



THE PELICAN BRIEF March, 2010

Serving the Community of Pelican Pointe

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SUSMAN UNLEASHED

by Steve Susman

You don't have to wear green, and don't have to carry any! It's our St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour. On Friday, March 5, at The Lighthouse clubhouse, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Our Social Committee will be serving different varieties of chili, along with soft drinks, beer, and wine. It's free for our residents and homeowners. Come and hang with your neighbors; tip a brew, warm your palate, and enjoy! Stop in anytime before 6:45 p.m. But you must RSVP by Wednesday, March 3 to Linda Corry (303) 388-7661, or lindacorry@msn.com; or to Mary Mulholland, (303) 973-9018, or marymul43@yahoo.com. Don't miss this one!

Vacancy on our Board of Directors. Please consider lending your efforts to maintaining and improving our community, by joining our Board. All homeowners are eligible. No previous Board experience, as such, is required. Most relevant is a willingness to offer common-sense judgment on issues of budgeting, finance, and overall management policy. There's a modest time-commitment. Rewards don't include high salary, bonuses, vacations, and luxury cruises, but all directors earn great satisfaction from participating in decision-making for the benefit of all of us. Please contact me for details.

Lunch Bunch. Join this group of spirited Pelican Pointers for lunch at Andre's Restaurant, 370 So. Garfield Street, Denver, on Tuesday, March 9, at 11:30. The food is very good (fixed price of \$13.25) and the conversation lively. Hey, decimate your lunch budget one day; bypass the 99-cent double cheeseburger, and treat yourself! All genders and ages welcome. RSVP to Sue Million at (303) 316-7190. By the way, if you can't attend on that date, but want to be reminded of future Lunch Bunch luncheons, contact Mary Mulholland, (303) 973-9018, marymul43@yahoo.com; she'll arrange for your e-mail reminder a few days before each luncheon of this cheery group.

Pelican Pointe Book Club will meet on Friday, March 12, at the home of Nancy Williams, #M-103 at 6:30. The group will discuss *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*, by Thomas Egan. This non-fiction book follows a few families and their communities through the region, going from sod homes to basements with windows sealed with damp sheets -- in their desperate attempts to carry on through blizzards, crop failure, deaths. [Will we pipe in some doleful music during our discussion?]. Please RSVP to Nancy Williams at (303) 333-7498.

Should we build a moat with alligators, and a drawbridge? It is tempting. Recently, our vehicle entrance gate was demolished. The culpable party: He/she won't confess, of course. We cannot determine if the collisions [twice in about three days] were intentional or merely the results of negligent drivers. The result is the same: We are spending in excess of \$2,000 to repair this gate; it must be substantially reconstructed, and its mechanisms repaired. If the collisions were malicious, it confirms that there are sociopaths who walk (and drive) among us. These are the same person(s) who torture little animals, terrorize old women, and abandon a child as they hit the neighborhood bar. On the other hand, we could assume an optimistic outlook, surmising that the misguided driver(s) merely need a remedial driving course (and a sobriety test). Accordingly, your Board will be placing a warning sign on the entrance and exit gates, and taking other measures to discourage such costly behavior.

A snow job. No, I'm not referring to falsehoods which (usually attributable to men) have been employed since the days of Cleopatra to impress the opposite sex. [Hey, guys, don't tell me you haven't tried that]. Our recent spate of sub-freezing temperatures has been relentless. A couple of the more troublesome results: Sonny and his crew do a great job of promptly clearing our driveways and roads; and then our sidewalks. But a little ribbon of snow in front of each garage door turns to ice as soon as your car rolls over it. And it stays frozen. Our new strategy: We'll try to remove most of that ribbon before it is compressed into ice. Then, there's the snow storage problem. We push the snow with plows to the ends of our cul-de-sacs. Eventually, those piles are expected to melt. When they don't, they become an ice-mountain. Recently, we rented special equipment to invade those piles and carry the excess snow to our detention ponds. In the process, our nicely-arranged gravel and some cul-de-sac foliage was dislodged. Restoration will be a spring project.

Is your life stuck in neutral? Hopefully, not. But your garage door may become stuck in snowy-icy weather. If a thin layer of snow slips beneath the bottom edge of your garage door, it will turn to ice when your car rolls over it. The potential problem: When you are about to drive away and press your door transmitter to lower the door, the door may *almost* descend all the way, but may *rebound* after you drive away -- a dangerous situation (burglars) -- because of the collision-avoidance sensors in the mechanism. Of course, our crew cannot help you remove that ribbon of ice, since it is not outside your garage door. Be sure your door is down and stays down before you drive away.

Greenwood Village hired a contractor to shoot coyotes on its urban trails. The Denver Post reports that about 14 of these animals, at great expense to that municipality, have been shot. The purpose was to make their trails safer for dogs, cats, and children who are enjoying a stroll along the Highline Canal amidst the multi-million dollar homes. In our part of the world, we, too, have coyotes. Residents report being "approached" by one or more coyotes on our portions of the Canal; these animals can easily pass through our fence, too. Among other strategies recommended for coping with such a confrontation: Keep your pets (and little kids?) on a leash, even outside our fence. Make noise; scream; rattle a coin-filled box; shake a stick. Say *Shazam*.

Locked out? No, I'm not referring to your expulsion from your townhome by an irate spouse or significant other. Your mailbox lock needs some tender loving care. Over a few years, exposed to our elements, these locks become difficult or impossible to "work". A simple solution or prevention: Don't force your key in or force it to turn. Spray only a few drops of WD-40 lubricant into the keyhole; wipe off any excess. Your key will emerge oily for a few days; wipe it off before soiling your new St. John knit suit [if you can fit into a size 2] or your Armani sport coat. Thereafter, you're "good to go" for another three or more years. Trust me on this one.

"I knew I had paid my Xcel Energy bill, but my electricity was shut off, or I wanted to shut it off." If you must access your circuit-breaker box, you may find that it has been "painted shut." This is an inadvertent result from our painting projects. A word to the wise, based on several experiences here: First, locate that box; learn how to open it (it isn't easy the first time). If it's stuck in closed position, take care of the situation then -- not when it's pitch black in your unit and you can't find your flashlight, or you want to replace or repair an electrical fixture and you know you won't enjoy the voltage coursing through your body.

"Let me in; let me out." Our new locks on our western (Canal) pedestrian gate are presently working as they should. Please note: Like our other pedestrian gate locks, these are mechanical, not electronic. They require you to *press firmly and slowly on each number in the code*. You'll appreciate the new lever-style handles instead of the round knobs. We have published the 6-digit code by e-mail. If you missed that, contact me, preferably by e-mail, and I'll provide it for you.

"Just trim a little off over my ears, Joe." Your Board has contracted to have most of our tall trees professionally trimmed this winter. Some are too close to our buildings; others need shaping. Winter-trimming is the least damaging to trees and bushes. Sonny and his crew have done some removal of organic debris beneath our bushes. However, our tall-tree trimming and bush-trimming have been inhibited by the ever-present snow on much of our grounds.

Traipsing uphill through dense forests isn't necessary to reach our picnic area. Your Board has authorized the purchase of an additional (3rd) picnic table, which will arrive before spring. Remember: You can reserve the picnic area for your private party by contacting me. At such an event, you must provide your own water source; trash

receptacles and removal; general clean-up. Your activities cannot be unreasonably annoying or disturbing to nearby residents. In case you haven't noticed, Pelican Pointe doesn't have its own swimming pool, clubhouse, or tennis courts [for any of which we'd all pay dearly]. Our picnic area is an amenity that is delightful in good weather.

You haven't seen the movie Avatar yet? Nevertheless, you may be contemplating a contract for the installation of high-definition satellite service. The new hi-def satellite dishes are large and obtrusive. *You may not have a dish installed outside your unit without prior approval from the Board.* You must first apply on our form to the Design Review Committee, which will suggest one or more sites outside your unit for the placement of the dish and its supporting arm(s). The Association assures you that your application will be approved 100% of the time, provided you comply with its new guidelines governing the placement procedures for the dish, its support members, and the cables leading from the dish to your interior. Your failure to comply with these guidelines [which will be published soon] can result in fines and an order that you cause the dish, its supports, and its cables to be removed and re-located.

Good help is hard to find. A new addition to our Good Help directory:

House cleaning: Barbara Brown, dba Barb's Cleaning Service, (303) 337-7991, barbbrown10@aol.com.

"Roll out the barrel, and we'll all have a barrel of fun" is the title of an insipid ditty. However, our Rules provide that your trash or trash barrels cannot be placed outside for pickup before 7 p.m. on the night before the scheduled pickup, and must be returned to your garage by 11 p.m. on the day of trash pickup. If those dates or times don't work for you, arrange for a neighbor to assist you. Chronic violators will be fined. Let's keep our community neat. Listed below is information about March pickup schedules.

March trash pickup:

March 3 - 10 - 17 - 24.

Pelican Pointe townhomes for sale:

[based on information furnished to management]:

V-104, C-101, N-101, II-103.

March Board Meeting: Will be held on March 15, Monday evening, at The Lighthouse clubhouse, at 7:00 p.m. All homeowners and residents are welcome!