



# Sanctuary Sentinel

For and About the Sanctuary on the Park Community

July 2011 - Visit our web site at [www.dcmi.com/onthepark/sanctuary.htm](http://www.dcmi.com/onthepark/sanctuary.htm)

## ***Oh Deer, What Can the Matter Be?***

*"Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam  
Where the deer and the antelope play."*

That's quite true for us with the recent deer sightings within the Sanctuary on the Park community.

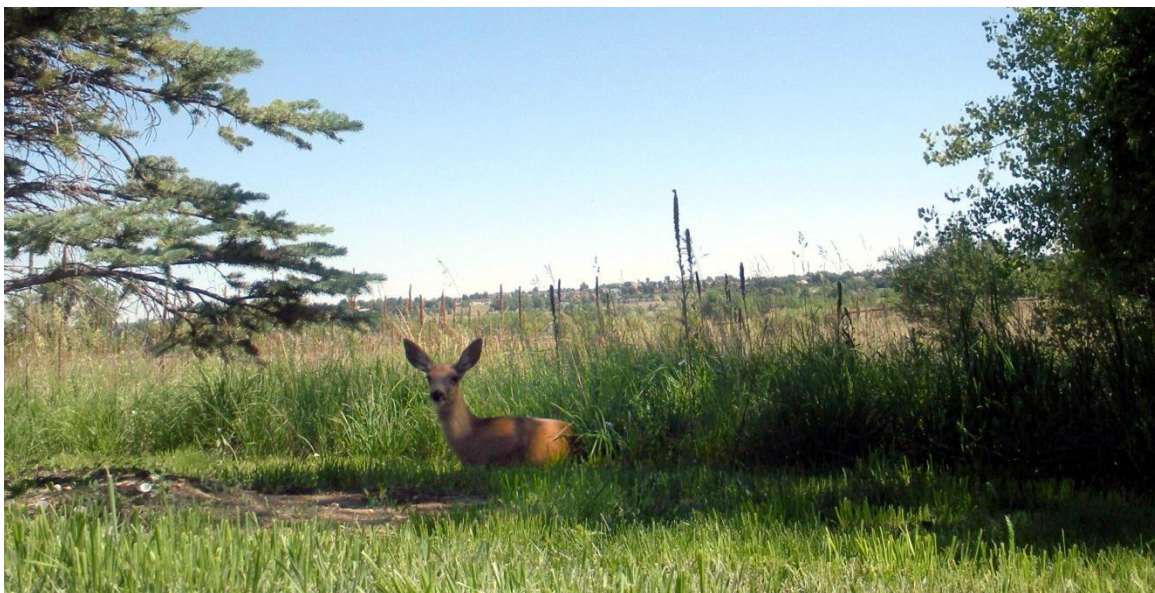
Jim Murlin, our resident birder, noted last week we have had "a young buck deer hanging around." It has been spotted in the Murlin and Kortz yards. And it was hanging around in the Klein front yard. Later, there he was in the Atkinsons and Holmes yards. All are on the Blackhawk side.

A deer also was spotted around June 29 on the Carson side. Same one? Who knows. Judy Baker on her morning walk snapped these pictures of a deer on the Sanctuary side of the Cherry Creek State Park fence near the Carson St. parking area.

The Division of Wildlife has checked on the Blackhawk deer, Jim said, and the deer has a pronounced limp. The DOW folks told Jim to let him be unless he seems in distress. If he is noticed in distress call Jim at 720-870-7407 and Jim will relay the news to DOW.



He's not likely to be in distress after breakfasting on Muriel Leff's prized perennial Balloon Flower. It was full of buds the day before and is now just sticks. Yum and burp; "I'm not happy," Muriel said.



## **Maplewood Entry Sign Back on Track (Maybe)**

Remember that new entry sign at Maplewood and Jordan? That \$10,000 monument that got snagged in Centennial's expensive permit-fee process? Patience on the part of our board of directors will pay off soon, Muriel Leff, vice president, reported at the July meeting of the board.

Muriel said the city council is expected to revise its ordinance now bulging with red tape on August 15. Well, at least the odds seem to be 99% sure of that, she said. That means there's likely to be another 30-day waiting period and then the contractor will go to work. There were sighs of relief all around because the city's tab for the review would have cost \$5,000.

Of greater concern is an extraordinary increase in the cost of watering our common areas. Dale Jensen, treasurer, said the June bill, not counting the flat \$212 user fee, leaped from \$571 to \$1,171 year over year. "We're either watering too much or there's a substantial leak," Dale concluded. That's the highest in two years, the rebuilding of the sprinkler system at a cost of \$11,000 notwithstanding. The most likely culprit is a leak. With all irrigation turned off, the water meter continues to tick away.

The board asked the Grounds Committee to discuss this in detail with Reiny Melchoir, the Brickman point person for our community, to determine whether or not our system is watering too much or if there's a leak. And Ron Hutchison of our management company was asked to investigate the cost of rain-sensor gadgets. (See *related story on Page 6.*) Were that not grief enough, Dale voiced concern about bills for homeowner sprinkler system repairs. After our HOA paid around \$2,500 for a major leak repair bills continue to mount. Ron was asked to monitor closely whether the sprinkler repairs are the homeowners' responsibility and if so pass the cost on to individuals.

### **Tree-Trimming Policy Unchanged**

This brings us to never-ending questions about the HOA's responsibilities related to maintaining our trees and shrubs for our homeowners. The board recently received an inquiry from a homeowner requesting that we pay for a trimming of the trees on their property as well as significant rejuvenation of their rose bushes. The board has reviewed the Declarations and By-Laws with the management company as well as our historic handling of these issues.

The board once again reaffirmed that the HOA will and does pay for care of lawns and common areas, individual sprinkler systems (except for individual homeowner system changes), snow removal and trimming of shrubs. The Board has recently increased the number of annual shrub trimmings to two times per year. The cost to the HOA for this is \$65 per home times two. Thirty-eight homeowners out of 53 have opted in for this service. That's about \$5,000 a year and is a part of the annually approved budget. With respect to tree trimming, the budget also includes funds for the maintenance of trees in the common areas and associated maintenance related to tree pest prevention for the neighborhood. The most recent example of that includes the spraying the grounds committee scheduled for aphids.

As the board has identified before, if there are additional services the Grounds Committee will provide estimates to the board for inclusion in the annual budget for the homeowners' consideration at the annual meeting. Any approved budget items are incorporated into the Grounds Committee processes.

As clarified at the meeting, the current and past processes meet the executive board's authority related to the defined maintenance of our homes and common areas.

### **Reserves Study Progressing**

Dale reported progress on the reserves study, which is the basis for how much we all pay toward the future capital needs of the community. The study has become more important because we're now an "aging community" in more ways than one; as we all are learning systems need more care as the years pass. The board issued a call for any suggestions we residents might have for community improvements such as trees and landscaping so that the Grounds Committee, headed by Peggy Harrison, can consider them for budgeting purposes.

Only a few minor items were approved by the Architectural Design Review committee. The board reminds us that no approval is required to repaint homes, garage doors and trim in the same original colors used when homes were built. Our website has color charts.

The next meeting will be Nov. 10, when the first draft of the 2012 budget will be on the table.

## ***A Fun Time at Happy Hour on a Stormy Night***



Jane Heath (left) and Esther Bailliet chat. That's Esther's granddaughter, Lily Rose, finishing her soft drink. (Top left). The hostess and Social Committee chairperson, Lou Palley, brings out her stuffed tomato dish. (Top right) John and Lou Palley graciously moved the Happy Hour into their garage as rain threatened.

Gail Ploen (left) gabs with Joan Searcy (right) and Lisa Lubin at the Happy Hour party. (Top left) Winnie Kortz (left) and Linda Massey interrupt their conversation at the Sangria table for a photograph. (Bottom right) The next Happy Hour will be Sept. 15 at Trapper's Chop House in Parker.



## **Neither Snow Nor Cold Can Dissuade Bicyclist Dale Jensen**

The postman's job of delivering the mail when neither rain, nor sleet, nor gloom of night deters him ain't nothin' compared with our neighbor Dale Jensen's recent 463-mile Bicycle Tour of Colorado adventure.

Dale retired July 1 from PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the four big auditing firms. Instead of settling into a rocking chair, Dale settled upon the slender, stiff bike saddle on his custom 13-year-old titanium bike. He's in his third term on our homeowners' association board of directors as treasurer. He lives at 6155 S. Carson when he's not pedaling around Colorado.

That six-day Bicycle Tour (June 19-25) took him from Central City on the Peak to Peak Highway to Estes Park, across Trail Ridge Road to Granby, Steamboat Springs, Glenwood Springs and back to Central City. The second day resembled the Iditarod. While crossing Rocky Mountain National Park, Dale and his biking buddies encountered rain, cold, snow, wind, sleet, fog, mud and near hyperthermia – the temperature was 25-27 degrees. "My glasses were coated with snow," Dale said.

Were that not fun enough, Dale joined the Triple Bypass ride July 9. That's 120 miles from Evergreen to Avon, which is 10,000 feet of elevation gain over Squaw, Loveland and Vail passes.



**Dale Jensen is somewhere in the fog as the bicyclists cross Rocky Mountain National Park's Trail Ridge Road.**

Just for kicks this past weekend Dale biked a triangle from Frisco to Leadville to Vail and back.

Bicycling has become a priority for Dale the past 40 years. Last year, he bicycled 3,200 miles and this year looks like it'll total 5,000 miles. And what does he think about while clicking off the miles as the elevation climbs to 10,000 or 11,000 feet above sea

level? "Really nothing," he said. "I just enjoy the scenery."

## **Arapahoe Bridge Key To Bike Path Construction**

That bike-path crossing of Arapahoe Road has become an \$18.5 million project as part of a reconstruction of the Cherry Creek bridge in 2013. Here's the latest on the project from Chuck Reno, Open Space coordinator for the Arapahoe County Open Space Division, in Chuck's words.

"The stakeholder group and consultants met with members from the Valley Country Club Board of Directors on June 28, the second meeting. Both of these meetings with the board have produced very spirited discussions with the stakes being quite high on both sides of the table. If each side will tolerate it, I estimate we could have as much as six more months of discussion and research ahead of us before any type of determination can be chiseled out.

"This is a multi-faceted project and in other areas the news is even more encouraging. The Colorado Department of Transportation has officially announced their intent to raze and replace the bridge on Arapahoe Road with work starting in 2013. This means a new state-of-the-art vehicular bridge and pedestrian underpass as part of the design.

"Even further upstream on Cherry Creek the Parker Jordan Metro District is breaking ground this month on the new low-water crossing on Cherry Creek. This crossing will bring trail users from the Cornerstar shopping area, and to the west side of the creek and the new site of the regional trailhead parking area on Arapahoe Road.

"We are nearing a critical point in pulling all of the components of this project together. Believe it or not the design schedule between now and 2013 is so aggressive it's got people nervous already. It's just a huge project with an estimated cost of \$18.5 million. There are no guarantees on how all of this is going to turn out. One thing that I know for sure: we have the best group of stakeholders and consultants that could possibly be pulled together for this purpose of giving the trail connection its best shot. To that end, we appreciate your interest and support."

## ***This 'N' That***

### **Good Neighbors**

The home of Ada and Benson Tan at 6213 S. Blackhawk Ct. has gone through foreclosure and is now owned by Bank of America, Barbara Sydow, our homeowners association president, reported at its July meeting. It will soon go on the market after the bank gets the house into selling shape. The problem for the HOA is that no dues or late fees have been paid for 11 months and these total \$2,090. Barbara said there's a high probability the HOA will recover the money, the question is how long that'll take. Meanwhile, Blackhawk neighbors are watering the lawn since water has been turned off. They're running a hose from Mary Lou Klein's home next door and have taken a collection to help Mary Lou pay for the water.

### **Special Happy Hour**

Our next neighborhood Happy Hour will be Sept. 15 at Trapper's Chop House, 19308 E. Cottonwood Drive in Parker. What a special place! The Social Committee, headed by Lou Palley, will pay for the hor d'oeuvres. And you get to "romance the stone" if you choose to stay for dinner. The stones are lava rocks heated to 700 degrees on which you grill at your table your choice of two entries such as filet mignon and scallops for \$32. Terrific views from the

top of the Holiday Inn are free. The July Happy Hour attracted about 30 people on a stormy night for Sangria and Tapas. It was moved into the garage of John and Lou Palley.

### **Cup O' Cheer**

The annual Cup O' Cheer holiday party will be at the home of Sally and Bruce Lowdermilk, 6107 S. Carson St. The date to remember is Dec. 4. Our ever-busy Social Committee is in charge of the dinner, and you won't need to bring a food dish to Cup O' Cheer. The dinner is catered.

### **Get the Lead Out**

Did you bother reading the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority's little handout in your last billing envelop? Who knew about lead in our water? ACWWA has detected elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. On June 1, the handout says, ACWWA performed state-mandated lead monitoring. In 23% of the samples, ACWWA found levels of lead that exceeded an action level of .015mg/L of lead. That means ACWWA is increasing its monitoring for lead and making adjustments to the water leaving the treatment plant. As Ogden Nash observed, candy is dandy but liquor is quicker. At least it doesn't contain lead.

## ***Zimmerman Pine Moth Fells Hawkes' Austrian Pine***

You wouldn't think a little bugger like a moth could bring down a pine tree, but that's what has happened to the Austrian pine at the home of Debbie and Ed Hawkes, 6105 S. Carson.

Ed noticed branches drooping after a snow but thought little about it until he noticed the tree turning brown at the top. Not soon enough he called Swingle Tree, Lawn and Landscape Care to look it over. The prognosis? Doomed by the Zimmerman pine moth. Ed learned it might be saved with pruning and spraying but wisely decided to remove the tree and grind out the stump. That cost \$330 and left a hole for a replacement.

Ed and Debbie chose a Tannenbaum mugo pine that will become a maximum of 6 feet wide and 10 feet tall if it behaves itself.



The symptoms of the moths' work include weakened intersections where the branches and trunk join and globs of resin

around the joints. Sounds like arthritis

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## **ACWWA Water Board Expanded to Nine**

The Arapahoe County Commissioners have appointed five people to serve on an expanded Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority, our water provider.

After a stink raised by the Denver Post about conflicts of interest two board members resigned, but were recognized for their swell work as they departed. The newcomers include Linda Lehrer who served on the board from 2007 to 2009. She's president of Sierra Consulting, Aurora. The four others are:

- Mikkel R. Anderson, an executive with the International Risk Group.
- Steven H. Davis, developer/investor with Community Builders, Inc.
- Geri G. Santos-Rach, a medical billing analyst for IMED, and who previously worked for the Colorado Public Utilities Commission until she retired in 2009.
- Dr. Phyllis R. Thomas, utility application specialist with Phyllis Thomas Consulting.

The incumbents are:

- Doyle Tinkey
- Ralph (Hap) Henderson
- Rod Bockenfeld
- Steven Hunt

There's nothing in the July 12 press release to explain how they're qualified, but Bockenfeld said they "bring a good balance of expertise and knowledge to the ACWWA board." So now there will be nine board members squeezed around a table about large enough for a good Ping-Pong game in a conference room at the ACWWA headquarters just west of us.

### **FOR SALE: Three Sanctuary Homes**

Three homes in our neighborhood are on the market: the Damian home at 6250 S. Carson, the Adams home next door at 6230 S. Carson (price just reduced) and Sydow home at 6274 S. Blackhawk.

## **Moths Difficult to Find But Leave Nasty Clues**

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of the limbs, which many of us understand quite well.

Here's what the Colorado State University Extension Service says about this nasty moth:

In recent years, the Zimmerman pine moth, *Dioryctria zimmermani*, has become established along the Front Range. Austrian pines have been most commonly infested. Scotch and Ponderosa pines are also reported as hosts.

Branches typically break at the crotch area where they join the trunk. Dead and dying branches, most often in the upper half of the tree, commonly indicate infestations. The first external symptoms of injury are popcorn-like pitch masses at wound sites. The pitch masses may reach golf-ball size and ultimately resemble clusters of small, pale grapes.

The adults, rarely observed, are midsized moths, with gray wings blended with red-brown and marked with zigzag lines. Larvae are generally dirty white caterpillars, occasionally with some pink or green. They are found within the characteristic popcorn-like masses of sap on the trunks and branches.

### **Rain Sensors Inexpensive to Buy With ACWWA 50% Rebate**

Want to turn off your sprinklers automatically when it's raining? You can buy a Toro rain sensor for your home for \$17.79 at Amazon or a Rainbird at Rainbird's website for \$20.02 (undoubtedly available in retail stores locally).

It collects rain at the top of the device and shuts off the sprinkler clock until the sensor inside of it dries out. Our water company, Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority (ACWWA), will rebate up to 50% to a maximum of \$50 on the purchase of a qualified rain sensor. Please go here to read about the rebate: [http://www.arapahoewater.org/Water-Conservation/Rebate\\_Program.html](http://www.arapahoewater.org/Water-Conservation/Rebate_Program.html). You get to install them.