

Pine Brook Press

A quarterly journal for, about, and by Pine Brook Hills residents | SPRING 2021

HOA MEETING: APRIL 27



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Robert de Haas, 303-443-5394

**PINE BROOK PRESS
EDITORS**

Suzanne Adams, 980-207-2356

Dave Mason, 720-352-6968

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Monika Edgar, 720-201-4491

PROOFREADERS

Mark Cronshaw

Lisa Halperin

Gail Loveman

ADVERTISING

Param Singh, 303-417-0373

ads@pinebrookhills.org

press@pinebrookhills.org

WEBSITE: www.pinebrookhills.org

**INTERIM WEBMASTER/
TECHNOLOGY CHAIR:**

Peter King-Smith, 303-442-7698

2021 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING - APRIL 27

Please watch for further information regarding time and nature of meeting (in person, we hope, or Zoom if we must). See website: www.pinebrookhills.org

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

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

BOULDER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AUXILIARY
Meets quarterly on Sundays. Next meeting is April 18 at 3:00 P.M. by Zoom.
To receive a meeting link, please contact aharsh@comcast.net.

PINE BROOK HILLS WATER BOARD
Meets the third Thursday of every month at 4:30 P.M. Next meeting is scheduled for April 15. Call the Water Office at 303-442-5394 for more information.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 P.M. by Zoom.
Contact arc@www.pinebrookhills.org for the link.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

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

Thanks to Susan Schiff for
sending this beautiful little
fox, who seems to be
smiling at us.



PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

By Sylvia Andrejczuk



Happy Spring!

I have more to say and share than usual because we did not have a January 2021 issue. On December 29, 2020, we lost a beloved, dedicated, generous, bright (in every sense of the word!) and caring neighbor: Catherine Von

Hatten. Catherine served as the Editor of the Pine Brook Press, President of the Auxiliary and so much more behind the scenes. To say she is missed is an understatement.

Susan Schiff has taken on the role of President of the BMFPD Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is always happy to welcome more volunteers. Please email Susan if you want to learn more about their work: sws9294@gmail.com.

Soon temperatures will rise, the days will grow longer and our surroundings will start to spring back to life. At this time of year my family swaps ski gear for gardening gloves, hori hori knives, and rakes. We clear our property of myrtle spurge, do battle with the deep-rooted cacti (they seem to win every time...grrr), and rake up pine needles and cones – especially the ones closest to our house.

Myrtle spurge is a noxious weed and remains toxic when burned, potentially inflicting serious harm to firefighters. Pine needles and pine cones are some of a fire's favorite fuels. Having defensible space should a fire approach your home is critical and can potentially save both life and property. Ideally, a fire would not have the fuels required to get near your house. Should a fire come any closer to PBH than the CalWood and Lefthand Fires did in October 2020, we will all be grateful that PBH residents took the time to remove the myrtle spurge, pine needles and pine cones from their properties NOW, not as the fire approaches.

The majority of our contributions to the HOA fund community-wide wildfire mitigation, specifically, creation and maintenance of community-wide fuel breaks as well as reduction of surface fuels along the sides of roads. If you haven't yet paid your dues for 2021, please do it today (www.pinebrookhills.org/dues.html). You can use PayPal too!

It is important to note that evacuation orders and instructions will come from emergency officials – not the HOA. Sign up to receive alerts at www.BoCo911Alert.com. The HOA is planning evacuation and mitigation themed socially distanced community events for the entire household, however large or small. Please keep an eye out for emails with more information.

Since May of 2020, Pine Brook has been targeted by relentless mailbox vandalism and theft. The area that was hardest hit was the uppermost portion of the intersections of North Cedar Brook, Valley View and Meadowlook where about 56 mailboxes are clustered together. Stasi York, with the help of Charlie Rollins, organized the replacement of the old free-standing mailboxes for more secure, USPS approved mailbox pods, inclusive of storage lockers. If any neighbors whose mailboxes are clustered together are still being targeted by vandals and thieves, please email me and I will share Stasi's many months of hard work. A BIG shoutout to you, Stasi, and your crew who got it done! Sitting on the periphery watching this effort come together was pretty fantastic and really illustrated why Pine Brook is such a special place to live.

Speaking of coming together, I hope it will be safe to meet in person for the next Community Meeting on April 27th. I will send an update as the date approaches. If you want to contact me, just send an email to president@pinebrookhills.org. Happy spring!

Links to Resources:

Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District (BMFPD): <https://www.bmfpd.org>. Please visit their site and read up on preparedness, evacuation, and mitigation, so you are prepared for emergencies.

BMFPD's Mitigation Crew will give you advice on protecting your property from fire, and offer a cost estimate and time when they can do the work: mitigation@bouldermountainfire.org.

Forest Health - BeetleBusters (FH-BB) will help you identify and deal with invasive weeds or insect problems on your land: <https://pinebrookhills.org/hoa/forest-health>.

Wildfire Partners: <https://wildfirepartners.org>. You see their signs in the front of many properties. They can assess your home and provide fire mitigation guidance.

Consider joining the neighborhood forums and groups to share information. You can find those on: <https://pinebrookhills.org>.

If you are new to Pine Brook Hills or not currently signed up to receive PBH-Alerts (this is an email distribution that is used to communicate true emergencies such as fire and flood, or water main breaks), please email President@pinebrookHills.org and I will make sure you get these potentially lifesaving updates.



FIRESIDE CHAT

By John Benson, Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District Chief

Greetings, everyone. We hope this finds you and your families doing well, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. As for BMFPD, we have been doing very well in keeping our members safe and healthy. We look forward to the day when we can start doing more in-person trainings and meetings. It has been very tough on everyone; still, we have managed to conduct our monthly trainings via Zoom. We know that there is a long way to go with this pandemic, but we are all hopeful that we will see the light at the end of the tunnel in the months ahead. We hope that you are feeling the same.

On a different note, as we move into the spring and summer months, the amount of moisture that we sometimes have become accustomed to has simply not materialized. We have talked with several professionals regarding our current and future weather patterns, and all are on the same page: We are looking at much drier conditions this year. That is evident by the lack of moisture during our winter months. Unfortunately, the fire predictions are saying that this year could bring us the same or even worse fire conditions than last year. Last year was bad enough. Let's hope that we are all wrong and that we have a wet spring and summer. BMFPD continues to monitor the weather and will be ready to respond to any incident that may arise. We will also keep you, the community, informed of new and revised information as we get it.

Now is the perfect time to start reviewing your insurance policies to make sure that you have the proper coverage on your home and its contents.

THE PINE BROOK PRESS WELCOMES A NEW EDITOR: DAVE MASON



Take pictures or videos of each room in the house with all of its contents. After an incident occurs is not the time to try to remember what was in every room of your house.

Start making preparations now, so that when the snow is off the ground you have a mitigation plan in place to help protect your home. Our ERT (Emergency Response Team) and Wildfire Mitigation members will be more than happy to provide you with a free estimate for mitigating your property. Let's all be proactive in our approach to wildfire.

In closing, please do me a huge favor: If you have not already signed up for BOC0911Alert.com, please log in, set up an account, and list all of your primary means of communication, so that in the event of an evacuation or emergency, you will be notified. If you have multiple people living in your home, please sign up individually so that everyone will receive an alert. If you need help with this, please feel free to contact me here at the station, and I will be more than glad to assist. I have done this in the past for our residents, and I will continue to do so. We want everyone signed up, so that no one gets lost in the shuffle. These alerts can help save your life and the lives of your family and friends.

Until next time, please enjoy the springtime season, stay safe and healthy, and above all, **LET'S ALL STAY VIGILANT!**

Dave is a freelance editor of non-fiction books, self-help books, and marketing materials. He is also the author (as David I.A. Mason) of five published children's books. For four of these books he was both author and music composer. His book *Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands!* has been especially popular during the past year. ;)

Dave has been a resident of Pine Brook Hills for nine years, and lives with his wife Brandi, two daughters, Josie (7) and Cora (3), and their bernedoodle pup, Lucky. They enjoy taking hikes, snowboarding and skiing, photography, traveling, performing music, and reading.



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ON THE WATERFRONT

By Signe Hawley, Pine Brook Water Board Member

Congratulations, Andrew!

Andrew Churnside, who has been with us for four years, is now fully licensed to operate our water district! He has passed his Class B Water Treatment Operator Exam and his Class 3 Water Distribution System Operator Exam. This means that all three employees are fully licensed operators who can keep our water flowing!

2021 BUDGET

The 2021 budget was adopted by the Water Board in December, 2020. Water rates are unchanged. The budget, and worksheets showing how the money is planned to be spent, are available on our website: pinebrookwater.com.

NEW AUTOMATION SYSTEM

By mid-April the District will have a new automation system that will allow us to see accurate tank levels, not just approximations. The new system will show current tank levels, allow us to control pumps, and set alarms to alert us when things are not running as expected so the team can address any problem immediately. Additionally, the District will be able to track very accurately all changes in the reservoir level (Two Mile Creek), as well as creek levels in Fourmile Canyon (our watershed) and Fourmile Canyon Creek. This can serve as an early warning system of potential flood situations in all three drainages. What this system will not do, nor allow anyone else to do, is gain entry to water treatment processes like chemical dosing rates. Our system protects the safety of the water delivered to your home from any outside interference!

TANK DECONSTRUCTION

There are three water tanks that are no longer in use and are proposed to be deconstructed. Each tank is in a state of disrepair and presents a hazard to residents and a liability to the District. The first tank is an above-ground steel tank located on the end of Ridge Road, sitting on an easement on the City of Boulder Open Space. When the District operated wells in the area, water was pumped into this tank for chlorination and then pumped up into our system. As the wells are now all plugged, the tank has sat empty, the roof beams are falling, and a crack has developed in the roof. The access ladder has been cut off to discourage trespasses by curious visitors, but it still presents a hazard.

The second tank is an above-ground concrete tank that was originally part of the Fountain Tree Water system. When the District acquired this service area, this tank was kept in order to provide a backup source of water for fire protection. With the addition of a redundant water line (bored through the mountain from Wildwood to Fountain Tree), this backup source of water is unnecessary. The concrete on the tank is beginning to spall and deteriorate.

The final tank is buried at the end of Bristlecone near our current above-ground tank. This tank was part of the original system and was used until the early 1980s, when it was replaced with the 600,000 gallon aboveground tank. The District has concerns about the integrity of this tank and whether it might collapse without warning. The appropriate permits have been obtained to demolish these tanks and work will begin when weather conditions allow.

Thank you for your interest in Pine Brook Water District!

A NEW PINE BROOK ENTERPRISE: PAW PATROL

By Peter Shapiro and Lisa Halperin

The most amazing thing happened the other night. Our security camera captured four mountain lions moving past our mailbox and down the driveway (we were only able to capture a still frame with three of them but got video of all four).

Interestingly, that same night our mailbox was not broken into. The confluence of these two events has led us to envision a new business called "Paw Patrol."

For a small price, Tracker Pete and Lisa the Cat Whisperer will station mountain lions by your mailbox. You can sleep soundly, knowing that your mailbox will be expertly guarded throughout the night. Your mail's security may be further enhanced if you bring a small bowl of milk up to the mailbox before you retire for the night.

Paw Patrol: Mail Box Security



Member of the Paw Patrol returning from work



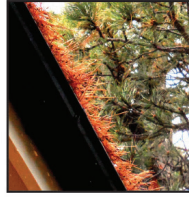
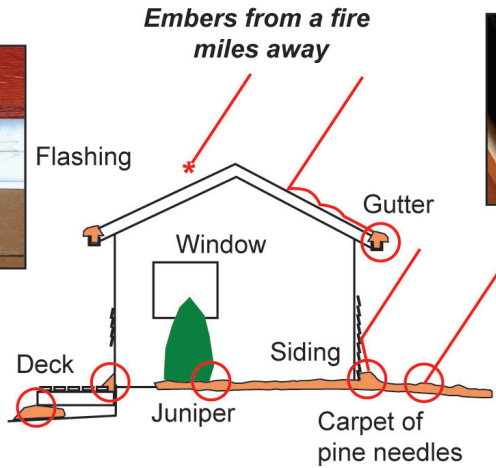
Zoologists call members of species like this mountain lion "charismatic megafauna."

Pine needles can bring fire into your house.

Siding



Deck



Gap at a fireproof apron



A handful of pine needles will ignite 12 inch quarter-round wood in a stove.

Remove pine needles from around your house in the Spring and Fall.

Graphic by Jim Adams, Technical Coordinator, Forest Health - BeetleBusters

NEEDLING ABOUT PINE NEEDLES

By Lindsay Hale, Social Coordinator,
Forest Health - BeetleBusters

There's snow on the ground and more on the way—what better time to start thinking about wildfire mitigation for your home?

We all know to cut our grass short in the summer and get rid of excessive brush, dead wood, and other fuel on our lots—the big stuff. But we really, really need to sweat the small stuff, too. Specifically, pine needles. There is no better kindling than pine needles, and our ponderosas drop them by the billions. That's life in the forest, and we can't change that. But we can keep these little firebombs at bay.

Every spring and every fall, clear the pine needles around the perimeter of your house. Clear them out of your gutters. (The diagram above highlights especially vulnerable spots). Think of pine needles as matches, waiting for a spark – an ember – to light up your siding, or your roof. And remember – after that spring cleaning, keep on top of it. Our frequent, strong winds will deposit

pine needles right up against our houses and in our gutters. Clearing pine needles is light work, but it must be done frequently. It doesn't take much to clean up after those winds – but if we don't do it, it doesn't take much to undo all the good work we've done.

In a wildfire, houses can be set afire by sweeping flames, or by embers dropping out of the sky, often from far away. In either case, if we keep the kindling – the pine needles – away from our homes, we can go a long way toward keeping our homes safe. (Speaking of embers: Do consider installing metal flashing where your deck meets your house. Winds blow embers up against that junction—protect it with metal.)

Boulder County offers an excellent FAQ to help us make our homes more defensible: www.bouldercounty.org/disasters/wildfires/mitigation/frequently-asked-questions.

Well, enough thinking about sweeping flames and embers raining down for one night. I think I'll crack a beer and enjoy watching this snow come down.



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BMFPD AUXILIARY GIVES NEW RESIDENTS A WARM (IF VIRTUAL) WELCOME

By Rebecca Bradburd, Secretary, BMPFD Auxiliary

Can bears open doors? Can charcoal and wood embers continue smoldering for up to seven days? Is it Fire Chief John Benson's goal to see a green, reflective address number next to every driveway in the neighborhood?

With the fire district's subdivisions welcoming around 50 new residents over the past 18 months, Boulder Mountain Fire's (BMFPD) support arm, the Auxiliary, hosted its New Resident Welcome last quarter on Zoom. Following an intense wildfire season, the meeting's speakers and its 23 attendees were eager to talk about wildland fire preparation. In case you didn't know, the answer to all of the questions is a resounding YES!

Mountain living differs from city living in ways that may not be obvious. Newcomers learned about various challenges, including how to handle trash and recycling pickup without disturbing wildlife, and how to be ready for the power outages that happen with regularity. Fortunately, BMFPD's website (bouldermountainfire.org) provides a great resource for mountain living preparedness.

For instance, evacuation routes for Pine Brook Hills, Carriage Hills and Boulder Heights were updated in 2020 and maps are available on the website. All property owners in the area are entitled to a free wildfire mitigation assessment. Schedule a time for a visit, and members of the "Mit Crew" will come to your site to discuss the ways to make it safer and more resistant to wildfires. Ash buckets, fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide alarms, and reflective house number kits can be purchased from the Auxiliary's online store.

While Chief Benson and the department's members are here for the community, it's crucial to call 911 with emergencies—not the fire station. If you see smoke, but you're not sure how imminent the danger is, call 911.

If we can do anything to help you learn more about the neighborhood, including volunteer information, or to settle in, feel free to reach out to BMFPD or the Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Spring Meeting:

The next meeting of the BMFPD Auxiliary, to be held virtually via ZOOM, is scheduled for April 18 at 3:00. To receive the meeting link, please contact Ann Harsh, aharsh@comcast.net. Everyone is welcome!

RESOURCES:

How to watch the welcome session recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share>

[TYzzB72d79U9NwldRqaAbIIc3iaU7777Ln_](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/TYzzB72d79U9NwldRqaAbIIc3iaU7777Ln_)

[ER8Pbehhgdw0L5vqAgDcw9x_PFJP.B5r6Zbj-bNWYNwhp](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ER8Pbehhgdw0L5vqAgDcw9x_PFJP.B5r6Zbj-bNWYNwhp)

Passcode: 4\$0G4jxH

www.bmfpd.org

www.bouldermountainfireauxiliary.org

BURYING BEETLE

In the rush to admire the "charismatic megafauna," such as mountain lions, let us not forget our smaller neighbors, like the Burying Beetle.



"Little bugs have littler bugs
Upon their backs to bite 'em.
And littler bugs have littler bugs
And on ad infinitum."

Verse attributed perhaps incorrectly to Ogden Nash.

Photo is definitely by Gail Loveman.

The American Burying Beetle, or *Nicrophorus Americanus* (we can call him Nic) is a member of a critically endangered species, which is why seeing one in Pine Brook shows what a remarkable place this is. These beetles are exceptional among insects in that both parents feed and tend their young. This is handy, as they may have as many as 30 youngsters in a brood.

Burying Beetles are named appropriately. They feed on carrion. When one of the pair finds a carcass, the mate is summoned and together they prepare and bury the body for later consumption by themselves and their young. Then the couple create a nursery for the eggs, which hatch into larvae. Although the larvae can feed themselves, both parents assist in feeding them, especially when the youngsters "beg" by waving their legs or touching their parents' legs. It's family time!

Can you see the tiny mite (possibly *Poecilochirus*) on the back of the beetle? Burying beetles are almost always found with mites aboard. The mites attack fly eggs and larvae who also feed on carrion, thus contributing to a better food supply for the beetles. It seems to be a nice relationship.



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ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE: FENCES

By Rob Mohr and Natasha Bodorff, ARC Co-Chairs

The subject of fences is one of the ARC’s more controversial topics. We have heard from some PBH residents that fences should not be allowed, that they detract from the feeling of wide-open spaces that many of us love about PBH, and that they interfere with the safe movement of wildlife. One of the duties of the ARC is to find ways to permit lot owners to build what the 2010 Pine Brook Hills Covenants allow, while at the same time being sensitive to neighborhood sentiment and making sure that structures are acceptable to the community.

To be clear, when we say “fence” we are referring to “a barrier, railing, or other upright structure, typically of wood or wire, enclosing an area of ground to mark a boundary, or control access.” A fence, of course, can come in all kinds of designs and materials. As the Covenants state, any structure in PBH should be “in harmony with the natural terrain and character of the neighborhood.” If you are thinking of putting up a fence, on this page are some photos of fences that, in our experience, go well in the neighborhood.

Structures in PBH such as wood fences should be “stained or left in a natural state so as to preserve the natural color,” as the Covenants state. Chain link fences are usually not approved. An exception could be for a small dog run in an area that is not visible to the neighborhood at large.

Of course, every lot is different and the ARC reviews every application for a fence on a case-by-case basis.

If you are thinking of building a fence on your lot, or plan any sort of exterior remodeling, the ARC will be happy to discuss your options with you. Also, it is always good policy to talk with your neighbors first and get their feedback on your plans, in case they have any concerns that you can address with perhaps a simple change in the location or appearance of your fence.

**BEARS AND TRASH...
NOT A GOOD COMBINATION**



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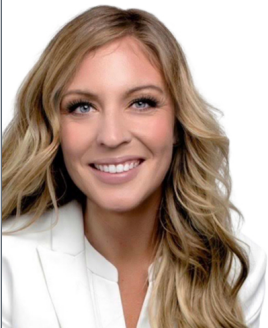
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HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR WILDFIRE CREW?

By Mitch Lamboeuf, Wildfire Crew Supervisor

Hey Everyone,

I'd like to introduce myself, as this is my first time writing for the Pine Brook Press. I am a Crew Supervisor for Boulder Mountain's Wildfire Mitigation Crew. This year marks my sixth season with the organization. I joined as a seasonal crew member in 2015 after graduating from CSU, where I studied Forestry and Fire Science. I transitioned from a seasonal employee to a full-time member of the crew in the winter of 2019.

My interest in wildland fire began at a young age. I grew up in a high fire risk mountain community in Southern California. Every few years, it seemed, there was a large wildfire with the potential to impact our neighborhood. This constant presence of fire drew my attention to how fires were contained and managed. Before I finished high school, an opportunity to train as a fire cadet for a small local agency became available. The fitness, discipline, and training required for this work appealed to me greatly, and from there my journey began to where I am today.

My time with Boulder Mountain Fire has taught me many things: hands-on skills with chainsaws and tools, problem-solving techniques involving mitigation production, and leadership skills in the fire service. More recently, I've been learning about the hiring process for the organization. Last year, we spent a good deal of time hiring eight seasonal crew members. This year we increased the crew size and the new hiring target became thirteen crew members. After combing through hundreds of resumes, making close to a hundred

calls, and holding several Zoom meetings, we have finally completed the roster for our 2021 wildfire crew. Building upon our success last year, I believe that this year we managed to improve our roster even further. In my opinion, we can attribute this to being better interviewers, a goal toward which I continue to work. By elevating our interview experience, we have been able to assess candidates on the content of their character while simultaneously weighing their qualifications. We learned who each person is beyond the resume. One way we accomplished this was by constructing questions that could be answered in several ways. Instead of waiting for a "correct" answer, we focused on how each candidate answered the question. Allowing candidates to express themselves freely and share their own values gave us important insights into both how each individual thought and how he or she would fit into our organization.

We had many successful interviews with great people from around the country. It was difficult to select the best with only so many spots to fill. Ultimately, we are very happy with this season's new crew members, and they are eager to begin. Personally, I am excited for the opportunity to work with them on wildfire mitigation projects in the district and on wildfire assignments throughout the country.

Thanks for your time,
Mitch Lamboeuf



East Troublesome Fire. Photo by Gail Loveman



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THE ART OF PBH: STEVE GLOTZER, “A COLLECTOR OF SOUNDS”

By Caren Paul, PBH Contributing Author and Artist

Many of us remember the revelation of The Beatles’ appearance on Ed Sullivan in 1964, but for Steve Glotzer, that experience destined him to a life of musical adventure. At ten, he began guitar lessons; by twelve he was playing in bands. He’s been in the music world almost continuously throughout his life; touring, recording, composing, teaching – he’s done it all.

But it wasn’t until 1997 that he quit his day job and determined “to make a living with my guitar.” As many musicians know, that’s easier said than done. For Steve, his big break came when, while sending his CDs out to record companies, he just happened to connect with a Canadian music library company. After years on the New York music scene, burned out with touring and scrambling for gigs while raising two kids, he discovered the perfect solution for making music for real money - and a way to do it all online from home.

For the past twenty years, Steve has built a strong reputation in the business by licensing his music, often creating tracks on demand for all sorts of commercial uses such as movies, TV, advertising, and, yes - even elevators. He has thousands of tracks out in the world now, all for paid usage through the music libraries of companies like Sony, Warner and Universal.

Steve and I had a FaceTime call last December. We chatted about his years exploring the many facets of the challenging music industry, while he showed me around his home studio.

In addition to the production equipment and requisite variety of guitars, a bass, mandolin, cello, banjo, clavichord, keyboard, lap steel, squeezebox, mbira (finger piano), dulcimer, drums, and even a toy piano all live in his studio. He tells me he is not really a collector, he just likes having all these sounds on hand. I ponder the difference.

Perhaps he is not a collector of instruments, but rather a collector of sounds. “I think producing all my music with live instruments really sets me apart from a lot of musicians who are focused on synthesized sounds. The clients appreciate the difference, and this has really boosted my career.”

With royalties from his music library business, Steve now enjoys composing, performing and recording for himself without the financial pressure. His music features melodic guitar influenced by country rock, blues, Latin and jazz. His own bands - the Stevie Guitar Blues Band, Soul Sacrifice and LA Trio - have played venues all

over the country, and have opened for performers including Blues Traveler, Dr. John and Roger McGuinn.

Steve and his artist wife Jane moved to PBH in 2018. “We love it here. It is always gorgeous and quiet. There is nothing like playing acoustic guitar along with the bird songs. What can I say...Heaven!”

For more info about Steve and to hear his beautiful music:

www.steveglotzer.com

<https://www.youtube.com/user/steveglotzer>

www.imdb.com/name/nm3080093



MEET SOME OTHER NEIGHBORS!



Photos by Pine Brookers



This handsome visitor demonstrates that not all “red foxes” are red! Photo by Susan Schiff

PBH NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

By Toni Erickson

During the Covid-19 outbreak, two of our outstanding residents, Catherine Von Hatten and Param Singh, started a group called Helping Hands. The purpose was to assist people who had physical or emotional needs that could be met by a caring neighbor. More than 30 volunteers came forward to provide help and support. We thank them heartily for their outstanding assistance.

Sadly, our wonderful Catherine passed away in late December. She gave so much to Pine Brook, and her passing has left a hole in our hearts for the many ways she served and befriended us. We are grateful to her and miss her so very much. Several of us want to honor her by continuing and enlarging the Helping Hands program because of potential needs in our community. Interestingly, we just discovered that “Helping Hands” is the name of a marijuana dispensary on Pearl Street in Boulder! Anticipating the disturbing confusion that might ensue with the shared name, we felt it was prudent to change our organization’s name to PBH Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Pine Brook Hills is truly the best community in which I have ever lived. Individuals and families have fallen in love with this area because of its beauty, serenity, friendships, and so much more. But the most important aspect of our area is its spirit – the attitudes of kinship, generosity, helpfulness, and communal support.

Most of us living here are relatively self-sufficient and want to remain so. However, no one knows what challenges and limitations might ensue in the future, such as childbirth, illness, surgery, aging constraints, or other events. While 911 should be called for serious medical and other emergencies, PBH Neighbors Helping Neighbors could offer services such as meal or grocery delivery, snow removal, safety evaluation, minor fix-it services, referral to community resources, companionship, and more.

Do you have suggestions for other services that you might like to see offered? Can you foresee ever using this kind of help? Or would you be willing to volunteer your skills, time, and talent to this community enterprise? If so, please respond to pbh.neighborshelping@gmail.com or call me, Toni Erickson, 303-447-0671.

This might be the time to say that I need a co-chair! Volunteers are warmly welcomed and very much needed.

Thank you!



Photo by Granddaughter Makenna

FAMILIAR FACES: DELLA KING-SMITH

By Penny Triggs, PBP Contributing Author

Tucked away in the sloping meadowlands of upper Pine Brook, beauty abounds. The Della Industry LLC is in full swing...do not disturb! Either complex steps are getting laid in, on a downward curve, or fruit trees are being pruned, or a secret fairy garden is taking shape. Three year old granddaughter Maddy may be helping to pull carrots or hunting for ripe fruit in the strawberry patch.

Tempted to pause on this inviting bench? Or inclined to wander down the winding path through the wildflower meadow? You will catch yourself smelling fragrance on the light breeze; you will become aware of happy bees buzzing in the flower blossoms; you will want to slow your step, drink in the loveliness around you.

Meet our neighbor Della, matriarch of her local extended family. Married to Peter, the two of them can be seen walking neighborhood loops like the rest of us, out for fresh air and a stretch. Otherwise, ongoing creativity is spilling at home base....

“Oh, I’m just looking for pleasure from the simple things in life,” says Della. “I want us to exist in harmony with nature. Give me dirt, rustic, vintage, cracked, peeling, not glitz or glamour. I’m a gatherer, a scavenger, a dumpster diver...”

We’re talking seeds and feathers here, moss rocks and round rocks. A hiking day pack inevitably returns home loaded with treasures from Mother Nature - not to mention a vehicle loaded down with river rock from a cross country trip to Alaska.

The Fairy Garden is hiding under the eaves on one side of the house and has been a family endeavor. Mosaics from grandma’s broken plates, inscribed with individual artistry, line the walls of the fairy den. Painted rocks and tiny dragons, pirates, and fairies nestle in the layout. “It’s whimsy, fantasy, make believe, magic; it’s seeing the world through the eyes of a child,” Della continued. “I love to wander through the veggie patch, pick a fresh salad for dinner, flowers for the table. I love enjoying a glass of wine on the deck overlooking the wildflower meadow. It makes me happy, pure and simple.”



LIFE IN THESE HILLS: THE CAR

By Penny Triggs

Two mornings ago, with the sun out, we decided to ride our bikes to Louisville. The plan was to leave one car at the bottom of the hill, then drive our other car with the bikes to a stop-off in town, which gave us close access to the creek bike path. We had separate errands after the ride so we wanted to leave the cars at convenient locations.

We hopped in my car, bikes mounted on the back, drove clear out of Pine Brook, then slapped heel-of-hand to forehead, realizing we hadn’t brought the second car down. Back up the hill we went, chiding ourselves. I parked in front of our garage, and Tim went into the house to get his car keys.

Back into my car he climbed and off we went, some car radio program stealing our attention. Close to the bottom of the hill I suddenly pulled off the road and gasped, “We forgot to bring your car down!” Now we really questioned if we should even leave the house today!

Two brain-dead old-timers once again made their way back up the hill to collect the second car.

IN MEMORIAM

Catherine Von Hatten

By Ashley Von Hatten and Linda Henke

Catherine Von Hatten loved and was devoted to her family, friends, community, and art. Those who knew her cherished her gentle wisdom, modesty, and kindness.



During her early childhood, Catherine's family moved several times for her father's service as a Navy doctor. They moved to Arkansas, where she met Michael Von Hatten. Catherine and Michael married in 1975, the year that she graduated with a degree in Education. The two enjoyed a rich life together and raised their beloved daughter, Ashley, in St. Louis. Catherine continued her education,

earning a Master's degree from Washington University and a PhD from St. Louis University.

Catherine loved being part of a school; parents, students and colleagues fell in love with her warm demeanor and her commitment to learning. She served in multiple positions in the School District of Clayton in St. Louis, from teaching kindergarten and early childhood classes to serving as a teacher leader and then a principal and professional development director.

In her final role as Assistant Superintendent of Maplewood Richmond Heights, a district identified as unsuccessful by the state, Catherine worked tirelessly to reverse the long history of failure. Within a few years MRH was recognized nationally for its innovative practices. Teachers and principals at MRH remember Catherine as calm in the middle of chaos, kind, and both skillful and relentless in finding solutions to complex problems.

In retirement, Catherine continued to be an active teacher and participant in her community. She consulted with many school districts and was a consummate coach for a long list of successful teachers and principals. She took up watercolor when she and Michael spent time in, and eventually moved to, the island of St. Thomas, drawing upon the beauty of the tropics for inspiration. Her passion for art continued throughout the remainder of her life.

In 2011, Catherine and Michael moved to Boulder to be closer to Ashley and her husband, John. Catherine's life in Boulder was filled with the joy of family, her dogs, painting, and community. Catherine

was elected President of the BMFPD Auxiliary. In this role, Catherine grew the Boulder Mountain Handmade fundraiser into what it is today. Her organizational skills, leadership, and ability to listen and implement new ideas allowed her to grow the event into the District's major fundraiser. Catherine promoted provisioning, the fire safety sale, and new resident orientations. She always wanted the firefighters and members of the community to feel welcomed and supported. Chief John Benson described Catherine as "larger than life," and said, "There will never be enough words to describe what Catherine meant to each of us."



Catherine's dedication to the community was also evident in her work as editor of the Pine Brook Press. Her passion for sharing information with residents and supporting the team of writers, proofreaders, and photographers, was evident in the beauty and content of the publication.

The loss of Catherine affects many who turned to her. May we find inspiration in remembering the many gifts and talents she brought to this world.



Watercolor painting by Catherine Von Hatten

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BOULDER, COLORADO 80304



Rainbows at Sunrise. Photo by Gail Loveman