with the formal meeting and winding up at 7:30 with a Red Cross presentation on Disaster Preparedness called "Reality Check: Make a plan/Build a kit." Please come for any or all parts of the evening!



ON THE WATER FRONT

With Bob De Haas

It's the start of a new year and we are sure that everyone wants to know what is happening with the proposed reservoir. The community has not seen any newsletters from the District because we have been experiencing a few delays.

Shortly after having received Boulder County's approval to build the reservoir we lost our lead engineer due to health reasons. What we thought would be a simple process to replace him turned out to be anything but simple. This has delayed the project but has not deterred the Water Board. The Board is still committed to the project and to completing it within the budget. As of the date of this writing the District is close to finalizing the process.

The District does not have a date yet for construction to start. It could be as early as March or as late as next fall. It still appears that construction will start in 2005 and if all goes well major construction will be completed before the end of 2005.

THE COLD HAS ARRIVED!

Remember that with the cold weather it is sometimes necessary to take precautions to keep your pipes from freezing. For tips please go to our website. If your pipes do freeze please notify the Water District so that we can take precautions to protect the water system. As unbelievable as it may sound a frozen pipe in your home can freeze the water out to the water mains and can cause the water mains to freeze.



FIRESIDE CHAT

By John Benson

Happy New Year! I trust everyone had a great holiday season.

2004 provided some real changes for the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority. The fire department consolidation is now for the most part finished except for the small details. Our new name is Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District. We will slowly be transitioning over to the new name. Rest assured that we will still offer the same emergency, mitigation and fire education services as before.

A big addition to this year's mitigation program was the addition of a wood chipper to our fleet. This worked out very well for us in completing mitigation jobs in a

timelier manner and at a substantial cost savings to the community. We will continue to offer our chipping services throughout the year, weather permitting. This year the fire department had to say goodbye to Tom Akins as the Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator. Tom has decided to pursue other endeavors. But Tom did not leave the department completely; he is still very active as a fire fighter and as our ISO/water supply guru. We wish him nothing but the best. Steve Lynn is now the full time Mitigation Coordinator and is ready for the new season ahead. Tom continues to assist and help Steve with the transition. Please call 440-0235 or email mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org with all of your mitigation questions and needs. For 2005, BMFPD is looking at increasing our mitigation efforts by the addition of controlled slash burning administered by the fire department. The more slash we can dispose of, the better off the community will be in the event of wildfire. We still have some details to work out regarding the slash burning. Once those details have been finalized, we will be sending out more information on this service.

I want to offer you a safety tip regarding the practice of burning candles and incense. As I look at the number of fires, fatalities and related damages due to candle usage, it concerns me to see this fire trend climbing. This year open flame, embers and torches are responsible for 5.3 percent of all residential fires, 7.6 percent of all residential fire deaths, 12 percent of all residential deaths and 5.6 percent of all residential dollar loss. The use of candles and incense use has risen dramatically.

I offer these safety tips:

- Always keep combustibles and flammables away from open flames and embers.
- Make sure you have a stable base or platform when placing your candles.
- Put a catch basin under the candle to prevent dripping and flames from starting combustibles ablaze.
- Make sure that before you leave the house that all open flames and embers are properly extinguished.
- Keep open flames away from children and animals. It takes only a second to knock over a burning object which could cause unnecessary devastation.
- Never place towels or other combustibles on top of burning incense or potpourri. Many people do not realize that heat builds up quickly and can cause a fire without warning.
- Always place embers and open flames in a non-

combustible holder.

Please remember that candles, incense and potpourri are a great way to add that special feeling, but when mishandled or improperly placed will cause undo damage to the residence, and even worse - death or severe injury. Please do not become a statistic. Until next time have fun and be careful through the winter season.



WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETE

Last spring the Boulder Mountain Fire Authority Board of Directors hired Anchor Point, a national wildfire risk assessment company headquartered in Boulder, to evaluate fire danger in our district and to suggest ways to mitigate the risk. That study is complete and is now available for review at the Fire Chief's Office in the Community Center.

The study divided the district into "communities" having similar features such as topography, fuels and road access. Within Pine Brook Hills there are four of these communities: North Pine Brook Hills, South Pine Brook Hills, North Cedar Brook and South Cedar Brook. Expect to be invited to a "community" meeting, where the study, which is technical and complex, will be explained in detail. Anchor Point rated each community as to its wildfire risk. 86% of the communities in the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District (BMFPD) are at extreme, very high or high fire risk. You probably will not be surprised to learn that there are no low fire risk areas in the BMFPD.

After identifying the communities and their specific vulnerabilities, the study prioritized a number of mitigation projects. Life safety issues were paramount, with establishment of safe egress for residents and access for firefighters the top concern. Five projects in the newly combined Pine Brook-Boulder Heights fire protection districts were deemed most urgent. Two of those projects are in Pine Brook Hills and three in Boulder Heights. The recommendations call for the creation of shaded fuel breaks along alternate evacuation routes. These routes would become critical for egress and access were the major roads, Linden Drive and Lee Hill, blocked by fire.

Fire is our biggest danger here. We tend to think of fire in terms of loss of property. In mountain communities, loss of life is also a very real consideration. The good news is that after many years of waiting,

a professional, district-wide fire hazard study is at last complete and the most urgent projects are prioritized. The rest is up to us. Please try not to miss your "community" meeting.



LETTER ABOUT WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Dear Fellow Homeowners,

Fire mitigation has been intensively discussed recently and indeed much has been accomplished, both by individual landowners and by the HOA and the Fire District. However, much more remains to be done. If we are to appreciably reduce wildfire danger in PBH, it is essential to take a much more proactive approach to mitigation. I think it is essential for the Fire District to take the lead, pointing out to each landowner what needs to be done, and then encouraging and assisting him/her to get moving now. Winter is an excellent time to remove and low-limb trees, as the sap is down and the cut wood will be lighter to handle (and cure more rapidly if it is to be used as firewood). Individual owners capable of using a chainsaw can also make a start.

There are several locations in PBH where the danger of fire is especially high and where fire would severely limit the ability of firefighters to gain access. One such place is the branching of Timber Lane from Linden Drive, just above the Fire Station. A number of other critical situations could block the various escape routes. For example, between #82 and #228 Alpine Way there is a very steep and thickly wooded hillside, with lots of scrub, fallen branches and a downed tree. Also, the roadsides from the end of Bristlecone Way to White's Meadow are thickly wooded and full of scrub. There are many more such danger spots!

I realize that this land is privately owned, but I would urge the Fire District to contact the owners and try to make arrangements to rectify the situation.

Finally, all landowners must recognize that failure to mitigate endangers not only their own property, but also that of their neighbors.

Sincerely,
David Hummer



FRIGHTENING INCIDENTS ON PINE BROOK LOOP

Someone really has it in for a German Shepherd named Rhythm. The dog, family pet of Don Goulart, Ronda Holiday and their blended family of six children, has been attacked twice in the past few months.



In mid November the family arrived at their home on Pine Brook Road to find a broken window and several other acts of vandalism (the sheriff prefers that we not list the details). The next morning they discovered that Rhythm, their 5-year-old dog, had received a three-inch cut

on the back of her neck. Had she had been in a fight with another animal, perhaps a deer, and been wounded by antlers? The vandalism and the dog's injury weren't necessarily connected.

The story became darker on December 12, 2004. Don whistled and whistled for his dog, who finally appeared covered with blood. There was a nine-inch cut on her back, extending down to the bone. The family rushed her to a veterinary hospital for emergency treatment. The opinion of the vet at All Pets was that the wound had been caused by a heavy blow with a sharp object like a machete.

On Monday morning Don discovered a note that had probably been left in the mailbox earlier, saying (among other things), "Now it's too late - this is the last time your dog will bark."

Why did this happen? There is some history. Although the family has an invisible electric fence one mile in circumference on their four acres, three years ago their dog got out and subsequently produced a litter of eight puppies. The puppies were housed on the deck. They barked. There were some phone calls from neighbors and anonymous notes taped to the Goulart mailbox. But eventually the puppies were given away and Rhythm was equipped with a bark collar in addition to her invisible fence collar. There have been sporadic complaints in the intervening years, and the family concedes that some of their children have on occasion removed the bark and perimeter fence

collars, feeling that they were "cruel" to their pet.

When The Pine Brook Press was informed of the attack on the dog, we put a notice on the Pine Brook Hills website (pinebrookhills.org). Another Pine Brook Road neighbor saw the notice and called the Goularts. The second neighbor had also received threatening notes in language similar to the notes received by the Goularts.

One of the children in the Goulart household is having nightmares. Others are afraid to stay in the home. Two of the boys wanted to go for a hike recently. Don worried, "Take a walkie-talkie with you." If someone would attack a dog, can we know how that person might feel about a child?

Silence is golden. We all treasure the peace of our forest homes. How can we preserve it? Our covenants address the problem of barking dogs, and our HOA President, Pam Creswell, confirms that she is available to intervene if a dog is a problem to neighbors. Telephone calls to the owner and, if necessary, complaints to Animal Control at the Sheriff's office are appropriate responses (after having carefully determined which dog is at fault). Our little mountain paradise doesn't deal in broken windows and bloody pets.



NEWCOMER NEWS

By Dianne Whitfield

A warm welcome to all our newest Pine Brookers: Malcolm and Cindy Watson (194 N. Cedar Brook). Malcolm is originally from England. He is a professional violinist and trained at the Royal Academy. He performs as a soloist. Cindy is an accomplished painter who is also involved with booking Malcolm's concerts. They have one son at home.

Thomas Robinson and his fiancée Suanne Skidd (99 Meadow Look) moved to PBH in July. Thomas is from Minneapolis and owns a finance company. Suanne is from Connecticut and has a tie-dye business.

Joan Radorman and Richard Kluding (1741 Timber Lane) joined us in November. Richard has lived in Boulder for 20 years. He is the owner of No Place Like Home, a furniture consignment store. Joan has started a nonprofit venture called Circle of Care, which provides cultural and creative opportunities for homebound elderly people. Between Richard and Joan they have ten children!

MOUNTAIN EXPRESSIONS 2004

Thank You to Auxiliary and Other Helpers
Thank You to Our Wonderful Customers

The Auxiliary is very pleased to report that Mountain Expressions netted approximately \$3500. That is \$1,000 more than it ever has before! We exhibited work from 31 artists and crafters - also a new record. We had a very full Auxiliary crafts table and a splendid array of baked goods. Of course, the weather didn't hurt either - very nice both days.

Mountain Expressions' success is due entirely to the hard work of so many - the artists and crafters, the Auxiliary members and others in the community who jump in and help just with this event. We try to thank everyone in writing, but we know some are missed, particularly bakers who "sneak in" without signing our list. Please consider yourself profusely thanked if we missed you.

It would all be for naught without our customers - thanks to all of you, too. It is your shopping dollars that allow us to use the Mountain Expressions profits in support of our tireless and dedicated firefighters.

Susan Maxwell for the whole Boulder Mountain Fire Authority Auxiliary

GARAGE SALE 2005

Yes, Virginia, there will be a Garage Sale.

But right now that's about all that we can say for sure. Why are we so vague in January when we usually would be giving you the schedule for drop-off days and sale days? Well, 2005 brings construction of the Pine Brook reservoir and the reservoir construction will affect WHEN we can have the Garage Sale.

The main problem is that the large amount of parking space needed for having the sale won't be available during certain stages of the reservoir construction. So we have to wait and see what the schedule is and work with that to determine when we can have the garage sale.

So stay tuned and keep saving your donations for the sale !!!!

By the way, does anyone have any storage space available that could be used for holding donations before the firehouse is available? A separate shed, a garage, or a storage locker would be ideal. We have use of one in Boulder Heights but it is almost full already and we

could use another. Please let us know if you do.

**Babette and Art Markey,
Fire Auxiliary Garage Sale leaders**



GOOD NEWS! The sand barrel on Alpine Way is full.
BAD NEWS! You can't get to it.

COMPLIMENTS TO OUR FIREHOUSE!

Pat Palmer, who has served as election judge for these many years, called to report that people had a very positive reaction to our remodeled firehouse with its enclosed staircase and wheelchair-accessible elevator. Several people who would not otherwise have been able to vote in this precinct were able to do so, thanks to the improvements. Which means thanks to all of you who donated funds for the renovation! THANKS!

PINE BROOK'S "BETTER MOUSETRAP"



The black fox on the front page of this issue was photographed by Patrica Belanger, who reports that "Blackie" is performing similar services in her neighborhood.

Photo by Jo Weidemann

THE BEAST

By Patrica Belanger

We had a lot of snow in the mountains recently and I decided that since my husband, Frank, didn't have time to clear our very long driveway, I was going to try to tackle our 15 horsepower, multi-gearred snow blower, which I affectionately call "The Beast." We bought it second hand when we moved here because Frank insisted that we needed a BIG snow blower because of all the snow he heard they got in Colorado. It has a nasty temperament, weighs a ton and always seems to break down whenever we have a snowstorm.

I had never operated a snow blower before, so I called Frank for directions on how to run the thing. Big mistake! Directing is not his strong suit and I ended up getting mad and hanging up on him and did that, "I am Woman, Hear Me Roar" thing and decided I would handle "The Beast" myself. After an hour I finally did get it started, put it in gear, and off it went. I then had to chase it down the driveway to catch it. Did I mention I was wearing my fur coat, Nordstrom fake-fur hat and scarf set and Frank's boots, because my high-heeled ones seemed inappropriate?

Anyway, I finally figured out all the gears and within no time I was snow blowing like a pro. I amused myself by making fun patterns in the snow, all the while saying, "I'm driving, I'm driving, I'm driving with the Beast." Since I'd tackled the top of the driveway I decided to tackle the bottom of my hill, which is very steep, and the next thing I know..."The Beast" took off! I finally caught up to it and dug my heels in the snow to try to stop it. But "The Beast" had other plans. It starts dragging me down the hill, and I can't stop it and go flying on my butt and "The Beast" is heading for the bottom of my hill towards oncoming traffic. I yell, "STOP;" and, of course, it ignores me and there are cars coming and just before it reaches the main road it goes pop, bang, sputter, sputter and dies right at the bottom of my driveway.

So I am relieved that it is stopped and that it hasn't caused an accident until I try to start it again, but the pull cord is jammed and it won't start and now I have to pull "The Beast" back up my icy, steep hill and the wheels are locked and I'm pulling and swearing and there is no way "The Beast" is going anywhere.

Then a car comes by and it is one of my neighbors; I start madly waving at her and she thinks I'm just saying hello, waves back and drives away.

I decide to call Frank using our new cell phones which have video games and a camera and E-mail connections and I'm sure I could send a message to the three people up in the space station asking for help but do you think I can get it to dial Frank? Nooooo!

So I abandon "The Beast" and walk up the hill and make up a sign saying "FREE TO ANYONE WHO CAN LIFT IT" and I put it on the beast facing traffic and two hours go by and no one takes it and I can't go out because..."The Beast" is blocking my driveway.

I go back outside and bring my hammer and decide I am finally going to get rid of "The Beast" once and for all. But I take one last stab at moving it out of the way. It won't budge and I am getting very angry and screaming and slipping on the ice. My neighbor is watching me trying to wrestle "The Beast" to the ground and he takes pity on "The Beast" (of course he's an engineer) and takes away my hammer and explains that it was not "The Beast's" fault and that I should be nicer to it.

I calm down and together we both drag "The Beast" back up the hill and put it in the garage. I wait for Frank to get home to yell at him because of course it's all HIS fault that it snowed and he didn't plow the driveway and the cell phone he ordered plays video games but won't let me call to yell at him, and that it's a male conspiracy to drive women crazy and I'm totally over the top, I've had it and IT'S ME OR "THE BEAST."

I went inside with my hammer and found my vinyl copy of "I am Woman Hear Me Roar" by Helen Ready and proceeded to break it into small bite size pieces to feed to "The Beast." The Martha Stewart Video is next!



Patrica finds shoveling beastly.

POPULAR ACCIDENT LOCATIONS IN PBH

Observations of accidents in Pine Brook Hills so far this season suggest that those "Special Spots" favored for accidents in the past are still exerting their attraction. Beware these locales!

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 has stopped in at this popular venue. (The car pictured above hit this spot on December 19, 2004. Similar accidents occur here most winters.)

The curving one-back stretch of Pine Tree Lane between Timber Lane and Balsam. There is poor visibility going around the curve and several driveways



have entrances on the street. On one night a few years ago a car left the road at this spot, plunged through the yards of several homes, broke through a wall and landed in a resident's bedroom, with the resident still in bed!

The "S" curve on lower Linden below Arrowleaf Court. Every year several cars do some unplanned off-road exploration at this commonly visited spot.

None of these places looks particularly dangerous, but ice and sand can make for skid conditions. Please go slow, particularly in winter. Thanks!



THE FBI WATCH LIST WATCHES A FRIEND

Last summer our neighbors took their two children to the airport. The children were flying alone for the first time, on a trip to visit a relative in St. Louis for a week. Airlines give parents special passes that look like tickets to enable them to pass through security to accompany their children to the gate. The system

worked and the children were off on their journey. As the children were taken care of, the husband suggested that he and his wife go up into Canada for a little vacation. But the wife preferred to be close to home.

Good decision!

A week later the parents went to the airport to collect the children. But this time, although the husband passed security with no problem, his wife was told that she was on a Watch List and would not be issued a gate pass without notifying security. They predicted that it would take at least an additional hour to get clearance, which meant that she would not be able to meet the children's plane. She was astonished! Would they recheck the name? They did - the birth date on the Watch List matched the one on her driver's license. The ticket counter employee told her that the FBI gives the lists to the airlines and there was nothing he could do. After all, she did have a "suspicious name."

Shocked, she asked the airline whom she should talk to in order to get her name off the Watch List. She followed up with the central office of the airline and was told, "Once you're on the list, you can not get off!"

Discussions with an agent at Colorado Homeland Security suggested that her name may have been flagged because she had visited various websites through her work. The FBI monitors computer visits to specific sites. "My goodness," said the agent, "I wonder if I'm on the watch list!" He advised her to call the FBI but again warned that once on the list, for whatever reason, it could be difficult to get off.

She suddenly thought, what if she had gone to Canada for that week in June? Would she have been barred from re-entering the country?

Makes you think.

Normally courageous and outgoing, she now has become more cautious and asked that her name not be used in this story until she has succeeded in resolving this mistake and removing her name from the Watch List.

Our neighbor is in famous company, of course; Ted Kennedy has also been stopped as a security risk.

"Curiouser and curiouser," as Alice in Wonderland said.

When it's time to Sell your home ask yourself this question: "Do I want an agent who will put a sign in the front yard, an ad in the paper and wait—and wait; **OR** do I want a **PRO-ACTIVE** Expert Real Estate **Marketing Broker** who will provide me with all of the following and more?"



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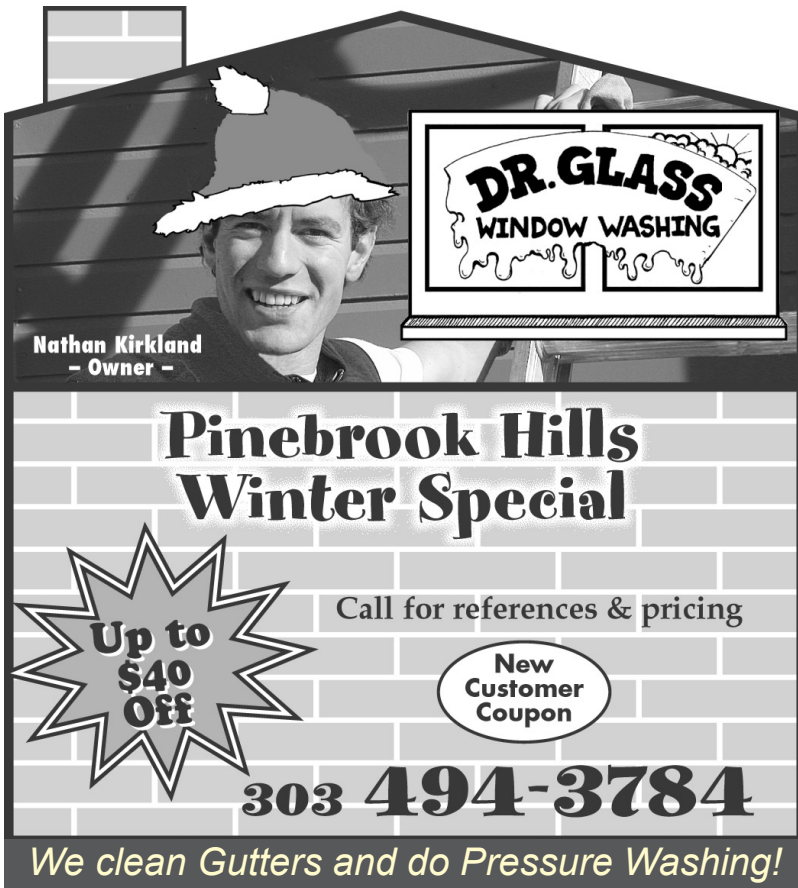
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LOOSE DOGS

I'm attaching a couple of photos of dogs that are loose on N. Cedar Brook today (12-5-04). Yesterday morning (12-4-04), I saw the black and white dog chasing a buck through my side yard, but I did not have my camera handy. I do not want to get the owners of these dogs in trouble, but I also do not want the dogs loose, chasing deer. I own three dogs, and keep them leashed or inside a fenced in area in my yard, so I do understand what is necessary to keep dogs in Pine Brook and have paid the money necessary to take those steps. As I understand it, that is the law.

I was thinking that if the photos of these dogs were published in the PB newsletter, the owners would see their dogs, and correct the problem. I did not see the brown dog causing any trouble, but it definitely was also loose

Mark Johnson
62 N Cedar Brook Rd



LIGHTING AND SNOW

One of the nice things about our mountain community is one's ability to see the stars. A bright light drowns out the night. We should all consider what our outdoor lights are actually illuminating. A porch light can seem more like a searchlight if it shines into a bedroom at night. Having a light on a motion detector is better than a light that turns on at dusk and off at dawn, possibly disturbing a neighbor's sleep. In the city, I would just pull down a shade but I like the view I see at night before I fall asleep. Another possibility is downlighting. If someone wants to leave on a light all

night it should shine on their own property - not the neighbors'.

Now as snow approaches, another problem returns. The streets/roads that are maintained and plowed by the County need to be free of cars. This causes a real Catch 22. Big snows can keep cars from getting up the driveway - especially non-4 wheel drive. But if people can get their cars on their driveway (even if not up) at least then the County will be able to plow. It is frustrating when one wants to leave for work and cars are stuck in the middle of the street making the street impassable.

I believe these two issues are problems in any number of areas of Pine Brook and I wouldn't want someone to look at my name or address and think they are doing OK because they're not in my neighborhood.

Thank you for your time,

Susan Stallmo
59 Beaver Way

ANOTHER DOG ISSUE

Pine Needle Road has become a popular place for dog walking. Just a friendly reminder from your neighbors who live on the road: please clean up after your pet. Thanks,

Andrea Mann

SHIFTING TOW PLANES

By Jim Adams

Imagine a brilliant, clear day in Pine Brook Hills. We are watching a mixed flock of Nuthatches, Chickadees, and a Creeper as they comb the pine trees, chattering softly. The sky is vivid blue. Ravens soar and croak in the distance. The beauty! The tranquility! The joy!

Then -- no, not the tow plane! Not again! It comes at first like the buzz of a mosquito from out over the plains, F below middle C rising to F sharp as the plane turns toward us, getting louder and louder. For several minutes the buzz intensifies. When the plane is plumb over our house the buzz is loud enough to drown out birds and human conversation. The dismal buzz changes our state of mind and spoils the wonderful feeling of being connected with nature in the foothills.

Many of us move to the hills because we need tranquility and natural beauty. Why do we have these tow planes spoiling our reason for living here?

Newspaper articles from 1981 tell us that Boulder citizens could not tolerate tow planes flying over Table Mesa from the airport to the Flatirons. Memoranda from transportation department staff and the city attorney recommended that tow planes be banned from flying over residential areas in the city, and the council decided to shift its aviation noise pollution out of the city onto residents of the county. Since 1981 the number of tows has increased, and so has the population of the foothills. At present there are several towing operations, one of which reports 6000 tows per year.



A wave cloud over Pine Brook Hills.

Soaring enthusiasts like to catch the wave that is caused as air flows over the Continental Divide. The wave can lift a glider more than 1000 feet per minute. Between Boulder and the divide there is a most beautiful site for soaring. To get there gliders are dragged from the airport over the foothills by powerful tow planes, which project their buzz down into our forest and homes. For pilots it is convenient and cost-effective to be towed directly over the foothills to the ideal place for release, but we on the ground lose our peace and quiet. Tow plane routes shift around according to the preferences of pilots and the number of squeaky-wheel complaints, or “noise impact observation reports,” phoned in to the airport manager (303-441-3108).

City staff and fly-friendly pilots work with noise-sensitive people to mitigate conflict between our right to the “quiet enjoyment of the home” (which the city code guarantees its citizens), and Federal Aviation Administration rules which say no other jurisdiction can regulate planes in Federal airspace. FAA is not concerned about tow plane noise or the number of flights over our houses. There is some understanding

between the city and the tow plane operators (and FAA?) that keeps the buzz away from Table Mesa, shifting around over the foothills, always returning to spoil our peace and quiet.

The cost that the buzz loads onto people is hard to quantify, but it is real. Back in the 1970s the Environmental Protection Agency published studies of the health and economic costs of noise pollution (archived at nonoise.org). Soon the city will receive recommendations from an airport consulting company that will suggest improvements for the airport. We can expect more activity. Abstract modeling predicts noise impact near the airport, but real data indicating actual negative impact of aviation activity is not within the scope of the airport study. City staff may respond to individual requests for relief, but the policy that shifted the buzz onto us is not addressed.

Have all possible solutions to the noise problem been explored? A current alternative to continuous tow plane flights over the same place is laterally distributed routes over the foothills. So instead of four flights over your location in an hour, there would only be one. (How would the many tow planes coordinate this?) Would lateral distribution put routes back over the city, or would the unfair shift of aircraft noise pollution onto the county continue? In Europe, where tow planes are a nuisance, gliders are simply launched by a big winch on the ground. How much degradation of our sound environment should we all suffer in order to optimize the recreational convenience of relatively few glider pilots? The universal question is should the commons be spoiled by the destructive use of it by a special interest.



If you are concerned about the buzz at your house and want the latest information on how to report it (get temporary relief and provide the city with real data to consider when the new airport master plan is implemented), contact Jim at jptadams@comcast.net.

MOON OVER THE DIVIDE



An early morning Full Moon over the Continental Divide as seen from Bristlecone Way in Pine Brook Hills.

Photo by Dana Huddle

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