



Sanctuary Sentinel

For and About the Sanctuary on the Park Community

February 2010 - Visit our web site at

Plastic Bags to Return as 'Green' Trex Fence

Those plastic grocery bags we lug home from the supermarket and recycle soon will return to our neighborhood.

The Sanctuary board of directors approved installing a Trex fence along Jordon Road and other places where wood fences now enclose our property. Trex says 7 out of every 10 recycled grocery bags and all kinds of other stuff that otherwise goes into landfills make it into its materials. We truly will have a "green" fence – actually Winchester grey, the closest Trex color to our old fence.

Joe Dirks, Grounds Committee chairman, recommended accepting the Split Rail Fence & Supply's bid of \$30,000 for the work, and the board agreed at its February 25 meeting. Joe told the board the replacement fence will be installed soon over a two-week period. Homeowners bordering the fence will be notified when to expect work to begin.

The fence comes with a 25-year warranty and will never need painting and it won't rot, warp or splinter, the company claims.

Joe also said he's taking up with Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater its belated notification of adding \$212 every month to the HOA's water bill to pay off ACWWA's water revenue bonds. The hope is ACWWA will only charge for months when we use water. Think of this as another \$4 on top of the \$26.50 more we have began paying.

That was the major business item in a one-hour meeting with seven homeowner guests on a snowy night.

What else happened?

Dog-leash rules need to be observed, the board said for the umpteenth time. That's not only the rule in our HOA documents but also is Centennial city law. Check this out. Section 6.05 of the Declaration says (in part): "Pets shall not be permitted to roam free.

All dogs and cats whenever outside a Unit shall be confined on a leash which is securely tied or held by a responsible person." The board also asked Ron Hutchison of Caron Realty to send a letter to adjoining communities again to remind them we mean business about dog "business."

REX ALREADY KNEW THEY HAD HIS DNA IT WAS TIME TO GO ON THE LAM.



The board approved a resolution fixing new fines for violations of homeowner association documents. The four-step process begins with an initial written warning followed by sequential warnings and fines of \$50, \$75 and \$100. And if that doesn't do the trick the \$100 fines will continue, Dale Jensen, treasurer, added.

"Everything is okay so far," Dale said in his report on income and expenses. No snow removal has been required as of the meeting.

All the standing-committee chair appointments were ratified. They are: Joan Liebchen, Social Committee; Anne Nelson, Architectural Design Review; Steve Jeffries, Birds; Joe Dirks, Grounds with Peggy Harrison as Grounds co-chair, and Jim Banman as Newsletter Editor.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Barbara Sydow



The Board and I want to take a moment to wish you all a Happy 2010!

This is my second year serving on the Board. I want to welcome Muriel Leff (our vice president) back to the Board and thank her again for her contributions to our community in the past. Also welcome back to Dale Jensen for his third year on the Board. Dale has done an outstanding job as treasurer, however is unwilling to volunteer a third term ☹️ so we are seeking candidates! Dale has offered to chat with any homeowner with some accounting background to give her/him a feel for the position, responsibilities and, of course, will help in any needed transition upon election at the end of his term.

The Board wants to emphasize the importance of positive communication within the community. To that end, I would greatly appreciate any feedback the community has to offer. This year we look forward to community participation in the Spring Clean Up our social events (Joan Liebchen and her committee have put together a great schedule) and our annual Cup O' Cheer.

The Grounds Committee has a large project again this year in the form of "The Fence" along Jordan Road and Caley Road. The details are included in this newsletter. Thanks to Joe Dirks and the Grounds Committee for their due diligence in finding and selecting the right vendor for our Community. Anne Nelson (Design Committee Chair) wants to remind us to be mindful of garage doors that may need to be painted, and exterior lights that need to be straightened as some lights have fallen to the side.

Lastly, THANKS to all of our committee people and committee members for their participation in making Sanctuary on the Park a "a sanctuary" of good neighbors.

I look forward to seeing you at our next quarterly Board Meeting at 7 p.m. April 22 at Muriel Leff's home.

Who're You Gonna Call When Something Isn't Working?

So who're you going to call when you need help around the house and the required skill exceeds your pay grade? There's a list of neighbor recommendations on the Sanctuary web site (<http://www.dcmi.com/onthepark/sanctuary.htm>). Please send your recommendations to Sam Searcy.

In addition, who would you call if you need your snow scooped if its depth is less than three inches? Dale Jensen offers his son Connor's services (price negotiable) at 303-919-0307.

The list (person/family recommending the service provider can be found on the web site):

Computer Help – **L3 Computing**, Steven Weisberg, 303-668-5120
 Window Washing – **Teacher Window Cleaners**, Jeremy Kamm, 720-271-9561
 Window Washing – **Jack's Window Cleaning**, 303-400-5231
 Concrete Edging – **The Concrete Edge**, Jesse Lewis, 303-805-1541
 Jim's Fix-it and Repair – **Jim Gibson**, 303-757-4617
 Handyman & Electrical – **HandyMan Matters**, 303-727-9600
 Handyman & Maintenance – **Bryan G. Arntson (6274 S. Blackhawk Ct.)**, 720-236-8478
 Fireplace Repair – **All State Fireplace**, Tom Quinlan, 303-946-6535
 Painter/Tiler – **Michael's**, Michael Forti, 303-726-5585
 Window Glass/Caulking – **Advantage Glass**, Jim Johnson, 303-730-1173
 Heating/Furnace – **Steel -T Heating, Inc.**, 303-761-9276
 Automotive Repair – **Automotive Performance Specialist**, 303-627-7650
 Carpet Cleaning & Repair – **Wall to Wall Clean, Inc.**, 303-981-5332
 Grout, Tile replacement & Decks, Patios – **Kaleidoscope Interiors**, 720-364-8947

Dog Gone It!

Those dog-gone prairie dogs soon will be gone dogs.

That's the news Joe Dirks, our HOA's Grounds Committee chairman, brought to the HOA board of directors at the February meeting.

The Cherry Creek State Park's management has run the state's environmental gauntlet to get permission to wreck havoc on the vast and expanding prairie-dog metropolis on the western park border.

It'll begin when weather permits. The Park staff made a half-hearted attempt in the past year or so to slow their expansion, but to no avail. In fact, their incursion spread to our property in the parcel just west of the Arnolds' home. That ended the invasion. Quietly. Don't ask.

What are the prairie-dog exterminators up against? These rodents are clever rascals. Their families consist of a male and two to four females living in strict pecking order. The pups' aunts and grandmas are their worst enemies and are known murderers. Those dogs that survive take three years to reach sexual maturity. And, boy, do they love/hate what happens next. They're run off from home, forcing them to set up housekeeping on the edges of the colony. So far HGTV or TLC hasn't filmed an episode about that.

They love grass. Short grass is best because it's low in cellulose and high in nutrition and these guys mow to their hearts' content. That's denuding the landscape -- billiard-table clean, as we can see. That's a plus to the prairie dogs. They can see approaching predators and send out warning barks.

Let us pause a moment for a eulogy. Ecologists think of them as a keystone species. They are an important food source to snakes, ferrets, fox, raptors



It's a war out there. Humankind vs. Rabbits. Carol and Geoff Race, who live on Maplewood, brought in this faux coyote to foil hungry bunnies from decimating their obviously delicious plantings. It's sort of the WMD of hoodwinkery, but alas it didn't work – like so many other anti-hare measures. In fact, two wabbits snoozed in Wily's shade. Go get 'em, Elmer.

and burrowing owls. At least nine species of wildlife depend on prairie dogs and another 20 opportunistically use prairie dog colonies. Let's not forget our coyotes as one of them. That sounds like bad news for our cute, cuddly bunnies on so many levels if prairie-dog populations go bye-bye.

As for Wily and his pals: Confrontations can be avoided using these simple rules provided by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (see its web site for more information).

- Coyotes provide an enjoyable wildlife viewing experience. Keep your distance and **do not approach the animals**. Enjoy the opportunity to view wildlife.
- **Keep your pets on a leash** when walking them.
- If a coyote approaches you or your pet, you can **throw rocks or sticks to frighten it away**.
- Use a **loud, authoritative voice to frighten the animal**.

Why Your Water Bill Increased \$26.50 a Month for Next 30 Years

*All day I face the barren waste without the taste of
water,*

Cool water.

*Old Dan and I with throats burned dry and souls that
cry for water,*

Cool water. -- Sons of the Pioneers

If you buy 1,440 acre feet of water, store and pipe it, clean it and send it along to our water taps for \$153 million and charge everyone \$26.50 a month more for doing that, what do you get?

Exactly 1,285,549 gallons a day of clean, cool water, give or take a drip or two. That's what our Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority did when it issued revenue bonds and tacked another \$26.50 onto our monthly water bills for the next 30 years.

"Our key goal has been to reduce our dependence on wells and the diminishing aquifers underlying our district," Ralph (Hap) Henderson, board chairman said in announcing this costly project. Well, they bought it, and we will pay. The bonds have been issued, the money is in their bank.

It's a big deal. The water will come from the South Platte River where it contains everything every upstream municipality has used once plus the snowmelt and chemicals from our streets and all the frog poo. Part of it will be treated by the East Cherry Creek Valley reverse-osmosis plant – to be constructed – and the rest by ACWWA's new Joint Water Purification Facility's own reverse-osmosis plant near Jordan Road and Bronco Parkway. It goes to work finally this month. One of ACWWA's partners in this is United Water and Sanitation – kind of a water broker in this deal – which will also build a 1,400 to 1,500 acre-foot reservoir near E-470 and Chambers Road. That 1,440 acre-foot-a-year water purchase flows forever or until the Platte runs dry.

Why now? ACWWA says its supply of ground water is diminishing and its Cherry Creek shallow wells need to replace water used gallon for gallon. That plus "due to the limitations of our physical location we cannot simply find all the water supplies we need."

How could this huge project boil down to precisely \$26.50 a month? The explanation is fuzzy but it has to do with principal and interest divided by "tap

equivalents" (TEs). Our 3/4 –inch house water lines are one TE. A two-inch line is eight TEs (\$26.50 X 8) and a three-inch line is 12 TEs. So if residential users constitute 35% of the users and commercial users 65% you get some idea of the math. Our HOA is paying eight TEs for our two-inch line. That's \$26.50 times 8 = \$212. We can also expect that our water-use bills will rise, something like 10%, for operation and maintenance of all this infrastructure.

Out of breath yet? Go get a drink...of water.

Trash Cleanup Day Is May 22

Our neighborhood cleanup day, an annual event to pick up all the blown-in trash, will be May 22, beginning with a breakfast of Barbara Sydow's famous scones and ending with a picnic lunch, courtesy of our hard-working Social Committee.

Begun in Sanctuary's early years, the spring cleanup scours our common areas of all the garbage and beverage containers winter's storms and negligence have deposited. As was the case last year, the Grounds Committee will invite a Cherry Creek State Park ranger to join us for lunch.

Three other events are being planned.

Summer happy hours will continue. These were simple, casual and fun, and attracted some folks who don't always participate in other events. The dates are (weather permitting) on May 5 (Cinco de Mayo), June 17 and July 27, all different days of the week. They're BYOB.

Oktoberfest will be Sept. 24. There will be a charge to cover costs. The Blackhawk parking area will be the location, close to the Kortz garage in case it's needed.

Lou and John Palley have offered to host the Cup 'O Cheer holiday party Dec. 5. Deliteful Tastes will again cater the affair, which will be paid for within the committee's budget.

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