



Sanctuary Sentinel

For and About the Sanctuary on the Park Community

May 2011 - Visit our web site at www.dcmi.com/onthepark/sanctuary.htm



Connor's First Birthday a Finger-Lickin' Day

All of us remember the holiday story of Sean and Marbury McCune. Malcolm and Marilyn Jones are Marbury's dad and step-mom. Sean is an Army infantry officer serving in dangerous Pakitka province in eastern Afghanistan. Sean was home in Clarksville, TN, late in March on a two-week leave. The McCunes

celebrated Marbury's and their son Connor's first birthday early and this is Connor between his dad and mom getting ready to enjoy the cake. This is Connor af-



terwards. Sean was promoted to first lieutenant upon his return to Camp Boris. He'll complete his one-year deployment in August.

Entry Monument May Have Monumental Price Tag

That entry monument at Jordan Road and Maplewood just might have a monumental price tag if the City of Centennial persists in its bureaucratic ways about the building permit.

There's no sign that such a sign was included in the original plat on file with what very soon became Centennial. To get into Centennial's review process to add this entryway sign will cost \$200, and that could lead to costs ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 for approval of an amendment to the initial filing. The monument is to cost another \$10,000.

Muriel Leff, HOA vice president, laid out the quandary at the May board meeting. Three glimmers of hope appeared. First, Muriel learned the city council is considering easing those harsh approval requirements later this summer. Second, Muriel will contact the city attorney to see if there's a variance process available to ease the need for an engineer and associated costs to meet Centennial's rules. After all, this monument isn't exactly the Great Sphinx of Giza. And third, the contractor believes he can suck up the cost if it's the minimal \$500. The board agreed to ante up the \$200 to get into the game to hear what the approval cost will be. If it's a big number, the community will be given a chance to review whether or not to proceed.

On other matters, Dale Jensen, treasurer, said the HOA's expenses through March were "pretty much on budget so far." Snow removal this fiscal year has totaled around \$4,000, giving the community \$6,000 for any fall storms before Dec. 31.

Dale also said Aspen Reserves Specialists, the company engaged to update our reserve requirements, has come up with an inadequate first-draft plan, and

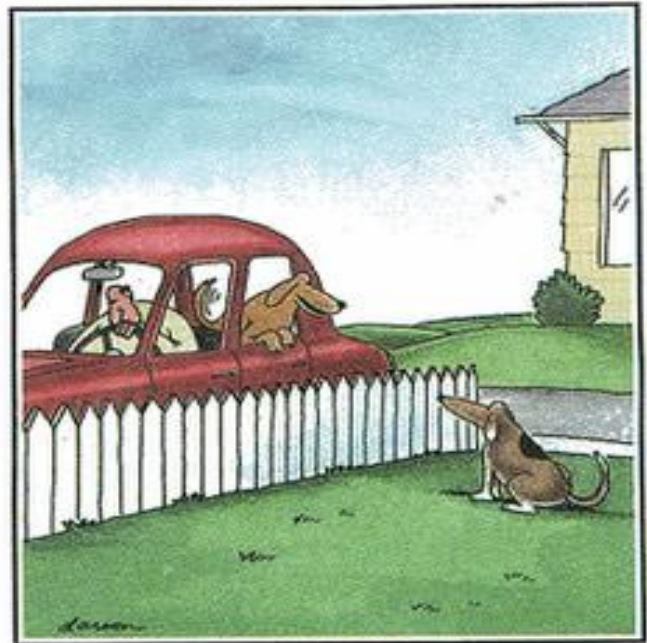
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Water Pond Signage Becomes a Possibility

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he'll be working with Caron Realty and Aspen to come up with a more accurate cost estimate of future capital costs.

Linda Massey has been working with people at Southeast Metro Storm Water Authority (SEMSWA), the agency now in charge of the 5.2-acre storm-water-retention pond (Pond W-8) in the center of our community. Linda's efforts began with engaging officials to erect a permanent sign that would include information about its purpose, wildlife and the need for pet controls on the property. Linda told the board there seemed to be progress until the individual with whom she'd been working left the agency. Persistently, she's connected with the successor and has started talks all over again. It likely would be on the old mailbox pad along Maplewood. Meanwhile, she told the board, SEMSWA has hacked up a volunteer stand of cottonwood trees at the culvert along Caley to improve drainage on Windmill Creek. It will return shortly to remove the stumps, but not the willows.



"Ha ha ha, Biff. Guess what? After we go to the drugstore and the post office, I'm going to the vet's to get tutored."

This 'N' That

Places to Bike

The city of Centennial this summer will have 18 more miles of bike lanes. The closest one is east-west from Havana to Potomac St., probably using Peak-view Avenue. .

White Gunk

Have you noticed a buildup of whitish gunk on glasses and bottles after a pass through your dishwasher? A number of residents have. We asked Martin Stegmiller, operations manager at our water company, about that. He was shocked. Whereas before the startup of the new reverse osmosis water treatment plant our water contained as much as 400 milligrams of calcium, it is now in the 1.6 to 1.8 mg. range, Martin says. What the...? He said he would ask the company's field crew to take a sample from one of our water hydrants to check. Shouldn't be happening, he avers.

No Mickey Mouse Tail, er, Tale

One of our snowbird couples returned to their home this spring only to discover while the cat's away the mice do play. A whole tribe of mice apparently moved in, eating this and that including making a hole in a sofa cushion. All were gone presumably to yellow-er cheese pastures by the time the couple returned and haven't been seen since. The homeowners prefer anonymity.

Minutes of Board Meeting

(Editor's Note: The Sanctuary on the Park Board of Directors has included the following in the minutes of the May 5, 2011, meeting.)

Steve Jeffries issues from January 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting

Steve Jeffries was not in attendance. Barbara Sydow confirmed that there were guidelines identified in the governing documents as to how the HOA uses funds within the budget, Caron Realty had reviewed the governing documents and confirmed that the HOA is in compliance. There are appropriate minutes for the annual meetings outlining approvals for all projects that have been performed, that the financials are independently audited, and that all items have been handled pursuant to the Bylaws and Covenants and according to CCIOA. Based upon this thorough review by Caron Realty and our independent auditors; the Board believes the matter can be officially put to rest. Barbara requested that this information also be placed in the Quarterly Newsletter.



Centennial Building Extensive New Park

While Centennial may be only a decade old, its new 11-acre Civic Center Park at 13133 E. Arapahoe Road just west of us will feature a theme of “100 Years of History and 10,000 Years of Human Habitation.”

Such a grandiose theme will highlight transportation (umm, walking), mining (an amphitheater) and agriculture (a meadow area). All of this will have a price tag of almost \$6 million for the build-out. And the city says it’s all about “a central place where Centennial residents can come to recreate and gather for special events.”

The park will contain:

- An entryway off of Vaughn Street with views to the mountains.
- An amphitheater with angular stone walls for public performances.

- Multi-age playgrounds with climbing walls, water play, slide, sand play, shade shelters and history wall.
- Restrooms.
- Plaza space for picnics including a shelter with a fireplace and grill and an upper shelter with “a coffeehouse.”
- Educational theme elements.
- A loop trail for walking and jogging.
- Low-water landscaping.
- A warming hut.
- A butte to view the mountains.

Final plans for the park were approved, 8-1 by the City Council in January. The Villager says the project has been generally popular, though some community activists have questioned the project’s cost. Funds designated for the park can only be used for open-space purposes.

Selenium in Windmill Creek a Big Problem for ACWWA

We don't have to think about selenium much except when we take our "mature adult" multivitamins, which might contain selenium.

But, as it turns out, it is a huge and potentially expensive element for our water company, Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority. It is in deep trouble with the Colorado Health Department over the amount filtered from our water supply at the new Joint Water Purification Plant at Bronco Parkway and Jordan Rd.

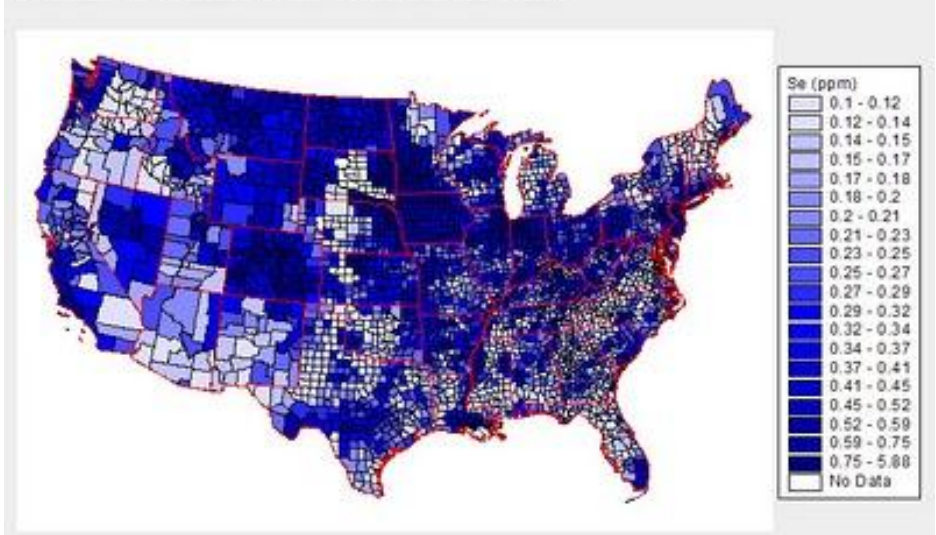
The Colorado Health Department has issued a Cease and Desist Order requiring ACWWA to stop dumping it into Windmill Creek which winds its way through Sanctuary on the Park on its merry way to Cherry Creek Reservoir.

The amount filtered out is 26 to 79 micrograms per liter -- say you have a million marbles in a tub of which 26 to 79 of them are selenium. Doesn't sound like a big deal, but it is with the CHD and fish downstream. The CHD wants the number of selenium marbles closer to its "plug" number of 4.6 micrograms per liter, admittedly a difficult and abstract goal, according to Martin Stegmiller, ACWWA's operations manager.

Unexpectedly, the plant is concentrating selenium as it passes through the osmosis membranes and sending the gunk downstream. Selenium is a normally occurring substance in soil and rocks. Michael Massey, Stan and Linda's son, is a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University studying cleaning up uranium contamination. He says we humans need, oh, around 40 micrograms of the stuff a day, but 400 or more might be toxic. We would need to sit down there with the geese in the creek swilling somewhere between one and three gallons of pond water a day to get to that level.

If we want to be concerned, Michael says, we might not want our pets drinking the water or eating some plants that "hyper accumulate" seleni-

Selenium in Counties of the Conterminous States



This U.S. Geological Survey map (their word, conterminous) shows a huge dark blob over us, and that's where the most selenium is found.

um from soil and water. Since dogs don't usually graze that too might not be a problem. Michael's advice? Don't let your dog drink a whole lot of it.

But back to ACWWA and its problem. It has asked the Colorado Health Department for a 300-day extension to respond to the cease and desist order, and is seeking consultants to help figure out a feasible solution that is fair to us rate payers. Martin notes there's not a lot of precedence for this except in mineral extraction and mining industries. Getting down to the CHD's 4.6 microgram target is "very expensive." Something around \$50 million. The best answer may be to replumb the plant's existing micro filter system to catch most of the selenium and then send it like the stuff in our toilet bowls and garbage disposals swirling down pipes to ACWWA's purification plant and finally along to Cherry Creek Reservoir. The ACWWA board grappled with the issue for two hours May 11. It decided to call a pow-wow of consultants and staff to get a full spectrum of solutions on the table and to hire a consulting engineer to review the effectiveness of the micro filter solution.

No water (and with it selenium) is going down Wind Mill Creek from the filtration plant, thus avoiding a \$10,000-a-day fine for doing so.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Barbara Sydow

Happy spring again to all of our neighbors!

The sprinklers are on, neighbors are planting and "refreshing" their homes and we've finally gotten some rain!

Don't forget to include the Design Review Committee if you are considering doing some new things!

Look inside the newsletter for updates regarding the Grounds Committee projects as well as the Social Committee plans for the upcoming Spring Cleanup and other events.



As another reminder, the Grounds Committee MUST HEAR FROM YOU about the ideas you have for grounds improvements that are important to you. As I mentioned in an earlier email we are getting ready to update our reserve study this year and really MUST KNOW what you are thinking about! We have received some input, but I'm sure there is more – so please watch your emails to learn when the next Grounds Committee meeting will be – and of course, you can always call Peggy or email her!

P. S. Jim Banman is always looking for good stories (or even gossip) that should be shared. Don't forget to pass on your tidbits!

Look forward to seeing you all at the next Quarterly Meeting – at 7 p.m. July 21 at Muriel Leff's home.

Book Club Adjourns for Summer

Our neighborhood book club has adjourned for the summer. It will discuss "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand when it resumes on Sept. 12.

Hostess will be Gail Ploen. Since some husbands are also reading this one, there is some thought being given to inviting them to attend that evening.

Cleanup and Picnic May 21

Our annual community cleanup day followed by a picnic will be May 21, beginning at 9 a.m. with coffee and snacks and lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Blackhawk parking area, catered by Barbara Sydow.

Our special guest at 11 a.m. will be Mason Staub, land development program manager for the Southeast Metro Storm Water Authority (SEMSWA for short). That's the organization that now manages our Lake Sanctuary.

This event is the work of our Social Committee, chaired by Lou Palley. Everyone is invited to the picnic even if you weren't among the cleanup crew.

One "Happy Hour" is being planned. It will be at 5:30 p.m. on July 14.

Foreclosure Continues On Blackhawk Home

The saga of the home at 6213 S. Carson continues its lengthy trip through foreclosure, Barbara Sydow, HOA president, told the board at its May meeting. It is our first and only home in our community to be among the millions of troubled properties.

Its status became a board matter because dues have not been paid in the past six months or considerably longer. Each property in the community represents close to 2% of the dues revenue. Dale Jensen, treasurer, said this foreclosure has not factored into our budget so far but it eventually would have an impact if the dues are not collected. Barbara also was concerned about the fact that water has been turned off and the landscaping would be left without irrigation.

Meanwhile, Caron Realty, our property management firm, has placed a lien on the house for dues to be paid in full if and when the home is sold.