

Pine Brook Press

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



HOA MEETING: JANUARY 29

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2019 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING - JANUARY 29

6:00 PM - POTLUCK DINNER

7:00 PM - HOA Business Meeting and
Presentation by Morgan Crowley – Spurge Control

*Meetings are held at the Community Center/Fire Station unless otherwise noted.
All residents are welcome to attend.*

HOA Board Meetings - Meeting begins at 7:00 PM. Upcoming 2019 meetings:
January 22, April 23, July 23, and October 22

HOA 2019 Membership Meetings - April 30, July 30, and October 29

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

WATER BOARD - Meets the third Thursday of every month at 4:30 PM at Station
1 in PBH. Call 443-5394 for specifics.

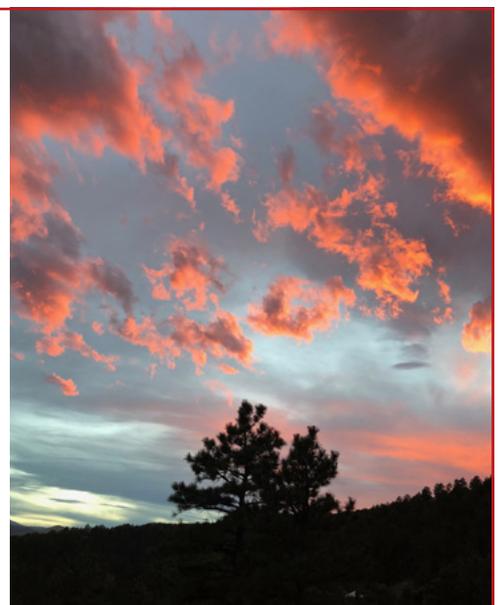
BMFPD AUXILIARY - Meets quarterly on Sundays. Next meeting - January 20,
2:30-3:15 PM. Presentation, Chief Benson - Understanding Fire Behavior; Business
Meeting 3:45-5:15 PM. Email auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org for more
information.

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

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

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

Thanks to Sue Shapiro for
capturing this sunset.





PRESIDENT'S PATTERN By Rob Quinn

Welcome, winter. You can come in out of the cold and snow by joining us at the next PBH HOA meeting on January 29, 2019, with a potluck supper at 6:00 PM and our general meeting beginning at 7:00 PM. The January HOA meeting is the one primarily business meeting of the year. It will include a discussion and approval of the budget, reports from each of the subcommittees of the HOA Board with the opportunity for you to ask questions, and reports from BMFPD and the Water Board. We will also have time for a short and informative presentation from Morgan Crowley, Wildlands Restoration Volunteer Program Manager, concerning efforts to control spurge in Pine Brook Hills. Spring is coming and so is spurge. I hope to see you there.

The Tool Box. I have been thinking a lot lately about emergency notification procedures for PBH after the plight of the citizens of Paradise, CA during the Camp Fire. Over 80 people were lost, many because they were unable to evacuate in time. For evacuation notifications, officials relied on evacuation crews on-foot and an opt-in notification system. It turned out to be inadequate, and deadly for some. A San Francisco Chronicle article quotes an Alameda County emergency manager saying that a “mass notification system is one of a number of tools in the toolbox...” The article goes on to say that for an incident of this type, where you have a large fire, they recommend that you use as many of the “tools in the toolbox” as possible.

What tools in the toolbox do we have in PBH for emergency and evacuation notices, and how many of these will be able to provide you with information in an emergency? Let's review:

1. Everbridge – Boulder County's Emergency Alert program provides emergency alerts via cell, home, and work phones and by text messaging and email. Sign up at: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612231#/login>. (Also look at Boulder County OEM's emergency status page: <http://www.boulderoem.com/emergency-status/>.)

2. BMFPD emergency notification system – Our Fire District will communicate emergency messages and important safety information via a one-way email list. Sign up at: <http://www.bouldermountainfire.org/Notifications>

3. PBH-Alerts – A one-way PBH email list of the HOA where the HOA can forward emergency messages it receives to subscribers. Sign up by sending an email to: brian.wahlert@gmail.com

4. Yahoo Groups PBH – An online discussion forum where BMFPD and Pine Brook Water will post emergency messages. Sign up at: subscribe@yahoogroups.com

5. Pine Brook Hills Google group – an email information group where BMFPD and Pine Brook Water will post emergency and alert messages. Sign up at: www.GoogleGroups.com. Search for PineBrookHills. Select “apply to join this group.”

Sign up for all of these. How do you get emergency information if the power goes out? One possibility is a phone landline from Century-Link. If you have Xfinity digital phones, a telephone battery backup, <https://www.xfinity.com/support/articles/getting-a-new-battery> may help (as long as cable does not go out as well).

Some residents are organizing themselves into Pods. Read more about this in Susan Schiff's article on p. 15. Use situational awareness: when there is fire, flooding etc. BE READY for potential evacuation; if you feel threatened, go early.

I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

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



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ON THE WATERFRONT By Bob de Haas, Pine Brook Water Manager

FEMA Projects: Pine Brook Water District continues to work on FEMA-funded projects related to the flood of 2013. We are finishing the last project: painting two of our water tanks. This involves taking the tank offline, setting up a temporary tank in some cases, sandblasting the interior of the tank, and doing a thorough cleaning of the exterior. We completed one tank in 2018, and the other one will be done in the spring of 2019. The first tank that was done had not been painted since the early 1970s and was more than ready for painting and repair. The tank to be done in the spring has not been painted since the 1980s. Taking care of the water tanks is crucial to preserving their life spans! Our water is very neutral, allowing the District to get many more years of life than typical. The other part of this project is to place a grate over the spillway of the reservoir, and to replace two of the company trucks that are hitting the end of their useful lives.

By the time these projects are completed, the District will have received close to \$350,000 in additional funds from FEMA grants from September 2018 to August 2019. Even considering the District's matching funds of \$45,000, these grants saved the community on projects that would have had to be done with local funds. The District did pay an estimated \$35,000 in repair costs not covered by grants.

Reservoir Level: The summer and fall of 2018 were warmer and dryer than normal. The reservoir proved its value by allowing us to operate without usage restrictions during that period. The reservoir water level dropped significantly this year: almost 10 feet. At this time we are steadily refilling it.

New Board Member: The Board appointed Signe Hawley to fill a vacancy on the Board. The decision was made after announcing the vacancy, accepting applications of interest with resumes, and reviewing the qualifications of those who applied. Signe stood for election earlier in the year. In addition to her

qualifications and background, she brings a fresh perspective as a relatively new PBH resident.

Sludge Drying Bed: The District completed the construction of a sludge drying bed to reduce the District's operating costs. Sludge is produced during the process of treating raw water to make safe, potable water. This sludge drying bed is anticipated to save about \$40,000 annually.

Water Testing: Once again the District had no violations of the Safe Drinking Water Quality Standards set by the EPA and the State of Colorado.

Four Mile Watershed Coalition: We continue to work with the Four Mile Watershed Coalition to promote a healthier watershed in Four Mile Canyon from which a lot of our raw water comes. The Coalition has obtained grants to improve the watershed. (See the article by Bob Loveman on page 14.) It has worked to restore areas damaged during the 2010 fire and the 2013 flood. It actively works on removing mine tailings from areas near Four Mile Creek to reduce the impact the tailings have on raw water quality. The less we have to do to our water to meet safety requirements, the more cost effectively we can operate.

Water Rates: New water rates went into effect as of the last billing cycle. There is no longer a separate capital fee. That is now built into the service fee shown on your bill. The goal of the new water rates is to provide a more even distribution of a majority of the fixed costs of the District (costs that do not change based on the amount of water produced and are incurred to get water to your home). While no one likes to see water rates go up, the majority of residents said they understood the need. The District continues to study ways to reduce costs and improve service, and is working on a long-range capital plan.



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FAMILIAR FACES: NEW ROOKIE FIRE FIGHTERS By Penny Triggs, PBP Contributing Author

MEET SIGNE HAWLEY AND LANDON FULLER, two of fifteen people who successfully completed the Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District's Rookie Program to become full-fledged firefighters with BMFPD.

"The training is a significant commitment", says Allen Saville, program coordinator, "involving up to 100 hours of classroom time and hands on mentoring in the field." Both Signe and Landon spoke highly of the degree of professionalism and dedication demonstrated by the coordinators and BMFPD at large.

"The appeal to me of living in Pine Brook after years of working in Brooklyn," said Landon, "was the feel of community and self-reliance compared to city life. I was drawn to the Rookie Program because I wanted to be prepared to contribute when help is needed."

Recently, along with firefighters from several districts, he was out on a house fire incident. He remarked on the Auxiliary support that immediately accompanied the response teams. "Their incredible generosity of time and resources made it clear that they care about us."

Landon is a senior security engineer working for Apple. He says that working remotely means he has better availability when calls go out for fire or medical emergencies. He noted that Apple is very supportive of his commitment to the Fire Department.

As a youngster, mathematics was his least favorite subject, hating the way it was taught, having to memorize rules, but never really understanding how they worked. "It was when I finally began to understand the underlying logic to something as simple as whole numbers reaching to infinity that my curiosity was awakened, and I never looked back." For a number of years Landon has been immersed in the field of mathematics through his work in technology.

After living in the Netherlands for five years, Signe and her wife, Sarah Murray, came back to Colorado, found a house they loved in Pine Brook Hills, and began enjoying life with more space than their previous home in Boulder.

Like Landon, Signe says they were drawn to PBH for the sense of community along with the quiet in the foothills, the chance to enjoy wildlife, and a supportive network of neighbors looking out for each other.

Sarah shared, "Signe is one of the most community-minded people I have ever met. She dragged me to our first HOA meeting before our boxes were even unpacked! She has a constant and deep urge to connect and help. This is such a genuine part of her, something that I really admire." "I wanted immediate involvement in this community" said Signe, "and joining the Rookie Academy was an intentional way to get involved. I had previously led trail crews of youth doing fire mitigation work as part of an AmeriCorps affiliate." Signe went on to say, "the other Rookies made a strong impression on me....an amazing group from all kinds of professions, passionate about being involved as volunteers."

In her professional life, Signe is currently working with the Denver Public Schools as a research partner in the Imaginarium, an innovation lab tasked with revolutionizing education. As a research and design-based thinking lab, one of its major foci is personalized learning, a forward-thinking approach that encourages students to take ownership over their studies with teachers as facilitators of the learning process.

Recently Signe became the newest member on the Pine Brook Water Board. She is excited to lend her expertise in statistics, engineering management, and community engagement to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our most critical resource system.

Signe and Sarah recently became parents. Their gorgeous new baby, Tallulah Murray, arrived last month.



PBH WELCOMES NEW RESIDENTS



ROBERT (BOB) CHEW moved to Boulder from Indianapolis in early 2017. He was renting and just casually looking to buy when he happened upon an open house September 9th and couldn't pass it up! He ended up closing via telecon from a hotel in Vienna, Austria 18 days later, and moved in on October 15th. Bob has a degree in Chemical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University. He started his career as a Naval Officer on a nuclear submarine. He now runs a small business that keeps him traveling much of the time. When he manages to be home, he sings in the choir at St. John's Episcopal church. Bob loves to bike, hike and cross-country ski. As a housewarming present, he bought himself a telescope that he has been putting to good use at night off his deck. He is looking forward to meeting lots of new people in the neighborhood.



FRED AND PAT DEUTSCHMAN retired to Boulder from Florida after having lived there most of their lives. They had a second home, a townhouse in Dakota Ridge, for many years, but after moving to Boulder full time in 2016 they wanted a house. PBH was everything they were looking for! Finally, the perfect house hit the market and they jumped on it. Fred is a retired attorney and Pat, formerly a clinical chemist, managed his law office for many years while serving as an elected school board member for 16 years. Their vintage Porsches have always been housed in Boulder, and Fred has slowly been transporting his valued Bonsai trees from their foster homes in Florida to Colorado. Their two sons moved west, one to LA and one to Las Vegas; so they are enjoying a closer proximity to them and living in a place that is the exact opposite of where they came here from. Paradise!



JON AND SUE SHAPIRO are from Dallas. They have a son who lives in LA with his wife and toddler. Their daughter lives in San Francisco with her husband. Both kids graduated from CU; and when Jon and Sue were visiting their kids in Boulder, they gained an appreciation for the special Boulder experience. They built a home on Alder Lane and cannot wait to enjoy all that Pine Brook Hills and Boulder have to offer. Jon works as a consultant and has an appointment as Entrepreneur in Residence for CU, and Sue is an executive coach. They plan to spend as much time as possible at their new home in Boulder and love watching the wildlife, hiking, bike riding and being with family.

THANKS TO MEGAN BOLITHO, HOA Newcomer Welcome Coordinator for collaborating on this column. If you are new to PBH, or know someone who is, contact her for more information about the neighborhood and details about participation in the column in a future issue. (newcomer@pinebrookhills.org)

DANA AND JAKE NORDQUIST and their two girls, Paige (5) and Reese (3) moved to Pine Brook Hills in September. When Dana and Jake relocated to Boulder for a “one-year weather/traffic sabbatical” from Seattle ten years ago, one of the first homes they visited was on Timber Lane in PBH to meet a friend’s uncle, Bob Olliver. They loved their visits to Uncle Bobby’s Pine Brook home, so the Pine Brook seed has long been planted. Moving to PBH has made their Boulder experience feel like it’s come full circle. Dana is a trauma nurse coordinator at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Lafayette. She enjoys yoga and hiking Mt. Sanitas with the family. Jake works for Intelligent Office, a virtual office company founded in Boulder. He is an avid skier and mountain biker. They are thrilled to be part of PBH and glad that their children will grow up close to the city while appreciating living closer to nature. They can’t wait to get to know other PBH families and all in this welcoming community!



JOCELYN BROWN-SARACINO AND PATRICK GILMAN moved to Pine Brook Hills in early September with 6 year-old son Isaiah and 11 month-old daughter Aurora. Jocelyn and Patrick both work with the US Department of Energy, where they manage wind energy research. In their time away from work, you can find them hiking, running, and now sledding down their hill of a driveway with their kiddos. Patrick is originally from Boulder. He returned in 2013 after living in close to a dozen other cities. He is a long-time competitive Ultimate Frisbee player. Jocelyn hails from rural western Massachusetts and moved to Boulder from Washington DC. Jocelyn is an avid gardener, so she and Patrick will be hauling out rocks for the better part of the next year to make room for some garden beds. They’re looking forward to meeting the PBH community!



MATT AND ADRIANA TULLMAN fell in love with PBH after renting here last year and have now made it their permanent home. In addition, they just welcomed Mateo, their first child, in November. Matt, originally from Denver, has founded, advised, and invested in businesses in the technology and wellness/food industries. Today, he is focused on businesses that share the benefits of a plant-based diet for performance and longevity. Adriana, originally from Mexico, is an executive and advisor at HighTower, a national, independent financial advisory firm. Matt and Adriana love to be outdoors and are avid skiers, runners and hikers. They are excited to raise their family in our serene and beautiful Pine Brook Hills.



PBH CELEBRATES WINTER!

PARTY IN THE PINES By Emelie Griffith



Over 80 residents enjoyed an evening out in November. Param Singh shared his home; those attending brought delicious food; and the HOA provided adult beverages. Candles throughout and glowing balloons in the driveway added to the party ambiance. Live musicians entertained in the background.

Linden safer with bike lanes and slower traffic...and to have more parties!

It was a fun evening that brought new and long-time residents together to build community and enjoy each other's company.

LIKE PARTIES?

Offer your house as a gathering place or join me in planning and organizing, email emeliesgriffith@gmail.com

Guests were encouraged to write their wishes for the neighborhood, "Thoughts of the Pine," and hang them on a pine branch. The two most common wishes were to make

PHOTOS BY JUDY SMITH



FUN FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES By Sarah Wahler

Happy New Year! The end of 2018 was a busy time for social events. I always enjoy seeing so many neighbors at the events including a number of new faces. In addition to the Party in the Pines described on the opposite page, PBH hosted several activities for children and families. In October, families gathered at the Community Center for Halloween crafts, drawing monsters and making spooky stained glass and Halloween bracelets.

December saw the return of the popular Cards and Cookies event with 17 kids in attendance.

This year the kids decorated a banner to say thank you to our BMFPPD firefighters. After decorating the banner, they turned their creative energy to decorating sugar cookies in a variety of festive holiday shapes.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH ACTIVITIES?

If you have suggestions for social events or would like to help coordinate, email social@pinebrookhills.org



TIME TO PAY OUR 2019 HOA DUES! By Robert B. Loveman, PBH HOA Treasurer

With the New Year, it is time to pay our voluntary HOA dues. While the official request is for \$75, many of us contribute \$100-\$250 in order to fund as much mitigation work as possible to protect our homes and the community.

Here are a few facts to consider:

- About half of our approximate \$32,000 annual budget funds mitigation work via Boulder Mountain Fire's ERT team – creating and maintaining fuel breaks, thinning overgrown areas, and performing weed whacking by the roads to reduce risk of fires igniting due to vehicles.
- We actually get matching funds from grants, so your dues can achieve double the amount of mitigation work.
- When winter conditions permit, BMFPD safely burns wood piles created during annual work, reducing fuels that might feed future fires.

- Your dues also fund a variety of enhancement projects (PBH entry areas and the Community Center building and parking lot) that make our subdivision more attractive to visitors and potential homeowners. Realtors tell us that your home value is enhanced by these projects!

- Quarterly issues of Pine Brook Press provide you with current news, social opportunities, and briefings from Chief John Benson, Water District Manager Bob de Haas, HOA Board Members, including President Rob Quinn, and numerous committee chairs.

- HOA meetings and social events both inform you on topics of interest to us all and provide opportunities to meet new neighbors and reacquaint you with veteran homeowners.

To pay your 2019 Dues, please either mail us a check payable to Pine Brook Hills HOA using the below form and the enclosed envelope or visit our website at <http://www.pinebrookhills.org/dues.html> to pay via credit card.

AS THE PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE AND THE NEXT SHOW, THIS PLACE IS AMAZING! YOUR DUES HELP KEEP IT THAT WAY!



PHOTO BY GAIL LOVEMAN



Name of owner: _____

Address of property: _____

Email address: _____

Payment amount: \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ Other _____



Jim Adams



Kevin Smith



Jim Adams



Jim Adams



Allen Saville



Emelie Griffith

MAGIC ON THE ROAD

By Penny Triggs, PBH Contributing Author

A couple months ago my husband Tim and I were out walking in a hilly section of our neighborhood. A road crew was directing traffic around an area where underground gas lines were being repaired. As we waited by the young flag man with the STOP sign, we chatted with him about working long hours outside in the cold and wind. He laughed and said he was fine with it because he dressed for all kinds of weather. He even offered that he would be there again the next day which was his birthday.

Out again for another walk the next day, we scanned the faces of the flagmen covering the downhill turns in the road to find the young flag man. There he was! "Hi again!" we said, "we brought you a brownie for your birthday!"

He looked momentarily stunned and turned to a coworker standing next to him. No words.

We handed him the brownie with a "Happy Birthday!" Again, he looked at his coworker, still speechless. His friend was lit up, all smiles. I said (half joking), "we should sing Happy Birthday!" and without missing a beat his friend said "YES!"

The three of us then proceeded to sing the Happy Birthday jingle; and before you knew it the whole crew there and on the road above joined in with an echo of "Happy Birthday" ringing out, followed by whoops and hollers. What can I say? It was a moment.

Our flag man, his face now full of warmth and feeling, finally spoke. "That's the nicest thing anyone has done for me in a very long time." After high fives all round, off we went. As we walked away, we could hear guys laughing, calling out birthday wishes from up the hill and down the turn.

Magic in Pine Brook Hills...

Do you have a good story about PBH?

Maybe a story that tells why we all love living here? Write it up and send it to press@pinebrookhills.org. We'd love to publish your PBH experiences.



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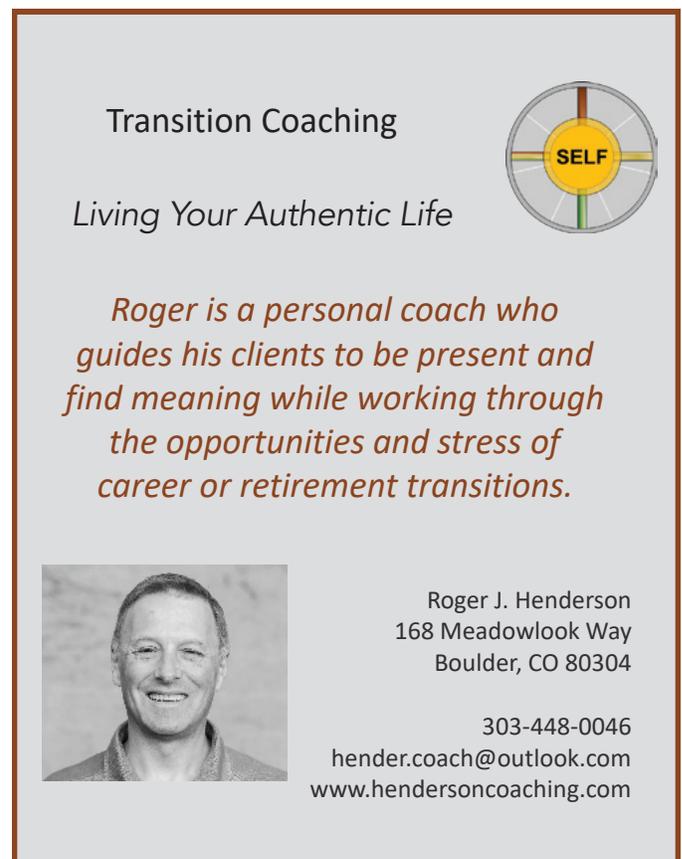
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FOURMILE CREEK WATERSHED – PINE BROOK’S PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER

By Robert B. Loveman, Pine Brook Water District Board Secretary

Most Pine Brook Hills residents don’t often think about the source of water coming out of their taps or garden hoses – they’re just aware that the Pine Brook Water District gathers, filters, and distributes their fresh water. The primary source of our water is from Fourmile Creek, west of our district.

Fourmile Creek suffered significant damage from both the 2010 Fourmile Fire and the 2013 flood, resulting in the formation of the “Fourmile Watershed Coalition” in 2015 to focus on managing state and federal disaster recovery funds in order to address a broad range of damage to our water source. Pine Brook Water District has been a primary partner in these efforts – working to restore the degraded (but healing) watershed from impacts of:

- Legacy mining operations
- Wildfire impact on chemistry of the water
- Debris flows
- Flooding

To date, the Coalition has accomplished the following:

- Restored over 13,000 linear feet of stream
- Planted over 17,000 native riparian plants along the stream and 7,000 tree seedlings in the burn area
- Removed and disposed of 1,830 cubic yards of mine tailings
- Engaged over 400 volunteers
- Collected dozens of water and soil samples
- Engaged or worked closely with a large portion of the residents in Fourmile Canyon and managers of Pine Brook Water District
- Installed 3 diversion structures

While federal and state funding has now been nearly exhausted, there is still much work that needs to be done – all helping assure PBH residents a safe and adequate source of water.

- Working with private landowners, fire districts and state and federal partners to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and fire mitigation projects in and around Fourmile
- Continuing to monitor water quality and identify high priority mine waste sites for reclamation
- Increasing educational programs that focus on watershed health – specifically forest and stream health and ecology
- Continuing to develop mutually beneficial partnerships with agencies and landowners
- Fundraising from a variety of sources, including (hopefully) interested PBH residents

Maya MacHamer, who is Coordinator of the Watershed Coalition, has offered to present to a future HOA gathering to provide more in-depth information about the status of Fourmile Creek and ongoing efforts to safeguard our water supply.

To encourage tax-deductible donations from Pine Brook residents, members of our Water District board are personally offering to match contributions up to an aggregate of \$2,500. Interested donors can either contribute via <https://fundly.com/strengthen-our-watershed> or make checks payable to Fourmile Fire Department @ 1740 Fourmile Canyon Drive, Boulder 80302. (The Watershed has separate bank accounts from the Fourmile Fire Department which is an IRS Section 170c1 tax exempt governmental entity.) The Watershed Coalition will notify Pine Brook Water of donations so that matching donations can be made.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Maya MacHammer, *Watershed Coordinator*
Fourmile Watershed Coalition
fourmilewatershed@gmail.com
www.fourmilewatershed.org

www.ColoradoEWP.com





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ARE YOU IN A POD? By Susan Schiff, PBH Resident

Our pod started with a conversation with Chief Benson and then dinner with neighbors. What is a pod? It's a group of neighbors living close to each other who form a communication network. They exchange household information and give access to each other's homes for emergency use in the event of an evacuation.

Chief Benson has suggested residents form pods or nets, as they are sometimes called. In the event of an evacuation, if one pod member is out of town or even just out and about in Boulder, another pod member can help out when access to the neighborhood is limited.

Our neighbors were very interested. We are all crazy about our pets, and the thought of not being able to get to them is unsettling. They suggested two additional neighbors that live close by. Our neighbors offered to host a get together for the four potential pod families. We invited Chief Benson to join us so he could explain his thoughts on what a pod could accomplish.

At a second meeting we discussed what each family expected from the pod. We started with grand ideas of us all having "bug out" boxes with important paperwork, medications and all of the other things that we would want during an evacuation. We quickly realized that what all of us really wanted was for someone to grab our pets and bring them to safety. Through emails, we exchanged phone numbers and emails for emergency contact. We also exchanged pet names, likely locations in our homes where the pets would be located, where leashes and kennels were kept, and whether the pet would be more comfortable with a male or female making the rescue. We gave each other drop off locations outside

of Pine Brook Hills. We exchanged house keys and security codes. We all downloaded the WhatsApp application and created a chat group. In the event of an emergency, we don't have to look up contact information, we can just send out a group message. Then we will know who in the pod responds. We used this application because it can be used overseas without incurring charges on your cell account.

In addition to having all of this information in the event of an evacuation, we have found that just notifying our pod that we are out of town has added an additional level of security. We provide our pod with our house sitter's contact information and she knows that help is available nearby should she need it. Fortunately we have not had an evacuation since we formed our pod. We did have an occasion to test the system when a member was stuck at an emergency room in Boulder and needed someone to bring their pet inside, if they didn't get home in time.

You may already know a group of your neighbors and have this system informally arranged. Chief Benson suggests that you make it formal. Have all the contact information; know where the key or the entry code is; and know what you need to get for your neighbor in the event of an evacuation. Each pod will have to form its own expectations of what will be taken in the event of an evacuation. Communication will be an important part of the organization and implementation. With any luck, we will never need to use our pod system, but it will be better to have it in place than to try and create it on the fly.

If you are interested in forming a pod/net, Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District has written guides and additional information; or feel free to contact me at Sws9294@gmail.com.

REMOVE INVASIVE MYRTLE SPURGE BEFORE IT GOES TO SEED

By Jim Adams, HOA Forest Health/Beetle Buster Chairperson

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL



MYRTLE SPURGE is well established in some parts of Pine Brook Hills, and it is spreading to other areas in our community. Dense colonies are very difficult to eradicate. Their mature plants produce many seeds that spread this highly invasive, illegal noxious weed to other areas. Small, isolated plants are easy to find and remove before they produce more seeds.

Spurge shows bright yellow flowers in early Springtime when the ground is damp and soft, and they are easy to see before the other plants grow up around them. We can easily prevent establishment of new intractable colonies if we inspect our lots and dig out sparse small plants.





Forest Health-Beetle Busters has tools and protective gear to lend, and we teach proper removal and disposal methods. Spurge is toxic. Wildlands Restoration Volunteers removed dense spurge from many lots in PBH. We can prevent new infestations from becoming environmental disasters if we proactively find and remove small spurge plants.



SPURGE FACTS:

- All parts of a myrtle spurge plant are toxic.
- It is a Colorado Department of Agriculture List A Species invasive noxious weed – it is illegal. Myrtle spurge poses an economic and environmental threat to our state.
- It is a perennial evergreen that is allelopathic (chemically inhibits other plants).
- It displaces native plants and reduces forage for animals.
- Seeds project 15 feet and last 8 years in the soil.
- Removing plants before they distribute seed is effective control.
- Digging out small plants is easy.
- Prevent regeneration by getting at least 4 inches of root.
- Send bagged spurge to the landfill. Do not compost.



Read more at the HOA website:

<https://www.pinebrookhills.org/> > HOA > Forest Health - BB,
or Google "myrtle spurge."

To report spurge anywhere or to join the effort to keep and restore natural flora in our community contact forest.health.bb@gmail.com.

GIVING YOUR HOME ITS BEST CHANCE TO SURVIVE WILDFIRE

By Mike Palamara, BMFPD Wildfire Mitigation Crew Superintendent

As another year drew to a close, the wildfire mitigation team had a chance to reflect on the 2018 summer season. This was the busiest season in the crew's history in terms of number of crew members, days that crew members spent on wildfires, and acres mitigated within our district.

Unfortunately, wildfires are trending towards more and more devastation both in structures destroyed and, tragically, lives lost. I want to take a moment to reinforce the long-stated message from the Fire Department to get yourself out early - lives are not replaceable. Leaving the area is not abandoning your home. Whether your home survives a wildfire event or not is largely dependent on what measures have been taken prior to the event occurring.

Wildfires ignite structures in two ways. First, flames from burning material such as grass, trees, or yard debris can directly contact a home setting it ablaze. Or flying embers from a fire burning a half mile or more away from a structure can land on or around the building and ignite material, which results in the structure's destruction.

No amount of mitigation efforts can ever lead to a 100% guarantee that a structure will survive a wildfire. However,

there are many steps that can be taken that will vastly increase the chances of survival. Properly treating the vegetation on your property such as trees, shrubs, and grass can help prevent flames from ever reaching your home. Clearing debris, such as needles and leaves, from gutters and decks can reduce the chances a flying ember will ignite your structures. I encourage everyone to visit our website at bmfmitcrew.com for more helpful tips and remember that site assessments by a wildfire mitigation specialist are free for anyone within our fire district!

What I am hoping residents take away from this article is that the more you prepare your home and property for a wildfire event, the better its chances are of surviving without you present. Evacuating due to a wildfire will never be a relaxing exercise. It will be extremely stressful at best. However, knowing that you have prepared as best you can for an approaching wildfire will only help at the time of a real emergency.

I can speak from experience that as you are driving away you will think of all of the items you didn't have time to complete and wish you had made different choices. Even worse, some folks may decide to try to take care of these items at the last minute and get caught in a catastrophically bad situation. Please remember that homes can be rebuilt, but you are one of a kind.

Join the BMFPD Auxiliary on January 20, 2018

Presentation by Chief John Benson
2:30 – 3:15 PM, Station 1 in PBH

Understanding Fire Behaviors

Chief Benson will talk about recent fires in the US and help residents develop a basic understanding for various patterns and behaviors that wildfires can exhibit.

He will include time for residents' questions.

The presentation will be followed by the Auxiliary's Quarterly Meeting from 3:45 – 5:15 PM.

Interested residents are invited to participate and get a firsthand view of the Auxiliary's work.



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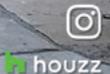
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