



THE PELICAN BRIEF August, 2010

Serving the Community of Pelican Pointe

Board of Directors

Linda Corry, President
Mary Mulholland, Vice President
Liaison -- Social Committee
Glen Olmstead -- Newsletter Editor
Marcia Helfant
Liaison -- Design Review Committee
Frank Parker, Treasurer

Manager

Steve Susman
8300 Fairmount Dr., #J-101
Denver, CO 80247-6528
Phone: (303) 394-0942
Cell phone: (303) 668-2747
stevesusman@comcast.net

What do The Lone Ranger, Tonto, Roy Rogers, and Kemosabe have in common?

Answer: None of them will be attending our annual Pelican Pointe End-of-Summer BBQ -- even though the caterer will be Cowboy Caterers. Cowboy will be serving a delicious barbecue menu: hamburgers, cheeseburgers or chicken fillets on buns, gourmet potato salad, Mexican corn & black bean salad and spinach salad. To quench your thirst there will be raspberry lemonade, ice tea and wine. At 6:00, Cowboy will start making dessert crepes and bites. It is important that the committee get an accurate head count and dinner choice by Thursday, September 3rd. **RSVP early** to Linda Corry at lindacorry@msn.com or 303-388-7661 or Mary Mulholland at marymul43@yahoo.com or 303-973-9018 and **don't forget your meat choice**. This should be a fun afternoon. Don't miss the good food and friendly people. **Be sure to put this event on your calendar:**

Sunday, September 12, from 5:00-7:00, at the Lighthouse Clubhouse.

We don't have caucuses, smoke-filled back rooms, or primaries. But we do convene our Annual Homeowners Meeting. Most Pelican Pointers look forward to an hour (from 6:00 p.m.) of socializing with our neighbors, meeting new ones, and enjoying hors d'oeuvres or a light dinner before our business session at 7:00. The location and details are being negotiated; stay tuned. Meanwhile **be sure to place this on your calendar:**

Tuesday evening, November 9.

Lunch Bunch. Join this group of spirited Pelican Pointers for lunch on Wednesday, August 11, at 11:30 at Syrup in Cherry Creek. All genders and ages welcome. Good conversation guaranteed. Broaden your horizons. (Broaden your waistline, too). Syrup is located at 300 Josephine St. #20 (3rd and Josephine). They offer a great breakfast menu as well as sandwiches, burgers and salads. RSVP to Susan Million at (303) 316-7190.

Pelican Pointe Book Club will meet on Friday, August 13th at 6:30 at Mary Mulholland's, #EE-101, to discuss "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak. As told by "Death", this novel tells the story of a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding during World War II. RSVP to Mary at marymul43@yahoo.com or 303-973-9018.

SUSMAN UNLEASHED
by Steve Susman

The stock market crash of 1929 was a mere blip in history, compared to the crash of a reckless driver through our perimeter fence on July 11. Late that afternoon, a resounding crash brought about three dozen Pelican Pointers to our northwest corner. The weather was pleasant; a few brought lawn-chairs; some sipped ice tea; many met new neighbors; dress was informal. In a sense, it was the social event of the month. The car was traveling south on Fairmount Drive, drove over the center of the roundabout, remarkably passed between one of our curbside trees and a parking sign, broke through our iron fence, and vaporized one of our brick support columns. Going further, the car smacked into the rock wall there, damaging it and some of the landscaping and lawn. The car landed upside-down. Four police cars, a couple fire engines, a tow truck, and a City ambulance rounded out the festivities. I have obtained competitive bids from recommended contractors, with a view to rebuilding our fence, its support pillar, and the rock wall, and restoring our landscaping and lawn. We will be collecting the costs from our insurer, after our policy's "deductible" is deducted. Reimbursement will be sought from any insurance compan(ies) and/or the errant driver. The extent of our recovery and our reimbursement strategies can't yet be discussed. Stay tuned.

Did you ever see a human shot out of a cannon, or wonder how Superman can "leap tall buildings with a single bound"? Painfully, you'll find the answers to this question if you happen to be near your garage door's interior when one of its two springs bursts. Each door operates with two coordinated springs, very powerful and very-tightly wound and compressed. Depending on your usage, about ten years is the expected life of those springs. Your door won't operate with only one of them. If one breaks, both must be replaced. The symptom, usually, is that the door refuses to open or close, or does so with great effort, or suddenly comes crashing down, and/or the mechanism makes a plaintive clang. Be alert to this; your Pelican Pointe Handbook suggests vendors who have proven to be trustworthy and capable. Call me if you want more particulars.

You don't need to bake brownies, but your Board is soliciting volunteers to form a Welcoming Committee. New owners or tenants in Pelican Pointe are always grateful when "welcomed" by a small group of persons, bearing greetings from our Board and residents, perhaps bringing the brownies, our Handbook, and answering some of the usual questions about How We Operate Here. This need not be a burdensome or long-term commitment from volunteers. If your outgoing, friendly personality has been unduly restricted or "cooped up" recently, here's your chance. Please contact Linda Corry, our President, lindacorry@msn.com, or me.

"You light up my life," is either a corny cliché or an accusation against an arsonist. In any event, we urge all residents to have their porch light On after dark -- either until dawn or until later in the evening. The easiest way to arrange this is to have a simple timer installed in place of the switch that controls your front porch light. Many residents have had such an inexpensive timer installed; others opt to turn their light On and Off themselves, manually. In any event, your HOA has been furnishing and installing the bulbs without a charge. However, some residents have taken advantage of this program by keeping their porch light On 24/7. That obviously shortens the bulb life and adds unreasonably to our operating costs. The Board strongly discourages this, and will withdraw that free service from any resident who habitually keeps his/her porch light On during daylight hours. Please cooperate; save on your electric bill; help your HOA save money and Sonny's labor time.

"Good Help is Hard to Find" is a tabbed section in your Pelican Pointe Handbook. The Board maintains this listing of recommended subcontractors and service-providers to assist our residents. Soon these listings will appear on our Web site. However, the list is only useful if our residents contribute to it. So, if you've recently had a gratifying experience of obtaining goods or services from a subcontractor or service-provider, please send me his/her/its name, phone, e-mail address (if you know it), and contact person with whom you dealt. The postings are made anonymously, so that you are not the guarantor of another resident's happy experience with that same provider. Similarly, if you have dealt with a recommended provider, and the experience was unfortunate for you, let me know that, too.

Little kids love Tonka toys, earth-moving trucks, excavators, and construction equipment. When the kids become adults, these toys grow in size (understatement of the day). Our concrete contractors will have finished our 2010 concrete replacement project by the time you read this. At this writing, they are about 2/3 finished; they appear to be doing a very professional job. The Board and I appreciate the cooperation and understanding that virtually all Pelican Pointers have exhibited during this week of turmoil. As I said in the recent letter I sent to all residents and homeowners, concrete replacement is expensive, messy, and never-ending. Our Colorado freeze-and-thaw cycles damage all concrete roads, curbs, and gutters. Your Board will probably be budgeting for this ongoing remediation each year, for both aesthetic and safety reasons. The value of your real estate receives some protection from the ravages of concrete [and asphalt] deterioration. Many HOA's do not or cannot budget for such upkeep; the values of these properties are directly affected.

Van Gogh, Matisse, and Picasso they ain't, but our painting contractors, at this writing, continue to display extraordinary craftsmanship and care as they move through the 2010 phase of our exterior painting project. Your Board opted last year to bypass contractors who proposed merely "to slap a couple coats of paint" on our buildings -- in favor of our chosen painting firm. Their *modus operandi*, as you have observed, is to thoroughly "prep" each surface -- with carpentry, caulking, and tender loving care -- before applying high-quality paint. We believe that this strategy will be "cheaper in the long run."

No, it's not psoriasis; and we don't need a dermatologist. As I write this, we are experiencing many consecutive days of almost-100-degree weather, with little or no precipitation. This is typical weather in Denver in late July. We can expect some brown areas to appear on our lawns, as they suffer from the heat. We water extensively, and within the Water Board's rules, at night. Water rates for commercial users, like Pelican Pointe, have increased substantially this year, straining our budget. The profusion of rabbits traversing and living in our complex compounds the problem, as their waste kills the lawns. And dog and cat waste, solid and liquid -- well, you know what that does . . .

August trash pick-up:

August 4 and 18(trash and recycling); August 11 and 25 (just trash).

A Pelican Pointe homeowner reports that the City will provide you with a bi-weekly notice of "recycling pick-up day" -- by an e-mail to you on the previous day. I suggest you make your request for such notices by calling 311. Or, consult the web site at www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

Pelican Pointe townhomes For Sale:

#AA-103, #V-104, and #R-104.

Weird behavior: Was learning cursive really necessary? How the heck are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet? Part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die. I disagree with Kay Jewelers: I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with Miller Lite than with Kay. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page research paper that I swear I did not make any changes to. I hate leaving my house confident and looking good, and then not seeing anyone of importance the entire day. What a waste.

August Board Meeting: It will be held on Monday evening, August 16, at 7:00 p.m. at The Lighthouse clubhouse. All homeowners and residents are welcome!