



THE PELICAN BRIEF JUL, 2011

Serving the Community of Pelican Pointe

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Save this date! September 18, Sunday, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Our Annual Pelican Pointe Summer Picnic will again be held at the Lighthouse Clubhouse. In prior years, this has been a highlight of our summer social season. Attendance has been robust. The food, wine, soft drinks, dessert -- all have garnered rave reviews from our residents and homeowners. This is another great opportunity to meet and greet your neighbors, corner our manager, hang around the perimeter of the pool (as if you belong to a fancy country club) or just enjoy someone else's cooking for a change. Stay tuned for more details in the ensuing weeks. There will be no charge for our residents and homeowners (two persons per townhome). RSVPs will be required.

Book Club. Our Pelican Pointe Book Club will meet on Friday, July 8, at 6:30 p.m., at the home of Diane Davison, DD-104. To be discussed: **Five Quarters of the Orange**, by Joanne Harris. This novel delivers an unforgettable tale of mothers and daughters, of the past and the present, of resisting and succumbing -- an extraordinary work of fiction lined with darkness and fierce joy.. All who enjoy reading are welcome. RSVP to Diane at (303) 690-0847.

Lunch Bunch. Join this interested and interesting group of Pelican Pointe men and women for lunch at *Locanda del Borgo*, 5575 E. 3rd Avenue (at Holly Street), on Tuesday, July 12, at 11:30 a.m. This restaurant offers a fine Italian-oriented menu. Treat yourself to a good meal and sparkling conversation. New faces are cordially encouraged to attend! RSVP to Susan Million, (303) 316-7190.

Save this 2011 date, too:

-- Monday, December 5, 6:00 p.m., at Augustana Lutheran Church, for our Annual Homeowners Meeting.

Garage Sale? Our Rules prohibit garage sales, unless either sponsored or sanctioned by our Board. In recent years, there haven't been enough requests for the Board to sponsor one. However, each summer, there has been at least one Eager Seller who volunteers to take charge of organizing and conducting a garage sale in Pelican Pointe. This isn't a difficult feat, and the few tasks can be divided among those wishing to participate in the sale. You simply cannot stand looking at that Buddha lamp received as a wedding present 12 years ago! Or, you have accepted the fact that you have no basement, and must be selective about what you retain and can live without. Ask yourself, with respect to each questionable item in your townhome: Am I really excited about retaining this piece of clothing (which I can't fit into any longer), or this artist's rendering of Thomas Jefferson? Please contact our manager promptly if you wish to participate in such a garage sale, and whether you'd be willing to shoulder some of the tasks involved.

SUSMAN UNLEASHED

by Steve Susman

We pigged out on pizza, watermelon slices, soft drinks, and wine! Our picnic on Friday, June 17, a TGIF at Pointe Park, was a resounding success, by any measure: The weather cooperated after a threatening morning rainfall. The pizza was tasty and plentiful. The watermelon was sweet; and the boxed wine -- although not from vineyards in the South of France -- was delicious. Kudos, once again to our Social Committee, and especially to our tireless chairperson Mary Mulholland, for arranging the many details of this happy event.

Was it Frank Sinatra who crooned "Strangers in the night . . ."? Many of you are too young, perhaps, to remember him (and his Rat Pack cohorts). Nonetheless, I've received reports recently of persons seen, night and day, in our community who either "acted weird," or seemed to have no particular destination in our complex, or seemed like "they don't belong here." As I recently wrote, being alert for such persons and their apparent behavior has nothing to do with odious "profiling." Rather, it's a matter of wise caution and alertness.

Sometimes, such persons are driving a nondescript truck (with no signage thereon); or are "wandering around." An example: A couple of scruffy-looking guys were observed as they went door-to-door in Pelican Pointe, ostensibly soliciting carpet-cleaning jobs. There are two possible explanations: Either the men were legitimate, albeit unkempt; or they were "casing" the units to see who might be home in a given unit and at that time of day. Yes, we have signs at our entrance prohibiting trespassing and soliciting. The efficacy of such signage depends, in great part, on (a) the entering person's ability to read multi-syllabic words, and (b) his/her "giving a darn."

There is no practical way to restrict such persons from entering here. Short of an electrified fence with broken glass atop a high inner-wall, and a 24/7 formidable-looking guard at our entrance, it's easier to enter here at virtually any time of day or night than to wade across the Rio Grande into Arizona. "Piggybacking" is common: It's easy for a vehicle to follow yours as the entrance gate opens. I recommend that each of us take an extra half-minute or so, and "tail" any such piggybacker. I generally pull over to the side of our entrance road after entering and allow the piggybacker to pass me. Then, I follow at a discreet distance, much like our paid intelligence sources who provided reconnaissance over the comings-and-goings of the messenger at Bin Laden's Abbotabad compound. It's relatively easy to determine if that driver has a legitimate destination here. If you are reasonably concerned about this determination, consider calling 911 to report the incident. Getting a license number would be helpful, too.

Your open garage door is an invitation to theft. Recently, a homeowner was (very briefly) in front of his unit; his garage door was open. One or more thieves stole some important items and disappeared. All in an instant! Not only does the open garage door violate our Covenants and Rules, but it's an act of potentially-costly carelessness. There's some difference of opinion about whether your "little" garage door (to your laundry area) should be kept locked when you are away. Once a burglar is inside your garage, and if he/she closes that overhead door, it'd be easier to enter the unit than to enter the Pearly Gates if you are Mother Teresa.

"What's up, Doc?" asked Bugs Bunny. Well, that cute bunny is a scourge, a menace, a costly trespasser in Pelican Pointe. We have been deluged with a torrent of rabbits this season. They apparently nest and hide in our low-lying bushes, in our rock walls, or perhaps invade from the Canal or the wetlands on the east. They eat our flowers. They destroy our lawns. They avoid attack from humans. Trapping and releasing them is counter-productive. Our Landscape Committee is experimenting with a spray which allegedly repels rabbits, is harmless to flowers, and survives some rainfalls and our sprinkler system. Let's hope it works. Replacing some of our flowers will be costly; and we cannot justify doing so unless and until we can alleviate this problem of providing salad for the rabbits.

"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," goes that ancient tidbit about risk-aversion. Some of our smaller bushes are about to receive more attention from Sonny and his crew. Some of these feature stunted growth, pitiful foliage (if any), and/or loneliness. Many, if not most, of them have been specifically identified. This list is a work-in-progress by our team. Additional bushes will join that list, from time to time, of course. We also observe that many areas in our complex, supposed to be covered with small gray rocks, are showing their underlying plastic vapor barrier (reminiscent of the classic 1955 photo of Marilyn Monroe over a street grate, featuring an updraft and part of her undergarments). We all wonder where those rocks went. During each winter, many of them appear to evanesce like the trail of a cigarette-smoker in a doorway during a work-break. We are gradually re-rocking those areas. The overall goal is to attend to the myriad sites within our community that need attention from our crew, and treat as many of those areas as possible during this beautiful season.

"A chicken in every pot," is the classic quote from speeches of old-time politicians. Well, that promise has come home to roost, so to speak. The Denver City Council, in one of their occasional moments of irrationality, recently passed a new ordinance which greatly simplifies the permit-process for residents to harbor, feed, and nurture as many as eight chickens and/or a goat. Fortunately, we don't have backyards at Pelican Pointe. Otherwise, let's see -- 190 townhomes with eight chickens each = 1,520 chickens and 190 goats. For those who think that chickens are nice pets that lovingly lay eggs and substitute for an alarm clock -- know this: chickens are smelly; much of what they eat is later deposited onto the ground; the resulting odor would cause nausea even in Upton Sinclair, the author of his famous 1906 muckraking book about packinghouse conditions in America, *The Jungle*. Would the grazing goats reduce our lawn-mowing bills? Who said that Denver has outgrown its image as just a big hick-town?

July trash pick-up:

July 7, 13, 20, and 27.

Recycling pick-up:

July 7 and 20.

Large Item Pick-up:

July 7.

Pelican Pointe townhomes For Sale: #LL-104, #RR-103, #X-101, and #II-103.

Good Help is Hard to Find: Some new recommendations:

Plumbing: Daniel Sandoval, dba Avalanche Plumbing, (720) 345-2934.

Window and door screen repairs: Carlos, (303) 364-1434.

Interior painter: Kevin Noel, (303) 378-9448.

Tile installation: Jeff Flythe, (303) 808-5463.

Weird behavior:

- I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

July Board Meeting. This Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Lighthouse Clubhouse, on July 18. ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.