



The Pelican Brief

Serving [The Pelican Pointe Community](#)

November 2018

From the Pelican Pointe HOA President

In sending out the 2019 budget without any explanation I was trying to balance transparency with the need for confidentiality, I apparently erred on the side of caution and I apologize.

The proposed budget and resulting dues increase reflects a \$32,000 increase in the cost of landscaping, increased cost of insurance and an increase in our contribution to our reserve fund.

- There have been some erroneous rumors floating around that the large increase is due to a new beautification project undertaken by the board. That is not correct. Yes, we did hire JBK landscaping to develop a long-term planting plan for our aging community. Although we now have most of the plan completed we have determined that implementation will take considerable thought and time. There is nothing in the current budget related to our long-term planting plan.*

As you know, our current landscape contractor Sonny Fischer has not done anywhere near the work we contracted for this year. The summer started out exceptionally hot which was hard on our grass and bushes. Our contractor (who was out with shoulder surgery and essentially “dumped” the business onto his 22-year-old son) was behind the eight ball from that start and never caught up.

In August, the Board had a long conversation with Sonny and Cody. Sonny promised to be back on site within a week. To the best of my knowledge, he has not been.

We have been trying to seek bids from other contractors for next year and it’s proven to be very difficult because of the labor shortage throughout the area. Two companies declined to bid; a third gave us a rough estimate but said he couldn’t commit to a contract until April.

Many of these companies depend on temporary workers from other countries for their labor. JBK, for instance had previously hired the same 60 employees for the past 15 years. All had legal H2B temporary worker visas. This year, he was not able to get a single visa and had to actually “fire” some of his previous clients.

We are contacting additional companies to try to find another landscaping contractor. The budget increase is based on the one estimate we received so far and is \$32,000 more than we paid this year.

(continued on page 2)

In the meantime, we do have a contract with Sonny for snow removal. If he finds out we're looking to replace him he might very well decide not to continue through the winter. He charges us a flat monthly fee instead of a "per-call" charge for coming out whenever it snows. That is a much more expensive way to do snow removal.

For that reason, I ask that when you see Cody or his crew you not say anything about their performance or our efforts to replace them.

- *In order to keep the increase in our insurance cost to \$8,000 we changed our deductible from \$100,000 to 1% of our property value. In the event of a major loss (think tornado or hurricane) our property is valued at approximately \$45,000,000. We would be responsible for the first \$450,000. We would have to assess each owner approximately \$2500 in that event. **We strongly recommend that your home owner's insurance policy include "Loss Assessment Coverage" which would cover this kind of assessment.***
- *The budget also includes an additional \$10,000 monthly to our reserves. We want to ensure that we have funds to keep our community well maintained and our home values up.*

Please feel free to contact me at ellysv@msn.com or 303-316-7568 with any questions you may have. Hope to see you all at the annual meeting on Thursday, Nov. 8.

The Holidays are Here....

And the packages are on the way. As the season ramps up, Amazon, UPS and FedEx drivers will be busy. Be sure your orders include your correct unit number and that your friends and family know your complete address.

We've had a number of instances of Amazon deliveries being dropped at our mail kiosks. If you're waiting for something check all the kiosks for your goodies. In the rush it's easy for a driver to mistake AA101 for A102. Be a good neighbor and take those mis-delivered packages to the right home.

And one more important thing...

I never understand how in a country like ours with the freedoms we are afforded only about half of registered voters actually cast their ballots. Voting is not only a unique American right, but it is a responsibility. Voting is the only way that We the People can build the kind of country that we want to be a part of.

Let's all have our voices heard. Don't wait until November 6th. Vote now! Mail (71 cents postage) or drop off the ballot you received in the mail. If you didn't get one there are several polling places open now around Denver. The nearest drop box and Voter Service and Polling Center is at Wings Over the Rockies in Lowry. If you're not registered, you can register anytime between now and Election Day.

*Elly Valas
Pelican Pointe HOA President*

'Tis the season, unhook hoses on your patio

We've been having warm sunny fall days, but nights are getting colder. Small amounts of water in hoses left outside can freeze and back up causing burst pipes in your home. If you need help disconnecting outdoor hoses, you can hire our community handyman Jim Cuellar to assist. If your spigot or pipes freeze and burst, any resulting damage is the responsibility of the homeowner.

Do not put YOUR trash in the pet waste stations

The green pet waste stations near our mail kiosks provide small bags for dog walkers to pick up and drop off their pooches' piles. Some people seem to think they also should drop off their soda cans, bottles and other debris. That's just rude and inconsiderate. Take your trash home.

Be mindful of clogging your kitchen sink and drain

There's likely going to be lots of cooking and eating going on around Thanksgiving. You may be stuffing a turkey and your tummy but be careful about stuffing too many leftovers, potato peels, cooking grease and other food remnants down your garbage disposal. Simply toss such items into an old grocery or trash bag and drop it in your trash so that your sink continues to drain properly.

Pelican Pointe property emergency after normal business hours

Call Weststar Management 720-941-9200, press option 1 to reach an on-call manager who will return your call promptly. *That's 720 not 303.*

Pelican Pointe Board of Directors

Elly Valas, President
Marcia Helfant, Vice President
Frank Parker, Treasurer
Charlotte Robinson, Secretary
Sheila Powell, At Large
Jim Bernuth, At Large

Conservancy initiates efforts to support High Line Canal Trail

This fall, the High Line Canal Conservancy is working to raise awareness about planning efforts to ensure the Canal is preserved and enhanced for future generations.

The 71-mile High Line Canal has long been a treasured asset across our region, but now it is out living its historic use as an irrigation channel. Residents can join Conservancy work to preserve, protect and enhance this resource. Find out how to be a **High Line Hero** at:

www.joinhighlinecanal.org.

In partnership with the High Line Canal Conservancy, **Walk2Connect** will lead 14 community walks starting Saturday, Nov. 10 through April 2019. You'll learn the Canal's history and significance while walking. See details at www.highlinecanal.org/walk2connect.

Mark your calendar

Daylight Savings Time begins *Set your clocks back one hour.*
Sunday, Nov. 4, 2 a.m.

Trash pick Wednesday, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28.

Recycle: Nov. 14, 28. Extra trash: Nov. 28 (*Extra trash every four weeks*).

Sign up to get trash-pickup email trash reminders. *Note: The system recognizes our address as 8300 E. Fairmount Drive, that's E. even though we don't use E. in our address.*

Pelican Pointe Homeowners Association 2018 Annual Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 8 *RSVP by Nov. 5*

Sign in begins 5 p.m., Social hour and buffet dinner 6 p.m., Business meeting 7 p.m.

Windsor Gardens Community Center, Blossoms Restaurant

RSVP to Caryl Shipley pphoacaryl@gmail.com or 303-322-0471

Include your unit number and name(s) of who is attending

Limit two attendees per unit are welcome. [Previous meeting minutes are posted online.](#)

Veterans Day

Sunday, Nov. 11 observed Monday, Nov. 12

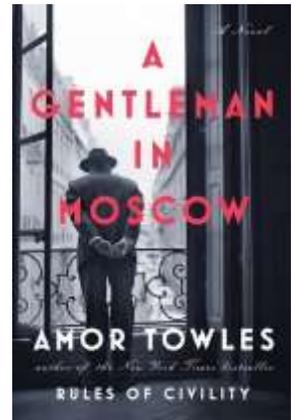
Honoring men and women who have served in the United States armed forces.

Pelican Pointe Book Group

Thursday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting at home of Linda Hundley, Unit W103. Please email her at lhundley64@gmail.com to let her know if you plan to attend.

The book club will be reading [A Gentleman in Moscow](#) by Amor Towles. Sentenced to house arrest in Moscow's Metropol Hotel by the Bolshevik tribunal, Count Alexander Rostov nevertheless develops deep relationships and remains interested in all the goings on around him. Through events held at the hotel, we learn of the progress of the revolution going on outside as a dark, mostly distant shadow. Writing about a time of violent upheaval, this book is always both stylish and charming.



All are welcome. Call Marcia Helfant at [303-722-0053](tel:303-722-0053) with questions.



Thanksgiving National Holiday

Thursday, Nov. 22

Government offices closed