



THE PELICAN BRIEF June, 2010

Serving the Community of Pelican Pointe

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Garage sale!

Our Rules prohibit garage sales within Pelican Pointe, unless the Association sanctions or sponsors one. However, some residents reported that they'd like to participate this year. Contact Judy Genrich, jlgenrich@comcast.net, to participate. The garage sale will take place on Saturday, June 26.

T.G.I.F. On Friday, June 18, at our Pelican Pointe picnic area, our Social Committee will be sponsoring this Happy Hour -- from 5:00 -7:00 (weather permitting). Stop on your way home for a glass of wine or beer and slice of pizza. You don't have to bring anything, except maybe a lawn chair. No charge. No RSVP required. Put this on your calendar now!

Painting. Last summer-fall, our painting contractors painted 23 of our 46 buildings, after some carpentry repairs and replacements on the exteriors. They did an excellent job -- thorough, careful, neat. The other half of our complex will receive the same treatment: **Buildings R and Y-TT**. In addition, we will have our guardhouse and mail kiosks cleaned and painted. This process began in late May; it will take several weeks. Also, we intend to paint every front door (the same color it presently has).

We need your full cooperation if you reside in one of these buildings:

- You'll see a colorful Painting Notice posted near your garage door, giving you notice of the approximate dates when your building will be power-washed and painted and your front door will be painted.
- All your windows and doors must remain closed during these processes.
- Your patio gate must remain unlocked during business hours.
- All small and large items must be moved out or away from your patio walls, porch railing, and patio railing.
- In front, your security-storm door must remain unlocked during business hours until your front door has been painted.

If our painters confront a locked patio gate, they cannot and will not paint your patio walls, gutters, downspouts, or hobby-room doors!

Sonny and his crew are not to assist you in moving your patio items; it's not their role. If you can't move your big or heavy items yourself, please arrange for assistance to do that. No resident wants to have a patio wall that has been *only partly* painted because small or large items were "in the way."

Yes, each of us in the designated buildings will suffer some short-time inconvenience -- and, hopefully, no lower-back strain. But that is the inevitable price of maintaining the appearance and value of your property.

Garage frame repairs. Again, attention all residents in **Bldgs. R and Y-TT**: Before the painters power-wash the exterior of your unit, and before they paint it, a different set of subcontractors will be repairing and priming your garage door frame. In many instances, this three-sided frame has borne the brunt of collisions or scrapes from your car. Those damages will be repaired; exposed surfaces of the wood will be primed with oil-base paint. The painters will finish the task of painting that frame. **Beware, though:** After your garage frame has been beautified in that manner, the Association will charge you for the cost of *subsequent* repairs to that same frame. Consider taking a driving-training course, to perfect your ability to drive your car in-and-out of your garage.

Lunch Bunch. Join this group of spirited Pelican Pointers for lunch on Tuesday, June 8, at The Tavern at Lowry, 7401 E. 1st Ave. (just SW of Albertson's) at 11:30. All genders and ages welcome. Good conversation guaranteed. Broaden your horizons. (Broaden your waistline, too. Food's good there!) RSVP to Sue Million at (303) 316-7190.

Pelican Pointe Book Club will meet on Friday, June 11, at the home of Sue Penn, Townhome #FF-104, at 6:30. We'll be discussing *Just Like Us*, by Helen Thorpe. This documentary offers a powerful account of four young Mexican women coming of age in Denver, and the challenges they face in attempting to pursue the American dream. You don't want to miss the lively discussion of this controversial and relevant subject. RSVP to Sue at (303) 399-1022.

SUSMAN UNLEASHED
by Steve Susman

One man's trash barrel must be another man's treasure chest. Occasionally, one of our residents tries to retrieve his/her trash barrel, after trash pick-up, and cannot find it! There can't be many possible explanations: Either the trash-men absconded with it. Or it rolled down Speer Boulevard into the So. Platte River. Or, it was intentionally "taken" by a fellow Pelican Pointer. We like to believe that nobody in our community would intentionally appropriate another person's trash barrel. But [as they may say at Nike] "if the shoe fits, wear it." Please be careful that the barrels you retrieve are yours. The same reasoning is applicable to the retrieval of your purple recycling barrel: Consider making a prominent weather-proof mark on your barrels. Arriving at the Baggage Claim area at

DIA: Does your luggage look like 73 other pieces of luggage on the rotating belt? OK, you get the analogy.

The news we've all been waiting for, with a high degree of anxiety and anticipation: Our new (additional) dog-waste receptacle has arrived! Sonny will soon determine its most efficacious location, whereupon it will be installed in concrete. There, it will proudly serve as a beacon to all dog-owners and their canine wards, offering solace and respite from the burden of carrying that bulging plastic bag over (what seems to be) a great distance. Like a lost soul in the desert, who sees what is, in reality, a mirage -- but in our case, it is salvation.

"The landscaping at my unit doesn't look like I want it to look." Most of our residents are realists, or they understand the realities of residing in what the statutes call "common-interest communities." Here is the reality: At Pelican Pointe, we have *a few thousand* bushes and trees! That number is no exaggeration. About eleven years ago, the developer of Pelican Pointe engaged a landscape contractor as part of the development process. A master plan was prepared, designating the location of every bush and tree, along with directions for our miles of underground sprinkling pipes, soakers, and valves. Over time, of course, there have been and will be many changes to the landscaping -- due to weather, the vagaries of life-and-death in the bush-and-tree world, and other factors. In the spring and late fall, our crew tries to identify which bushes should be pruned; how to prune them; which should be removed because *rigor mortis* is evident; where replacements should be planted; and how our irrigation system can be altered to accommodate these changes. This task is a work-in-process. It is ongoing during most of the year, except during the winter.

To augment these analyses by our landscaping crew, I take my own independent survey each spring, taking note of what I observe in the landscaping and maintenance arenas. Our directors contribute their observations, too. Sonny and his crew appreciate your suggestions and comments. We try to respond to them within an informal scheme of priorities.

The frustration of a resident, of course, occurs when he/she believes that (a) "his" or "her" shrubs aren't being well-maintained; or (b) they've been poorly pruned (by a butcher-school drop-out) or not pruned at all; or (c) "there are too many or too few bushes or trees at my unit." We'd like to be able to employ a full-time psychiatrist, who also majored in landscaping architecture or arbor design or shrub biology. We can't. Our Landscape Committee provides some general recommendations for landscaping matters, and suggests some specific solutions at specific sites. Sonny adds his own two cents' worth of opinion, as do I. Sometimes, the directors chime in. And, fourthly, you residents offer your own opinions. The net results:

a. *The Association can't please all the residents all the time.* That is the Primary Operating Verity in the management of common-ownership communities.

b. We try to please most of the residents most of the time -- taking into account budgetary constraints, and legitimate differences of opinion of how and what should be planted, removed, or maintained "differently."

Our tree program is managed, primarily, by a professional tree firm. They are responsible for spraying and pruning the many trees here, of many types and sizes. Our own HOA, though, assumes responsibility for designating sites for new trees, and selecting and planting them. Bottom line: We encourage your comments, suggestions, and criticisms. We respect your opinions [especially if sent to me by e-mail, with as much specificity as you can muster], and will be attentive to each of them. They may or may not jibe with ours.

Do prisons have pretty flowers by their gates? I don't know, but take a look at the beautiful flowers that have been planted by our knee-padded Landscape Committee volunteers -- at, yes, the north end of our *guardhouse*. (While we usually don't house any prisoners or guards there, we pretend that we do.) These flowers nicely supplement the elaborate flower beds that will grace out main-entrance beds and directional-map bed -- planted and maintained throughout the summer by our professional flower service. What a cheery sight for persons entering or leaving Pelican Pointe!

June trash pick-up:

June 2 - 9 (& recycling) - 16 - 23 (& recycling) - 30.

Pelican Pointe townhomes For Sale:

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

Weird behavior: If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large. Two silk worms had a race; they ended up in a tie. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes. OK, so what's the speed of dark? A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good. If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

June Board Meeting: Combined with our May meeting, it will be held on Monday evening, June 21, at 7:00 p.m. at The Lighthouse clubhouse. All homeowners and residents are welcome!