



Sanctuary Sentinel

For and About the Sanctuary on the Park Community

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\$13,700 Approved for Landscape Improvements

Residents approved spending \$13,700 in 2011 to revitalize the Maplewood corner to Sanctuary on the Park and other improvements at the Dec. 9 annual homeowners' meeting, but not without a smattering of nay saying.

The money from our Reserve Account will be used to:

- Erect a monument at Maplewood of cultured stone with a logo like the entrance signs at Caley and Blackhawk. Along with that the cedar fence will be altered, and plantings and sod will be added. Cost: \$8,000.
- The area on Maplewood across from the mailboxes will be revived with steel edging, weed barriers and ornamental grass. Cost: \$600.
- The east ditch along Jordan between Blackhawk and Maplewood will be revitalized with removal of gravel and rip-rap rock and otherwise made more attractive with edging and native grass. Cost: \$3,600.
- A light for the community sign at Caley and Jordan will be added. Cost: \$1,500.

At first the Grounds Committee asked those present to vote on each of the four proposed improvements. Several residents reminded the board that homeowners did not directly vote on the new Jordan fence and why now request a vote on each item?

"I would hate to see people evaluating things by what's near their house," Carol Race, a Maplewood resident, said. "If we have people vote and they only vote on things that benefit them then we have problems passing anything." Carol pointed out the proposed changes benefit the entire community.

Muriel Leff, vice president, said the Grounds Committee would consider suggestions of residents about any other common-area items next year in the fourth and final year of the landscaping master plan. As Dale Jensen, treasurer,



This is how our Maplewood corner may look with the new monument though it will be a bit smaller than the Blackhawk monument (which is this one superimposed on the Maplewood corner).

noted: The best way to evaluate any proposed improvement down the road is to divide the cost by 53 (the number of homes) and decide if the improvement is worth it.

A series of motions later, and homeowners were asked for a raised-hand vote on the entire package. The vote was 19 of 28 homeowners in favor; 4 opposed

Dale presented the 2011 HOA budget calling for \$5,100 more in operating expenses and reserve transfers than our HOA fees. Money for the deficit if needed will come from the \$43,000 in the HOA's operating bank account. The 2011 budget calls for adding another \$22,055 to the Reserve Account from which capital improvements are paid. A new reserve-fund study will be conducted next year, Dale said.

The budget also contains a new and separate fund called the Emergency Snow Removal Fund with \$10,000. It will be used only when the operating-budget amount of \$10,000 has been used, Dale said. The average snow-removal cost over the past four years – not counting 2010 – has been \$8,000 he said.

The homeowners' dues will remain at \$165 a month though Dale said he "wouldn't be surprised" if an increase is needed in 2012.

The meeting-ending homeowners' open forum lasted all of 10 seconds of silence. The board's next meeting will be Jan. 13.

A Lieutenant Who Won't Be Home for Christmas

Perched expectantly in his high chair, 8-month-old Connor waits baby-robin like for each swoop of applesauce his mother spoons into his mouth.

Marbury, his mom, delivers each gulp with a rhythmic, practiced pace as she reflects on her temporary single-mom life. Marbury and Connor McCune are brief guests over Christmas and New Years with her dad and step-mom, Malcolm and Marilyn Jones, 6292 S. Blackhawk Ct.



You see, Connor's dad is half a world away this holiday in the service of the United States Army in Afghanistan, and in a not-so-safe location. Like thousands of other servicemen, he must spend this holiday apart from loved ones, and it's

not easy on this young family.

Marbury grows pensive, but with no pity or regret, about becoming a single mom as her husband is away for a year. "It was stressful the first months – a new home (in Clarksville, TN), a husband about to deploy and new 4-month-old baby," she confesses. "I tried to look on it in a positive way and remain balanced about it."

This is Sean's second hitch in the military. He joined the Navy at barely age 18 and served as a Marine corpsman for eight years. He spent the next four years earning an undergraduate degree in political science and playing football at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA.

Marbury and Sean met while he was a corpsman at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, and she, a psychology graduate of San Diego State University, worked in the Department of Psychiatry at the medical center. They dated, Marbury admits, for nine years before Sean



Marbury McCune offers her son, Connor, another spoon of applesauce, but he's suspicious of the camera.

asked to marry her. Where? Oh, at a rodeo in Steamboat Springs. They now have been married three years. Soon enough Sean found he missed the military but at 33 was too old for the Marines. The Army took him and sent him to Officer's Candidate School where he graduated seventh out of a class of over 200. He earned a commission as a second lieutenant and became a paratrooper at Ft. Campbell, TN. He left for Afghanistan in August.



Lt. Sean McCune, now in Afghanistan.

He's now with the 101st Airborne as an infantry officer, 4th Brigade, 2nd Battalion in a place called Camp Orgun. It's in the Paktika province of southeastern Afghanistan along the eastern border with Pakistan, the Internet informs us. He soon will go to a forward operating base called Camp Boris.

Sean and Marbury talk to each other weekly most of the time, but soon it might be less frequently. "He knows I'm doing all I can. He's proud of us. He misses us terribly," Marbury says. "It's one of the sacrifices we need to make. It's part of his job."

Meanwhile, Connor swooshes his little fist into the doughnut-circle of applesauce around his mouth. Dribbles of it soak into his bib. It'll be his first Christmas, and he'll be with his loving mom and grandparents. His dad will be very much in their thoughts and they in his.

One Word Describes Cup O' Cheer: Yummm

Thanks again to the superb kitchen craftsmanship of Barbara Sydow and crew, 55 guests enjoyed a marvelous night off from kitchen duties and interesting conversation at the Cup O' Cheer holiday party.

A community tradition, Cup O' Cheer has morphed pleasantly from us bringing food dishes to a nicely catered dinner. Our hosts this year were Lou and John Palley in their home at 6282 S. Blackhawk. They deserve a medal for their courage in hosting the event.

One highlight was a guest strolling guitarist, Owen Kortz, the grandson of Winnie and Allan Kortz, one of our neighbors. Malcolm and Marilyn Jones' baby grandson, Connor, was a cute gentleman and our former neighbors, Ada and Alicia Tan, joined us.

Barb's buffet menu included roasted turkey and honey-baked ham served with scalloped potatoes, sausage stuffing, squash and apple streusel, orange green beans with caramelized onions, orange-spiced cranberry sauce and tossed salad with vinaigrette. As for dessert she offered mini pecan tarts and gingerbread trifles.

The Cup O' Cheer is the work of our active Social Committee, headed by Joan Liebchen.



Among guests at the Cup O' Cheer were (clockwise): Eric Kortz, the roving troubadour; Gail Ploen at the buffet; Esther Bailliet; Chef Barbara Sydow with Peter Liebchen; Carol Race and Jim Murlin, Bird Club members.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Barbara Sydow

Happy Holidays! I don't know if it's good or bad that we have no snow....yet! I know the board, from a homeowners association perspective, is okay without it for now!

Our annual meeting was well attended. You approved four new projects for the upcoming year recommended to the Grounds Committee and by them. More about that in the newsletter. You also ratified the budget for the year, including the recommendation to create a Snow Removal



Reserve. Thanks to Dale Jensen for researching Ed Arnold's request from last year to determine what we could do to prepare for lots of snow without having a special assessment!

Thanks also to Dale for "re-upping" for another three-year term. As many of you know, Dale is retiring in June - enjoy your retirement! Thanks again for keeping us in great fiscal shape!

Thanks always to our fine committee chair-people and their members. Don't forget this is a new year and we are always looking for new members, new ideas and new chair people - volunteering makes sure your voice (and your neighbor's) voice is heard.

Have a safe and joyful Holiday Season!

Our New Neighbors Love Those Ski Slopes

Our newest homeowners, Rich and Mary Linke, fell in love with Colorado during a Christmas vacation four years ago and now they're back enjoying our ski slopes.

Already avid skiers, they met on the slopes in Vermont and had enjoyed the snow there for many seasons. Now back in Colorado, they spend as much time as they can mastering the terrain at Vail and Beaver Creek.

Mary is a Jersey Girl from Secaucus who graduated from Montclair State College. She is employed by Verizon, mostly doing administrative work at home, but she enjoys a weekly drive to her Colorado Springs office.

Rich's roots are deep in Connecticut. He too works from home on airport systems. He has great stories to tell of his intense experiences in China working on preparing the Beijing airport for the Olympics.

What do the Linkes do when there's not enough snow to ski? They put on a pair of hiking boots and explore Rocky Mountain National Park, or some other gorgeous Colorado locale. Rich is a member of a cycling club, which is



Mary & Rich Linke, 6224 S. Blackhawk.

helping with his fitness goal: to have his 20-year-old body back by the time he turns 60! He's well on his way.

The Linkes reside at 6224 S. Blackhawk where they appreciate being surrounded by so much open space, and the easy access to the bike trails in the park. They have been pleasantly surprised at the friendliness they have encountered out

here in the West -- the members of their

ski club as well as their Sanctuary neighbors. They are considering purchasing cross-country skiing equipment in case there's ever enough snow for them to ski the neighborhood. Should we tell them about the year we were cut off from the rest of the world for three days in March?

By Joan Liebchen

New River Runs Through Sanctuary

Many of us have noticed water coursing through Lake Sanctuary and wondered what's going on because it hasn't rained since who-can-remember when.

It's us, Steve Witter, the water resources manager of Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority said.

ACWWA built that snazzy reverse osmosis plant at Bronco Parkway and Jordan Road that strains out the tiniest particles before delivering the water to our faucets. Then what does ACWWA do with the strained-out gunk? It becomes a "blend concentrate" of bad stuff and clean water and is sent merrily down Windmill Creek, which weaves through Sanctuary on the Park.

Is that a good thing? Apparently it doesn't harm Canada geese that honk and hunker around in their newfound swimming pool. Steve says the water is no better or worse than any other water wending its way into Cherry Creek Reservoir. The flow will continue indefinitely. The stream varies because some days the demand for water varies, Steve said. The plant isn't 24/7 so the flow runs whenever the plant runs. It may not be a good idea to stock it with trout just yet.

Our occasional pond is identified as Pond W-8. The Windmill Creek watershed starts near E-470 and Peoria Street in Douglas County and curlicues its way into our neighborhood. After leaving us, it drains into Cottonwood Creek about one mile northwest. And Cottonwood Creek drains into Cherry Creek another mile and a half north. ACWWA built and owns the pond. Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) maintains it. The two agencies have proposed to transfer ownership to SEMSWA, Mike Vinson of SEMSWA, tells us.

Drip Torture

Your water will cost you 5% more in 2011.

That's the news from our Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority, which gives itself this holiday gift from us each year-end. We'll see the increase in the January 2011 bill that arrives in February.

It means your flat-rate water and irrigation fee of \$34.72 will go up \$1.74 and your metered water rates – all the tiers – will go up too. As an example, if you use 3,000



"Hey, buddy, move over when I honk..."

gallons of water a month your usage bill will increase \$.45. The two come to \$2.19 more.

ACWWA's board in November was given four alternatives, all involving the 5% increase. Their budget shortfall to meet bond requirements needed \$300,0000 in additional revenue to be paid by:

- A 5% across-the-board increase in water rates and the water service fee.
- A 13.5% increase in the service fee (our flat \$34.72 residential for a three-quarter-inch line and the HOA's \$277.76 for its two-inch line).
- A 7.9% increase in the volume rate.
- An amalgamation of these three.

There was one small whimper of board opposition in November, which quickly was squelched. On Dec. 8, the board chose the across-the-board alternative.

Dale Jensen Re-elected As HOA Treasurer

Dale Jensen, a certified public accountant and leader of the Houston, TX, forensic services practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers, was re-elected treasurer of the Sanctuary homeowners' association at the HOA annual meeting.



Dale, who lives at 6155 Carson, commutes regularly to Houston, but plans to retire June 30. It's really his third term as treasurer because he served in that position in the early days of the HOA.

He has over 30 years of experience in providing dispute analysis and financial investigation services, audit and accounting services, internal control and management reviews, cost accounting analyses, and other financial analyses. He has been accredited as an expert, and has testified on accounting and financial matters in federal and state courts.

Among his spare-time fun things is snowboarding.

This 'N' That

Social Committee Needs New Member

Joan Liebchen has resigned from our community's Social Committee of which she is the chairperson. Her effervescence and leadership will be missed. That means the committee is seeking a new member beginning with the New Year. And just why would Joan do this? "Right now I'm having too much fun at Vincent's school, and I'd like to do a bit more for the USO," Joan says. Vincent is her grandson, and Joan volunteers at his school as well as with the USO. Committee members are Winnie Kortz, Anne Nelson, Gail Ploen, Joan Searcy, Barbara Sydow and Esther Bailliet.

Water Those Trees and Shrubs

Peggy Harrison, our Grounds Committee chairperson, reminds us this dry air, low precipitation, little soil moisture and fluctuating temperatures can be harmful to our trees, shrubs and grass.

Get those hoses out once more when air temperatures are above 40 degrees, a bulletin Peggy received from the Colorado Extension Service advises. That's especially needed by woody plants with shallow roots such as Norway, silver, red, Rocky Mountain and hybrid maples; lindens, alder, hornbeams, dogwood, willows and mountain ash. Evergreen plants also need water. They include spruce, fir, yew, grape holly, boxwood and euonymus.

As for grass, it needs it too, especially those lawns with south or west exposures.

Peggy has the full bulletin if you want more information.

Status of Burned-Out House on Jordan

That burned-out house on Jordan remains vacant, and Rhonda Livingston, its next-door neighbor, tells us its story. "The city of Centennial is aware of the condition of the house and had the power turned off. The city told the owner that the family cannot occupy the house until appropriate repairs with required city permits have been done. Unfortunately, the city does not have relevant codes for this situation. We have another burned house in our HOA that has been unoccupied, but not abandoned for over 15 years. This summer, the city council discussed whether it should create and adopt codes that would help bring (homes such as these) to some kind of 'safety level and appropriate appearance,' but there are not enough votes from city council members to approve them. I spoke with one of my city council members since then. He supports doing something about these homes, and he said that even though there wasn't enough support this time, he plans to bring it up again for city council discussion and consideration."

Weather Station at Blackhawk and Jordan

So you want to know what's the weather in our immediate neighborhood? Erwin and Becky Hudson who live at Blackhawk and Jordan in Algonquin Acres have a professional weather station on their roof. It's a solar-powered system that measures wind, rain, temperature, pressure, humidity and other things. Go to <http://www.erwinandbecky.com/current.html> to see our current weather, weather the past seven days and a lot more. For example, the total rain and melted snow so far this year are 13.71 inches, which is 76.9% of normal. By the way, this and other interesting links about our larger neighborhood are on Rhonda Livingston's Algonquin Acres website: www.neighborhoodlink.com/Algonquin_Acres/home.