



# The Pelican Brief

September 2016

Serving the Community of Pelican Pointe

## Board of Directors

Marcia Helfant	President
Elly Valas	V.P. & Sec'y.
Steve Susman	Treasurer
Caryl Shipley	At Large
Frank Parker	At Large

## Management

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**Sept. trash pickup:** 8, 14, 21, 28. **Recycling pickup:** 8, 21. **Extra-large pickup:** Sept. 8.

A black Lincoln Town Car will deliver you to our Board meetings. Well, not exactly. I merely wanted to grab your attention. At our Annual Meeting of Homeowners, on November 17, we will elect a new director to fill the then-vacancy on our Board. Our Board consists of five directors, elected in staggered terms of three years each. There are no formal requirements, except that the candidate be a homeowner here and be current in his/her financial obligations to our Association. Any person who is a candidate for the Board must submit (to our manager or to a director) a simple one-sentence affirmation of that intent at least ten days before November 17. In early October, each homeowner will receive a packet of materials about that Meeting. A Board candidate *may* submit a one-page “bio,” about his/her background, qualifications, or any other relevant matter before that packet is mailed – in which case the packet will contain that “bio.” If you have any questions about what the position entails, please give me a call (Steve Susman), during normal business hours, at (303) 394-0942; or Marcia Helfant, our president, at (303) 722-0053.

Book Club. This friendly, stimulating group will next convene on Thursday, September 15, at the home of Marcia Helfant, #N-104, at 6:30 p.m. The book being read is “The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid,” by Bill Bryson. He was born in the 1950’s in the middle of the country, Iowa, in the middle of the largest generation in American history, the baby boomers. He writes about his childhood and community at that time. If you’ve read Bryson’s other books, you can guess that he mines those years for laugh-out-loud funny stories. In fact, the stories and the laughs hold true for those born in an earlier decade as well.

Lunch Bunch. This vibrant group of mid-day eaters will next convene at *Blossoms Restaurant*, in Windsor Gardens, 597 So. Clinton St., only a minute or so east of Pelican Pointe. Park at the large, two-story administration building; the entrance is at the neck of this L-shaped structure. Let's gather at Blossoms at *11:30 a.m. on Wed., Sept. 21*. This is a democratic group: No membership; no dues; no obligations. Several residents and homeowners meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at different nearby restaurants. We select venues with reasonable prices, good parking, and which have been recommended, or to which we'll be pioneers. Conversation is lively. Or, you can just "dummy up," drop your eyes, and eat your porridge. Topics are free-flowing, and are "up for grabs." We adjourn about 1:00. All ages and genders (however many there are these days) are welcome. RSVP to Sheila Powell, (303) 945-3481 or (303) 280-6943, so she can make reservations.

Finger-lickin' good! Put this on your calendar now! Our Annual Fall Barbecue will again be held at *The Lighthouse clubhouse on September 25, from 5:00 –7:00 p.m.* This is our biggie social event of the fall, and is always well-attended. Succulent BBQ awaits every Pelican Pointe resident and homeowner. It's free for two persons per townhome. Submitting your RSVP is mandatory: Please email to Caryl Shipley (with "BBQ" in the subject line): [pphoacaryl@gmail.com](mailto:pphoacaryl@gmail.com), by September 21. List your name, unit number, and the number of persons you will bring, including yourself. You can floss at home later that evening.

Don't miss this! Tattoo this on your arm. Insert it into your smartphone. Write it on your Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Model wall calendar: Our Annual Meeting of Homeowners will take place on Thursday, November 17, 2016, at Blossoms restaurant, in the Windsor Gardens administration building. As usual, our format will be a social hour and buffet dinner from 6:00 to 7:00, followed by our business meeting at 7:00. This is only 2 ½ months away. Dinner will be free for all homeowners and tenants, up to two persons per townhome. RSVPs will be mandatory for those joining us for the dinner. Stay tuned for instructions. Do you care about "what's happenin' here"? If so, please plan to attend.

## **SUSMAN UNLEASHED**

by Steve Susman

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

Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. No, the Condo Café isn't a restaurant. It's the name of the software program which our managers report is fully-operational. This program enables each homeowner, who so elects, to have his/her monthly dues drafted from his/her bank account automatically. No envelopes; no postage; no check-writing. Our managers also remind you that, alternatively, you can instruct your own bank to mail a printed check, payable to Pelican Pointe HOA, automatically, to our managers, Allen Associates, Inc., whose address is on this newsletter's masthead, for the monthly Pelican Pointe dues. If you have misplaced or made a paper airplane from the printed instructions sent to each homeowner recently, please call Shawna

Allen at (303) 779-0789, or email her at: [Shawna@allenassociatesinc.com](mailto:Shawna@allenassociatesinc.com), requesting another copy.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. He probably also suffered from high blood pressure, excess body fat, diabetes, and a poor self-image. As I've written here previously, our two entrance walls have been gradually crumbling; the facing tiles have been dropping off like supporters of a somewhat-unpopular presidential candidate. Water from rain, ice, and snow, and our sprinklers, has caused the infrastructure to decay. But *voila!* Beginning on or about September 12, these walls will be razed and reconstructed. Once again, nobody entering our community will be disconcerted by the gradual implosion of our handsome welcoming scene. Meanwhile, a companion project is the restoration of the somewhat-decrepit wall which supports our directional sign (map). This work will be undertaken when our entrance walls are restored. The two "wings," on either side of that directional wall, will be permanently removed. Next spring, our Landscape Committee has planned to replace the planters (and beautiful flowers) in those wings with a handsome array of very large pots and other landscape-suitable containers, complemented by some artistic wrought-iron work.

No, those aren't firemen, on a practice maneuver, carrying tall ladders. Complementing our recent gargantuan roof replacement project, our HOA caused many of the raingutters and downspouts in Pelican Pointe to be replaced with larger-capacity ones. Post-installation inspections of those gutters revealed (a) that the drainage aperture in some of them will be too small for our anticipated rain/snow/leaves disposals, and (b) that some of the gutters, not so replaced, should have additional downspouts added. Leaves, especially in late fall, will inevitably clog many of our gutters; your Board will undertake gutter-cleaning exercises occasionally. Nevertheless, heavy snow can cause the formation of ice dams in and on the gutters, the bane of all building structures. However, our upgraded gutter system will ameliorate some of this aggravation. Our gutter contractors will be seen here in late September to perform the additional gutter work.

"Fuller Brush Man, m'am. Can I come in?" In the 1940's-1950's, at your front door was this gentleman, peddling an array of Fuller brushes. Today, at your front door, you are more likely to see the delivery-person of Walmart, King Soopers, or Safeway. Each of these three large grocery merchants now has a service whereby a customer can order his/her groceries over the Internet. Each charges a modest fee (and you will be expected to provide a reasonable tip), to deliver whatever groceries you ordered. This is a very convenient service for any of our residents who are temporarily or permanently unable to drive to the supermarket themselves. Granted, for some items you must trust the store's judgment; for example, selecting bananas of the desired ripeness. Maybe you can specify such items with particularity. I'm told that these services are speedy and reliable.

The Federal Reserve Board of Governors has been deliberating for most of 2016 about whether, when, and how much to increase the prevailing interest rate over which they have substantial

control. Developing our operating budget for 2017, for Pelican Pointe, may be daunting also. In late September, our Board and managers will convene for our annual budget-planning working session. The purpose is to review operating revenues and expenses for the first eight months of 2016, as well as selected expenses in 2015 or earlier. Each line-item expense is reviewed, with projections of what this august group estimates should be the dollar figures for that line-item next year. Expense figures are juxtaposed with anticipated revenue. As Treasurer, I will provide a guide for all these elements, in a practical format for a 2017 budget. Doubtless, our managers will provide suggestions. The completed proposed budget will be included in our homeowners' packet, to be mailed in mid-October. This budget will be the subject of a vote by homeowners at our November 17 annual homeowners' meeting.

*A Pulitzer Prize in the offing?* The Board is pleased to announce that *Danielle Zieg*, an eleven-year homeowner in Pelican Pointe, soon will be our new editor of this monthly newsletter, *The Pelican Brief*. Beginning with the December 2016 edition, she will succeed me, Steve Susman, our present editor [I'm retiring from the Board, again, at our Annual Meeting on November 17]. I have been the author of more than 150 of our newsletters, having served our Association as its original director, and for about five years as President, six years as manager, and more recently, as a three-year director. Danielle is an experienced journalist and writer, and is expected to bring to her new position her own style of writing and format. To enable her to "hit the ground running," Danielle plans to attend our Board meetings in September, October, and November, asking questions, and observing much of what transpires at these Board meetings. Meanwhile, she can be reached at [daniellezieg@gmail.com](mailto:daniellezieg@gmail.com).

Weird behavior:

- Men say that women should come with an instruction manual; but since when has any man stopped to read the instructions?
- If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.
- It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
- If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?