

# Pine Brook Press

A quarterly journal for, about, and by Pine Brook Hills residents | WINTER 2020



HOA MEETING: JANUARY 28

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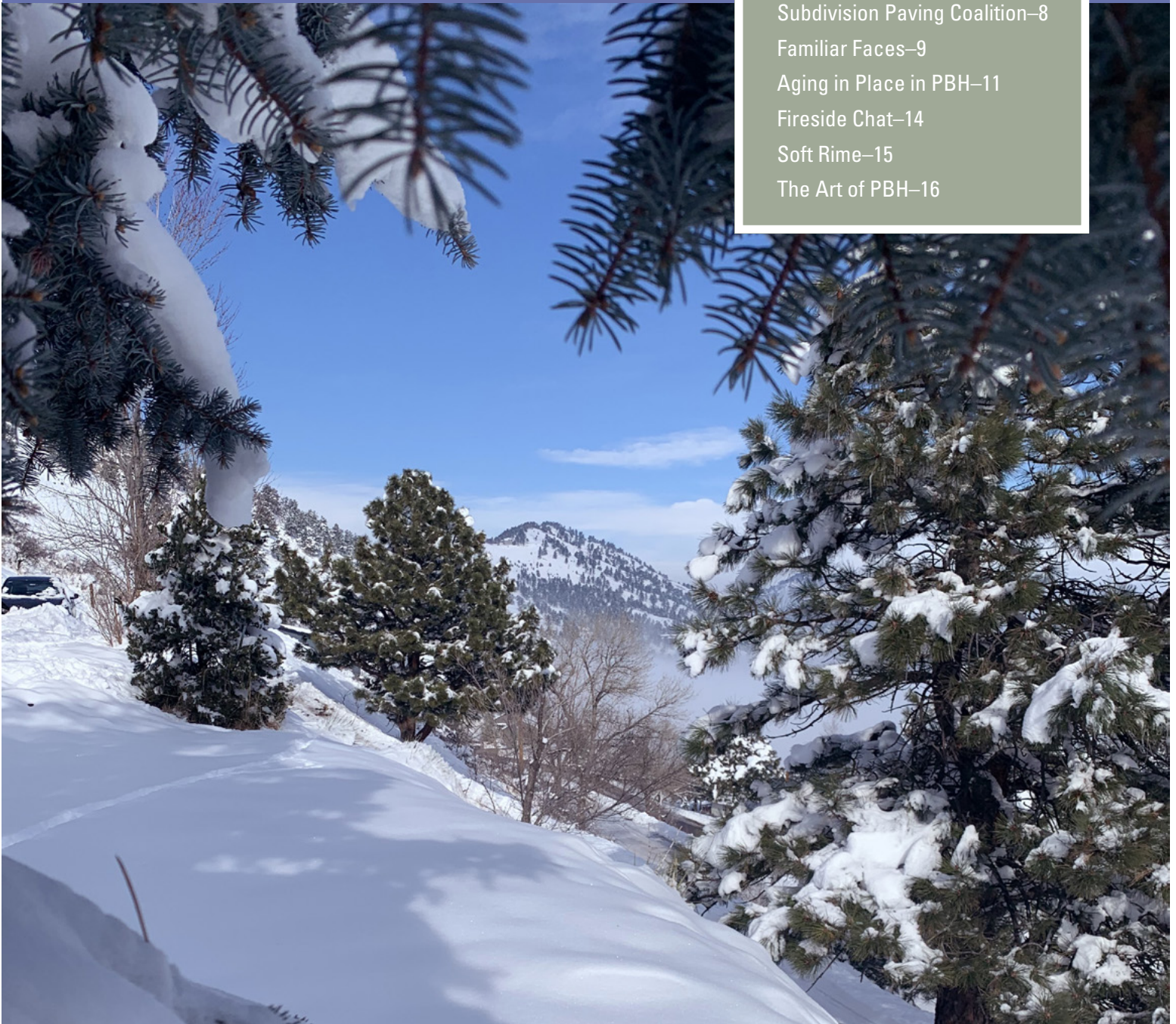
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## 2020 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### PINE BROOK HILLS HOA BOARDS & COMMITTEES

#### PRESIDENT

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#### VICE PRESIDENT

Kevin Smith, 301-641-8415

#### SECRETARY

Mike Von Hatten, 303-997-8319

#### TREASURER

Bob Loveman, 303-926-0204

#### MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Rob Quinn, 303-447-0970

#### ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

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Natasha Bodorff, 425-457-9002

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Emelie Griffith, 303-304-0676

#### FIRE CHIEF

John Benson, 303-440-0235

#### FIRE BOARD PRESIDENT

Bob Loveman, 303-926-0204

#### FIRE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Catherine Von Hatten, 303-997-8319

#### WATER BOARD PRESIDENT

Mel Beauprez, 303-444-1968

#### WATER DISTRICT MANAGER

Robert de Haas, 303-443-5394

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WEBMASTER/TECHNOLOGY

CHAIR: Landon Fuller

303-440-0122

### HOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING - January 28

#### 6:00 PM Potluck Dinner

#### 7:00 PM HOA Business Meeting

Hear an update on the "State of Pine Brook Hills" with reports from HOA Board Members and Committee Chairpersons, Boulder Mountain Fire, and Pine Brook Water

*Meetings are held at the Community Center/Fire Station  
(1905 Linden Drive) unless otherwise noted.  
All residents are welcome to attend.*

HOA BOARD MEETINGS – Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Upcoming 2020 meetings: January 21, April 21, July 21, and October 20

HOA 2020 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – January 28, April 28, July 28, October 27

BOULDER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD – Meets the second Monday of every month at 4:00 PM. Call 303-440-0235 for specifics.

PINE BROOK WATER BOARD – Meets the third Thursday of every month at 4:30 PM. Call the Water Office at 303-443-5394 for specific dates.

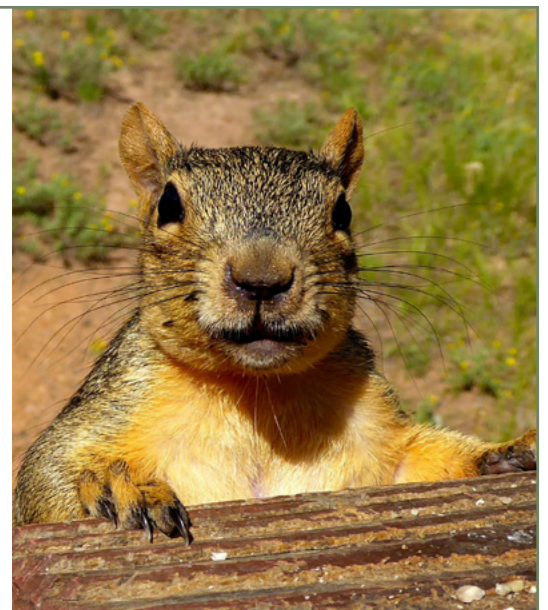
BMPFD AUXILIARY – Meets quarterly on Sundays. Next meeting January 26 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Email [auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:auxpresident@bouldermountainfire.org) for more information.

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

### SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

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

Thanks to Jim Adams  
for capturing this squirrel  
as it snuck bird seed  
on his deck.





## PRESIDENT'S PATTTER

By Sylvia Andrejczuk

*Thank you to all of our volunteers -  
you make Pine Brook work.*

As your President for the next two years, I would like to invite you to join us at the next HOA meeting on January 28, 2020, with a potluck dinner starting at 6:00 PM and our general meeting starting at 7:00 PM.

The January HOA meeting is the only meeting of the year devoted entirely to conducting business. The agenda will include the approval of the budget, reports from each of the subcommittees of the HOA Board and an opportunity for you to ask questions should you have any. There will also be reports from Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District and Pine Brook Water District. Hope you can make it, even if only briefly.

As I move into this new role, I think about why I initially joined the HOA. I wanted to better understand 'how things work' in and around PBH and to meet more neighbors near and far.

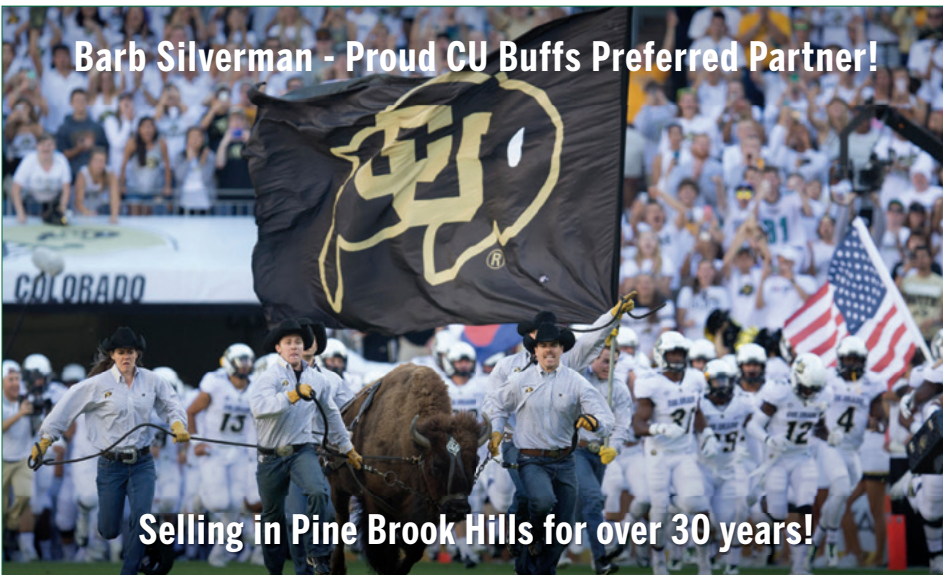
I quickly learned that what makes PBH tick is the incredibly dedicated group of volunteers who look after the little things we might take for granted as we cruise around the hill: BMFPD Firefighters, Scene Support, Auxiliary, and Major Incident Support Team, PB Water, and HOA Committees for roads, enhancement, architectural review, Pine Brook Press, welcoming newcomers, social activities, forest health, and soon-to-be aging in place.

I have been super lucky to have met and become friends with some fantastically interesting, smart, cool, and fun people. I would not have met them had I not attended HOA meetings, Auxiliary events, Forest Health initiatives, Ice Cream Socials, Newcomer socials, Block Parties, etc. I encourage you to attend HOA activities whenever your busy schedules allow...we really have a great little community up here.

Thank you to all of our volunteers – you make Pine Brook work. Thank you to Rob Quinn who has served as our President for two years, and luckily for me, will stay on as Member at Large! Thank you to Kevin Smith for joining the Board as Vice President.

A BIG thank you to those of you who pay your annual HOA dues. We couldn't do our work without your support. HOA dues are assessed at the beginning of the year, so please remember to pay using the form on p. 4 or online at <http://www.pinebrookhills.org/dues.html>.

Wishing you all health, happiness and prosperity in all its forms in 2020 and beyond!



Contact me for all of your real estate needs.



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## 2020 HOA DUES REQUEST By Bob Loveman, HOA Treasurer

With the New Year, it is time to pay your voluntary 2020 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:

- Over half of our approximately \$30,000 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 (which they did in Fall 2019), 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 Fire Chief John Benson, Water District Manager Bob de Haas, HOA Board Members, 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 acquaint you with veteran homeowners.

**To pay your 2020 Dues, please either mail us a check using the form below and the enclosed envelope or visit our website at <http://www.pinebrookhills.org/dues.html> to pay via credit card.** Either way, also please provide your current email address. To save a stamp, you can drop off your check in the HOA mailbox as you enter the Community Center parking lot.

Checks are payable to Pine Brook Hills HOA. Thanks for your support. Questions? Contact me at 303-926-0204 or [Rloveman47@gmail.com](mailto:Rloveman47@gmail.com)



Name of owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of property: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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





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

**Budget:** The Pine Brook Water Board adopted the District's budget for 2020 on December 12, 2019. The complete budget and all worksheets may be viewed on the website: [www.pinebrookwater.com](http://www.pinebrookwater.com).

**Board Election:** 2020 is a Water Board election year. Self-nomination forms are due by the end of day on February 28, 2020. Rick Waters', Joyce Colson's, and Signe Hawley's positions are up for election. For more information please feel free to contact the Water District Office at 303-443-5394 or email at [contact@pinebrookwater.com](mailto:contact@pinebrookwater.com).

**FEMA/State Project Completion:** The District has finally completed all of the projects resulting from the 2013 flood. The total monies collected or to be collected from FEMA and/or the State of Colorado was about \$3,450,000! Many of the projects required that the District pay 12.5% of the project cost which came to approximately \$300,000. Needless to say, that was quite a hit to the reserves.

- **Small Projects, 2013-2015** – installed emergency generators, rebuilt North Cedar Brook Road at Linden (no out of pocket expenses other than employee time), repaired pipelines, recovered/rebuilt our surface diversion facilities, repaired drainages and culverts for the community center, repaired various access roads to district facilities, and miscellaneous other small projects.
- **Large Projects, 2015-2019** – replaced three-quarters of a mile of pipeline in lower Pine Brook which was subject to increased ground movement after the flood (2015), installed an additional pipeline between upper and lower Pine Brook

to improve reliability (2016), built a new addition to the filter plant to restore capacity lost due to the flood – as part of that project a second filter plant was added which provided the added benefit and reliability of being able to produce treated water even if one filter plant were down for repairs, maintenance, etc. (2015-2016), remediated two aging water tanks with questionable interior paint by repainting them—repairs were made and paid for by the District until repayment upon completion (2018-2019); replaced two aging trucks and installed a trash rack on the dam spillway to replace the log boom (2019).

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## MYRTLE SPURGE ERADICATION

By Jim Adams, HOA Forest Health/Beetle Busters Chairperson

If you see Myrtle Spurge like the plant shown in the photo below starting to bloom in March, please report its nearest address to [forest.health.bb@gmail.com](mailto:forest.health.bb@gmail.com). This Spring we will organize Pine Brook Hills residents to eradicate this invasive noxious weed. Watch for more information in this publication and on the PBH website, as our spring efforts get underway.

To volunteer with other residents to be trained in safe removal and disposal of Myrtle Spurge, contact [forest.health.bb@gmail.com](mailto:forest.health.bb@gmail.com). To learn more <http://www.pinebrookhills.org/ForestHealth/>



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## SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Emelie S. Griffith, HOA Social Committee Chairperson

I am the social coordinator this year for our fabulous neighborhood. I have lived up here for four years and love drawing people together and building community through our HOA social events.

Pine Brook is a special spot and the fact that we truly are community oriented sets us apart. Maybe it's that we are "just a tad out of town" or maybe it's that we actually like our neighbors, but nonetheless, most of us know who's above, below and beyond our homes. Social events throughout the year help us get to know each other better.

In October, we hosted the Party in the Pines on Alpine (Thanks, Param!) with tons of delicious food, wine, a keg and crazy wigs—high and low, in a grand assortment of styles and mullets. The festive outfits inspired a lot of fun and laughs. It's the second year I've put together this event, and it's been a total success, inspiring people to let loose a bit. Photos are available at <https://tinyurl.com/pines-party-photos>.

As we move towards spring, I'd love to collaborate with a few of you to get social events going. It takes a village! If you have ideas for parties for adults or kids, or are open to lending a hand, please contact me at [social@pinebrookhills.org](mailto:social@pinebrookhills.org).



## SLASH PILE BURNING By Mike Palamara, BMFPD Wildfire Mitigation Crew Superintendent

Residents often ask about the Boulder Mountain Wildfire Mitigation Crew's slash pile burning program. Here are some answers to the most often asked questions, as well as some information about safety procedures used during the process.

### What is a slash pile?

Imagine you cut down a tree and then cut off all of the branches attached to the trunk. These separated branches are now called slash. A slash pile is simply all of these branches piled together. Our typical slash pile has a circular footprint that is roughly 6 feet across and is built about 5 feet tall. The vegetation within the slash pile is generally no greater than 5 inches in diameter—most is considerably smaller in size. The photo below shows a circular pattern after the burn was extinguished.

### Why do you burn a slash pile?

Our preferred method of vegetation treatment when conducting wildfire mitigation is chipping. However, there are many areas in PBH that are steep, inaccessible, and beyond the reach of our chippers. When completing projects in these areas we often need to use slash pile burning to mitigate the material from cut vegetation. These steep areas are often at the highest risk from a wildfire event and make mitigating the vegetation material on these slopes extremely important.

### Is burning slash piles safe?

Boulder Mountain Wildfire Mitigation Crew takes slash pile burning safety extremely seriously. The morning of a potential slash pile burn we conduct an assessment to ensure that operations can be done successfully. Included in the assessment are both current and expected weather conditions, snowpack in the project area, and resources available to participate in burning operations. Additionally, the crew secures numerous county and state permits each year for slash pile burning activities. Each permit has its own set of guidelines to ensure a slash pile burn is executed safely and to the highest standard.

Crew members check the project area the day following a slash pile burn to ensure all vegetation is fully extinguished. We use a variety of tactics to verify all material is cold, including the use of heat cameras and even shoving bare hands into the dirt to feel for heat.

We appreciate the community's patience with smoke from burning slash piles. We do everything possible to limit exposure. Our hope is that by mitigating vegetation within and around PBH, we can reduce the negative impacts from a larger smoke release or from a catastrophic wildfire event. As always please contact us at [mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org), if you have other questions or would like more information.



Photo by Jim Adams



# SUBDIVISION PAVING COALITION

By Peter King-Smith, HOA Roads Chairperson

The letter quoted below is being widely distributed throughout Boulder County, including to the County Commissioners and the Director of the Transportation Department. It provides some background about current efforts to take care of our roads. I am one of three founding members and Chairman of the Subdivision Paving Coalition described in the letter. The PBH Roads Committee is actively involved in the initiative and will continue to be throughout the process. We are printing the letter here in its entirety to ensure that PBH residents are fully informed about the process and ways to get involved.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For nearly 25 years, no cohesive long-term funding mechanism has existed for resurfacing, rehabilitating and/or rebuilding roads in Boulder County subdivisions that are outside city limits. Approximately 150 miles of paved road within 120 subdivisions comprising over 10,000 properties and 27,000 residents are adversely impacted. The majority of these roads are in poor condition, are becoming unsafe and continue to deteriorate, while the cost to fix them is escalating as long as this issue remains unresolved.

A newly formed group, the Subdivision Paving Coalition (SPC), is working to develop a permanent funding solution to rehabilitate and then continue to maintain these subdivision roads.

## WHY YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS

The SPC would like to inform all affected parties about our approach, progress, and the current status of developing funding mechanisms for subdivision paving. The SPC is encouraging all those who are impacted to join the SPC to assist in achieving the Coalition's goals. Where possible, the SPC is seeking a primary contact from HOA groups, fire districts and first responders, neighborhood groups, businesses, organizations, and any other interested parties to assist us to keep them and their members informed.

## ABOUT US

The SPC is a non-partisan volunteer group of concerned Boulder County residents, organizations, companies, and service providers. The SPC is spearheading a renewed focus on resolving the seemingly never-ending quarter-century old issue of funding for Subdivision roads in Boulder County.

*The SPC's purpose is to secure fair and affordable County-wide funding, including potential ballot initiatives, and to assist the County Commissioners and Transportation Department throughout the planning and implementation of rehabilitation and maintenance for Boulder County subdivision roads.*

## RELATIONSHIP TO BOULDER COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The Coalition does not include nor represent the Boulder County Commissioners or Transportation Department. However, the

SPC will be working closely with the County to develop a funding proposal.

## TO STAY INFORMED OR TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED

- If you are interested in receiving periodic updates from the SPC, please send an email to [SPCoalitionBoCo@gmail.com](mailto:SPCoalitionBoCo@gmail.com) with "Update" in the subject header and please include your full name and your subdivision, organization or reason for your interest in the body of the email.
- If you are interested in becoming more involved with the SPC, email SPC Chair Peter King-Smith at [SPCoalitionBoCo@gmail.com](mailto:SPCoalitionBoCo@gmail.com)
- For more information, visit the SPC Website at: <https://sites.google.com/view/spc-web>

## NEW WEBMASTER

As we move into 2020, Landon Fuller is stepping into the role of PBH Webmaster. He is a senior security engineer for Apple and serves as a volunteer firefighter with BMFPD. The HOA welcomes Landon to the team. If you have information you would like included or updated on the website, email [president@pinebrookhills.org](mailto:president@pinebrookhills.org).

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Reaching Jack on Wild Horse Circle was our first challenge. It was just after the BIG snowstorm before Thanksgiving. The private back roads weren't plowed, so we parked and walked up the icy, slippery incline. Once at his house, it was a mystery as to how to reach his front door. The stone steps covered in snow were clearly unused. This was becoming an adventure—Jack must have been housebound for a week!

*Treasures, collections, carvings and photographs... Jack's home is awash with warmth and infused with a feeling of family and years richly spent.*

After a knock and a thump at the door, Jack greeted us with a massive grin and a warm welcome.

First, Jack gave us a house tour, conducted to the sounds of Les Miserables coming from the kitchen... the house a light-filled

expanse, much of it built by him and his sons, forty years back; the beautiful current bathroom remodeling project evidence of Jack the engineer with a panache for DIY, even now in his eighties with no sign of letting up.

Treasures, collections, carvings and photographs... Jack's home is awash with warmth and infused with a feeling of family and years richly spent. Jack explained the church vestments hanging in the dining area. He is an altar boy at his church in Estes Park, a small, beautiful building on a hillside with gorgeous stonework. Jack and community members built the church on Saturdays, wives showing up with food, creating a bond that holds strong to this day.

Jack grew up in New York. His parents came through Ellis Island. He was born two years later giving him automatic citizenship. His mom had a Scottish brogue, so thick, Jack says [with a chuckle] he never did understand anything she said. His Dad became the personal butler to J. P. Morgan, traveling for weeks at a time.

Jack married his one true love, Gwen. "She was the best thing that ever happened to me, an absolute prize," says Jack. He attended night school for 16 years earning bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering. He worked full-time laying line for "Ma Bell." He and Gwen raised three kids and adopted another, adding on to the house as able; the work squeezed around full-time commitments.



He recruited his younger kids to help get the work done. "I kept waiting for the fingers to come off," Jack commented, regarding the power saws in the garage, Gwen alarmed by possible injuries.

Jack's work in fiber optics had him traveling to Russia, and other countries.

Now, after 57 years together, the loss of Gwen, a loss deep and resonant, the grief ongoing; Gwen's voice still on their phone message system. The house resettling in memories, the space quieter. The kids grown and flown, grandkids aplenty.

Jack seemingly fine holing up in winter weather, his house a home, projects on the go, music a companion.

After a recent brush with health issues, Jack is agog with respect for the BMFPD Emergency Response team. He says their professionalism and competence is unmatched.

My adventure with Jack revealed a gem! We made a new neighborly connection.





# *Foxes*

**BLACK? SILVER? RED?**



Red Fox by Mila Griffith

Red Fox by Sierra Griffith



Photo by Jane Holzman

We see many foxes in PBH. The silver fox, though appearing black, is a melanistic form of the red fox. A silver fox can be part of a red litter and will breed with either red or silver mates. Breeding with another silver fox will produce silver kits while breeding with a red fox will produce reds with darker markings. Our silver friend is essentially a red fox with a beautiful color variation.



Photo by Susan Schiff



# AGING IN PLACE IN PINE BROOK HILLS

By Harriet Edelstein and Nicole Staats



Aging in our homes in PBH can be challenging. Some of our older PBH residents are concluding that it might not be realistic for them to live in PBH much longer. Our location in the foothills surrounds us with the beauty of nature, but also comes with the difficulty of steep driveways, lack of certain resources, and with physical and sometimes social isolation. In order to allow our residents to stay in our homes as long as we want our community needs to establish more resources. Here's the scoop on what services are currently available to us and what we are lacking.

The Boulder County Area Agency on Aging, a federally funded organization, provides an information and referral service for all county residents. Trained Options Counselors (303-441-1617) can help PBH residents make informed choices about services and supports available to older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caretakers. You can find vetted resources for aging well in Boulder County at [bouldercountyhelp.org](http://bouldercountyhelp.org)

Some services found in the City of Boulder and Boulder County are not available here. Transportation services are not currently provided for PBH by RTD, VIA, or Cultivate. Uber, Lyft, and Yellow Cab do serve PBH depending on weather and availability. Transportation is a crucial issue for aging and will require advocacy or neighbors helping neighbors.

Grocery and prescription delivery are also helpful for those who wish to age in place. Boulder County's Cultivate (formerly CareConnect and RSVP) Carry-Out Caravan does not serve PBH, nor do Safeway, Lucky's, Ideal, or Target. Food apps such as Instacart and Amazon Prime will deliver groceries from Safeway, King Soopers, Sprouts, Natural Grocers, and Costco. DoorDash will deliver restaurant food. Meals on Wheels does

not serve us. This lack of service is a significant oversight and is an area our community should remedy.

Boulder County's Cultivate Fix-It Program (303-443-1933) does serve PBH for installation of grab bars and minor home repairs for seniors. Boulder Elks Lodge has a loan closet for equipment needed on a temporary basis after a hospital visit (303-442-5003). Trained volunteers bring in-home emotional support through the Peer Counseling for Seniors Program provided by Boulder County Mental Health Partners (303-413-6377). Circle of Care provides free transportation, companions, and tickets to Boulder cultural and educational event including the CU Senior Audit Program. TRU Community Care serves PBH with hospice needs.

The Aging in Place Committee would like to bring in more resources for older residents in PBH. We would love some support with our mission! If you are interested in helping us research, explore, and establish more resources in PBH please contact our chairperson, Nicole Staats, at [nicolemariestaats@gmail.com](mailto:nicolemariestaats@gmail.com).

The PBH HOA is supporting the establishment of a Meal Train Plus program to fill in some of the gaps in needs for seniors and others, including new mothers and ill residents. With this program PBH residents will have the opportunity to support and be supported by others within the community. Contact Nicole Staats at [nicolemariestaats@gmail.com](mailto:nicolemariestaats@gmail.com) to participate.

The complete report on research compiled to date is available through the HOA and will be posted on the website.



## THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF BOULDER MOUNTAIN HANDMADE!



At 45 years, the long-running community art and craft market remains a potent fundraiser for Boulder Mountain Fire Auxiliary, as well as an effective connector among many in the Fire District community. Thanks to all the bakers, crafters, artists, cashiers, recruiters, builders and take-downers, shleppers and helpers who pulled it off for another year.

Boulder Mountain Handmade exceeded expectations by any measure.

- Over 60 artists filled the Marketplace this year. Vendors' feedback about the event was overwhelmingly positive.
- With close to 2500 in attendance, up 10% from last year's record high, our vendors reported being pleased by the number of customers both days.
- In just its second year, the event sponsorship program has become an important part of the success of the event. 13 sponsors joined our efforts this year... a 30% increase over the first year. Sponsors support our publicity and outreach efforts for BMH and directly impact attendance.
- The Auxiliary's bakery sold a record number of donated baked goods from over 58 Fire District residents. The art and craft area displayed donations from more than 32 residents. Sales from these two





Auxiliary areas exceeded expectations.

- Cash donations from guests in attendance were up this year.
- Preliminary estimates of net income are in the neighborhood of \$25,000.

As the Auxiliary's primary fundraiser, BMH success allows us to provide programs of public education and outreach, meal provisioning for responders during emergency incidents, replenishment and updating of life safety equipment in our Fire District, and volunteer recognition of the close to 200 families who make up our vibrant volunteer corps.

Follow this link to our 2019 Boulder Mountain Handmade photo gallery to revisit the event:

<https://bmfpdaux.smugmug.com/2019-Boulder-Mountain-Handmade/>. All are welcome to take part in 2020; just drop a note to [BMHArt@bouldermountainfire.org](mailto:BMHArt@bouldermountainfire.org).


Thank you again for being part of our success.


We hope to have you join us next year!

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## FIRESIDE CHAT By John Benson

Greetings once again to all of you. It is hard to believe that 2019 has come and gone, and 2020 is upon us. Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District hopes that 2019 was a good year for all of you.

Here at BMFPD, we have not completed our year-end statistics and report, but I did want to share the results of our 2019 Annual Awards.

- Medic of the Year—Brooke Harrison
- Firefighter of the Year—Andrew Churnside
- BMFPD Member of the Year—Rick Waters

Department members nominate their colleagues for these awards which are voted on by members. Congratulations to these

highly dedicated and professional members of the Department. We will distribute a full year-end report by the end of January.

Let's talk about driving on these winding steep mountain roads. Between the postings on the forum and seeing firsthand how certain members of the community are driving, this is an issue of concern to me.

**PLEASE SLOW DOWN.** When I see motorists using the roads as a race way, I can only wonder how long it is going to take until we have a major head-on collision with another vehicle. It only takes a split second for a deer to dart across the road, or a dog, pedestrian, or bicycle to be coming the other way. One of the biggest problems I have seen lately is certain motorists cutting the corners in the narrows right

below the Fire Station. Not only is this stretch of road narrow, but there is nowhere to go. Slow down and stay in your lane. Do yourself a favor. Leave a little earlier, if you have an appointment or need that morning latté.

For those of you who are younger and think you are invincible, stop riding your skateboards down Linden Drive. Trust me when I tell you—if you hit a vehicle head on, you will lose the battle. Don't become a statistic. Use your talents and brains to help better yourself and the world.

Let's make Pine Brook Hills a safe community!

Happy New Year you all of you, and I hope nothing but the best for you in 2020.

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## FEEDER FIGHT By Kevin Smith



I have two types of feeders at my house. One is a seed feeder that attracts birds with thick beaks like the Junco on the left. Their beaks are strong enough to break the seeds apart to get to the meal on the inside. The other kind of feeder is a suet feeder that attracts birds that focus more on eating insects and grubs like the Red-breasted Nuthatch on the right. During a recent snowstorm there were lots of birds at the feeders, since

most of their other food sources must have been covered with snow.

The Junco and Nuthatch are often on the suet feeder together. The Junco doesn't feed from the suet feeder, but it is a good place to wait for his turn at the seed feeder which is nearby. The Nuthatch flew up and I expected him to go about his business of eating from the suet feeder without any fanfare. However, just as I took the photo the

Nuthatch decided to put on a display to try and scare the Junco away which would give the Nuthatch some space while he ate from the suet feeder. The timing with the wings fully outstretched and the beak open was totally luck, but really did capture the moment of interaction between these two birds.

The Junco was not impressed with the Nuthatch's display. He sat there calmly until the Nuthatch flew away.



## SOFT RIME



These photos, taken by Kevin Smith during some icy, foggy weather back in November show “soft rime,” a white ice deposit that forms when water droplets in light, freezing fog or mist freeze to the outer surfaces of objects when the wind is calm or light. Soft rime usually freezes to the windward side of tree branches, wires, or other solid objects and makes for some of the magical mornings we see in PBH.





## THE ART OF PBH: MARLA SAVILLE

by Caren Paul



Marla Saville is one of Pine Brook Hills' well-known water media artists. A long-time resident, her work is particularly inspired by the beautiful nature of our neighborhood. The wildlife of PBH can always be found in her work. Squirrel, fox, marmot, chipmunk, deer, mountain lion and bear all make appearances. Her work can be very detailed and realistic, but she also loves adding a whimsical touch, often inspired by bits of dreams vaguely remembered in the morning. Recently, she has been exploring the use of abstraction in her work.

Marla started drawing as a child. At 10 years of age, she won a New York State Young Artist Award with a black and white drawing, Refugee Boy. She was the youngest person to ever receive this award and it was a huge motivation for her to become an artist. Throughout her school years, she explored various artistic media, and developed her illustrator instincts. She received her BFA from Parsons in New York with a focus on graphic art and illustration, and created art in many forms. After completing school, she went on to work as a commercial artist.

As is often the case, commercial art is not always a fulfilling job for a fine artist. Marla went back to school to get a degree that would allow her get a job anywhere, anytime – radiologic technologist. She moved to Colorado with her practical degree, and was newly inspired to create the art she loves for herself and her patrons. She also began taking commissions for pet and people portraits.

Since getting the golden retriever of her dreams, Henry, two and a half years ago, she's had the perfect artist's model. Henry and his buddies provide a wealth of fanciful and fun imagery for Marla's brush. Each year, Marla does a special edition seasonal holiday card featuring a unique animal image, often Henry, typically inspired by photographs taken in their mountainside yard by her husband, Allen. With added anthropomorphic characteristics, these paintings will make anyone smile and provide a unique way to share seasonal greetings. Some of Marla's patrons are avid collectors and have every one of her cards from the last 20 years!





Clearly an animal lover, Marla also volunteers at the Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. If you would like to help save Colorado's orphaned and injured wildlife, please go to [www.greenwoodwildlife.org](http://www.greenwoodwildlife.org) for more information.

And for more about Marla and her art, please visit [www.savilleart.com](http://www.savilleart.com).

If you or a PBH artist you know would like to be featured in this column, please contact [caren@gofarfast.com](mailto:caren@gofarfast.com).





# Pine Brook Hills Directory



and  
Guide to  
Mountain Living  
2018 / 2019

As we begin 2020, it is time for us to think about the HOA biennial update of the Pine Brook Hills Directory. We have started compiling the 2020-2021 edition, and we need your help. Please take a minute today to provide us with the information that you would like to include in the directory. As in past years, an easy-to-use web form is available on the Pine Brook Hills website here: <http://pinebrookhills.org/directory.html>. We need to hear from you by the end of January.

Please note: If you are already in the Directory and we don't hear from you, the information will stay the same as in your previous listing. We won't make additions, deletions, or other changes unless we hear from you. If you aren't currently in the Directory, we need to hear from you to add you to the listings.

Thanks for your help.



Photo by Jim Adams

Poles like this one near the intersection of Pine Tree Lane and Alder Lane are being replaced as part of Xcel Energy's "Wildfire Pole Replacement Program." This pole was originally installed in 1966 and required the crew to dig a six-foot deep hole for replacement.



## JANUARY 28 HOA MEETING

Join neighbors for the first HOA meeting of 2020. Hear an update on the "State of Pine Brook Hills" with reports from HOA Board Members and Committee Chairpersons, Boulder Mountain Fire, and Pine Brook Water.



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Brian Gebhardt enjoying deep powder in Pine Brook Hills in November.

Photo by Jim Adams