



Sanctuary Sentinel

For and About the Sanctuary on the Park Community

April 2010 - Visit our web site at www.dcmi.com/onthepark/sanctuary.htm

Dues Increase May Be Needed, Thanks to Water Costs

A monthly dues increase became a distinct probability as the Sanctuary on the Park homeowners' association board mulled the intransigence of our water provider over relief from its latest cost increases.

We'll all feeling the pinch of that flat \$26.50 the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater autocrats added to our water tab for the next 30 years. We just may get hit again, this time in our monthly dues. How'd that happen? Here's how.

First, our HOA had a deal to pay the flat-rate water charge of \$277 a month only for the six months we use ACWWA's water to sprinkle common areas. That now ends, and we'll need to pay that \$277 a month year round even if we don't use a drop of water.

Second, ACWWA's new flat-rate \$212-a-month charge to pay off revenue bonds over the next 30 years began January 1. Our board asked ACWWA to waive the fee for the six months we don't sprinkle. Nope. Can't do that, ACWWA said, and we'll pay that even if we don't use a drop of water.

Third, we're now being soaked with \$3,400 a year by ACWWA's first cousin, the Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA). It was formed in 2006 to save our homes from a flood. And now they're into our pockets for \$3,400 a year because our streets are privately owned and paved, and producing runoff. That's in addition to the \$82 or so we homeowners pay to SEMSWA in property taxes.

Suppose we really want to water our common areas? That's an additional cost. You saw the sign at the Maplewood entrance announcing we're not using purified water? All the gunk with which we will water weeds and grass in common areas will cost the same as the purified, calcium-laced stuff we drink and flush.

Put it all together and this is what you get:

| Who? | Month | Per Year | Each Home |
|----------------------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| SEMSWA flood control | | 3,400.00 | 5.35 |
| ACWWA bonds | 212.00 | 2,544.00 | 4.00 |
| ACWWA flat rate | 277.00 | 3,324.00 | 5.23 |
| TOTAL | | 9,268.00 | 14.57 |

Dumbfounded, the board now will have to ante up, "but that doesn't mean we won't contest it," Treasurer Dale Jensen said at the April 22 meeting. As for that deal? "That was an error of someone in the billing department," ACWWA told Muriel Leff, our HOA vice president, who's pursuing this problem. As for SEMSWA? "We can't charge municipalities for street runoff because they are taxing entities," Muriel was told, in effect.

In other matters, the board:

- Noted the resignation of Joe Dirks as Grounds Committee chairperson and the appointment of Peggy Harrison as his successor.
- Reported the resignation of Steve Jeffries as co-chair of the Bird Committee with Malcolm Jones. Barbara Sydow, president, observed that the Bird Committee just may be subsumed into the Grounds Committee but she will welcome the involvement of anyone in sustaining the bird effort.
- Discussed weed spraying in common areas and the work of Brickman landscaping people so far. Brickman bought The Green Plan with whom our HOA has contracted maintenance services.
- Asked the Grounds Committee to get bids on tree and shrub trimming in the perimeter common areas.
- Concluded close monitoring of Brickman monthly charges must continue to keep a close eye on our budget and expenses.

Who to Call?

When you have issues, questions or concerns about the work of our lawn and shrub maintenance company or need work on your sprinklers, please continue to call Ron Hutchison at Caron Realty. That's 720-283-3300.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Barbara Sydow

Since our February Board meeting we have had some personnel changes.



First, Joe Dirks advised the board that he would be resigning as chairman of the Grounds Committee upon completion of the new fence. As you can see and many have commented (positively), the Grounds Committee did a FABULOUS job with the new fence! And so, sadly, we say a HUGE THANK YOU to Joe for his continued great efforts on

behalf of our community! We know he has tremendous contacts within the Parks and Water departments and will continue to count on him for those relationships! Thanks again to Joe!

Next, Steve Jefferies tendered his resignation from the Bird Committee. He too has always contributed to our community and stepped in during a tenuous time last year (along with Malcolm Jones), so the board thanks him for all his efforts! I spoke with Malcolm (yes, he was home – but just) and because he travels so much, and with Steve's resignation said that he prefers to step off the committee as well. To Malcolm, thank you too for stepping in with Steve and watching over our birds!

Peggy Harrison, our co-chair for the Grounds Committee has agreed to become the chair for the Committee and so with the community's (and board) support, we welcome her! Peggy told the Board that Sandy Hill is very interested in recruiting neighborhood Bird Lovers to help take care of the birdhouses. So, on behalf of Sandy, please don't hesitate to contact her if you wish to volunteer. The new group will work together with the Grounds Committee.

As I said spring has sprung, so let's come out and see our neighbors after a long, windy and cold winter at the upcoming Cinco de Mayo Happy Hour at 5:30 on May 5 by the Maplewood mailboxes. BYOB and the Social Committee will bring the munchies. It will

be a great time (weather permitting) to catch up with your neighbors after our hibernation.

We had a very productive board meeting. Muriel gave the group an update on all the various charges related to the water. See Jim's article later. Peggy and her committee

made several recommendations that are also discussed in this newsletter, but most importantly is spending a great deal of time with Reiny (from Brickman) and Ron (from Caron Realty) to make sure that our grounds are in proper shape and kept that way. She has a long list and I'm sure will be looking for volunteers at the Spring Clean Up on May 22. Stop by and see us!

THANKS as always to all of our committee chairs and committee members for their participation this past quarter! I look forward to see you at our next quarterly board meeting – at 7 p.m. July 15 at my house.

This n That

Read Faster

Our neighborhood book club meets May 10 to discuss "The Space Between Us" by Thrity Umrigar. It's a book about a wealthy woman and her downtrodden servant in India. (Some wiseacre conjectured that's your typical married couple.) Jane Heath will lead the discussion at Judy Baker's home. The June 14 book is "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" with Carol Kishiyama as discussion leader and Jane as hostess.

Overpass Coming

Stan Massey, who watches these developments for us, has learned that the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) this summer will launch the long-awaited rebuild of the entire Parker and Arapahoe Road interchange with an Arapahoe overpass. CDOT was expected to identify the apparent low bid contractor on April 15. Construction is expected to last through 2011.

Banking on You

Have you ever wondered why we need five banks in our stretch of Arapahoe Road, and there's only one gas station? That's soon going to change with the addition of the Valero station on our corner. Just in time for you to refuel before entering the coming cone zone of eastbound Arapahoe traffic.

Real Who Dun It

Okay, folks. Would the party who rammed their vehicle into our street light at Jordan and Maplewood please limp forward? It was tilted at an awkward angle by the impact. The board asked Xcel to fix the light pole and it's on the Xcel to-do list. Somewhere.

Steve Jeffries: From Papal Visit to Olympics

Credit Pope John Paul II with changing Steve Jeffries' career path.

Steve says that, and with good reason. Back in August 1993, Steve – then Denver's No. 2 cop as deputy police chief – was asked to plan and manage security for the events during the Pope's five-day World Youth Day visit to Denver.

A photo of Steve shaking hands with the pontiff as Pope John Paul departs remains on his office wall beside a poster of the half a million people at Cherry Creek State Park for the Mass on closing day.

Retiring two years later at age 49, Steve launched his second career in directing phases of security at the sites of many of our country's disasters and protecting our participants in Winter Olympics and Paralympic games.

Steve and his school-teacher wife Anne live at 6280 S. Carson St.

One assignment followed another. He was invited in 1995 to manage security at the U.S. Olympics Festival in Denver, an event that simulated for athletes what they would find a year later in the Centennial Olympics in Atlanta. That would be the first of a series of events in which he would participate in security. During the Atlanta Olympics, he managed parking and transportation security for a sponsor, working 42 consecutive days.

Next came the 1998 Nagano winter games, the 1999 U.S. Figure Skating championships in Salt Lake and an assignment with the Salt Lake Organizing Committee as director of security requiring him to live there 10 months. Nagano was the first of four winter-games security-involved stays, the last three with team USA.

Were that not enough travel, Steve joined the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1999 as a security manager, which brought him to such disasters as the Katrina and Rita hurricanes and in 2001 the World Trade Center terrorist attack.

"My job is to make sure our United States athletes are secure," Steve says of his Olympics work. That includes

helping the stars of ice and snow avoid being distracted and removing any influences that might be disturb their concentration. Steve spends his time observing conditions around the team to make sure the security measures of the host country are followed.

He returned not so long ago from Vancouver, site of the 2010 winter games. Steve went there in October to participate in U.S. Olympic Committee training and confer with officials about the security plans. Amazingly, Canada devoted 20% of the country's policing capacity to this event. He gives U.S. athletes security briefings and makes sure they have his speed-dial number. Steve marched in the opening and closing ceremonies in Turin,



Stefani Victor, a Paralympic gold-medal winner in the super combined, shares her excitement with friend Steve Jeffries, who was in Canada to oversee security for the U.S. Olympic team.

doing his job of keeping our athletes safe.

This leaves him little time to cheer on the athletes, but he does learn to know them and has become friends with a number. One of those friends is a Stefani Victor, who lost both of her legs in a 1999 car accident. On her way to an acting and filmmaking career, Stefani turned her boundless energy to skiing. She has collected Paralympic World Cup and Olympic medals including the gold in the super combined and silver in the giant slalom this year.

You'd think that's enough travel? Not quite. Steve and Anne are planning a Russia Arctic Circle cruise this summer and also will visit Norway, Turkey, Greece, Malta, Spain and 11 African nations.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo With Your Neighbors

Don your sombrero and join us for our Cinco de Mayo Happy Hour from 5:30 p.m. until the nachos are consumed on May 5 across from the Maplewood mailboxes, thanks to our ever-busy el Comité Social...er...Social Committee

The comité will provide the snacks but you'll need to bring your own Dos Equis or margaritas. Joan Liebchen, the committee's chairperson, would like volunteers to help

Cheese goes here,



with erecting tents around 5:15 p.m. By the way, how did Dos Equis get its name? It came on the market in 1900 to celebrate the

coming 20th Century, thus its name: Two X's. Time to change it to Veintiuno –Twenty One XXI. Just saying...

Future Happy Hour dates are June 17 and July 27. The committee asks that you to sign up to bring your special appetizer to these. Sheets will be available on May 5 and at the clean-up picnic. Other dates for you calendar: cleanup and picnic, May 22; Oktoberfest, Sept 24, and Cup o' Cheer Dec 5.

Committee members are Joan, Winnie Kortz, Anne Nelson, Gail Ploen, Joan Searcy and Barbara Sydow.

Sanctuary Board & Committee Members 2010

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|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| President – Barbara Sydow | 303-680-8595 |
| Vice President – Muriel Leff | 303-690-2939 |
| Treasurer - Dale Jensen | 303-627-2632 |
| Design Review Committee - Anne Nelson | 303-690-6177 |
| Grounds Committee – Peggy Harrison | 720-876-2265 |
| Social Committee – Joan Liebchen | 303-400-3389 |
| Newsletter Editor – Jim Banman | 303-690-1073 |
| Caron Realty, Community Mgmt. – Ron | 720-283-3300 |

Please call Diane Miller at Caron Realty with any additions, changes to the Directory information or e-mail address.

Sanctuary Website

Don't forget our website for information and pictures. All personal information requires a password to access. Send your contributions to Sam Searcy at dcmi@ix.netcom.com. The website address is: www.dcmi.com/onthepark/santuarv.htm

Your E-Mail Address Please

Please call Diane Miller at Caron Realty to add or change your e-mail address in our community's list so that you too can be included in information about your Sanctuary on the Park community.