



Sanctuary Sentinel

For and About the Sanctuary on the Park Community

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Dog Gone It, We Need Pooch, Poop Control

No doubt about it now. Our neighborhood has gone to the dogs, or so you might think after another rousing discussion at the first Sanctuary homeowners board meeting of 2011 about uncontrolled dogs. Our own but mostly uninvited neighboring dogs.

This won't help the visiting transgressors much, but our Articles of Incorporation in Section 6.05 make it clear what's expected of pet owners: Pets shall not be permitted to roam free. It goes on and on about needing leashes, and ends up warning that the board has the ultimate authority to remove pets if owners, once warned, don't pay attention.

Ah, but what about the folks from neighboring communities? Those who bring their dogs into our Sanctuary, unleash them and allow them to roam and conduct their doggy business? That's a stumper. The board and homeowners talked about signage improvements about scooping poop and heeding our rules as they enter private property, which is our common areas. As for Lake Sanctuary, which is now under the control of the Southeast Metropolitan Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA for short)? Linda Massey volunteered to contact SEMSWA to discuss signage on its areas.

One resident pointed out it's also against Centennial laws for dogs to run unleashed. Here's what the law says: C.M.C. § 7-7-410 (b) Running at large. Control means the dog is on a leash, cord, or chain not more than 10 feet in length held by a person of sufficient age, size, and physical ability to restrain the animal. So it's reasonable to call Centennial Animal Control about free-pooing pooches. That would be Centennial Animal Services, 13133 East Arapahoe Road, (303) 325-8070.

An otherwise desultory meeting covered a range of business topics. The board officers re-elected themselves to the same positions they held last year. The big change is that Joan Liebchen, our stalwart chair of the Social Committee, meant what she said when she



"Gee whiz...the sign is so small and, um, I'm near-sighted. Besides, who cares," this dog seems to say as he visits Sanctuary.

resigned after six years on the job. Lou Palley is the new chair and has big casseroles to fill as Joan's successor. Lou is open to others wishing to join the committee.

Muriel Leff, vice president, and Peggy Harrison, Grounds Committee chairperson, reported work is moving forward on landscaping improvements approved at the annual meeting. Contracts have been signed for the sign lights at Caley and Jordan and the ditch improvements along Jordan for almost exactly the projected amounts of money. Negotiations on the new entrance monument at Maplewood continue. The estimated \$8,000 cost might be \$9,500.

And that ties in with the reserve-account study, since that's where the money is coming from. Dale Jensen, treasurer, said a minimal-cost updating of the reserve study will be made in 2011. Its aim will be to review again the useful life of the community's assets in the common areas. streets, landscaping and fences. That will determine the share of our dues needed for that purpose. He's asking for community input once

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Our January Snow Cost \$1,800 to Shovel, Plow Away

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again on just what should be considered. The board needs to hear from homeowners about other items and to listen to their concerns, he said.

There seemed to be consensus that our streets will need to be seal-coated this summer. That will be paid from the reserve account.

Dale said the recent January snow cost about \$1,800 to shovel and plow. Brickman Landscaping, our maintenance company, charged \$42 an hour for 32 hours of scooping and \$94 an hour for five hours of plowing. That comes to about 36 minutes per driveway and walk.

There was a brief but passionate discussion about what the board is legally bound to do with unspent money at the end of each fiscal year. Steve Jeffries, former president of the HOA, raised the question in

the context of the HOA's Declaration document. He drew attention to Section 5.03 about the purpose of assessments, our monthly dues--and state law. Steve suggested it was impermissible to dump the money into the reserves account. Dale defended the board's current practice of leaving unused money in the HOA's operating cash account, which is different from the reserve account. Reserve account funding is funded and budgeted separately based on the reserve study, he said. He pointed out that this year's operating expenses as budgeted would exceed expected income and that the shortfall estimated at \$5,000 would come from the HOA's operating cash account. Barbara Sydow, president, also rejected the implications of Steve's questions. The HOA board, she said, spent nothing the community had not approved.

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. April 28 at Muriel's home, 6241 S. Blackhawk Ct.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Barbara Sydow

Happy New Year! Again, to all of our Neighbors!

And we are well on our way to a productive one at that. The board has renewed their pledge to the community in their existing roles (Barbara . president, Muriel . vice president, Dale . treasurer). With respect to our

Committee chairs, we are very sad to lose the amazing organization and dedication of Joan Liebchen as our hostess with the Mostest+for the past six years as Social Committee chair. On behalf of the board and the community, we thank her for her amazing contributions to our community. We wish her well as she shares her talents with her other organizations. Rumor has it she will be doing some really cool traveling as well. Joan, enjoy your time with others, but know you much we appreciate you and all your hard work!

Now we welcome Lou Palley as the Social Committee chair. She is looking for committee volunteers and of course would love to hear from the community regarding ideas for the upcoming Sanctuary Social Season! Please share your talents and ideas with Lou so we get them on the calendar early!



All other committee Chairs (Anne Nelson . Design Review, Peggy Harrison . Grounds Committee, Jim Banman . Newsletter) have also renewed the pledge to the community for this new year. THANKS to them and their members for supporting our community.

As we get started this year 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 quarterly meeting at 7 p.m. April 28 at Muriel Leff's home.

Closure of Gap in Bike/Hike Trail Moving Forward

The bike/hike trail through Cherry Creek State Park ends ingloriously at Caley Avenue and resumes south of Arapahoe Road. That leaves a gap that causes bicyclists to pedal down Jordan Road and circuitously find the resumption of the path.



Here's the Arapahoe Road Bridge over Cherry Creek on the south side where a low-water pedestrian bridge is in the works as a step to close the trail gap.

The gap may be closed in the foreseeable future.

Just in the past week or so, an amorphous stew-pot of agencies involved in the trail called the stakeholder group reviewed a request for consulting services for preliminary investigation and design of how to close the important gap. Twenty jurisdictions are working on the Cherry Creek Regional Trail corridor by adding open space buffers and closing other gaps in the trail.

No one is saying that this trail is any kind of a done deal, said Chuck Reno, the county's Open Space, Parks and Trails coordinator. But for the first time we have a group of dedicated and cooperative basin stakeholders who are willing to commit the time and effort to get to the bottom of questions and possibilities that have lingered for years.

Two developments make closing this trail gap closer to reality.

One is that Arapahoe County bought about 13 acres at 15200 E. Arapahoe Road on Dec. 15 for \$735,000. This site to the south of Arapahoe will provide a new trailhead with access to the Cherry Creek Regional Trail that runs to the south along the creek.

The second is that the Jordan Metro District is moving ahead with the regional trail's low-water crossing project, Reno said. This district has agreed to take on the design, partial funding and construction of a low-water pedestrian bridge crossing. Construction is to begin this February and to be completed by

May. This will bring trail users from the east side of the creek to the west before they get to the Arapahoe Road Bridge coming from the south.

Reno said the Valley Country Club board has given its preliminary approval to allow the design team to evaluate design options for crossing the golf course with the trail. It is a complex multi-jurisdictional project that is going as smoothly as any project we have undertaken to date, Reno said. It pains us to see the bikers and hikers backed up at that traffic light on Jordan.

Translation: Money is in short supply. Reno said the county is working with Centennial, Aurora, the Valley Country Club, Parker Jordan district and CDOT to make this gap-closing happen. CDOT, he said, is managing the underpass project and we are having regular update meetings.

All of this is interesting in that each of us Sanctuary taxpayers contributes about \$36 or so a year to the Arapahoe County Recreation District. The Arapahoe County Open Space Program uses the money. The ACRD was created in the 1980s as a way to collect a very small tax to be used to maintain any park lands donated to the county or achieved through other methods, Reno said. The first park to be achieved, he said, was the Arapahoe County Community Park across from the Broncos headquarters. Since that time the county has added the Cherry Creek Valley Eco Park, Cheyenne/Arapaho Park, Welch Park and a short section of the Cherry Creek Trail.

Those Brilliant Goldfinches Change Color with the Seasons

This report is submitted by Jim Murlin, Ron Robinson and Carol Race, members of our Sanctuary Bird Club.

Those of us with thistle bird feeders await the arrival each spring of the cheerfully yellow goldfinches. Where do they go all winter? They are here but chameleon like they are wearing their winter-drab coats.

American Goldfinches change color by molting and their bright yellow feathers are replaced by more muted coloration in winter. This change may reflect an advantage for them because of the different plant life that may be around during the winter.

That's just one of the Fun Facts about goldfinches our Sanctuary Bird Club informs us about. These are some more interesting facts:

- Goldfinches are found across North America. The three species include the American, Lesser, and



Swallows found their perfect home last summer in Carol Race's backyard birdhouse. This is one of Carol's pictures of the family.

Lawrence's Goldfinch.

- Goldfinches are sometimes referred to as wild canaries. They are actually in the finch family as their name suggests.



- Northern populations of the American Goldfinch are mostly migratory and southern populations are mostly residential. Colorado American Goldfinches are residents.

- Residential flocks of American Goldfinches roam widely between food supplies during the winter and have been recorded moving over four miles between multiple feeding stations in a single day. Other records show movements of over 30 miles in a single winter.

- The genus name, *Carduelis*, is from the Latin word *carduus*, which means "thistle". Goldfinches are very dependent on thistles for food. Carol adds she feeds niger seed to the goldfinches at her feeder because it does not germinate and other birds (larger ones) don't like it.

The recently reorganized Sanctuary Bird Club is in the final stages of preparation for the 2011 season. Work included cleaning and repairing the 12 habitats located around the community so they could be used for general roosting during the winter months. Final preparations will include special attention to the five Flicker/Kestrel Hawk boxes in late February in time for the first residents in March.

Club membership is open to all Sanctuary residents. It's free, fun and educational. If you have an interest in learning more about the bird program, please send your e-mail address to Carol Race at carol.race@comcast.net. You will be included on the Bird Club mail list to receive pictures of new arrivals, all future articles on the birds as well as additional articles on some of our other furry and scaly critters we share our common area with.

The Sanctuary Bird Club, organized by Carol Race, Jim Murlin & Ron Robinson, is a self-sustained program supported solely by its members with no cost to the HOA or Sanctuary residents. Plans call for a small gathering early in the 2011 season of those interested.