



# THE PELICAN BRIEF      MAY 2012

*Serving the Community of Pelican Pointe*

Board of Directors

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Would you like to be the Pelican Pointe manager? As is commonly known, our present Manager, Steve Susman, will be retiring or semi-retiring at the end of 2012, after 6 ½ years of service to our Association. The Board is now accepting indications of interest in this paid, part-time position. *No prior management experience is required.* For information, contact Steve at his e-mail address or phones, above.

TGIF Happy Hour Pizza Picnic. Save this date and time: Friday, June 8, 2012, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. What could be better than concluding your week with a TGIF at our Pelican Pointe picnic area (lovingly called *Pelican Pointe Park*)? This annual event is always loads of fun and fellowship. It's also free to residents and absentee homeowners. These get-togethers provide a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, corner our manager, or just enjoy someone else's cooking for a change. This popular event attracts many, so bring along a lawn chair if you want to sit down. Please RSVP to June Hanley at (303) 955-0904 or hanleyjune@yahoo.com.

Book Club. Our Pelican Pointe Book Club will meet on Friday, May 18 (temporary date change), at 6:30 p.m., at the home of Marcia Helfant, N-104. To be discussed: *Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks. In 1660, a Puritan girl and the son of a native Wampanoag chieftain forge a secret friendship on the wild island of Martha's Vineyard. All who enjoy reading are welcome. RSVP to Marcia at (303) 722-0053.

Lunch Bunch. Join this interesting group of Pelican Pointe men and women for lunch at the Egg Shell in Cherry Creek, 235 Fillmore Street. The date and time: Wednesday, May 9, 2012, at 11:30 a.m. Treat yourself to a good meal and sparkling conversation. Please RSVP to Susan Million at (303) 316-7190 by Tuesday morning, May 8.

2012 Social Events at Pelican Pointe: Our Social Committee will be sponsoring two additional events this year. Keep track of them, and plan to attend:  
-- Annual picnic at The Lighthouse on Sunday, September 9.  
-- Annual Homeowners Meeting on Thursday, November 15.  
You'll receive more details as these events approach.

Garage sale? Our Rules prohibit garage sales, unless sponsored or sanctioned by the Board. If you are interested in participating, contact our manager promptly. If enough persons would participate, the Board will request one of them to coordinate the details. It's not complicated -- selecting a date; determining advertising options; preparing a site map (to distribute to motorists entering our complex). Does it really make sense to keep your leather-bound version of *War and Peace*? Or that throw-pillow embroidered with the likeness of Winston Churchill? Or that wedding-gift ice-box (manufactured before refrigerators)?

Major asphalt seal-coating project. Each of you is about to receive another letter about our massive asphalt project. Recently, our contractor rebuilt our entering roadway and applied an infra-red heating substance to patch many of our asphalt cracks. Now comes the final step in this project: On or about May 8, the entire surface of our asphalt roadway will be seal-coated. This involves spreading a tar-like liquid over the asphalt, in order to seal it against the ravages of Colorado weather. This must be done periodically. **This job is extremely messy.** It will take about two or three days to apply the seal-coating, during which **it will remain wet and sticky.** Barriers, traffic cones, and restrictive tape will restrict where you (and your tenants, guests, and other invited persons) can drive and walk in our complex. Further, **you will be unable to enter or exit your garage.** The letter will give you detailed instructions about where you may park your vehicles during this period. Approximately half our community will be off-limits for a couple days; the other half, thereafter. This will require you to park only in the allowed areas in Pelican Pointe. You may have to walk a modest distance to access your car or townhome. Trash and recycling trucks will be prohibited from entering that week. The contractor will be working diligently with your Manager to minimize your inconvenience. However, gigantic messes -- onto our pristine concrete, your tires, your garage floor, and perhaps your carpets (!) -- can result from trespassing across the marked areas by vehicle, on foot, by trash can, or by pet. **Trespassers will be fined \$200 for the first offense (!)** with escalating amounts for subsequent violations. This project is extremely expensive; let's not damage it. We're all in the same boat together.

A fire in your dryer vent. A recent article in this newsletter explained in detail the fire hazard presented by your dryer vent. Yes, most of us "brush out" the lint from our dryer screen after each usage. That may not be enough, because that filter simply doesn't catch all the lint generated in your dryer. That extra lint eventually can collect in the vent pipe that exits from the rear of your dryer, and eventually terminates in a small vent opening outside your townhome. Our insurance underwriter and fire avoidance experts all recommend that you have that vent system cleaned out. Generally, it can be cleaned pretty infrequently, depending on your usage. But at some point, you've inadvertently allowed a fire hazard to be created. Your Board has arranged with Steve Moss, our preferred handyman, to perform a cleaning-job on your dryer vent system. He has the knowledge and tools (and some muscles) to handle this for you. Already, two dozen Pelican Pointers have requested this service, only \$25. If you wish to contract for this service, contact our Manager, preferably by email, providing (say) three alternative times during weekdays when you could be home for this procedure.

## SUSMAN UNLEASHED

by Steve Susman

*Don't bug me!* In Alfred Hitchcock's classic movie, "The Birds," the actors are attacked and overwhelmed by tight formations of aggressive birds. Our modern version is called midges. These flying insects have literally covered many of our townhomes, *en masse*. They aren't mosquitos and don't bite humans. They are attracted to any light, including bright sunshine. Nearly all attempts at control have yielded poor results because of their habits. Killing off the adults simply results in new adults replacing them. (Sounds like the conscription programs of the North Korean army.) They tend to congregate on the downward (lee) side of breezes. Aerial spraying or local spraying does little good. Sonny and his crew tried "hosing 'em down," to little avail. Aerosol insect sprays have been helpful, but the sprays tend to evaporate -- and these little pests return with a vengeance. Some articles say this invasion is seasonal, increasing with warmer weather; others say that chillier weather is the culprit. Go figure.

*Planters' vacuum-packed whole cashews* are a great treat. But our planters will consist of four flower-bed boxes, situated on each side of our directional sign. Our diligent Landscape Committee, with Sonny Fischer's assistance, designed these tiered planters, to be faced with handsome tiles in an interesting interlocking design. The purpose of these planters is (a) to raise the flower bed(s) there above the ground level, where they are vulnerable to the ravages of voles and rabbits; and (b) to create a visually-interesting scene to greet visitors to our community. The former ground-level flower bed there was dated and tired-looking. Sonny's construction of these planters has included considerable concrete, wood framing, and liner, and will entail a measure of artistry in fitting and applying the tiles to the exteriors.

*A dreary entrance is depressing.* In late May-early June, our flower beds beneath our outside tile walls will be planted, bringing a splash of color to our entrance. Yes, we've done this annually. However, last year our flowers were ravaged by rabbits. And voles burrowed beneath them and ate the roots. This year, we will attempt to reduce those plagues by the engagement of exterminators and by selecting flowers that supposedly are less attractive to the bunnies. We have rejected the suggestion that we encourage more coyotes or ravenous dogs to roam our premises; they could chomp down on some of the bunnies but might leave unpleasant residue from the slaughter.

*"Aren't these bunnies and squirrels cute?"* No! No! No! Do not feed them, curry favor with them, or teach your grandchildren "how darling these little animals are." Rabbits and squirrels are predators -- gnawing through our roofs, eaves, siding; nesting in our attics; eating our flowers. Already in 2012 we have spent hundreds of dollars -- your money -- evicting them, and repairing the extensive damages in their wake. We've observed some naïve neighbors in our neighboring community, on the Canal, feeding these pests. This is foolish, counter-productive, and expensive. These senior citizens should take a walk in heavy traffic or otherwise get a life. We cannot control the bunnies or squirrels, or reduce their numbers. They reside in our rock walls, beneath our bushes, or near the Canal. They multiply. They refuse to contribute to Planned Parenthood.

“Hey, Buddy, can I trouble you for a light?” is an over-used line from many movies. However, we recently replaced the much-deteriorated floodlights at our flagpole island with new metal halide lamps. These illuminate most of the tall poles’ heights and the colorful flags at the top. Identical new fixtures were installed at each of our two tile walls; but the contractors installed ones too tall (they look like storks or cranes). When reinstalled at proper height, they will brighten our attractive tile walls, lettering, and logo -- presenting an inviting scene for our guests after dark.

You want a ride in Noah’s ark? Here is how: Simply go away for two or more days, in winter or summer, and (under Murphy’s Law, which states that “if something can go wrong, it will.”) your townhome may well be totally flooded upon your return. Farfetched? Hardly. We have experienced two episodes here -- one in April -- in which so much water escaped into the units that each had to be completely reconstructed. Talk about devastation! In the recent instance, an upstairs sink faucet was left running -- for a very long time. The amount of overflowing water was so great as to frighten Noah himself. The crawl space and first floor made Lake Tahoe seem shallow. (In the earlier tragedy, an incoming water pipe burst in a second-story wall.) The solution: Simply turn off your master incoming water valve when you leave; open it again when you return. Takes about 12 seconds for each maneuver. Don’t wait until your next sojourn to test the efficacy of your valve, because many of our valves in Pelican Pointe have permanently “frozen” from non-use over 13 years. You should promptly replace that obsolete valve with the modern version (an “in-line” valve). This requires a call to your plumber. Contact me for more details.

May trash pick-up: May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 31.

Recycling pick-up: May 9 and 23.

Denver Large Item Pickup: May 16.

Pelican Pointe townhomes For Sale: #CC-104, #V-104, and #N-102.

Weird behavior:

- My girlfriend thinks that I’m a stalker. Well, she’s not exactly my girlfriend yet . . .
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- When everything’s coming your way, you’re in the wrong lane.
- Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won’t have a leg to stand on.
- Bath theorem: When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.

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