



Tracks

A Publication of the TrailMark HOA—A Covenant Controlled Community

APRIL 2008



WWW.TRAILMARKHOA.ORG

FENCE PAINTING

Plans are being made to paint/stain both the stockade and split rail fencing surrounding filing #1 along TrailMark Parkway, Independence Street and the parking lot. (Still confused, see map on page 6).

The HOA requests that homeowners living along these areas make sure any non-fencing materials such as: vines, bird feeders, etc., be removed.

Weather permitting, the plan is to paint in the month of April.

Calendars

On pages 3 & 4 you will find April & May calendars listing important dates. The intent is for homeowners to remove the calendars and post them on their refrigerators, bulletin boards, etc.

**TrailMark Homeowners
Association
P.O. Box 270566
Littleton, CO 80127**

Board Members

President.....Stephen McKeon
Vice President.....John Birkey
Vice President.....Karen Millsbaugh
Treasurer.....Sharon Gambrell Elms
Secretary.....Michael Glade

TrailMark Committees

Common Area Committee

Chair.....Lesa Rangel

Newsletter Editor.....Noreen Kelly

Design & Review Committee

Chair.....TrailMark Staff

Finance Committee

Chair.....Sharon Gambrell Elms

Social Committee

Chair.....Sandy Ocker

Website Development Committee

Chair.....Denise Kato

Safety Committee

Chair.....Mark Rogers

Management Company

Hammersmith Management, Inc.

www.e-hammersmith.com

Phone

303-980-0700

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303-980-0576

Main Office-DTC

5619 DTC Parkway, Suite 900

Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Community Manager

Beth Lovato, CMCA, AMS

A Roundup

Denver Botanical Gardens at Chatfield News



A public meeting was held on March 5th to inform neighbors of Phase One of a 5-year Plan.

First, a little history. In 1975 the Denver Botanic Gardens took over the property at Deer Creek and Wadsworth. The property contains the original Hildebrand Ranch House that has been restored; the 1874 Deer Creek Schoolhouse that was moved from Carr Street to its present location and restored; and the 1918 renovated Red Barn. In 2005, the Denver Botanical Gardens voted to make the Denver Botanical Gardens at Chatfield self-sufficient. The Denver Botanical Gardens at Chatfield has a formulated a 5-Year Plan.

Phase 1 plans for 2008 are to follow the direction of many of the other Botanical Gardens around the country; that is, to plant native plants, trees and shrubs. The plans for this year will be to create a Discovery Children's Playground with a Treehouse and a small, water pond feature to teach children about pond life. There also will be a large, six-acre area planted in wildflowers that will follow the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. Lastly, for this year there will be an amphitheater built which will be a ten-foot, graduated wall of grass, trees and shrubs that will include a stage near the present gazebo.

The Chatfield Botanical Gardens wants to be a great neighbor to Chatfield Bluffs and to TrailMark. Hence, they wanted input from us. There were many neighbors at the meeting from Chatfield Bluffs because they are located higher on the plain above the Chatfield Botanical Gardens and are concerned about the noise from concerts. The plans are to turn the stage to face the northeast so that the sound is aimed away from the neighborhoods. The Chatfield Bluffs neighbors would like the Chatfield Botanical Gardens to go through the County Planning Office so that governmental agencies are aware of what the plans are concerning the Chatfield Botanical Gardens.

There will be 1-2 concerts this year in the summer and neighbors will be informed about the specifics of each. There is one concert so far in the planning stage, a World Music Festival, which will showcase many cultures, their music and their foods. TrailMark will work with Denver Botanical Gardens at Chatfield and will inform its neighbors of upcoming meetings and events.

TrailMark Metro Board News



Taxes: Have you looked at your tax assessment for 2008? Notice that the mill levy for TrailMark Metro Board has gone down from 66 mills to 58. Also, the Metro Board has paid off one note to Shea in December and will pay off another note to Shea in June. The Metro Board anticipates another reduction next year in taxes.

Greening of our TrailMark Neighborhood: Be on the alert for a mailing from our Management Company, Hammersmith, which will contain a lengthy recommendation on products to use that are environmentally-friendly to our ponds and reservoirs. The TrailMark Metro Board is working with Iris Mitigation and pond biologist, Blair Leisure, to help to insure that TrailMark ponds are algae-free and healthy for all of us to enjoy.

Fence Painting: The TrailMark Metro Board has put out to bid the next round of fence painting to be done in our neighborhood this spring. Fence painting should begin in early April or May before the foliage growth becomes an issue.

Winds, Trash and Pet Litter

Now that more of us are taking walks in TrailMark and enjoying the outdoors, we would like to encourage many of you to help all of us enjoy our neighborhood even more. Take a trash bag with you on occasion and help us clean up our neighborhood. Pick up papers, boxes, and plastic bottles that have escaped from trash pickup on Mondays. Doesn't it seem that the wind only blows on Mondays in our neighborhood? Also, remember to pickup after your dogs. Dog feces can carry e-coli and can leach into our ponds and lasts for up to two years. Its a mess that no one wants to see or to step in on the trails or grassy areas. Do your part so that all of us can enjoy our wonderful neighborhood, its ponds and trails.



A new Covenants Clarification Committee is being formed and needs volunteers!

Are you detailed-oriented? Can you sift through language, rules and regulations that are not needed for TrailMark residents? We are looking for volunteers that can help us rewrite those sections of the TrailMark Covenants that our lawyers have told us need rewriting. This committee needs people that can help the HOA Board make better sense of its Covenants. If you are interested in helping and becoming a member of this committee, please contact a Board Member or send us a message on the TrailMark website.

Information submitted by: Karen Millsbaugh



April 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Fence Painting Surrounding Filing #1, TrailMark Parkway, Independence Street and along the parking lot. (see map pg 3)</p>		<p>1 April Fool's Day</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Working Session for Communications Committee</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Working Session for Board – 6:30pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 TrailMark Metropolitan District Board Meeting – 6:30pm at the Shea Homes business offices, 9135 S Ridgeline Blvd., Highlands Ranch</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Passover Begins</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Earth Day</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Arbor Day</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>			



May 2008

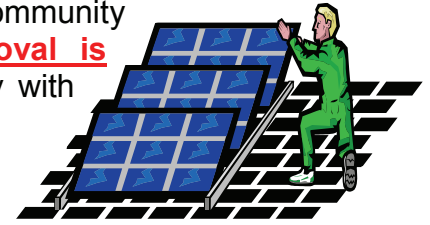


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 South Suburban Parks & Recs - Holly Tennis Center Carnival FREE 10am-12pm 6651 S Krameria Way
4	5 Cinco de Mayo 	6 Working Session for Board – 6:30pm AND TrailMark Metropolitan District Board of Director's Election 	7	8 TrailMark HOA Meeting – 6:30pm at the Kinder Care Facility 	9	10
11 Mother's Day 	12	13	14	15	16	17 Armed Forces Day 
18	19	20 TrailMark Metropolitan District Board Meeting – 6:30pm at the Shea Homes' business offices, 9135 S Ridgeline Blvd Highlands Ranch	21	22	23	24
25 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT TRAILMARK TRACKS ARTICLES	26 Memorial Day (observed) 	27	28	29	30	31

Covenant Corner - Solar Energy - A Change In Guidelines

RULES FOR INSTALLATION OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

It is imperative that the use of solar devices be in balance with community aesthetics and safety. Design Review Committee (DRC) approval is required for all solar devices. The following standards will apply with respect to the installation and maintenance.



1. Solar Devices must be roof mounted.
2. Installation:
 - a. All solar devices will be low profile, flush non-rack mounted panels, consistently following the roofline.
 - b. The solar panels will be installed within Zone 1, with a minimum of 18" offset from the roof edge and all components must be below the roof peak.
 - c. All solar devices must be secured so that they do not jeopardize the safety of residents or cause damage to adjacent properties. TrailMark is within an area of high wind speeds and Engineering may be required to conform to local wind load requirements.
 - d. All installations must comply with all applicable building codes and other governmental regulations.
3. Solar Device Materials:
 - a. In keeping with community aesthetics, the color of the device and exposed pipes, panels, and other apparatus must be approved the DRC.
 - b. The device framing system will be dark I color, i.e. bronze. No white or aluminum frames allowed.
 - c. The device panels will have a dark back sheet and anti-glare glass.
 - d. Wiring must be installed through the roof and routed inside the house or routed to the soffit nearest the home's electrical meter panel. Connections to the inverter from the soffit will be encased in conduit. Exposed conduit will be painted to match the adjacent roof and siding color. In no case will wiring be exposed.
 - e. Inverters and disconnects will be installed as close to the electrical meter panel as possible or inside the house.
4. Solar System Required Documents: In connection with obtaining the DRC's review of a solar device, the following information must be submitted:
 - a. A plot plan to include the layout/placement of all external components;
 - b. Type of device to be installed;
 - c. Dimensions of the proposed device including clearance off the roof;
 - d. Color of the proposed device - framing and panels;
 - e. Pictorial/brochure of the device;
 - f. Written certification the panel glass is anti-glare.

NOTE: All Homeowners will be receiving an individual copy via US mail, to be placed in their Covenants packet.



This is the budget as approved by homeowners at the November 8, 2007 Annual Meeting. If you have questions, and were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, please attend the next TrailMark HOA Meeting scheduled for May 8, 2008. You may also submit questions to the Board via a written message to the Management Company: clientservices.e-hammersmith.com to the attention of Beth Lovato.

TrailMark HOA Approved 2008 Budget

INCOME

ASSESSMENTS	\$	307,200
LATE FEE	\$	10,000
LEGAL FEE REMBIRSEMENTS	\$	15,000
SOCIAL EVENTS	\$	1,000
NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING	\$	1,000
TOTAL INCOME		334,200

EXPENSES

MANAGEMENT FEE	\$	30,150/Increase
LEGAL-GENERAL	\$	7,200/Same
LEGAL-COLLECTIONS	\$	15,000/Increase
LATE FEES	\$	4,800/Same
INSURANCE	\$	1,800/Same
AUDIT	\$	2,050/Decrease
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$	6,500/Same
POSTAGE	\$	5,500/Same
COPIES	\$	\$1,600/Increase
NEWSLETTER	\$	6,000/Same
SOCIAL	\$	24,000/Decrease
COMMON AREA	\$	18,000/Decrease
SAFETY	\$	250/Decrease
DESIGN REVIEW	\$	250/Decrease
COVENANT	\$	250/Decrease
FINANCE	\$	250/Decrease
TAXES	\$	3,000/Same
MISCELLANEOUS	\$	2,400/Same
LANDSCAPE CONTRACT	\$	\$19,000/per actual contract
SPRINKLER REPAIR	\$	8,000
SNOW REMOVAL	\$	\$12,000
TRASH REMOVAL	\$	91,000
ELECTRICITY	\$	1,800/Same
WATER	\$	30,000/Same
RESERVE	\$	43,400
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	334,200

Make This a Zero Phosphorus Summer!

The landscaped areas of TrailMark that are under the auspices of South Suburban Parks and Recreation, TrailMark Homeowner's Association and the Star Canyon Homeowner's Association are all going to be fertilized with a "no phosphorus" fertilizer this spring/summer. This is in an effort to eliminate phosphorus contamination in our run-off water into our holding ponds.



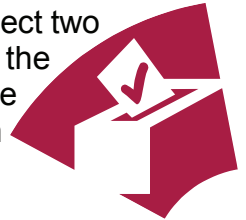
It is well known that phosphorus has helped to increase the "algal bloom" in our holding ponds and made clean-up of the ponds both expensive and time consuming.

We ask all homeowners in TrailMark to help us in the effort to clean-up our run-off water by using a "no phosphorus" fertilizer on your lawns and landscaped areas this year. A **Lesco 19-0-6** will be used by our landscaper, Rocky Mountain Landscapes.

"We will test water quality again this summer", to see if we have been at all successful.

TRAILMARK METROPOLITAN DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The TrailMark Metropolitan District will hold an election on **Tuesday, May 6, 2008** to elect two directors to serve four-year terms on the Board of Directors. To qualify to serve on the Board of Directors you must be registered to vote in the State of Colorado and have been a resident of the District for not less than 30 days or own (or be the spouse of an owner of) taxable real or personal property within the District.



The Board is scheduled to hold regular meetings in 2008 at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates: The third Tuesday of: April, May, June, August, October, and December at the offices of Shea Homes, 9135 S. Ridgeline Boulevard, Highlands Ranch, Colorado. And on: Thursday, November 13, 2008, at the TrailMark/Lockheed Martin Day Care Center, 9743 S. Carr Way, Littleton, Colorado (in conjunction with the Annual TrailMark Homeowners Association meeting). The meetings usually run thirty minutes to an hour.

Ten Reasons to Volunteer for the Association

1. Protect your self-interests. Protect your property values and maintain the quality of life in your community.
2. Correct a problem. Has your car been towed, or do you think maybe maintenance has been neglected?
3. Be sociable. Meet your neighbors, make friends, and exchange opinions.
4. Give back. Repay a little of what's been done for you.
5. Advance your career. Build your personal resume by including your community volunteer service.
6. Have some fun. Association work isn't drudgery. It's fun accomplishing good things with your neighbors.
7. Get educated. Learn how it's done—we'll train you.
8. Express yourself. Help with creative projects like community beautification.
9. Earn recognition. If you would like a little attention or validation, your contributions will be recognized and celebrated.
10. Try some altruism. Improve society by helping others.

Source: Community Associations Institute



Update from the TrailMark HOA Common Area Committee



Spring is here and the TrailMark Common Area Committee is excited and working hard on a number of projects to complete this year.

The main entry monument sign was apparently struck by a vehicle following a snow storm this winter. We are receiving bids to repair and repaint the sign.

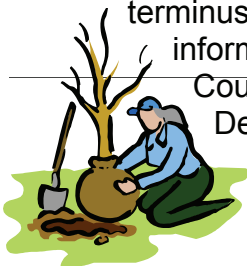
The naming competition for the main park with the soccer fields yielded some great ideas. The proposed name for approval to South Suburban Parks and Recreation is Hogback Hill Park. Following approval, a sign will be added near the parking lot to help provide way finding and sense of place.

In May, all of the common area fencing will be painted on the side facing the common area only. Please remember to prune or remove vines and plant materials that may obstruct the fence, and be in the way of the painting crews. Interior staining is the responsibility of the homeowner.



In June, South Suburban Parks and Recreation will be installing the new playground equipment focused for tot aged children at TrailMark Park by Fairview Reservoir. The improvements are thanks in part to matching contributions from the TrailMark HOA and Jefferson County Open Space in 2007 as well as efforts of South Suburban Parks and Recreation.

We will be applying for a grant this year to improve the southwest corner of TrailMark at the terminus of Johnson Way. Improvements likely include shade trees, horseshoes, an information rustic gazebo and a minor trailhead with access to the Jefferson County Open Space trail system. We also plan to continue to pursue access to Deer Creek Canyon from TrailMark through Jefferson County Open Space. We are still in the approval coordination process of painting and perhaps screening utility boxes with fencing at Carr and near Danzig to soften their visual impact.

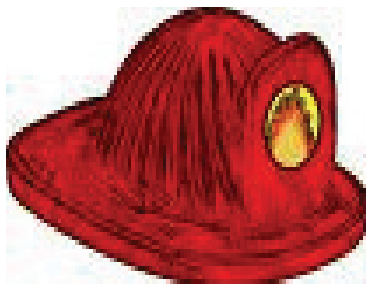


We recently applied for a grant to provide matching funds from South Suburban Parks and Recreation to plant more trees throughout the community in some key areas. We plan to focus on planting more shrubs, ornamental grasses and perennials at the stone entry monuments this season. The CAC welcomes your suggestions for improving the common areas in our community and always needs volunteers. Happy spring!

John M. Birkey, ASLA
Vice President, TrailMark HOA Board
Common Area Committee Representative



Other events for your calendars!!

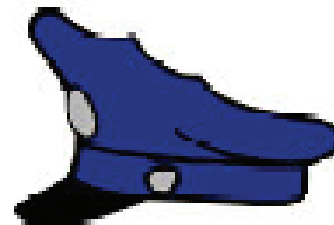


Fun Fest / Safety Days

June 21st, 2008

Trailmark Athletic Field

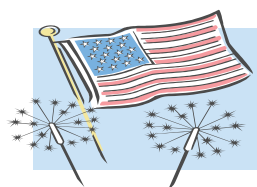
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Meet your neighbors and enjoy activities for the whole family. The Social Committee is teaming up with the Safety Committee again this year to sponsor a Safety Day. The Littleton Fire Department and Police Department are scheduled to be there as well as other fun events.

As always we are looking for volunteers. If you can help please E-mail the social committee social@TrailMarkhoa.org or to the volunteers e-mail volunteers@trailmarkhoa.org.

The Trailmark 4th of July Parade & Picnic!



Friday, July 4th, 2008

Trailmark Park and Athletic Field



Kids of Ages!! Decorate your bikes and show your patriotic spirit and participate in the 4th of July Parade! Pack your lunches and enjoy a picnic with your neighbors afterwards! There will be goodies and many other fun events!

Look for more details in June's Newsletter

Special thanks to our sponsor Sunny Puckett of Re/Max Professionals, Inc for continuing to sponsor and organize this fun event!



Balloon Festival Breakfast

August 23rd

Corn Maze September 18th



A FANTASTIC LINEUP FOR 2008

TRAILMARK'S CONCERTS IN THE PARK!

Trailmark Social Committee Presents



Concert #1

Sunday June 29th, 2008

WENDY WOO

www.wendywoo.com

5:30 pm @ the Trailmark Athletic Field

Concert #2

Sunday July 20th, 2008CHRIS DAINELS & THE
KINGSwww.chrisdaniels.com

5:30 pm @ the Trailmark Athletic Field



Concert #3

Sunday August 24, 2008

BACK AGAIN TRAILMARK'S OWN

HOT FLASH

Classic Rock -n- Roll

Hotflashband.net

5:00 pm @ the Trailmark Athletic Field

Pack a picnic dinner or bring cash to buy food and
grab a place for your blanket at our
Summer Concert Series.



Clean out those Closets, Basements and Garages

It's time for

The Annual Trailmark Garage Sale!!!

Friday June 6th & Saturday June 7th

8:00 am – 4:00pm



Maps will be provided at the Trailmark entrance. To get on the map,
Please contact Lori Ross of Colorado Home Realty & Mortgage
By phone 303-437-463 or email her at: rosslori@juno.com.

See Garage Sale insert for more information.

Thanks to our neighbor Lori Ross for continuing to sponsor and organize this event!

GET OUT THERE AND PRACTICE!!!

The Trailmark 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament is in full swing



Friday, September 5th, 2008

Course to be announced

The Event to Benefit the
Children's Hospital!



Grab a foursome and come join the fun, meet your neighbors, play a round and raise money for a great cause! It's low key with a scramble format. After the golf there is lunch, prizes and a silent auction. All levels of golfers welcome, and if you don't play

PLEASE come and volunteer, donate prizes/auction items or sponsor a Hole! Hole sponsorship will be \$150.

Entry Fees to be announced soon.

For more information, contact our neighbor and sponsor Lou Royston,
at lroyston@prestigerealtygroup.com or phone him @ 303.748.7504.

The Social Committee is always looking for new ideas and events. If you have an idea, please contact the committee at social@trailmark.org. We look forward to hearing from you. Just a reminder that we can't do these events without your help!!! Please **VOLUNTEER**... we have a lot of fun and it is a great way to meet your neighbors.



2008 TRAILMARK SUMMER LAWN CARE

LAWN CARE – FERTILIZER SELECTION

The TrailMark ponds are beautiful amenities to live near and enjoy both during the summer and winter. The ponds also provide high quality wildlife habitat. Water quality testing at the ponds has been completed annually during the past six years and is managed by the TrailMark Metro District Board. Water quality test results show that the overall surface water quality at TrailMark is good. These results also reveal that phosphorous concentrations in some of the ponds have been occasionally higher than ideal. Phosphorous is likely entering the ponds through storm water run-off of landscaped areas at or around TrailMark. Phosphorous and nitrogen are found in chemical fertilizers which are often used for lawn care. Most chemical fertilizers contain a certain percentage of phosphorous, and the amount of phosphorous in the fertilizer can be read in the chemical composition indicated on the bag. The nitrogen content is the first number, followed by the phosphorous and then the potassium number content. If the fertilizer composition numbers read 26-3-12, then the nitrogen content is 26, the phosphorous content is 3, and the potassium content is 12.

Excess fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorus may wash into TrailMark ponds and promote unsightly and odorous algae blooms and aquatic weed growth while reducing dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Therefore, TrailMark homeowners are urged to fertilize their lawns with organic fertilizers or chemical fertilizers that are low in phosphorus and that have slow-releasing nitrogen (see Table 1). Storm water run-off from adjacent lawns may enter the ponds and if high in phosphorus, may cause plants within the water column to establish more quickly and in greater quantity. The pond will soon become green with plant growth and may begin to smell due to plant death and decay in the water over time.

The TrailMark common area landscaper (Rocky Mountain Landscaping) will be applying a fertilizer in 2008 called “Dimension” that has zero percent phosphorus, slow-releasing nitrogen and low potassium (see Table 1 below). The TrailMark Metro District Board, TrailMark HOA and environmental consultant Iris Mitigation and Design are currently working with South Suburban Parks and Recreation District and the Star Canyon Homeowner Board to determine whether they will agree to use a zero or low phosphorus, low and slow-releasing nitrogen fertilizer on remaining TrailMark common areas and Star Ranch properties in 2008. We will be testing surface and groundwater quality at TrailMark in the beginning and the end of the 2008 summer season, and we will compare water quality results to the previous 6 years whereby higher concentrations of phosphorous in fertilizers were used.

When you buy your spring lawn and garden fertilizer at the store, look for a label on the bag that lists three numbers in a row, such as 22-3-14. These numbers correspond to the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium that is in that specific brand. We are requesting that TrailMark homeowners purchase and use fertilizers in 2008 that have zero or low phosphorus at or below 3% phosphorus content is recommended and low, slow-releasing nitrogen content. This may assist in reducing the amount of phosphorus accumulating in adjacent TrailMark ponds and help to reduce duckweed and algae blooms in ponds such as Fairview #2 (Beaver Pond). Thank you for your assistance with this.

Table 1: Low-Phosphorus Recommended Fertilizer

Brand Name	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)
Scotts Superturf, Summergard	26	3	4
Scotts Superturf Wintergard	24	3	12
Abby Science Phosphate Free	10	0	3
Abby Science Low Phosphate	10	3	3
Vigoro Ultra-Turf - Turf Builder	29	3	4
Vigoro Ultra Turf - Turf Fertilizer	29	3	4
Greenview – Low Phosphorus	24	4	12
Greenview – Zero Phosphorus	27	0	12
Safer Lawn Restore	10	2	6
Safer Natural Turf Program	8	1	1
Ringer Lawn Restore	10	2	6

To be continued on next page...

2008 TRAILMARK SUMMER LAWN CARE continued...**MAINTAIN HEALTHY SOIL**

Having healthy soil at TrailMark is another step to having a healthy lawn. Some ways to make sure that your soil is healthy are to test its pH, organic matter content, and nutrient content to see what areas need attention. Although this might seem expensive, it can pay off by reducing the amount of care you might otherwise have to put into your lawn. Lime can be used to reduce the acidity of your soil if that is an issue. The right amount of organic matter in your soil will provide an ideal environment for insects and other organisms that your lawn needs to stay healthy. Adding compost and leaving grass clippings on your lawn is a good way to increase the amount of organic matter. If there is more than ½ inch of organic matter (or thatch) buildup on your lawn, it can choke your grass, and prevent air, water and nutrients from reaching the soil. To remove it, aerating and raking will be sufficient. One cause of thatch buildup is excessive fertilizing, so fertilize to a minimum. Aeration, along with removing thatch buildup, is also an excellent method of reducing soil compaction and encouraging your grass to develop deep roots.

MOW TO THE CORRECT HEIGHT

Keep your lawn height at approximately 3 inches tall, since longer grass crowds out weeds, shades the soil to reduce water evaporation, and encourages deep root development. Mowing your grass shorter than 3 inches exposes the soil and the roots of the grass. This will result in water loss and reduction in soil aeration. You can also leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing as this deters weeds and acts as a natural fertilizer. Tune your lawn mower and keep the blades sharp to reduce tearing which can expose your grass to disease. Mow your lawn regularly because if you wait and mow more than one third of your grass' height at a time, it will essentially shock your grass, leaving it weak. You may need to mow your lawn more often in the spring during the high growth phase and less during the hot summer months when grass growth slows.

WATER EFFECTIVELY

Wait until the soil in your lawn has dried out to the depth of the grass' roots before watering. It is best to water in the morning in order to reduce the amount of water being lost to evaporation. Water your lawn slowly (to reduce the amount of water lost as runoff and to improve infiltration) and deeply (to make sure that the water is reaching the roots of the grass). Brief and shallow watering should be avoided since this can lead to shallow grass roots and thus weaker grass. More efficient watering techniques can save water and money.

REDUCE USE OF HERBICIDES AND PESTICIDES

Weeds are an issue in almost every lawn, however they are not as harmful as often described in lawn care literature designed to sell products. Hand-pulling weeds is an effective way to remove undesirable plants. Since most weeds are annuals, removing them before they seed is important. For perennial weeds, remove their bulbs to be sure that they don't come back later. If hand-pulling is not an option, and you choose to use herbicides, use spot treatment (applying herbicides only to areas affected by weeds) to solve your weed problems. When buying herbicides, look for the more natural products to minimize the negative effects on the environment. For example, corn gluten can be applied before weeds appear as a preventative measure. Abby Science carries an organic herbicide called Ground Force. For more information, check out www.abbysciencelabs.com.

Pesticides may sometimes be needed, but remember that pesticides don't only impact pests in your lawn, but the animals that will eat the dead bugs and so on up the food chain. There are important lawn insects that help to keep your yard healthy and they are part of the overall ecosystem. Pesticides should be used sparingly and carefully as they may affect people, especially young children and pets who play in the yard. Keep in mind that prevention is always better than treatment, and that most treatments have more negative side effects than positive. If needed, an environmentally friendly pesticide locally available is called Bug-Begone.

CLEANING PRODUCTS

For outdoor cleaning activities such as car washing and deck cleaning, there are some environmentally friendly cleaning products such as Simple Green Deck and Fence Cleaner, Simple Green House and Siding Cleaner, Simple Green Concrete and Driveway Cleaner, and Simple Green Car Wash and Bike Cleaner Degreaser. All Simple Green products are non-toxic and most are biodegradable. This product is available at most grocery and hardware stores. For more information and a complete listing of Simple Green products, go to www.simplegreen.com.

Another product to look for is the new line of Clorox products labeled "Green Works" also available at grocery and hardware stores. These products are mainstream enough to be part of recent grocery store weekly specials. The Clorox Green Works line has ingredients that come from renewable resources, are biodegradable, and are free of petrochemicals. Clorox claims that these products are 99% natural. For more information, go to www.greenworkscleaners.com.

News From the Star Canyon Condominiums

Report on the Star Canyon Condominium Annual Meeting:

The condominium annual meeting was held on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at the Child Care Center and was called to order at 6:35 pm. There was a quorum of 26 homeowners present in person and via proxy; enabling the budget presentation and election of one board member to proceed.

Diane Miller representing our property manager, Caron Realty, read the minutes of the Annual Meeting 2007. The motion to accept the minutes as read was made by John Frans and seconded by Lynn Ester. The minutes were accepted. Introductions of all present were made.

Shelley Sendelbach, Board President, then began a presentation of the proposed 2008 budget – pointing out those items which, in 2007, created a budgetary shortfall. Snow removal, sprinkler repairs and water were 3 items which alone created a shortfall of \$18,789.29. Also, a water meter which measures the water used in the waterfall and “hill area” sprinklers, which had previously been paid entirely by the patio homes, is in large part the responsibility of the condominiums. Our board is currently working with the Patio Home's board, and expects to have a written agreement by late spring to compensate the patio homes for their previous expenditure. In order to avoid any shortfall in the future, and anticipating future increases in such things as water, audit, property insurance and sewer fees. The Board was advocating a raise in homeowner fees by a \$20/month increase. A discussion of the Reserve Account followed, with an emphasis on why it is important to have adequate reserve funds available for major items, instead of relying on special assessments. After much discussion among those present, the budget with a dues increase was accepted.

The election of a third board member followed, with only Lynn Ester as a self-proposed candidate. Instead of a secret ballot, which would be necessary if more than one candidate was running, Lynn was elected by verbal assent, to a 3 year term. The board members will decide among themselves, at their first meeting, who will hold each specific office. In general discussion, Shelley presented an idea that a homeowner had submitted – that motion sensors be used to control the amount of time the exterior lights are illuminated each evening. The idea was discussed and will be considered.

It was reported that our current social events coordinator, Sharon Gambrell Elms, will be stepping down, and a request was made for another homeowner to step forward to assume this responsibility. The only social event currently in the planning is our annual **Wine Tasting** to be held on February 16, with Lynn Ester as host.

The fire lane signs need to be replaced as they have faded almost to non-readability.

Homeowners are again warned to be on the lookout for our fellow environmental creatures – rattlesnakes and coyotes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Social Events:

The Annual Wine Tasting Party was held on February 16, 2008, at Lynn Ester's place. Lynn did a wonderful job of preparing a “Sweetheart Mode” and the prizes for “Best White” and “Best Red” were much fun. The “Best Red” prize was won by Shelley Sendelbach, and it was a picnic wine set. It provided a cheese cutting board, cheese knife and cork screw. All she needed was a bottle of wine, some cheese, a loaf of good bread and “thou”. Thank you Lynn for hosting 3 years in a row! We are still looking for someone (or two) to help coordinate future socials.

The first ½ of *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett was discussed on February 29th, in a leap year book discussion. The second ½ of *The Pillars of the Earth* was discussed on March 21st, at Marcia Marquez home. Thank you, Marcia, for hosting this Book Discussion Group. On Monday, April 21st, at 6 P.M. the combined Canasta playing group and the Book Discussion Group will get together for a pot luck supper and movie night. If other ladies are interested in joining the festivities, please give me a call at (303) 932-1753.

The celebration of Easter is upon us with the promise of spring and renewal of life. May you and your family enjoy this special time of year.

Star Canyon Patio Homes

FROM THE BOARD

Projects being scheduled for spring and early summer :

- * A new arborist will be doing spring fertilization spraying to prevent insects and diseases
- * Street repair to Iris Court, Johnson Court and Johnson Street will be done by a contractor yet to be determined. A 24 hour curing and drying period will necessitate blocking those streets to automobile traffic for that period of time.
- * Sixteen additional homes are scheduled for exterior painting, based on their construction completion dates. The painting will start the beginning of May and continue through mid-July. Homeowners will be notified in advance of their work date.
- * A new landscape committee, headed up by Tony Riccio, will be surveying the community during the week of May 12, and determining needed tree and shrub replacement. Planting will take place the following week.

Our Community website is: www.associacolorado.com Click on "Community Websites" & choose Star Canyon. You must set up your account. Your street number is your User Name to register. This website is a good tool to obtain information such as Covenants & Bylaws. Be informed!

Mike Chapman of AssociaColorado is your initial key contact for any questions or problems that may arise. Mike's email is mchapman@associacolorado.com and his phone is 303/232-9200 x244. Should you be contacting Mike by email concerning a landscaping issue, please cc:Jeff Pugh at jpugh@springair.com so he has a copy of your email as well.

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS:

The **Lunch Bunch** met at Tea with Tina on March 25 with 15 attending and the April lunch is scheduled for Monday, the 21st. If you are not presently on the lunch bunch email list, and would like to be contacted on a regular basis re: lunch places and dates, let Gabrielle Handley know.

The **Star Canyon Dinner Group**, aka "Dinners for 8 or 9" in homes, started again March 1. The next Saturday night dinner will be April 4; and the May evening will be Saturday, May 3. Peggy Fitzgerald is your contact person. I really do look forward to these dinners. There is always great food, and good conversation with the small groups.

The **Star Canyon Book Club**, This group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. In March, they discussed the book *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo. They will meet April 8 and will be reviewing, *Midnight at the Dragon Cafe* by Judy Fong Bates and will meet May 12 for *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. Contact Joy Carlson for more information.

Bunko (or Zilch/Farkel) is the first Tuesday of each month. Kay Schans hosted in March; Donna Shuford in April; and Judy Denbraber will have us in May. Bev Zier is the contact person for this activity.

Mah Jongg continues to be the 4th Wed afternoon of the month, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. Joy Carlson hosted in February and Marilyn Hubbard will accommodate us in March and Bev Zier in April. Marilyn Hubbard and Joan Flenner are the gals to contact for more information. Don't let the name scare you off. It is a very fun game.

Movie Club is always looking for recommendations for good movies to view together. They try to catch the first showing of the day to get the good ticket prices. Contact Joan Flenner or Karen Milsbaugh for information or movie input.

Men's Breakfast is the 2nd Tuesday morning of each month. Bernie is the contact person. The guys like to try different places each month.

SOAP BOX

- Please continue to monitor your speeds through the neighborhood. 20 mph is too fast for our narrow winding streets.
- Make sure you are checking your garage lights regularly and replace when burned out. There are several houses that need to replace burned out bulbs as of this writing.
- There have been several overnight parking on streets violations. Remember...all vehicles have to be in the garage or on the driveway in front of your garage overnight. This is a covenant issue and there will be consequences for those who do not comply.

For additional information regarding anything in this section, contact Bev Zier bazier@comcast.net or Joy Carlson jcarlson1347@comcast.net

School News

Chatfield High School

<http://jeffcoweb.jeffco.k12.co.us/high/chatfield/>

303-982-3670

April 11 – Progress Reports Distributed

April 25 – Staff Development – **No School**

April 26 – Prom

May 14, 15, 16 – Senior Finals (all classes meet)

May 16 – Seniors' Last Day

May 23 – Graduation at Red Rocks, 9:00 a. m.

May 23 – Staff Development – **No Classes**

May 26 – Memorial Day – **No School**

May 28, 29, & 30 – Final Exams

(Wednesday full day, Thurs & Friday half days)

June 4 – Report cards mailed

Shaffer Elementary School

<http://sc.jeffco.k12.co.us/education/school/school.php?sectionid=242>

303-982-3901

April 9-15 – Scholastic Book Fair

April 9 – Picture Day

April 9 – PTA Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A

April 10, 11 – Testing Days – Flex Schedules

April 10 – PTA and Accountability Meeting, 1:00-2:50

April 14, 15 – Scholastic Book Fair

April 25 – **No School** – Inservice Day

May 1 – Field Day Olympics Grades 1, 2

May 2 – Field Day Olympics Grades 3, 4, 5

May 5 – Alternate Field Day

May 6 – Early Release at 1:00 PM

May 26 – Memorial Day – **No School**

May 30 – Last Day of School, 1:00 dismissal

Junior State Mandated ACT test: In accordance with state law, all juniors will be taking the **Colorado State ACT** exam on **Wednesday, April 23, 2008. Students do not need to register for this exam.**

Falcon Bluffs Middle School

<http://jeffcoweb.jeffco.k12.co.us/middle/falconbluffs/>

303-982-9900

April 14 – Family Bunco Night, 6:30-8:00

April 23 – Portfolio Conferences, 4:00-8:00 PM

April 24 – **No School** – Portfolio Conferences, 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM

April 25 – **No School**

May 26 – Memorial Day – **No School**

May 27-30 – 6th Grade Outdoor Lab

May 30 – 8th Grade Continuation, 8:30-10:30 AM

May 30 – Last Day of School, 1:05 dismissal



SOUTH SUBURBAN PARKS & RECREATION

Vote May 6 in South Suburban Parks and Recreation's Board of Directors Election

A South Suburban Parks and Recreation Board of Directors election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2008. Candidates for the four-year terms are Ms. Kay Gietner (incumbent), Richard Braden, Albert Herrod, John Kent, Curt Lundberg, Brad Membel, Noel Rogers, Susan Rosser, Dan Ruparel and Kathy Turley. Eligible, registered voters will be instructed to vote for two candidates.

Machine voting will be utilized at the following polling places from 7 am to 7 pm.

- ✓ **Littleton Golf and Tennis Club, 5800 S. Federal Blvd.**
- ✓ Buck Community Recreation Center, 2004 W. Powers Ave.
- ✓ Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 S. University Blvd.
- ✓ South Suburban Golf Course, 7900 S. Colorado Blvd.
- ✓ Lone Tree City Offices, 9220 Kimmer Dr.

Applications for a mail-in ballot, formerly called the absentee ballot, can be obtained on the District's web site www.sspr.org or by calling 303-798-5131. Mail-in ballots will be received at the South Suburban Administration Office, 6631 S. University Blvd., until 7 pm on May 6, 2008. There are no ballot issues to be voted on. If you have questions call South Suburban at 303-798-5131.

South Suburban Recreation Centers Host Blood Screenings

South Suburban Parks and Recreation is hosting comprehensive blood screenings conducted by the University of Colorado Hospital from 7 to 9:30 am at the following recreation centers:

- 📍 Lone Tree, 10249 Ridgeway Cir., 303-708-3514, Tuesday, April 15
- 📍 Goodson, 6315 S. University Blvd., 303-483-7082, Wednesday, April 16
- 📍 Buck, 2004 W. Powers Ave., 303-730-4610, Thursday, April 17

This high-quality laboratory screening with rapid turnaround of results consists of 30 tests, including a lipid profile. Test results will be sent directly to your home. Supplemental tests can be requested for an additional cost. Participants must be at least 18 years old and 12 hours of fasting are recommended before blood is drawn. Fee is \$40 per person. For other South Suburban wellness activities visit www.sspr.org.

Swing into Spring at Holly Tennis Center Carnival

Grab your racquet and tennis balls and head to South Suburban Parks and Recreation's Holly Tennis Center, 6651 S. Krameria Way, for a few spring swings. Individuals, ages 6-adult, and families can celebrate at Holly Tennis Center's FREE carnival on Saturday, May 3, from 10 am-12 pm. Try a mini-lesson, check your serve speed on a radar gun, use the ball machine, demo a racquet and enjoy other tennis games and contests. Please pre-register, class # 800141, at www.sspr.org or 303-347-5999. All ages and abilities welcome.

Starting May 1, the Pro Shop at Holly Tennis Center will be open Monday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm, for reservations, program/lesson assistance and merchandise sales. Visit the six-court, lighted tennis center and Pro Shop, and sign up for adult or junior classes, leagues or tournaments. Holly Tennis Courts are open dawn to dusk. Open play is available as long as courts are not previously reserved or programmed. For more information call 303-771-3654. South Suburban Parks and Recreation has several other convenient tennis facilities located throughout the community. Find out where at www.sspr.org.

Community Information



Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield

8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road
Littleton, CO 80128
303-973-3705 Fax 303-973-1979
Open Daily from 9:00 to 5:00 \$5 per car

Denver Botanic Gardens' Chatfield location is currently seeking volunteers! We are looking for volunteer assistance to host our free days, which occur on the first Friday of every month. Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn about the rich history of the Chatfield area and share that knowledge with our visitors. Specifically, we are seeking volunteer hosts for the Schoolhouse, Hildebrand Ranch, Green Farm Barn and the Nature Center. Volunteer Shifts are from 9:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. or 1 – 5:00 p.m. every Free Day. **Please call Kelly at (720) 865-3560 if you are interested** in learning more!

TrailMark Teen Services



This listing is a free service for TrailMark residents. If you would like your name added/deleted/or changed, please email communications@trailmarkhoa.org. Appearance of an individual in this publication does not constitute a recommendation or

endorsement by the publisher or the association of the information, goods or services offered therein.

(B) Babysitting (L) Lawn care

(P) Pet/House sitting (S) Snow removal

DO YOU HAVE AN INFANT, TODDLER, OR PRESCHOOLER?

The TrailMark Playgroup is a great place to socialize your little one while making some friends in the neighborhood! In addition to in-home play dates, our activities include hiking, Mom's Night Out, and visiting local attractions (e.g., Denver Zoo, Denver Aquarium, and Tiny Town). To join, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TrailMarkMommies> and click on the blue button that says "Join This Group" or call Linda Fields at 720/212-0884 for more information.



**A man loves his sweetheart the most,
his wife the best, but his mother the
longest. ~Irish Proverb**



Classified Advertising

The newsletter committee is excited to announce classified advertising will be back in your bi-monthly newsletter. *The service is for TrailMark residents only and the following rates apply:*

- \$1.00 per line
- Maximum 3 lines (personal ads only)
- Each line has 50 characters maximum
- No enhancements available

Mail payment to: TrailMark HOA, P.O. Box 270566, Littleton, CO 80127. If you choose to e-mail your advertisement, please send to communications@trailmarkHOA.org

Newsletter Deadlines

Please note that if you would like to submit an article or idea for the newsletter, please e-mail it to communications@trailmarkhoa.org **before the 25th of the previous month.**

The TrailMark newsletter is published every even month. (Note: Advertisements are still due by the 15th of odd months.)

TrailMark Tracks Advertising Pricing

The TrailMark Newsletter is a free bi-monthly publication exclusively for the 800 plus residents of the TrailMark HOA.

Rates Per Issue

Business Card Size	3 ½"(w) x 2"(h)	\$25.00
¼ Page	4"(w) x 5"(h)	\$50.00
½ Page	8"(w) x 5"(h)	\$75.00
Full Page	8"(w) x 10 ½"(h)	\$100.00
(Please note: Effective August 2005, there will be a 2 page ad limitation, which will be decided upon how many requests are received, first come first serve.)		
Insert	8 ½" x 11"	\$125.00

880 single sheets. Insert to be printed on 20# paper maximum, and supplied by customer for insertion at printers AND MUST BE DELIVERED BY THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH IT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN (i.e. Feb 1, April 1, June 1, etc.).

Ad copy: It is preferable advertisements be e-mailed in the form of a JPG, DOC or PDF to communications@trailmarkHOA.org. Payments are to be mailed to: TrailMark HOA, P.O. Box 270566, Littleton, CO 80127. Payments must be received at the P.O. Box by the submission deadline. *Please write on the outside of your envelope that the payment is for advertising in the newsletter.*

Do not fax ads, as we cannot guarantee quality of reproduction. All ads must be black and white only, and copy ready.

Advertising copy and inserts must be received no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication, and payment in full must accompany each advertisement.

The TrailMark Newsletter is scheduled to be published in February, April, June, August, October & December.

Make checks payable to: TrailMark HOA, NO CASH Please

Thank you to all of the TrailMark advertisers for helping to support our community newsletter!!



TRAILMARK AD PLACEMENT FORM

When submitting an ad for publication in the *TrailMark Tracks* newsletter, please fill out this form and include it with your check. Ads can be in two formats (electronic – sent directly to communications@trailmarkHOA.org) or paper (to be included with this form and your check). Filling out this form ensures that your payment will be properly credited and that you will receive a copy of the newsletter in which your ad is placed. Thanks!

Name of Submitter:

Name of Company:

Mailing Address:

Contact phone number:

Email address (if you'd like e-mail notification that Your ad payment was received):

Ad Size/Check #/ and Amount:

The TrailMark Tracks Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the TrailMark HOA board, Hammersmith Management, Inc. and the Communication Committee. Newsletters are published on even months, and the deadline for articles and advertisements is the 15th of each odd month. All items must be approved by the TrailMark HOA board. Please submit items to the TrailMark HOA in the form of a Word/JPG/PDF file attachment, to communications@trailmarkhoa.org or mail to P.O. Box 270566, Littleton, CO 80127. Appearance of an advertisement or article in this publication does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by the publisher or the association of the information, goods or services offered therein. It is intended as informational only.

TrailMark Homeowners Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 270566
Littleton, CO 80127

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APRIL 2008



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TRAILMARK HOA MEETINGS

**Meetings are held every other month on the 2nd Thursday
of the month and always at 6:30 P.M.**

May 8, 2008

July 10, 2008

**Meetings are held at the Kinder Care @ TrailMark
9743 S. Carr Way**

***Please remember there are no adult chairs available,
bring your own if you like.***