



The Pelican Brief

Serving the Community of Pelican Pointe

June 2016

<u>Board of Directors</u>		<u>Management</u>
Marcia Helfant	President	Allen Associates, Inc.
Elly Valas	V.P. & Sec'y.	Shawna Allen and Rowan Allen
Steve Susman	Treasurer	6140 So. Gun Club Road, Unit K6 #296
Caryl Shipley	At Large	Aurora, CO 80016 (303) 779-0789
Frank Parker	At Large	Shawna@allenassociatesinc.com

June trash pickup: 2, 8, 15, 22, 29. **Recycling pickup:** 2, 15, 29. **Extra-large pickup:** 15.

Champagne brunch. On **Sunday, June 5**, will be the highlight of the summer social season. The deadline for **RSVPs** is June 2. Depending upon the date you receive this newsletter, you may still be able to RSVP, provided that you contact Linda Corry, lindacorry@msn.com, or (303) 388-7661, **immediately**. From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., we will be serving to responders a delicious brunch (free for two persons per townhome). Champagne will accompany quiche (including a vegetarian version), and fruit salad, and scones. Missing this event would be tantamount to missing next February's Inaugural Ball.

Conversational Spanish. *What a wonderful opportunity:* Francisco Rios, our own retired professor of Spanish, will hold one-hour sessions at his townhome, teaching the basic elements of conversational Spanish to a *maximum of eight residents*. These *free* sessions, beginning June 8, will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on eight consecutive Wednesday evenings. Little or no previous study of Spanish is required. A desire to learn, to participate, and punctual attendance are the only requirements. Send name and e-mail address to franciscoarios@aol.com.

Book Club. The June reading for the Pelican Pointe Book Club is "The Marriage of Opposites", by Alice Hoffman. Based on the life of Rachel Pomie Pizzaro and her famous son, impressionist Camille Pissaro, (who changed the spelling of his name) and set on the tropical Island of St. Thomas in the 1800's, the book paints lavish verbal pictures of the tropical sunshine, crimson sunsets, colorful flowers and flying creatures. But within this setting is a fascinating story of a small Jewish community, exiled from Europe and clinging to life in a difficult environment. It is a fascinating story of a place, a community and a family over three generations. The story is so beautifully written that the reader is propelled through a dramatic

story of family difficulties tied to the physicality of a beautiful land. The book club meets on the second Tuesday of the month, **June 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Marcia Helfant, #N104.** All are welcome.

Lunch Bunch. Treat yourself to some stimulating conversation, pretty good food, reasonable prices, a diversion – and a break from eating left-overs for lunch. This vital group of Pelican Pointers will next convene at a restaurant in Lowry, **North County**, on Wednesday, June 15, at 11:30 a.m. All genders (how many are there these days?) are welcome. Location: Immediately north of the 24-Hour Fitness is a building called Hangar 2, which houses about five restaurants. North County is found on the north end of this building. We adjourn at about 1:00. RSVP to Susan Million, (303) 316-7190.

SUSMAN UNLEASHED

by Steve Susman

[Opinions expressed herein are solely mine, and do not necessarily represent those of other directors or our Board.]

“Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on my Head,” won the Academy Award in 1969 for best original song (by Burt Bacharach and Mack David). At Pelican Pointe, we strive to be secure from unwanted raindrops coming from our new rain gutters. These were recently installed professionally, along with selected new downspouts and extensions. However, it’s possible that a gutter anywhere above your unit may leak from its “elbow” connecting it to the downspout. This cannot be perceived easily with the naked eye, but will be manifest in a rainfall. If you observe any such leaks at or near your townhome, please report them to our manager, Rowan Allen. He or I will contact the gutter contractor, which will attend to the needed alteration/repair. For all other raindrops on your head, try an umbrella.

Women may soon be drafted, or at least required to register under the Selective Service Act. At Pelican Pointe, since its inception, you could authorize your bank account to be drafted by our managers, to pay your monthly HOA dues automatically. Our managers have been in the throes of re-implementing this system, in cooperation with their software service. However, as of this writing, the system isn’t yet ready to be utilized by our homeowners. Essentially, it’s in a beta-testing mode. Our managers are shooting for a June implementation date. Unless and until you are so advised, please send your check to our management company for your June dues so that it arrives before June 15, the expiration of the monthly grace period.

Falsely shouting “fire” in a crowded theater is not protected by our Constitution as free speech. So said Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes in a famous 1919 decision of our Supreme Court. However, if you set your barbecue too close to a wall of your patio, you may be yelling “fire” as loudly as you can. Common sense dictates that a suitable distance should separate your grill from the composition board that comprises our patio walls, which can ignite like a Chinese firecracker. You may be proud of your shiny new \$1,900 Weber grille, with its eight burners, hot-trays, and auto-igniters. And your guests may have already lined up for their (over-cooked)

burgers. But you will have egg, as well as soot, on your face – as your guests run to the nearest McDonald’s to satisfy their hunger and you sadly await the Denver Fire Department and your neighbors’ wrath.

“Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” Failing to pick-up your dog’s solid waste deserves nothing less than a deposit of dog excrement on your own front porch. It’s hard to believe in this day and age of assumed sophistication and civility, but some dog owners in Pelican Pointe (a) are either in la-la land when walking their mastiff, or (b) are oblivious to Fideaux’ pausing to squat in the classic position, or (c) didn’t have parents or mentors in their childhood who, even indirectly, instilled in them some sense of decency. In the slums of India and other third-world countries, the very poor suffer with their open dirt roads and alleys, which carry animal and human waste down a never-ending stream between and among the hovels of the wretched. How does that scene differ, except in degree, from what too many residents here experience as they innocently walk along the same sidewalks as our neglected canine friends?

‘Tis the season to dance around the maypole or to gambol through our lush grasses in our bare feet . . . Uh, not so fast. Firstly, much of our lawn needs substantial reinvigoration, to say the least. Some of our lawn’s needy condition stems from a harsh winter, with snow and ice being unkind to much of these areas. But, besides seasonal rehabilitation, our lawns need a heavy dose of springtime care – weeding, aeration, raking, perhaps some re-seeding, and repair of severely damaged areas. Our Board has contracted for such services with CoCal Landscape Services, Inc., a firm different from our previous one, beginning this past April. Our irrigation system is complex; springtime repairs to our sprinklers are being made. Let’s hope that CoCal’s efforts will be “just what the doctor ordered” for our lawns. Then there are bushes to be pruned. And all this work is separate from tree care, which includes insect control, pruning, and anti-disease treatments (a different contractor). Secondly, we don’t have a maypole in Pelican Pointe, and, anyway, I’m not into European folk dances.

Lorenzo di Bartolo [1378-1455] created masterpiece bronze doors, called by Michelangelo “Gates of Paradise.” Unfortunately at Pelican Pointe, our patio gates are neither bronze nor masterpieces. Perhaps they lead to paradise, but from passers-by, most of them look worn, shoddy, in need of repair. Most of them are, indeed, a most unattractive part of our driveways. These wooden gates are all about 17 years old, and have weathered many seasons. Some years ago, our then-manager arranged for a skilled handyman to rehabilitate those patio gates for participating homeowners. A group rate was arranged, depending on the contractor’s volume. The scheduling of the work was more complex than an Amazon warehouse. However, if several homeowners would be interested in having a skilled handyman give renewed life to their patio gate, send an e-mail to our manager, Rowan Allen, rowan@allenassociatesinc.com. If there is a groundswell of responses, we would investigate the availability of such a person and his price. Rehabbing would include replacing defective latches and/or hinges, as well as any needed carpentry to re-align the door; and applying some preservative on the wood. Each participant would have to make his/her own arrangements with the selected handyman.

Planter's peanuts are good. Plantar's warts need remedial treatment. The large planter greeting persons entering our community needs more than remedial treatment. It must be reconstructed. Recently, it was discovered that its walls are crumbling and its infrastructure cannot be preserved. Our Landscape Committee does a remarkable job each spring in planting, or causing to be planted, beautiful flowers in this planter. These flowers complement the flower displays at our entrance, and can be an attractive focal point, in season. Your Board is entertaining proposals for the planter's reconstruction. One idea is to coordinate this project with the reconstruction of our entrance walls. This could enable construction efficiencies and costs to be less than if the projects were pursued separately. Proper construction of this planter is more complex than meets the eye. It involves a concrete footing and blocks that can form the insulated planting areas. The structure must tolerate constant watering of the flowers.

Beware of the nails! Are you old enough to remember white-sidewall tires? The sidewalls got dirty quickly, but each tire, in those days, didn't cost \$150 or more – as tires typically cost today (even adjusted for inflation). Some of our **driveways still contain many nails**, probably from the recent re-roofing project, and probably washed onto the driveways from the rain gutters above. Tires of several residents have been punctured by these nails recently. Advice: Simply take a broom on a nice day, and sweep the driveway areas behind and near your garage. Toss nails and any other unwelcome objects into trash. Don't complain. Keep your almost new Pirellis or Michelins in good condition, even though their sidewalls are black.

Weird behavior:

- How to prepare Tofu: (1) Throw it in the trash. (2) Grill some meat.
- I don't mean to brag . . . but I finished my 14-day diet in 3 hours and 20 minutes.
- A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.
- I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented . . . I forgot where I was going with this.