



THE PELICAN BRIEF FEB. 2011

Serving the Community of Pelican Pointe

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March Madness Month! It's basketball season! Begin your March Madness Month with a **chili dinner** on Friday, March 4, 6:00 to 8:00, at the Lighthouse Clubhouse. Wear the colors of your favorite team. Put that team on your nametag. Invite a neighbor to join you. ***Who do you think will win the tournament this year?*** Put that name and your name on a piece of paper to enter our basketball contest. Then watch the TV for all the action. If your team wins the NCAA 2011 tournament, you'll receive a Starbucks gift certificate. We will have Tournament Brackets available if you want to fill one out. You don't have to be a basketball fan to attend. Just come to enjoy home-cooked chili -- made once again by your Social Committee -- along with a glass of wine, beer, or lemonade. RSVP to Mary Mulholland at (303) 973-9018 or marymul43@yahoo.com.

Book Club. Our Pelican Pointe Book Club will meet on Friday, February 11, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., at the home of Karen Damon, 2518 S. Tucson Circle, Aurora. To be discussed: **Three Cups of Tea**, by Greg Mortenson. This is a non-fiction book about Mortenson's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote and anti-American reaches of Asia in 1993. Join this enthusiastic group of Pelican Pointe women and treat yourself to an enjoyable evening. RSVP to Karen at (303) 338-0204 or karen_damon@yahoo.com.

Lunch Bunch. Why not join this interested and interesting group of Pelican Pointe men and women for lunch at Piatti's Restaurante & Bar, 190 St. Paul Street, on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at 11:30 a.m. Treat yourself to a good meal and sparkling conversation. New faces are cordially encouraged to attend! Requirements: (a) You must breathe; (b) you must park (there are a very few spots in front of the restaurant); and (c) you must be bored with buffalo wings. RSVP to Susan Million, (303) 316-7190.

Save these 2011 dates, too:

- Friday, June 17, 6:00-8:00, for a TGIF with pizza, beer, and wine, at our Pelican Pointe Park.
- Sunday, September 18, 5:00-7:00, for our Annual Picnic at the Lighthouse Clubhouse.
- Monday, December 5 (subject to change), 6:00 p.m., at Augustana Lutheran Church, for our Annual Homeowners Meeting.

SUSMAN UNLEASHED

by Steve Susman

Roof vents, roof pipes, squirrels, bees, and wasps. In two unrelated recent episodes at Pelican Pointe, a homeowner determined that a squirrel had descended through the microwave pipe vent, landing on her built-in microwave oven! That's quite a shock to any unsuspecting resident. Squirrel *aux champignons* is not one of the delicacies offered at Denver's finest restaurants. These intruders had chewed the wiring and fan blades comprising part of the microwave operating system. In one instance, when the oven was carefully removed from its housing above the stove, the squirrel was apparently unharmed and was freed outside. We won't describe the other incident.

More common, however, is the invasion in the summer of wasps and bees. Some buildings and townhomes in our complex seem to attract these scary pests; others don't. In many cases, these flying insects have gained admittance through pipe vents. The roof over each unit has several pipe vents and attic vents. The pipe vents serve as part of the crucial ventilating apparatus for each furnace, water heater, toilet fan; sink, and toilet. The attic vents are not pipes, but provide ventilation for the attics. Some of the pipe vents are capped, by design. Others are simply open tubes, protruding through the rooftop.

All such vents and pipes are part of the original construction of our buildings and townhomes. All presumably conformed to local building codes when constructed. We have no evidence that any of the attic vents, each of which contains a screen, has been breached by animals or such insects. Can the pipe vents, including those with a cap, be "screened" in a fashion that would enable the crucial ventilation to remain unobstructed, but would prevent squirrels, wasps, and bees from entering? With respect to the pipes most abused, in our experience, the answer is a qualified "Yes." However, the cost of materials and labor is not the responsibility of our Association (HOA). Yes, the HOA is generally responsible for maintaining the roofs (which it owns), but is not responsible for the cost of structural modifications to the original construction. Stated differently, the HOA isn't the guarantor of the developer. Your Board and manager are considering a voluntary program for our residents, whereby a skilled handyman would "screen" selected pipe vents for a reasonable price. Note: Without prior express Board approval, homeowners cannot engage anyone to climb onto the roofs, which are the exclusive province of the HOA. Stay tuned for further information.

Have the Yellow Pages gone the way of bridles, landline telephones, and the abacus?

We give permission to the publisher of the Dex White and Yellow Pages (successor to the official White and Yellow Pages of Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Company, later known as US West, later known as Qwest, soon to be known as Century Tel) to deliver their annual White and Yellow Pages volumes at our three mail kiosks. If you haven't yet done so, please take a copy of whatever is there, for your own use. Your former editions can be placed in your purple recycling barrel.

How Charles Atlas realized that he was no longer a 90-lb. weakling, and was now a man of muscle: He must have resided at Pelican Pointe, inserted his mailbox key into its slot on a cold day, tried too emphatically to turn it, and the key broke off in the lock! Over time, these locks, exposed to the elements, essentially "dry out"; their internal moving parts become stiff. Your key is no match for such reluctance. The tried-and-true solution: Spray a tiny amount of WD-40 into the slot. Wait about 10 seconds. Insert your key. Withdraw and wipe off the key (so that the interior of your new outrageously-priced purse from Coach, or from Hermes, or from Cole Haan, will not be permanently soiled). Your key will contain ever-less oil residue thereafter. Your lock will work smoothly in any weather for many more years.

And the Lord exclaimed, "Let there be light," and there was light [King Canute version 14:92]. The electrical wiring serving the lights outside our entrance gates had corroded over time. Much of it was replaced by Sonny recently. This enabled us to acquire a better quality of floodlight, to illuminate the wording, address, and logo on our exterior tile walls. The entrance now looks more inviting at night.

Nature lovers rejoice: we have found Bambi! On a recent, cool Sunday morning, a deer was sighted at one of our patios, casually surveying the premises. When the homeowner in that unit descended from his bedroom to take a closer look, the free spirit had gamboled away. Later that morning, I spotted several deer near Pelican Pointe, on the southern border of the Lowry golf course, on the north side of East Alameda Avenue. Add that to the foxes, raccoons, squirrels, rabbits, and skunks that reside in or near the canal and/or the Windsor Gardens wetlands. Hey, I thought this was an urban environment.

They're coming out of the woodwork. No, I'm not talking about termites, bedbugs, or shy pre-teenagers at a school dance. I am referring to politicians. Denver will have its next city-wide election in early May. To be elected are a new mayor and new councilpersons. Our present councilperson, in our District 5, will not be running for re-election. We are told that several candidates for that position have already emerged. One candidate introduced herself, by invitation, at our January Board Meeting. Our Rules prohibit any yard signs, but do authorize window posters (inside) within 45 days of that election. Your Board is vitally interested that our new councilperson has adequate concern for any legitimate issues we bring to his/her attention. This District encompasses a large portion of east Denver; typically, our councilperson can be torn in different directions by competing District groups simultaneously.

We tried to find and hire Jack, of beanstalk fame, in view of his climbing abilities. However, we were relegated to our contracted tree-trimming service for the winter pruning of our tallest trees. Our own landscaping team cannot reach some of those heights. Winter is the optimum time for such pruning, as the trees are hibernating then [I must have missed that short course on forestry]. Regular trimming is said to reduce the trees' exposure to disease; improves their appearance; and keeps them a reasonable distance from our buildings.

"Walk softly and carry a big stick," as I recall, is a famous quote from President Teddy Roosevelt (advocating his foreign policy). Adapting that admonition to our icy driveways and sidewalks: Sonny and his crew have performed admirably in recent snowstorms, plowing and shoveling through the night, when needed. However, in ultra-cold temperatures, there is no way they can remove all icy areas from our complex. Yes, we use the concrete-damaging "salt," usually magnesium chloride or a similar expensive compound. But those salts don't remove ice; they raise the temperature of the surface of the ice, fostering some melting. The bottom line is that each of us must take great care in walking within our complex in other than pristine, dry conditions. Some driveways face north, and melting there is more problematic than if south-facing, of course. Please: focus on what you are doing; avoid slip-and-falls.

February trash pick-up:

February 2, 9, 16, and 24.

Recycling pick-up:

February 2 and 16.

Pelican Pointe townhomes For Sale: #GG-104, #RR-103, #AA-102, and #KK-102.

Pelican Pointe townhome For Rent: #S-103 (contact Debbie Segal, (303) 394-1224).

Weird behavior:

- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
- Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others, whenever they go.
- I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot.
- I always take life with a grain of salt, plus a slice of lemon, and a shot of tequila.
- Two can live as cheaply as one, for half as long.
- I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart.

February Board Meeting. This meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Lighthouse Clubhouse, on February 21. ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.