



# Pine Brook Press

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

WINTER 2007



## THE BOBCAT - A NEW NEIGHBOR?

The kittycat in the upper corners of this page is nobody's household pet. It's a bobcat. This bobcat, and a second one of slightly different coloration, have been sighted this winter by a number of Pine Brookers including Cecile Duray-Bito, who saw a bobcat moving past her home on Timber Lane and carrying a cat in its mouth. She called the Colorado Division of Wildlife to report the sighting and was told that there are an estimated three bobcats in residence in PBH.



Astro, eye to eye with a new visitor.  
Photos, here and above by Bob Olliver.

It is not surprising that we have not seen bobcats before. It is more surprising that we are seeing them now. Bobcats are usually nocturnal

animals who do their hunting at night and in the early morning. They are excellent hunters, with a preferred diet of rabbits, mice, packrats and other small mammals. But they can also bring down a deer, which is impressive, as male cats generally range in weight from 16 to 30 pounds and the females typically weigh as little as 10 to 18 pounds. They are, however, equipped with sharp retractable claws and very strong teeth, and they can leap 10 feet and run for short distances at speeds of up to 30 mph. Good tree climbers, they can also swim if necessary although they would rather not, being cats, after all.

Bobcats are so named because of their stubby black-tipped tails, although some contend that because the bobcat's hind legs are longer than the front two, their run has a bobbing look, hence the name. In the wild, bobcats usually live less than twelve years, but in captivity have been known to live up to 32.2 years. Bobcats are not considered dangerous to humans, but pet owners should be aware that their cats or dogs can look like dinner to our newly-noticed neighbors.

## CALL TO ACTION

**Contributors: Jim Hollingsworth, Carl Jensen, Martin Lasher and Richard Sutton**

"Over the past six months, the Boulder County Sheriff's Office has investigated reports of over forty residential burglaries occurring at homes in the mountainous western half of Boulder County. The crimes have been perpetrated over a two hundred square mile area, ranging from the South St. Vrain Canyon on the north, to Coal Creek Canyon on the south, and the Peak-to-Peak Highway on the west," according to the Boulder County Sheriff's Office (BCSO). There have been six recent burglaries or break-ins and one attempted burglary in Pine Brook Hills. Two men were arrested in Jefferson County who are believed to be responsible for all the recent Pine Brook burglaries. PBH witness identification and reporting of the vehicle (a red pickup truck with Oklahoma plates) were very important to their apprehension.

This rash of daytime burglaries in Pine Brook Hills (PBH) has spurred our community into action!

On November 19th, there was a well-attended neighborhood meeting with BCSO to disseminate information about the burglaries and to discuss actions PBH residents can take to prevent future burglaries and assist in apprehending perpetrators. There was much spirited discussion about the actions of the BCSO and what actions our community could undertake.

Two main ideas were identified for further action:

- Initiating a Neighborhood Watch Program.**
- Establishing a better communication system.**



The first line of defense.

*continued on page 6*

## MOUNTAIN EXPRESSIONS 2006

### Thank You Auxiliary, Other Helpers and Customers

By Susan Maxwell for the whole Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District Auxiliary

Every year Mountain Expressions earns more! The Auxiliary is very pleased to report that this year M.E. netted approximately \$4200. We once again beat our old record.

Mountain Expressions' success is due to the enthusiastic work of so many people - the artists and crafters, the Auxiliary members and others who help just with this event. We try to thank everyone in writing, but we know some are missed, particularly bakers who don't get to sign in when they drop off goodies. Please consider yourself profusely thanked if we missed you.

Without our customers, our efforts wouldn't accomplish much - so thanks to all of you, too. It is your shopping dollars that allow us to support our dedicated firefighters.

**Editor's Note:** After 12 years as Director of Mountain Expressions, Susan Maxwell has announced that she is resigning this year and is looking for a new person to take over the position. Susan has transformed Mountain Expressions from a small craft show to an important community event providing a substantial contribution to the fire district. The event is a thirty year tradition in PBH and one that we certainly hope will be continued under new leadership. Thank you, Susan!



Fire Chief John Benson is entranced by the latest advance in fire fighting - mini helicopters. Let's see now, at 10 drops of water per helicopter, how many helicopters do we need? Bob de Haas has agreed to supply the water!

## WILD TURKEYS RETURN TO PINE BROOK HILLS

As Capistrano has its swallows, so upper Pine Brook had its wild turkeys, a flock of about 60 - until a few years ago. Then the flock dwindled to a few, and for several years no turkeys were seen here.



But this year, they're back! David and Janet Hummer, on Alder Lane (otherwise known as HumHill), were delighted to spot approximately 50 turkeys, who

appeared shortly before our twin blizzards and survived both, roosting in the trees near the Hummers' home. Pine Brookers who have learned to elicit responses to their warbled imitations of turkey gobbling can look forward to more Big Bird conversations this spring. When courting, turkeys will respond to almost any warbling sound, including fire or ambulance sirens. So be careful what you say to them.



## PBH SIGNS SHOW SIGNS OF WEAR

Some years ago the HOA decided to help confused visitors to our mountain paradise by creating specially designed signs to augment the street signs provided by the county. After much discussion by the community, the wooden signs were approved and installed.

But the years have not been kind to some of the signs. The sign pictured at right, from South Cedar Brook, demonstrates the need for repair. Simple carpentry and painting would restore the signs, and the HOA has promised to underwrite the cost, up to \$300.



Is there a noble volunteer with hammer and paintbrush skills who would undertake the restoration of the Pine Brook signs?

In addition to looking for someone to repair the signs, the HOA is interested in hearing from residents on the topic of the signs: are more needed? If so, where? Is there a sign near your home that needs refurbishing? Please call Tim Triggs (444.4093) to report, opine, or (best of all) volunteer to help.

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

**PRESIDENT**  
Tim Triggs, 444-4093

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Mark Menagh, 247-0827

**SECRETARY**  
Margit Mesdagh, 786-9684

**TREASURER**  
Dave Davies, 938-0522

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**WILDLIFE OFFICER**  
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**FIRE CHIEF**  
John Benson, 440-0235

**FIRE BOARD PRESIDENT**  
Suzanne Adams, 449-0997

**FIRE/MEDICAL AUXILIARY**  
Art Markey, 440-6132

**WATER BOARD**  
Kirk Hendricks, Pres., 442-1308

**WATER DISTRICT**  
Robert de Haas, Mgr., 443-5394

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

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

**HOA MEETING WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31 AT THE  
COMMUNITY CENTER.** Potluck at 6 P.M., Meeting, 7 P.M.  
Experts on "To Plant or not to Plant" - native plants/ invasive species

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

**"MAYOR'S" MESSAGE**

By Tim Triggs

Just for fun, I thought I would use my title of humor again this quarter since a lot of you have started calling me "Mayor of Pine Brook." During the winter season, after the holidays are over, we need to look for fun things.

At the October HOA meeting, Dave Davies was elected as our new Treasurer. We are confident that he will do an excellent job for us. He officially took office on January 1. He replaces Alex Baris who served us for two years, the maximum allowed due to term limitation. Next time you see Alex, be sure to thank her for her terrific community service as Treasurer. The other four Board members were all reelected for a second year, at that same meeting.



As our new Treasurer, Dave has written an article in this issue explaining our new level of dues (approved at the last HOA meeting) as well as "where the money goes."

The Board was planning to present our proposed HOA "Mission Statement" at the last two HOA meetings, but time did not permit. Please feel free to contact any of us on the Board if you have comments on it. Here it is:

"The Pine Brook Hills Home Owners Association is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, dedicated to advancing programs that make our Pine

Brook Hills community attractive, safe, harmonious and healthy for all residents.”

Our first HOA meeting of the year will be on January 31 at the Community Room. We will begin at 6:00 with a potluck dinner followed by the business meeting at 7:00. After the business meeting we will have experts presenting the topic called “To plant or not to plant.” We feel that it would be a good time of the year to start thinking about planting native plants and to also start thinking about exterminating a number of the more invasive species.

As you may be aware, the Timber Lane Shaded Fuel Break fire mitigation project (headed by Tim Triggs), is now up and running again, thanks to a matching grant from the State of \$20,000. This means that, combined with an equal amount from your HOA dues, we will be able to do an additional \$40,000 in mitigation work this year. This is great news for such a critical project.

I also want to mention the great new community organization “Aging in place in Pine Brook Hills.” Their second meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 14, in the Community Room.

Always remember that Pine Brook Hills is by far the finest mountain community around. When you look at our fire and rescue services, our water and utilities, our diverse, talented and generous residents, no other place comes close. The feeling of true community that we enjoy here is a rare treat. Please call me if you feel the urge to work on any of the HOA committees. We love to see new faces.

In any case, I hope that we all experience the coming year as both rewarding and fun. See you at the January HOA meeting.

(Tim, the HOA president, can be reached at [timtriggs@comcast.net](mailto:timtriggs@comcast.net) or at 303-444-4093)



## FIRESIDE CHAT

By John Benson, Fire Chief

Happy New Year. I trust that everyone received what they asked for over the Christmas holiday. It is hard to believe that 2006 is already over. Time has been flying by quickly.

Before we go any further I sincerely want to thank all of you. Your gracious donations throughout the year, your attendance at the car show and dinner

and your attendance at the home tour raised enough funds to help us purchase updated communications equipment and a much needed air chisel set-up for vehicle extrication needs. On behalf of the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District firefighters, Board of Directors and myself, WE greatly thank you for your support to our organization.

2006 proved to be a busy year for the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District. The members of our district performed thousands of hours of training, responded to approximately one hundred and thirteen incidents and completed a variety of projects. The average number of personnel responding to any one incident is sixteen. The highest number of personnel responding to an incident was thirty-five. In a predominantly all-volunteer agency, these numbers are virtually unheard of. This again shows the level of professionalism and dedication that our members display every day. Our mitigation employees have also played a tremendous role in our success when responding to incidents. This makes my job much easier and much more enjoyable, knowing we can offer a top-notch product.

As we look back on the year, the fire fighters have responded to a variety of incidents, including the Sunshine Fire in March, which scorched 4.4 acres and required the services of many Boulder County agencies. Thanks to newly completed mitigation efforts, we escaped having a larger fire. The members of BMFPD respond to more than just medical and fire calls. We have assisted in bringing down many injured parties from the Mount Sanitas Trail system, and we have been called to assist in the rescue of pets as well. In my opinion the citizens of this community are protected by the best department in the county. Other local fire districts often ask how we are able to attract and maintain such a force. I tell them these members are dedicated to the community where they live, work and play.

Every year the Fire Department Auxiliary provides this agency with an annual Christmas Party to say thank you to our many members. During our party, we recognize several individuals for their outstanding contributions to the department. This year's Rookie of the Year Award went to Gail Loveman, Medic of the Year went to Marcia McHaffie and Firefighter of the Year went to Barry Binns. These individuals are voted on by the Rookie Coordinator and by the members of the department.



BMFPD continues to be the leader in wildfire mitigation, planning, education and technology. Thanks to the Fire Scout, our district is protected by an early warning system in the event of a wildfire. This technology has allowed us to get an early jump on a wildfire before it becomes too large to handle.

As we move into 2007 we will be working hard to establish the "Third Arm." This unit will greatly assist with traffic control, pet evacuation, data entry and information gathering to help assist our citizens in the event of a major incident. Thanks to Gail Loveman, who has been spearheading this organization, our traffic control and pet evacuation should be up and going before the 2007 wildfire season approaches. This organization allows the fire fighters to focus on the incident at hand. I look forward to having this addition in place to help whenever it is needed.

If you would like information on how to join the fire department please call the Firehouse (440.0235) and I will be glad to give you the information. If you are interested in joining the Third Arm you can contact Gail Loveman (926.0204) and she can guide you in the direction of your choice. If you are interested in joining the Fire Department Auxiliary you can contact Art Markey (440.6132) for information. We are always looking for more members to join this team.

In closing, when you see one of these individuals on the roads or at a meeting, please take the time to say thank you. I can honestly tell you I am honored to work with the men and women of BMFPD and look forward to many years to come. You can sleep well knowing that your community is being protected 24/7 by an elite group of individuals.

Until next time, stay safe and enjoy the winter season.



## ON THE WATER FRONT

By Bob de Haas

We continue to fill the reservoir; the rate that the water will rise will slow down as the area per foot is getting larger. At this point we are over half full in height and should have about 50 acre feet of water by the end of January. The reservoir holds 101 acre feet of water. It is expected that we will finish filling the reservoir sometime in the spring or early summer! The new filter plant is serving all of the District so everyone is receiving water from the reservoir.

We recently had to access all the meter pits in lower Pine Brook. What we found is that many homes had either landscaped around them, making them difficult to find/access, or allowed landscaping to overgrow the pit, again making them difficult to find/access. While we do not need to find/access them frequently when we do it is usually because of a problem with the home the meter services. This can cause a delay in fixing the problem which in some cases can mean more damage to the home (for example a burst water pipe in the home). When we have to find/access a meter pit and find landscaping interfering with our ability to do so we remove the offensive material/growth and put it to the side! Since we are not landscapers it is not always pretty! The best solution is for the home owner to keep these materials away from the meter pit. You will be much happier with the end result than if we have to do it.

We had three water main breaks last fall, one in upper Pine Brook and two in lower Pine Brook. We worked up a table of the water main breaks since January of 2001. During those six years we have had a total of 29 water main breaks, 12 in upper Pine Brook and 17 in lower Pine Brook. The most common time for a water main break is during the months of October to March. The other common factor is that most of them occur in areas where the different rock formations meet or where the rock formations are highly fractured. That's why we see more breaks in lower Pine Brook. The breaks also seem to run in streaks. We suspect it's because there tends to be more movement of the formations during the fall and spring. During 2006 there were two breaks in upper Pine Brook and four in lower Pine Brook. Other years (for example, 2004) there were two in upper Pine Brook and none in lower Pine Brook (as a matter of fact, lower Pine Brook went without a break from January of '04 to August of '05).

Another part of the problem is that the original water mains were not installed to today's standards. We have studied replacing the water mains but the cost is prohibitive for limited return. Each time we repair a water main it adds some flexibility to the water main and reduces (not eliminates) the odds of a water main break occurring in the same area.

Remember, if you have a question about the Water District, be it water quality or other policies, please feel free to call the office (443.5394). We would rather answer your questions than for you not to have the full information.

**CALL TO ACTION.....Continued from page 1.**

A follow-up meeting was held November 28th. The attendees formed the PBH Safety and Security Working Group. This is an open group and all are welcome to join. The attendees of the November 28th meeting agreed to go forward with the Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP). The benefits include closer communication with the BCSO (an officer will be assigned as liaison with our community), more timely communication of events, alerts and warnings, a larger community voice with the BCSO, and the ability to post Neighborhood Watch signs. These benefits should result in less crime. We have to demonstrate to BCSO that there is community interest, hold two meetings a year and identify a person for communication with BCSO. There is no assumed risk or responsibility for individuals or the community.

To demonstrate community interest, acknowledgment of your willingness to participate is necessary. We are asking you to email or mail your positive interest to the contact shown at the end of this article. Some neighbors may ring your bell asking for your support. You may also want to contact your neighbors and ask for their participation.

This meeting also agreed to establish a communication system. **The PBH Alert System will be for emergency use only when imminent danger exists and time is of the essence.** The new **PBH Alert System** will be in addition to other existing means of communication.

The objectives of the **PBH Alert System** include:

1. Notification of each participating household in PBH concerning imminent danger from burglaries or attempted break-ins, fires and bear or mountain lion sightings
2. Implementation of a duplicate/backup system to ensure that critical information gets to you ASAP. For a given alert, both systems will provide essentially the same information. The systems are:

- a. A "telephone tree"
  - b. An email distribution system (with more detailed information)
3. To develop on-going communication with the BCSO so that one contact person (and back ups) can disseminate critical information on a timely basis via the **PBH Alert System**.

Details for developing the "telephone tree" have to be worked out, but the email part of the alert system can be implemented immediately. As soon as you respond with your contact information, you will be included on the email portion of the **PBH Alert System**. Because we consider this system so important, if we fail to get a response, we will ask volunteers to contact you by phone or in person to ensure that you have the opportunity to participate. Please respond promptly.

The **PBH Alert System** will not replace the existing **PBH Safety and Security** email list which notifies about non-emergency issues such as meeting announcements, meeting notes and other topical information. It should be noted that the communication systems discussed above are works in progress and all comments and suggestions are welcome. An announcement for the next meeting of the PBH Safety and Security Working Group will be sent via email. A status report will be presented at the January Homeowners meeting.

A final request: Some households may not be included in the PBH phone directory, e.g. renters or new residents. If you know of a neighbor who may be overlooked, please notify the contact shown below so that we can follow up on your lead and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Please send the following information, by email or mail, to Martin Lasher (hotpoohbah@hotmail.com)  
1309 Timber Lane, Boulder CO 80304.

I/We want to participate in the **PBH Neighborhood Watch Program**  
 Please include me/us in the **PBH Alert System** (emergencies only)  
 I/We decline to participation in the **PBH Alert System** and understand that we may not be notified about the three categories of danger covered by the system.  
 Please include me/ us in the **PBH Safety and Security** (non-emergency) email list.

Names(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE GARAGE SALE ..... It's Baaaaaaaaaacccckkkk!

By Babette and Art Markey

The Fire Department Auxiliary's Garage Sale fund raiser returns in 2007 after a one year hiatus. The sale will return in its normal slot: the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday before Memorial Day. Mark that date on your calendars!

Now the question is will it be bigger and better than ever? And the answers are "No" and "We hope so." There is no way it can get any bigger .... We already have taken over all available space in the Community Center / Fire House!! But it can be better than ever. And that will depend on all of you.

As always, we are dependent on the community for donations to the sale, for volunteers to work on the sale, and for at least some of the shoppers at the sale. If you have worked on the sale in the past, we will be calling you, probably in April, about volunteering again. If you have not worked on the sale but are interested in helping out this year, please give us a call and let us know who you are.

Collection of donations will start early in May, so if you haven't already done so, it's time to start gathering your donations in an unused corner of your home. If at all possible, please store your donations until May. If you have some really good stuff and find it absolutely impossible to store it for a couple of months, call us before you otherwise dispose of it. We do have some limited storage space available, thanks to firefighter Gail Loveman and to the Pine Brook Water District.

One plea: Before the last sale started, we had filled almost half of a 30 yard roll-off (the biggest they make!) with things that had been donated that we could not sell. Either they were broken or in very poor condition or were non-working electrical items. Please please help us out by donating only items that are in good usable condition, that have all their parts, and, if electrical, that work.

This fund raiser usually provides the Auxiliary with more than two-thirds of its annual operating budget. These funds are used to support our wonderful fire department with things like food for their training meetings, cold drinks for the mitigation crew on those hot summer days, social recognition in the form of the annual Holiday party and summer Bar-B-Q, and, perhaps most important, supplemental equipment pur-

chases that Chief Benson feels are needed, like the Jaws of Life system that we purchased a few years back.



## ARC NOTES

By Mike Connolly

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is dedicated to maintaining the natural character of the mountain environment we enjoy here in Pine Brook Hills. Members of the all-volunteer committee are your neighbors: Tim Triggs, Luke Landin, Mike Connolly and Ken Larkin, Chairman.

Here are some highlights of the past couple of months:

- New residence at 75 Alder Lane - approved with revisions after much discussion and negotiation over the course of several meetings at the Community Center and on site.
- Greenhouse at 194 North Cedar Brook Road - This project was not approved because
  - a) Board members felt it was not in keeping with the community's standards
  - b) There are already two buildings on the lot and
  - c) There was strong adverse reaction from the neighbors
- Remodel at 18 Pine Brook Road - approved as proposed
- Remodel at 404 Timber Lane - approved as proposed
- Remodel at 281 South Cedar Brook Road - approved as proposed
- Photoelectric Array at 2692 Linden - under review

I hope this gives you some insight into the workings of your Architectural Review Committee.

Please call Ken Larkin at 303-417-1465 or email him at [kenlarkin@comcast.net](mailto:kenlarkin@comcast.net) if you are planning any of the following:

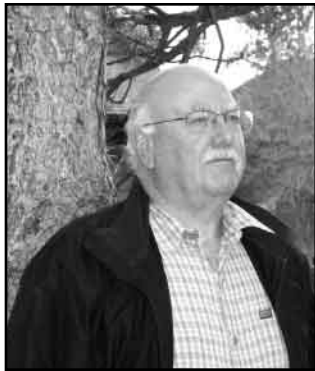
- A new home
- An addition to an existing home
- Garages and outbuildings
- Swimming pool, greenhouse, deck, solar panels, etc.
- Exterior color changes, new roof

Before you take out paint brush or hammer, bring us your plans. We'll do what we can to assist you in creating and maintaining the beauty of our Rocky Mountain neighborhood!

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

By Dave Davies, HOA Treasurer

As your new Treasurer let me be the first to give you the news: the board of your Home Owners



Association has agreed that we should increase the suggested level of the ANNUAL dues to \$75, from the existing \$50. I thought it might be helpful to understand what the dues cover and "where the money goes." First, let's summarize the 2007 budget: the total revenue will be about \$55,000, but of that, the dues paid by us only amounts to \$29,000. We have an agreement to get \$20,000 from the State of Colorado, and the rest comes from advertising revenue from The Pine Brook Press and from various fees such as those collected by the Architecture Review Committee. The money from the State, however, has a catch: it must be used for a specific purpose and it must be "matched" by funds from the HOA. By "matched" we mean that we must allocate \$20,000 of our anticipated \$29,000 dues money for the same purpose.

So what is that specific purpose that is so important that we and the State of Colorado want to invest a total of \$40,000 in 2007? I know you will agree it is very justified. A few years ago the Timber Lane corridor was identified as a wildfire high risk area by Anchor Point, a nationally known fire risk assessment firm.

They studied the district, assessing the wildfire hazards and prioritizing the most important mitigation projects. Timber Lane to Wild Horse Circle is high on their list.

Timber Lane has steep terrain with heavily wooded gullies, increasing the vulnerability of the area to catastrophic wildfire. Forest Service District Forester Allen Owen agrees that this project is of great importance in protecting ALL of Pine Brook Hills from this type of disaster. Without mitigation, a fire in on Timber Lane

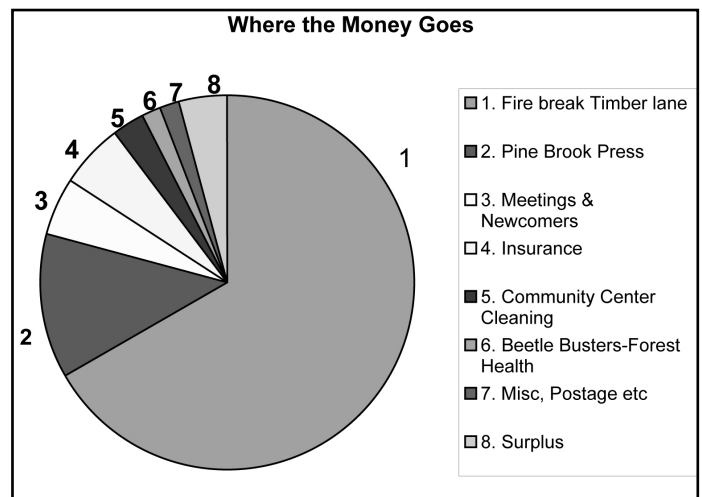


could funnel a wildfire to rest of Pine Brook Hills. The money will be used essentially to complete the fuel break that was started a few years ago. This break will significantly affect fire behavior, and improve the ability of our Fire Department to get to the fire and our residents to get away from it.

The State agreed and has promised to donate the \$20,000 as long as we match it, hence the need for a suggested dues increase and the increase in the overall budget.

Based on the planned increase, the way we will spend the 2007 budget is as follows: 76% to the wildfire suppression project, 3% to the newcomers meetings, 11% to the Pine Brook Press (half of which is returned by the sale of advertising), 3% to insurance, 1% to the Beetle Busters project, and 4% to improvements planned for the Pine Brook Hills signs, cleaning and refurbishment of the carpets in the Community Center, etc., and 2% to the reserves.

Where the Money Goes



This is a very small allocation to the reserves despite the dues increase, so I will ask that those who can please consider donating more. Many of our residents have always donated more than the suggested amount — some substantially more — and the board and community are very grateful to them. You will be receiving a formal dues request within a week or two of this newsletter. You can drop a check (made out to Pine Brook Hills HOA) in the HOA box next to the water department box at the entrance to the Community Center just below the dam, or you can mail it to me —

Dave Davies at 151 Boulder View Lane Boulder CO 80304. If you have any questions please call me at 303 938 0522 or e-mail me at [davedavies@qwest.net](mailto:davedavies@qwest.net).



## NEWCOMERS NEWS

By Pam Creswell

I am excited to announce a change in our Newcomers Program. We will be making home visits to share both our enthusiasm for Pine Brook and also a greatly expanded variety of information and materials. These materials will be from the Fire District, Water District, and Pine Brook Hills Directory, and also from our valued Beetle Busters, Fire Auxiliary, and Third Arm committees. In addition, we will share information on who else is new to the neighborhood and encourage people to contact each other.

Juliette Harrington and Kelly Ryan, both of Boulder View Lane, will be joining me in these efforts. They will, in fact, run it without me while I am away for the winter. If you are new enough to the neighborhood to still feel that you might benefit from the information offered, please email Juliette at [new@pinebrookhills.org](mailto:new@pinebrookhills.org) and she will coordinate either a home visit or the mailing of any information that you are missing.



## WHO'S WHO AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

### Pine Brook Scat, or The Straight Poop (OOPS!) Scoop

On January 23rd, former HOA President Jim Eyster will have a second hip replacement on one side and a third replacement on the other at University Hospital in Denver. The ceramic heads of both femurs will be replaced with steel alloy heads or "balls" which fit into the cup-like sockets at the heads of the two femurs. We all wish him a successful surgery and long-lived Great Balls of Steel which should last longer than the previous ones.

Grant Blue, Asst. Chief of BMFPD recently had sudden bypass surgery at Boulder Community Hospital on Broadway. While at his yearly physical he mentioned a brief strange pain or feeling in his upper left chest a few days earlier. His doctor had an EKG done immediately, didn't like what he saw and Grant was sent pronto to the hospital for observation and tests which led to the surgery. The doc said Grant was a "massive heart attack waiting to happen." He is now feeling well and expects a full recovery after 8 - 12 weeks of recuperation. Sometimes physicals can be lifesavers.

Late last year two women went horseback riding on the Anne U. White Trail. Somehow one of the horses

got both his front legs stuck between two rocks and his back legs hung up and was struggling. The two women couldn't lift him. They called 911 and when BMFPD arrived the horse had managed to free himself but had a gash on hind leg and was exhausted. Earle Perry and Melanie Pray never saw the horse trapped, but Earle had brought life jackets as padding for the horse. Greg Anderson brought oil to lubricate the horse so that he could be freed easier. John Benson brought a bridle. Great "Out of the Rocks" thinking! They all walked slowly out.



## THE BEETLES ARE COMING! THE BEETLES ARE COMING!

Anyone who has driven through Winter Park, Grand County or the Vail Valley has almost certainly noted the swaths of red and brown where once there were green trees. The Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic has been called "The Katrina of the West" by Senator Ken Salazar. Others in the Forest Service have labeled it "The Death of the Forest."

So far, Pine Brook Hills has escaped much of the destruction. The Beetle Busters, our volunteer group, have identified beetle-hit trees and advised homeowners on eradicating the infestation before it can spread, with the result that our trees are at present in pretty good shape.

But we have a problem.

**WE NEED A NEW CHAIRPERSON FOR THE BEETLE BUSTER PROGRAM!**

Without a new Beetle Buster Chair the program may end. But the beetle epidemic won't.

The Beetle Buster program is vital to the effort to preserve the health of our trees and the beauty of our community. It is critically important to our Fire Department as well, because beetle-killed trees are kindling for a wildfire.

We're looking for a person or persons who feel strongly about forest health and fire safety. The position primarily involves scheduling volunteer Beetle Busters to respond to homeowners' requests for inspections of their trees. Both the Pine Brook Hills HOA and Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District strongly support the program. Any training or equipment needed will be happily provided!

For further information or to volunteer please call Suzanne Adams, 303.449.0997.

Thank you!

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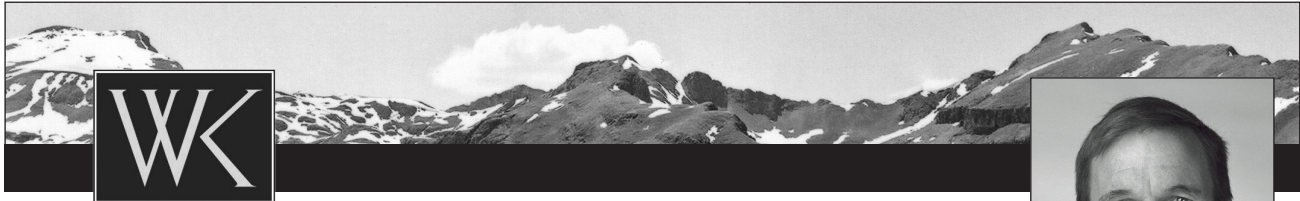
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**THE KIDS' PAGE**

By Ayla Bessemer

**H**appy New Year!!!! 2006 no more...Welcome 2007!!!

I am so thankful to all those who responded to the PBH kids' survey. It was really fun to learn about kids in our community. 15 kids responded (11 girls and 3 boys; ages ranged from 2 to 11). Here's a little bit about who we are. We all like living in Pine Brook Hills because of the wildlife, beautiful views and being surrounded by nature. Our favorite animals are the fox and deer. Most everyone who responded plays an instrument...we could start a Pine Brook Kids Ensemble. We have kids who play the violin, piano, trumpet and flute. We like outdoor hobbies like hiking, skiing, horse back riding and swimming. Other hobbies include reading, painting and drawing, cooking and video games. We seem to like crunchy snacks the best, either chips or cookies (no tofu here). We have 11 pets, 5 dogs and six cats between us, no hamsters or fish. We go to school all over the place from Foothills Elementary to Longmont (Mountain Peaks) to South Boulder (Bear Creek, Summit, Bixby and Uni Hill).

I had planned on profiling two kids who responded to the survey. Our interviews and photos were going to be at the kids holiday party for those who responded to the survey. I had one problem - it decided to snow two feet the day of the party. So stay tuned; I will profile several kids from Pine Brook in the next issue.

Last year we tried to have the first annual snowman building contest, but we never really got enough snow. So let's try again this year. If you build a snowman, send me a picture and we'll print them in the Pine Brook Press on the kids page.

Thank you again to everyone who responded to the survey. I'm glad we're making new friends in the community. As always, I'm glad to hear from you. Feel free to send me stories about living in Pine Brook, photos of you enjoying our neighborhood, poems or anything else you would like to share with other kids here in our community. You can email me at [ayla@besemer.com](mailto:ayla@besemer.com) or send me a letter to 1431 Timber Lane. Happy New Year!!!



**A Dog's life.....**

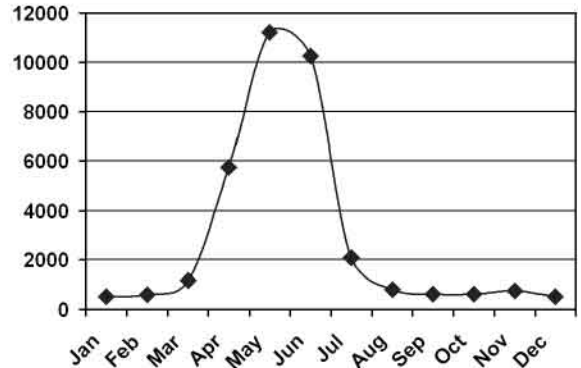
Astro confronting a bobcat on the front page; being buried under snow here by a small homo sapiens. And all he wants is food, sleep and **affection!**

**FROM FOUR MILE CREEK TO YOUR FAUCET**

**P**BH is one of the few unincorporated communities in mountainous Boulder County to have a district wide water system. We are also one of the few to have fire hydrants (currently a total of 52).

Our water comes from Four Mile Creek, two mountain ridges south of PBH. The creek drains approximately 15,000 acres of uplands, mostly east of the Peak to Peak highway. It is not part of the Left Hand drainage that the Daily Camera recently profiled as being at high risk from toxic mine effluents.

Water rights are based on seniority and are for a fixed amount and for a fixed time period during the year. With prescient foresight, our water department purchased very senior water rights more than two decades ago for the months when stream flows are highest (April - July).



**Four Mile: Average monthly flows (gal/min).**

However, until completion of Pine Brook Reservoir and the de Haas Dam there was no place to store this water.

The district draws water a short distance upstream from the confluence of Four Mile with Boulder Creek. From there a one mile long six inch pipeline is used to pump water 416 feet up to Sunshine Canyon just south of the PBH boundary. Another set of pumps in the old filtration plant on Sunshine then pump the raw water another mile and another 520 feet up to the top of PBH. Currently we are pumping 140 gal/min or approximately 200,000 gal per day. Our annual consumption averages about 50 gal/min).

The water flows into a resurrected Two Mile Creek at the top of PBH. It then flows down the creek to Pine Brook Reservoir. The flow started in October 2006. There has been very little erosion detected along the creek to date and it is attracting wildlife.

Pine Brook Reservoir has a capacity of 101 acre-feet, or approximately a year's worth of water. This is about the same relative capacity as Boulder's reservoirs.

The reservoir is contained by a roller compacted concrete dam (NOT an earthen dam). Three pressure transducers under the dam check for leaks and survey pins check for movement. These instruments, as well as water balance calculations, have not detected any measurable leakage to date.

Residents may have noticed that the top of the



High and dry! Water intake pipes at Four Mile during August 2002.

reservoir does not entirely freeze. This is because the water by the intake tower is aerated to prevent ice build-up. Currently the reservoir is about one third full

and the water surface covers 2 acres. The water depth is more than 2/3 of the depth when the reservoir is full.

There is community interest in recreational uses of the reservoir. A list of recreational uses generated by Pine Brookers has been submitted to the water district's insurance company. There are two concerns: water quality and safety. Water quality rules out motorized craft. The safety concerns focus on the steep banks - most slopes are greater than 30 degrees (see dam photo).

Water flows by gravity from the reservoir to the treatment plant built below the dam and next to



A new beginning for Two Mile Creek.

the Community Center. Filtration is done by membranes and the capacity is 230,000 gal/day. It typically runs at 30-50% of capacity. The membranes have a long life. In the old filtration plant on Sunshine they were still functional after nine years. The water flowing into the plant has very low turbidity (2.65 NTU for the engineers). After filtration it drops by a factor of 100.

The water is then chlorinated (as required by state

law) and the treated water is then pumped to storage tanks. Annual reports on the water quality can be downloaded from [www.pinebrookwater.com/Report.html](http://www.pinebrookwater.com/Report.html).

There are two pumps capable of pumping water at 250 psi but only one is run at a time giving redundancy to the system.

The old filtration plant was run by one computer and if it malfunctioned the system stopped. The new plant can be run by a computer or from a control panel.

The water levels in the tanks are adjusted depending on water demand. There is a limit



Pine Brook Reservoir and de Haas Dam.

to the time that water can be stored because of chlorination process byproducts. Generally, if 10% of the water in the main tank at

the top of PBH is used daily there is no concern. Rapid water turnover also keeps the tanks from freezing in winter. If the water surface in the tanks freezes then the tank cannot fill and the ice has to be physically broken up with ice axes!

The water is delivered to homes through 26 miles of pipes. Neutral water and neutral soils have kept these pipes very clean, even though some are more than 40 years old. It is estimated they will last for another 30-50 years!

There are emergency back-up wells in lower PBH. However, well production levels are still below those prior to the 2002 drought, even though they have been used only for one to two



The new filtration plant.

months every year since then. It is unlikely they will be needed once the reservoir has been filled.

As water increasingly constrains where one can live in the West (global warming may further exacerbate the situation), we are lucky to have a secure viable supply of potable water for the foreseeable future.



Winter Sunset and the Flatirons

*Photo by Anne Singh*

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