



Tracks

A Publication of the TrailMark HOA—A Covenant Controlled Community

DECEMBER 2008

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS!



AS OF THE LAST WEEK IN NOVEMBER,
OUR WASTE REMOVAL AND RECYCLING
COMPANY WILL CHANGE.

ALPINE WASTE AND RECYCLING WILL
BE OUR NEW CONTRACTOR.

ALPINE WASTE AND RECYCLING USES
THE *ALTOGETHER RECYCLING* PROGRAM,
WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO RECYCLE
ALMOST ALL "DRY" TRASH.

OUR OLD TRASH AND RECYCLING
RECEPTACLES CAN STILL BE USED.
PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOUR RECYCLING
CONTAINER IS LABELED "RECYCLING".

THE ALPINE TRUCKS WILL BE IN THE
TRAILMARK AREA FIRST THING IN THE
MORNING SO TRASH AND
RECYCLING SHOULD BE PUT OUT BY
7:00 A.M.

TRAILMARK HOMEOWNERS WILL RECEIVE
A LETTER FROM HAMMERSMITH MANAGEMENT
CONFIRMING STARTING DAYS AND DATES



WWW.TRAILMARKHOA.ORG

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

Board Members

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

TrailMark Committees

Common Area Committee

Chair.....Lesla Rangel

Covenants Committee

Chair.....Emre Baytok

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., AAMC
www.e-hammersmith.com**

Phone

303-980-0700

Fax

303-980-0576

E-mail

clientservices@e-hammersmith.com

Corporate Office-DTC

5619 DTC Parkway, Suite 900
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Community Manager

Beth Lovato, CMCA, AMS



ROUND-UP

TrailMark Ponds and Reservoirs

Members of Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield and TrailMark Metro District recently checked on the health and viability of each of the ponds and reservoirs. A company was hired to clear all of the Russian Olive trees from the banks and surrounding areas. Cattails were sprayed and removed from the inlets and outlets. Overall, the annual inspection revealed that the ponds and reservoirs were healthy and only needed a few adjustments to water gates or a planned reinforcement in the spring of the north side of Fairview Reservoir #1

The solar aerator at the Beaver Pond has been installed and the four bubblers are working nicely. The TrailMark Metro District's biologist will do a quality water sample next spring to determine if the levels of phosphorus and nitrogen are in acceptable ranges. We still ask that our neighbors stay diligent in what they run into the storm drains since this is the main source of water to the ponds. The ponds are only as safe as the amount of chemicals we put on our lawns and allow to wash down our streets.

TrailMark Budget Meeting and Election

On Thursday, November 13th, the Annual Budget Meeting was held to inform the community of the particulars of the 2009 operating budget. The Trash Removal Contract was up for bid. The Board understands that fuel costs have skyrocketed this year and companies have had to pass this on to the customer anticipating high costs next year. The Board awarded the contract to Alpine Waste and Recycling. Another contract that is in the negotiating stage is the Landscape Contract which will be negotiated in January. Costs have gone up because of winter watering that is needed to keep our trees alive during the dry winter. A new Covenants Monitor has been added as an independent contractor to help with violations in the neighborhood. This is aimed at making the covenant enforcement process more streamlined and fair for all neighbors.

As you tighten your belts economically, the Board feels that constraint as well. Wherever there is a possibility of saving money, the Board will work to do so. Elections were held during the evening and Mike McMahon, Karen Millspaugh and Sharon Gambrell-Elms were elected to the HOA Board. Each member will work very hard to serve you and our community. Congratulations to each of them!

TrailMark Metro Board Budget presented at HOA Meeting

Members of the TrailMark Metro Board were in attendance at the HOA Meeting to present their budget. Tim Strunk, President of the Metro Board, explained that one of the Shea notes was paid off this year. That helped reduce the mill levy for the Metro District on our taxes for 2008 to be paid in 2009 from 66 mills to 58 mills. That means that the taxes that you pay on your home went down 8 mills. In homeowner terms, your taxes of \$4000 per year, for example, would go down about \$320 per year. Tim estimates that next year the assessment will probably go down to 46 mills.

There was discussion about the land next to the soccer fields that the City of Littleton and Jefferson County School District own. So far it is just in the discussion phase. Metro District, given the mandate from the neighborhood to look into the possibility of acquiring the land for a Community Center, has been meeting with both entities for the past year. They are still meeting and discussing. Nothing has happened as yet. If the plan comes to fruition, the Community Center is being suggested for the west side of the Soccer Fields. Metro District will do nothing without consulting the neighbors each step of the way as to their wishes. Karen Millspaugh was sworn in as the new member of the Metro District Board for the next two years. She has worked to improve the health of the Beaver Pond for the last 3 years.

Information submitted by:
Karen Millspaugh

Hello and Goodbye

At the TrailMark Annual Meeting, held on Thursday, November 13, 2008, Mike McMahon was elected to the Board of Directors by acclamation. Mike has been a resident of TrailMark since its construction, and has been involved with the Common Area Committee (CAC) for a number of years. He has led efforts towards many of our capitol improvement projects and landscape improvements. Mike would "lead the charge" as a strong liaison between the CAC and the Homeowners Association (HOA) Board. Mike's background is in the construction and development industry, and is vice-president of Builder Purchasing Service.

At the same time that we say "Hello" to Mike McMahon, we must say "Goodbye" to John Birkey who has served on the Board for the last two years. John has been a wonderful addition to the Board, and as a member of the CAC, he has kept the Board apprised of common area projects and needs. We are sorry to have to say "Goodbye to John, but wish him every good thing in the future, and especially, more time for his family and even for that old "R and R".





DECEMBER 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Common Area Committee (CAC) Mtg Littleton City Council Mtg	3 Design Review Committee Mtg Trail of Lights Begins 	4 Colorado School of Mines Concert Choir: A Messiah Sing Along 7pm 720-934-4539	5  Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield 9A-5P Candlelight Walk - Golden 6:30pm Parade of Lights; Downtown Denver; 12/5, 8PM; 12/6, 2PM	6 Tea Room Holiday Tea Silver Plume 4PM 303-569-2368
7 Pearl Harbor Day 	8	9	10	11 TrailMark's Annual Holiday Celebration 6-8PM TrailMark Learning Center 	12 	13 Tea Room Holiday Tea Silver Plume Noon & 2:30pm 303-569-2368 Christmas Carriage Parade Mainstreet, Parker; 2PM 303-805-3253
14 Tea Room Holiday Tea Silver Plume 1PM 303-569-2368	15 Homeowners "Turn on your Christmas lights!" 6PM 	16 Metro Board, Common Area Committee (CAC) & Littleton City Council Mtg	17 Design Review Committee Mtg	18	19 	20 Tea Room Holiday Tea Silver Plume 11:30am-2:30pm 303-569-2368
21 Tea Room Holiday Tea Silver Plume 1PM 303-569-2368	22 Hanukkah 	23	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day 	26 	27
December 22—January 5 Winter Break for students (all schools)						
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Fireworks - Downtown Denver 9PM—Midnight 			



JANUARY 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 	2 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield 9A-5P 	3
December 22—January 5 Winter Break for students (all schools)						
4 Trail of Lights Last Day 	5	6 Common Area Committee (CAC) & Littleton City Council Mtg 	7 Design Review Committee Mtg	8	9 	10
11	12	13 Board of Directors Work Session	14	15 TrailMark HOA Meeting in Mtg 6:30pm	16 	17
18	19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY  NO SCHOOL	20 Common Area Committee (CAC) & Littleton City Council Mtg  Shaffer Elementary Kindergarten Registration Begins	21 Design Review Committee Mtg	22	23 DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES TO BE SUBMITTED FOR THE FEBRUARY 2009 ISSUE 	24
25	26 Covenants Committee Mtg	27	28	29	30 	31

FROM THE TRAILMARK DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC):

The Design Review Committee (DRC) continues to receive requests for home exterior paint projects, although with the cool weather, these requests are slowing. Nonetheless, the DRC would like to answer/clarify questions that continue to be asked with regard to acceptable, approved external color schemes and the process for requesting approval for external paint projects.

Shea Homes, the TrailMark builder, designs communities that blend with Colorado's surrounding, natural beauty, incorporating trails, ponds, and native vegetation as a compliment to the home and yard designs. In keeping with this theme, the exterior paint color combinations are meant to also compliment and blend with that natural beauty. We generally refer to these colors as "earth tones" and the DRC is committed to adhering to these original color combinations to maintain a consistent, attractive appearance throughout TrailMark.

To assist homeowners in maintaining the consistent, "earthy" appearance of TrailMark, the DRC assembled books, by design series (400, 500, and 600), containing the original color combinations selected by Shea. Each tab in these books represents what we term an approved color combination and includes the paint color name, paint color code (Kwal), paint "chips"/samples and the appropriate place for each color (siding, trim, shutters, doors, etc.). It is these color combinations upon which the DRC bases its decision on each application for exterior painting projects.



All of the color schemes follow the same theme:

Siding – Light, earth tones – beiges, tans, browns

Fascia, Trim, Shutters – Generally, three (3) accent colors to compliment the siding color

Front Entry, Garage Doors – 1 or 2 colors to round out the color scheme.

Homeowners, regardless of your house series, may select an approved color combination from any of the three series. That is, if your house is a 500 series, you may select a color combination from the 400, 500, or 600 series. However, **if a homeowner wishes to change an approved color combination**, the homeowner must submit, for the DRC's consideration, the proposed paint color name, paint "chips"/samples and the proposed location for each color (siding, trim, shutters, doors, etc.)

Homeowners may review the Trailmark Exterior Color Scheme books by sending a request to Hammersmith Management by email at clientservices@e-hammersmith.com, fax at 303-980-0576, phone at 303-980-0700. Requests for exterior paint projects must be submitted to the DRC using the standard HOA Improvement/Design-Application form (found at www.TrailMarkHOA.org) and submitted to Hammersmith Management by email at clientservices@e-hammersmith.com, fax at 303-980-0576.

PLEASE NOTE: *In accordance with TrailMark's Design Guidelines dated April, 2002, "No work shall be undertaken ..., including painting or re-staining, without prior, written approval of the Committee" (Design Review Committee). Homeowners who embark upon an exterior paint project without (1) having submitted a request and (2) received a written approval of that request are at risk, especially if the paint project falls outside the approved color combinations. Please get your exterior paint projects DRC approved prior to initiating the painting!!!*

Reminder: The DRC meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. All applications should be received by Hammersmith, the Friday previous to the DRC meeting. Remember, if a homeowner wishes to change an approved color combination, the homeowner must submit the paint color name, paint "chips"/samples, and the proposed location for each color (siding, trim, shutters, doors, etc.) for the DRC's consideration. Failure to provide this information renders the application incomplete and the application will be returned to the homeowner.

About Alpine Waste & Recycling

Alpine Waste & Recycling is a Colorado owned and operated company founded in 1999. Alpine began with a simple premise, to provide an unprecedented level of service in the waste collection industry. Following this principle, Alpine has grown from a single truck company to the largest independent waste and recycling hauling company, in the Denver Metro area.



Striving to continue to meet the demands of our community, Alpine has evolved into an industry leader in recycling initiatives. In 2007, Alpine opened the **Altogether Recycling Plant**. The new Altogether Recycling facility utilizes the most advanced recycling processing techniques in the industry. Only the second of its kind in Colorado, this facility has dramatically changed the recycling landscape, creating an additional outlet and competitive market for recyclable materials. Further cementing Alpine's role as a leader in sustainability initiatives, Alpine is the only company in Denver to offer commercial compost collection services.

Alpine's recycling entity, Altogether Recycling, attempts to maximize the resell of its collected commodities to as many local companies as possible. By re-circulating these commodities in the region, they hope to greatly benefit the local economy. Alpine is committed to our community. We partner with local charitable and non-profit organizations to give back to our community, which has given so much to us. Alpine maintains the following sponsorships with these local charities and non-profit organizations:

- Alta Visa Center for Autism
- Champa House
- Denver Rescue Mission
- The Delores Project
- Women's Bean Project
- Rachel's Challenge
- Komen Denver

Altogether Recycling Plant 2008 Resources Conserved to Date:

Landfill Space:	73,400 Cubic Yards
Gasoline:	492,066 Gallons
Electricity	87,0005,470 kWh
Trees:	348,547
Water:	143,519,250 Gallons
Oil:	9,492,773 Gallons

Altogether Recycling encourages its customers to combine all recyclables together into a single bin for automatic sorting at the Altogether Recycling plant. For more information please visit their website at <http://www.alpinewaste.com>.

2008 *Service will continue every Friday through the holidays.*

2009 *Thanksgiving and Christmas fall on your service day in 2009 resulting in the trash and recycling being picked up the next day (Saturday) on these two occasions*

Please Note:

If any homeowner would be interested in touring the Alpine Material Recycling Facility - please leave your name at
www.e-hammersmith/communications.com.

**You will be notified when a tour date and time
has been established.**

ALTOGETHER RECYCLING™

Recycling has evolved!

Welcome to the first issue of the Altogether Recycling Newsletter and thank you for your support of the Altogether Recycling program! We hope to convey the incredible impact of your continued recycling efforts month to month, not only directly related to the environment, but the Colorado community as well.

The Altogether Recycling program allows all your recyclable items to be collected into one receptacle (no separating). This includes all plastics 1-7, all paper including junk mail, magazines and phone books, cardboard, tin, and aluminum. The state-of-the-art MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) is equipped with machinery to separate these items so you don't have to!

Because of the simplicity and time conserving attributes of this program its popularity has

increased dramatically. Just in the past year we've watched as the average weight in tons of materials going through the facility increase from 780 tons in Sept. 2007 to 3,700 tons in Oct. 2008.

As a Colorado owned and managed entity, Altogether Recycling is committed to contributing back to the state and region. The vast majority of the glass, plastic, aluminum, tin, & steel, as well as a portion of the paper we collect, is resold to end-users right here in our community.

We also provide tours and educational opportunities for schools in the Denver and surrounding areas helping our children form a respect for their environment and world. Along with education, local charities and non profit organizations remain at the forefront of our commitment to the community.

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2008

Because of you!

Conserved	Last Month	YTD
Landfill space (cubic yards)	8,378	63,556
Gallons of gasoline	56,168	426,074
Kilowatt hours of electricity	9,931,501	75,337,036
# of Trees	39,786	301,803
Gallons of water	16,382,436	124,271,669
Gallons of oil	1,082,581	8,219,683

Did you know....

to decompose it takes....

Aluminum Cans 80-100years

Plastic Soda Bottles 450 years

Plastic Containers 50-80years

Tin Cans 50-100years

Milk Cartons 5 years

Glass Bottles 1 million years

WHATS NEW!

Parking Lot goes Green Altogether recently partnered with FilterPave to repave a portion of our recycling plant's parking lot by using your recycled glass!
[http://www.altogetherrecycling.com/UserFiles/File/FilterPaveF2\(1\).pdf](http://www.altogetherrecycling.com/UserFiles/File/FilterPaveF2(1).pdf)

Campaign Signs Altogether recycling will Recycle your campaign signs. The following locations will be accepting campaign signs from Nov 4th thru Nov 21st: (Please strip signs of any metal or plastic).

Creative Advertising & Printing

5840 Old Wadsworth Blvd

Lone Tree Location:

9220 Kimmer Dr.



Ice Ranch, Littleton, CO



Denver Performing Arts Center

Your Recycling Efforts Support Local Charities

Not only is Altogether Recycling on the road to becoming the most environmentally responsive company in Colorado, we also support several local Colorado based charities:

Women's Bean Project

Rachel's Challenge

Alta Vista center for Autism



ALTOGETHER RECYCLING™

Recycling Has Evolved.



THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE RECYCLED:

- Paper Towels, Cups
- Plastic Bags
- Styrofoam
- Hazardous Materials
- Garbage
- Mirrors
- Lightbulbs
- Ceramics (dishes)



Pickup Charges for Common Extra Items

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>
Sectional Sofa	\$20
Couch	\$15
Hot Water Heater	\$15
Stove	\$15
Washer or Dryer	\$15
Desk	\$15
Large Chest of Drawers	\$15
Large Chair/Recliner	\$10
Dresser	\$10
Large Console TV	\$10
Entertainment Center	\$10
Mattress	\$10
Box Spring	\$10
Dishwasher	\$10
Table	\$10
Door	\$10
Toilet	\$10
Small Chair	\$5
T.V.	\$5
Extra Yardage on Ground	\$7 per cubic yard*

*Loose trash on the ground will be picked up on a complimentary basis in amounts less than one cubic yard. Special pickups of dumpsters may be performed at the customer's request. Alpine charges the extra yardage rate times the cubic yardage of the dumpster as the special pickup charge. For example, Alpine would charge \$21.00 for a special pickup of a three-yard dumpster.

Effective July 1, 2007, Colorado state environmental laws prohibit us from accepting any tires for disposal.

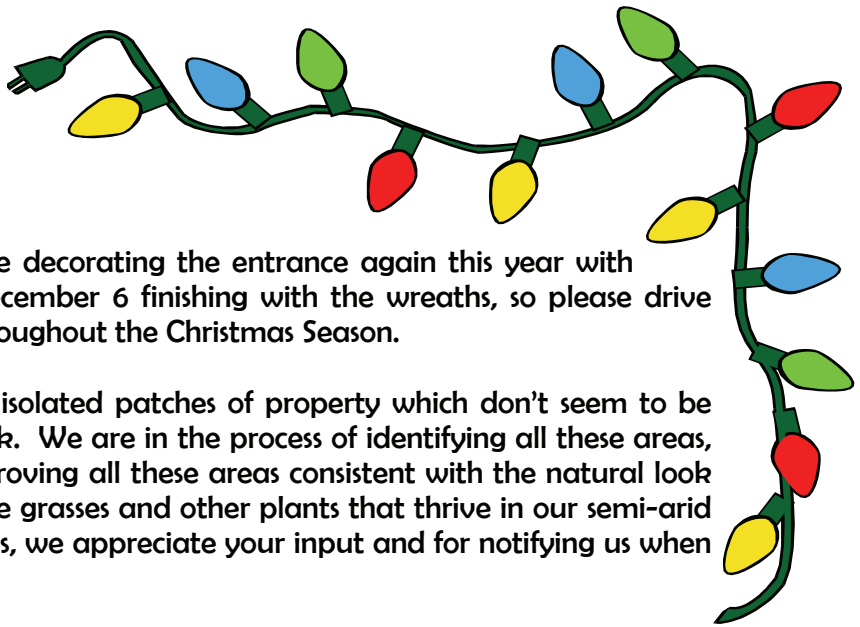
Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout Would not take the garbage out

Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout
Would not take the garbage out!
She'd scour the pots and scrape the pans,
Candy the yams and spice the hams,
And though her daddy would scream and shout,
She simply would not take the garbage out.
And so it piled up to the ceilings:
Coffee grounds, potato peelings,
Brown bananas, rotten peas,
Chunks of sour cottage cheese.
It filled the can, it covered the floor,
It cracked the window and blocked the door
With bacon rinds and chicken bones,
Drippy ends of ice cream cones,
Prune pits, peach pits, orange peel,
Gloppy glumps of cold oatmeal,
Pizza crusts and withered greens,
Soggy beans and tangerines,
Crusts of black burned buttered toast,
Gristly bits of beefy roasts...
The garbage rolled on down the hall,
It raised the roof, it broke the wall...
Greasy napkins, cookie crumbs,
Globs of gooey bubble gum,
Cellophane from green baloney,
Rubbery blubbery macaroni,
Peanut butter, caked and dry,
Curdled milk and crusts of pie,
Moldy melons, dried up mustard,
Eggshells mixed with lemon custard,
Cold French fries and rancid meat,
Yellow lumps of Cream of Wheat.
At last the garbage reached so high
That finally it touched the sky.
And all the neighbors moved away,
And none of her friends would come to play.
And finally Sarah Cynthia Stout said,
"OK, I'll take the garbage out!"
But then, of course, it was too late...
The garbage reached across the state,
From New York to the Golden Gate,
And there, in the garbage she did hate,
Poor Sarah met an awful fate,
That I cannot right now relate
Because the hour is much too late.
But children, remember Sarah Stout
And always take the garbage out!

Poem by Shel Silverstein:
From "Where the Sidewalk Ends"



COMMON AREA COMMITTEE NOTES



Christmas is just around the corner. We will be decorating the entrance again this year with even more lights. We will be out there on December 6 finishing with the wreaths, so please drive cautiously. Enjoy the decorations and lights throughout the Christmas Season.

We have had many inquiries regarding some isolated patches of property which don't seem to be cared for at the level expected within TrailMark. We are in the process of identifying all these areas, and developing a comprehensive plan for improving all these areas consistent with the natural look of TrailMark. This includes re-establishing native grasses and other plants that thrive in our semi-arid climate. If you have enquired about these areas, we appreciate your input and for notifying us when an area needs attention.

You may have noticed that we are in the completion stages of a decorative fence to help distract from the utility boxes as you round the first corner on TrailMark Parkway. We completed the uniform painting a few months ago to blend better with the environment. We are also developing standards for the paint colors, benches, trash receptacles, stone and rocks used throughout TrailMark to encourage and maintain a harmonious environment.

We are also completing plans and applying for grants for the improvement of the Southwest Corner of the trail system by the end of Johnson Street. Hopefully we can begin the project soon, which will provide cover for the existing picnic table and the addition of a horseshoe pit along with some trees and shrubs.

Tree planting is an on-going project. The most recent additions are the trees by the soccer field, which should help shield the portable toilet from the road, once they do a bit of growing. We have requested, and we will be paying for additional winter watering to insure that all the trees thrive this winter.



We need your help in identifying streetlights that may be out. Please let us know if any on your street need replacements.

The open spaces are **not** a dumping ground for any yard waste, clippings, branches or potted plants. **In fact it is; not a dumping ground for any refuse.** Please help keep our community clean by picking up any trash you see on walks and placing it in the many trash receptacles that are strategically placed throughout the trail system.



A Big THANK YOU To All TrailMark Volunteers!!!

On Saturday, October 25, 2008 TrailMark Volunteers and their significant others were honored at the **First Volunteer "Thank You"** banquet served at the highly-praised Fort restaurant in Morrison.



The attendees were served appetizers, drinks, lobster, steak, vegetables and dessert. The food was mouth-watering. The chance to mingle with so many remarkable people was greatly appreciated by all those who attended. President, Stephen McKeon - speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors - thanked all the volunteers for their dedication, sacrifice and commitment to TrailMark.

Volunteers help to make TrailMark a great place to live and play. **Volunteers** are one of our community's most important assets. Without volunteers there are a lot of things that would not get done because there is no money for it. Social events require **volunteers** to be on hand and committees need **volunteers** to support their purposes, even your Board of Directors consist of **volunteers**. This dinner was a way of thanking all the volunteers for freely giving of their time to our community.

A special thanks to Mike Glade and his wife for putting this banquet together.

TrailMark community needs you. Please think about volunteering today!

TrailMark Social Committee Presents TrailMark's 4th Annual Holiday Lighting Contest



The TrailMark HOA is pleased to announce the 4th Annual Holiday Lighting contest. Get ready to put sparkle, shimmer, spirit, and shine into your holidays and transform your home into the best dressed place in TrailMark. Winners will be judged in three categories. Most Brightly Lit (think like Clark Griswold in *Christmas Vacation*), Most Festive (the home with the most all-around holiday spirit), and Most Animated (the most moving/flashing decorations). Every home in the neighborhood is eligible to win. There is no need to enter. Contest winners will receive a sign to display in their yard

noting their category win, as well as a small gift. Last year's winners received \$25 gift certificates to Home Depot. Remember to turn your lights on by **6pm December 15th through December 18th**. Winners will receive their yard signs and gifts on Sunday, December 21st and will receive recognition in the February 2008 newsletter. Have fun and please be careful. ***Be sure to pick up your ballot to vote for the Community's favorite at the Holiday Party December 11th at the TrailMark Learning Center, 6-8pm.***

TRAILMARK HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Come join your neighbors and celebrate the holidays
"Gingerbread Festival"



Thursday, December 11, 2008

6:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm

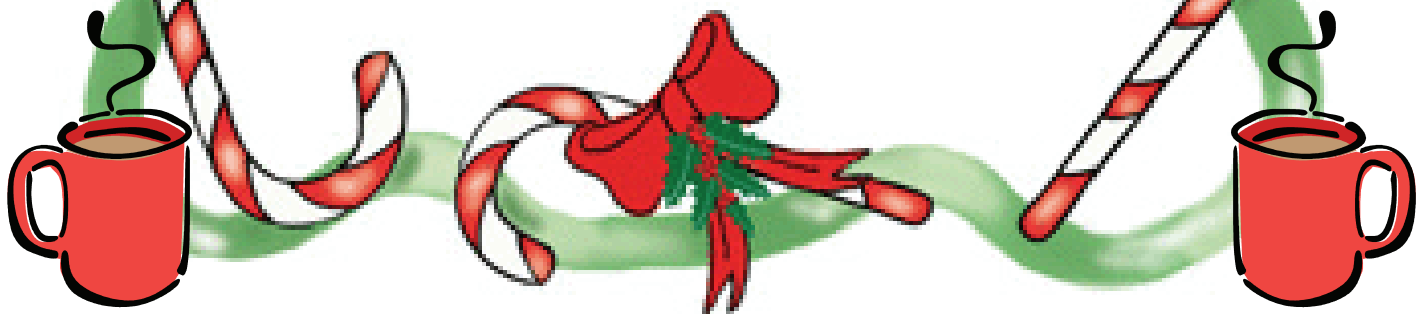
TrailMark Learning Center
9743 S Carr Way

Come decorate gingerbread houses and cookie, enter coloring contest, make holiday treasures and other fun activities to be announced. We will have hot chocolate, cider and many tasty treats.

Pick up your ballot to vote in the Holiday Lighting Contest

Come enjoy many activities and help out the less fortunate by participating in the community food drive. Bring canned or non-perishable items and toiletries.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!



Dear Mr. Tracker,

I've overheard some lively discussions between residents of TrailMark regarding the open space, I'd appreciate some clarification. Are dogs permitted to run freely in the open space adjacent to the walking paths and if so, are owners expected to pick up after their animals in the open space, just as they would on the walking paths?

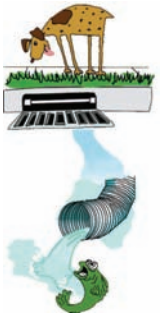
Thank you,
A Concerned Neighbor

Dear Concerned Neighbor,

Jefferson County open space requires dogs on a leash (and to pickup after their pets) and here is why:

- 🐕 **Protect your dog; unrestrained is unprotected.** Unrestrained dogs have little defense against a wildlife encounter. Hazards awaiting an unrestrained dog include skunk, porcupine, mountain lion, rattlesnake, poisonous plant, insects, burrowing seeds and smaller animals that may carry rabies. Dog fights often occur with little or no warning, and humans are unable to predict the behavior of their pets.
- 🐕 **Protect Wildlife.** Unleashed dogs harass, injure and sometimes kill wildlife. Dogs can affect ground-nesting birds in riparian areas. Just the sight of a dog running loose stresses wild animals.
- 🐕 **Reassure other park visitors.** Over 1.5 million people visit our Open Space parks each year. Many bring their dogs as companions, however some visitors are actually afraid of dogs. Unleashed dogs intimidate other park users and deprive them of the peace open space provides. Please respect other user's need to have an enjoyable park experience.
- 🐕 **Be an example.** The leash law is for all dog owners. Jefferson County Open Space appreciates responsible owners that train their pets, but within a wild environment, anything can happen. The only way to responsibly control your pet is to have it on a leash.
- 🐕 **Save money... and your dog.** Failure to leash your dog may result in a fine, and unleashed dogs increase the probability of dogs being banned from your favorite public lands. A summons for \$30 may be issued and habitual offenders may be fined up to \$330. If an unleashed dog is responsible for injury to wildlife, the Colorado Division of Wildlife may charge pet owners with a civil offense, and officers have the option of capturing or killing a dog that is caught chasing wildlife.

Picking up pet waste is the neighborly thing to do. It's easy and it's cheap! You may think it's not a big deal to let your dog relieve himself in common areas or the open space throughout the community, but it is... pet dung in public areas is unsightly, unsanitary and unsafe. There are several diseases which can be spread from pet waste including Giardiasis, Hookworm, Salmonellosis and other less common diseases. Organisms causing these diseases move from the pet waste into the environment. They can be carried by flies and other insects, wind and dust, or balls and toys that come into contact with pet "dirt". The germs can be ingested by people and begin to grow in the body, where infection continues to spread. The entire community will benefit when pet waste is picked up and disposed of properly.



Happy Holidays!
Mr. Tracker



COMMUNITY NEWS

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield

303-973-3705

Open Daily from 9:00-5:00

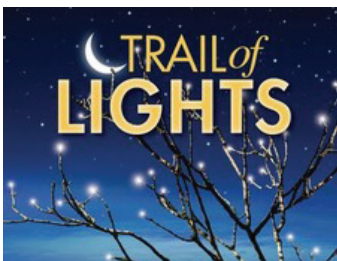
\$5 per passenger vehicle

<http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/Chatfield>

FREE Day at Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield

December 5, 2008 & January 2, 2009

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



New this year at Chatfield, **Trail of Lights**: More than one million twinkling lights will illuminate the Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield. A children's play area - including a tree house - will be included along the trail path. An 1880s homestead will be decorated in a Colorado country Christmas theme.

Dates: open Wednesday through Sunday evenings: December 3, 2008 - January 4, 2009: 5 - 8:30 p.m. (last ticket sold at 8:00 p.m.).

News From the Star Canyon Condominiums

From the Board:

Annual Meeting: PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The annual homeowner's meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 2, 2009, at 6:30 P.M.**, at the TrailMark Learning Center, at 9743 S. Carr Way.

By the end of December, annual packets will be e-mailed to all homeowners for whom we have an e-mail address (sent by US Mail otherwise). If you are unable to attend, please assign your proxy to another homeowner or board member to act on your behalf. To conduct necessary homeowner association business, it is vital to reach a quorum. A presentation on solar energy will be given; the auditor for the association will be present to answer questions regarding this year's audit; the 2009 budget will be presented and questions answered; and an election to fill one (1) vacancy on the Board of Directors will be held.

Board Position: CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! Our community is in need of a dedicated volunteer to participate on our Board of Directors. A Board position is a three (3) year commitment, but is a rewarding way to make a difference in our Star Canyon Community. The election to fill a Board vacancy will occur at the time of the annual meeting. If you have an interest in running for a Board position, current members of the Board will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Shelley Sendelbach, Lynn Ester or Kim Hayes for information.



Self-Service De-Icing Material: This year we have additional self-service buckets containing a mixture of sand and de-icing material. A bucket is located conspicuously in every garage area, behind the stone pillars. Please feel free to use the mixture whenever ice has formed on our sidewalks and driveways. Together, we can help make our area safer this winter.



Cobwebs Galore: During a recent walk-around of our property, we noticed that some of our exterior lights have been "invaded" by cobwebs. We are asking each homeowner, at their convenience, to spend a few minutes to "tidy-up" their front door and exterior garage lights. The Board also made an inventory of repairs needed to some of our exterior walkway lights. Most of the needed repairs are minor in nature, and our property manager, Caron Realty, will make arrangements for the repairs to be made.

Reserve Study: The Reserve Committee, plus Board members Shelley Sendelbach and Kim Hayes, met on November 7, 2008, to discuss the latest draft of the Reserve Study. Recommendations from Aspen Reserve Specialist were discussed and some modifications were presented. The Board of Directors, in proposing the 2009 budget, have made every effort to continue to improve our reserve status. According to Aspen Reserve Specialists, as of January 1, 2009, **we will be 81% funded.**

Social News:

The Star Canyon Condominium Book Group will meet on November 21, 2008, to discuss the book, *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson, and will meet on December 19, 2008, for our pre-holiday get-together, at Marcia Marquez', 9856 W. Freiburg Drive, Unit G. Also, some of our ladies will be joining the Patio Homes for the annual Christmas Luncheon, this year scheduled at Gabriel's in Sedalia, on Tuesday, December 9th.



As this will be the last newsletter of the year, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and the Happiest (and financially secure) New Year!



Star Canyon Patio Homes

Our homeowner's association Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2008. We want to thank Jerry Mastenbrook for generously accepting the nomination for new board member.



Items from Jerry Mastenbrook in the “**Board Banter**” include:

- **Water agreement:** We have agreed upon a formula that resolves the common area irrigation issue with the condominiums. The condos have given us a check for \$3, 000, as a down payment for our past overpayment. The balance due the patio homes is \$3, 555, and will be netted against future water bills. Going forward, the patio homes will pay 75% of the water bill and the condos will pay 25%.
- **Landscaping Contract:** The contract with Rocky Mountain Custom Landscapes has been extended through 2009. While they will perform essentially the same services as last year, they have agreed to a 30% reduction in fees for the basic service. This will result in a cost decrease of \$9, 354 (\$137 per household) during 2009. Please remember that any landscaping issues should be directed to our property management representative, Mike Chapman at mchapman@associacolorado.com.
- **Reserve Study:** This is the most important issue that was discussed at the annual meeting. The reserve analysis quantifies our future obligations depending on the degree of exterior maintenance that the homeowner's association will provide. Please, carefully consider the alternatives, as the consensus of the homeowners will have a significant impact on monthly assessments.

If you need additional information about the Star Canyon Patio Homes, you can contact either a member of the Board, Jeff Pugh at jeff.pugh@hispanic-contractors.org, Lou Zier at jlouzier@hotmail.com, Jerry Mastenbrook at jobsrus@quest.net, or send an email to Mike Chapman. You can also reach Mike Chapman at 303/232-9200 ext. 244.



Our community website is www.associacolorado.com. Click on “Community Websites” and choose Star Canyon. You need to set up your own account by using your street number as your User Name, to register. This website is a good tool to obtain general information such as the Covenants and Bylaws. Be informed!

TrailMark Trivia: 72% of Americans cannot name this person. See answer below.

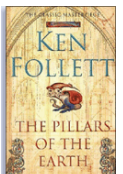
Social Happenings:



In November, the **Lunch Bunch** enjoyed a gathering at the Celtic Tavern at Riverside Downs. For information about regular gatherings, please contact Gabrielle Handley.

The **Patio Homes Dinner Group** will be having their annual Holiday Dinner on Saturday, December 6th, at 6:00 P.M. This year the dinner is being held at The Marina at Chatfield. Hope to see you all there to celebrate the holiday season.

The **Star Canyon Patio Homes Book Club** and the **Lunch Bunch** will be combining their meetings in December for a special holiday luncheon at Gabriel's in Sedalia, on Tuesday, December 9, 2008. Gabriel's is usually beautifully decorated for the holidays, and our group has had a wonderful time in the past. Don't forget that *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett will be discussed at our Book Club meeting in January. *Pillars* is a wonderful book for anyone who has not read it previously. As always, reading is optional. Contact Joy Carlson for additional information.



Bunko (or Zilch/Farkel) is the first Tuesday of each month. Marilyn Hubbard will be our host in January. Bev Zier is the contact person for this activity, if you would like to be put on the substitute list. You might be the winner of one of the “big” money prizes.

Mahjonn is now the 4th Tuesday of the month, at 1:30 in the afternoon. Only in December, the group will meet on the 3rd Tuesday, December 16th. Marilyn Hubbard and Joan Flenner are the gals to contact for more information. It is such a fun, fun game!

Movie Club: Contact Joan Flenner or Karen Millspaugh for information on a movie outing.

Men's Breakfast is the 2nd Tuesday Morning of the month (at the same time as the ladies Book Group). Bernie Gehan is the contact person.

Trivia Answer: Their next door neighbor! Let's hope that TrailMark isn't part of the majority.

Joy Carlson jcarlson1347@comcast.net

School News

Chatfield High School

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

303-982-3670

December 17 & 18 – Final Exams (half days)

December 19 – Makeup Finals Day

December 22 – January 5 – Winter Break for Students

January 5 – NO SCHOOL – Staff Development

January 6 – Semester 2 Classes Begin

January 19 – NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day

February 9 – Progress Reports available

February 11 – Parent Teacher

Conferences, 3:30 to 8:00 pm

February 13 – NO SCHOOL - Staff Development

February 16 – NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day

February 17 – NO SCHOOL - Comp Day for Conferences

March 3,4,5 – CSAP Testing

March 10,11,12 – CSAP Testing

March 30 – April 3 – Spring Break

Falcon Bluffs Middle School

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

303-982-9900

December 19 – Early Dismissal, 12:55

December 22 – January 5 – Winter Break for Students

January 5 – NO SCHOOL – Staff Development

January 6 – Semester 2 Classes Begin

January 19 – NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day

February 11, 12 – Parent Conferences by Request, 3:30 – 7:30 PM

February 13 – NO SCHOOL – Teacher

Inservice

February 16 – NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day

February 17 – NO SCHOOL - Comp Day for Conferences

February 21 – Indoor Garage Sale Fundraiser, 8:00-3:00

March 30 – April 3 – Spring Break

Shaffer Elementary School

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

303-982-3901

December 19 – Early Release, 1:00 pm

December 22 – January 5 – Winter Break for Students

January 5 – NO SCHOOL – Staff Development

January 6 – Semester 2 Classes Begin

January 12 – 2009 Kindergarten Parent Information Night, 6:30-7:15 PM

January 19 – NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day

January 20 – Kindergarten Registration Begins

February 10 – Spring Conferences

February 11 – Early Release, 1:00 PM; Spring Conferences

February 13 – NO SCHOOL – Conference Comp Day

February 16 – NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day

March 30 – April 3 – Spring Break



WINTER WATERING

Why do my plants need winter water?

The landscape is not really dormant but rather a resting state. Lawn roots are active. Trees and shrubs have ongoing activity in the wood - primarily for disease defense. Evergreens still have needles that are actively producing food and utilizing water.

Problems avoided with winter watering.

Lawn Mites - Winter mites thrive on droughty lawns. Winter watering will not completely eliminate mites from drought prone areas, but will curtail much of the damage.

Brittleness - Remember the severe tree damage in the snow storms of 2003? Trees and shrubs that were watered sustained considerably less damage. Their branches were more supple and able to handle the snow load. Dry, un-watered plants broke like toothpicks.

Sunscald - Sunscald is a problem on thin barked plants where the water conducting tissues die during the winter. Winter watering will help avoid sunscald and cankers from forming.

Spring Deadwood - Trees and shrubs that are not winter watered have more dead branches in the spring. Not only do the above ground parts of the tree dry out, but also the roots. Plants that are shallow rooted are very susceptible to roots desiccating - leading to their demise. When the roots dies, the results is part of the tree dies as well.

How do I Winter Water?

To replenish the lawn, the only answer is to get the garden hose and set out a sprinkler. Concentrate on areas with south and west facing slopes and especially around large evergreen trees. Evergreens are notorious for pulling water from the soil drying out the grass over the winter. These areas may need watering every other week.

For the trees and shrubs you must water within the drip line of the tree. You should moisten the soil to a depth of 12" around the plant. There are several devises available at our local garden center that can accomplish this. It should be done once or twice per month when there is no snow cover.

For additional information on the methods and amount to water visit www.watersaver.org and click on "Save our Shade."

Source: Swingle Tree Service

Protecting your home from severe winter weather... BEFORE the storm...

- ✓ Be familiar with winter storm warning messages.
- ✓ Service snow removal equipment and have rock salt on hand to melt ice on walkways and kitty litter to generate temporary traction.
- ✓ Make sure you have sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off.

Winterize your home.

- ✓ Insulate walls and attic.
- ✓ Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.

Check smoke detectors - Change batteries (if needed).

Keep pipes from freezing.

- ✓ Wrap pipes in insulation or layers of old newspapers.
- ✓ Cover the newspapers with plastic to keep out moisture.
- ✓ Let faucets drip a little to avoid freezing.
- ✓ Know how to shut off water valves.



Contact your local emergency management office or your local American Red Cross chapter for more information on winter storms. For more information go to www.redcross.org.

SOUTH SUBURBAN PARKS AND RECREATION

Ten Percent Incentive To Help Meet New Year's Resolutions

South Suburban Parks and Recreation will be offering all recreation center passes at a 10% discount from November 27 through December 31. Customers who purchase a multiple-use pass or punch card have access to all facility amenities and drop-in fitness classes at South Suburban's Lone Tree, Goodson and Buck Recreation Centers. Adult District residents that obtain a 30-punch card during this special will reduce their daily admission to \$3.42 per visit. Drop-in group fitness classes include spinning, step and regular aerobics, sculpting classes, yoga, cardio classes and aqua fitness classes.

South Suburban Makes Shopping Easy

South Suburban Parks and Recreation will sponsor the 22nd Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday, December 6 from 9:30 am to 4 pm, at Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 S. University Blvd. Attend this free event and visit 70 juried booths offering handmade crafts, pottery, jewelry, clothing, quilts, paintings, photography, floral arrangements, woodworks, holiday items and specialty foods. There will be items to tempt every shopper and assist you in filling your list in one stop.

Skate with Santa and Enjoy South Suburban's Community Holiday Ice Shows

According to the U.S. Figure Skating web site, of the total population, 12 years and older, 54% have an interest in viewing figure skating events. So how can you enjoy this popular sport during the holiday season? South Suburban will present FREE entertaining Holiday Ice Shows, combined with FREE opportunities for the public to skate with Santa Claus, on Friday through Sunday, December 19-21. Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to Interfaith Community Services to obtain free admission. For more information visit www.sspr.org.

Recycle in the Christmas Spirit

Your Christmas tree can serve another useful purpose as mulch for trees and shrubs in your backyard and neighborhood. South Suburban Parks and Recreation will recycle Christmas trees from December 26 through January 13. Residents can dispose of Christmas trees at the Willow Spring Service Center, 7100 South Holly Street. Trees will also be accepted at Cornerstone Park parking area, enter from Windermere Street south of Bellevue Avenue. All lights, ornaments, garland, tinsel and stands must first be removed. Flocked trees, leaves, branches or other refuse will not be accepted at the recycling sites. During the recycling effort, trees will be mulched and free mulch will be available shortly after the recycling process begins. Residents can obtain mulch Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at each of the two sites. Call the South Suburban Administrative office at 303-798-5131 for more information.

Charity Fraud: Make the Business of Giving Your Business!

Prevention and Tips

Disasters bring out the best and worst in people. Charitable giving reached a record high in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and now in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike people respond to the need for help. Be aware of illegitimate charities that try to con individuals out of their money. Seniors can be especially vulnerable and are often a prime target for this type of fraud.

Warning Signs of Charity Fraud

- ☛ Beware of charities using names that closely resemble that of better-known, reputable organizations.
- ☛ Fraudulent charities often ask for donations in cash or a check made out to the salesperson and not the charity.
- ☛ The potential contributor is asked for bank account information or credit card information before they agree to contribute.
- ☛ A guarantee of sweepstakes winnings is given in exchange for a contribution.

Actions That Can Be Taken To Avoid Charity Scams

- ☛ If you're approached by an unfamiliar charity, investigate before giving:
 - Get the name, address, and phone number of the organization and ask for their registration number.
 - Also ask for a copy of its annual report and financial statement.
 - For a list of legitimate charities contact the American Institute of Philanthropy at www.charitywatch.org or the Better Business Bureau's (BBB's) Wise Giving Alliance at www.give.org.
- ☛ Contact charities on your own rather than responding to those that contact you.
- ☛ Keep careful records of all your donations
- ☛ Be especially cautious when there are natural or other disasters.

Unfortunately, charity fraud often makes a headline which causes people to be less confident about giving their money to legitimate charities. As a result, charities lose money that is genuinely used to support others in need. Don't let potential scams keep you from being generous, just be aware of the signs and take the proper precautions to ensure that the help you are extending is reaching those who need it most.

Prevent Financial Elder Abuse!

Sponsored by: Elder Watch (www.aarpelderwatch.org),
AARP, BBB, and the Colorado Attorney General,
John W. Suthers

1-800-222-444
Denver Metro Area
303-222-4444

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

TrailMark Mommies Club

Do you have an infant, toddler or preschooler?? TrailMark Mommies Club is a great place to connect with other Moms and Children in the neighborhood for fun play dates, outings and information on local happenings! We are always welcoming new members, stay at home or working Moms, and are hoping to get more activities going soon!



To join go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TrailMarkMommies> and click on the blue button that says "Join this group" or call Sarah Russell at (720) 839-1015 for more information.



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. Please e-mail your advertisement, nkelly@mywdo.com.

PUBLIC SERVICE ADS

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.**)



Recipe for: HOT SPICED CIDER

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 qt apple cider
- 1 lb light brown sugar
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 12 whole cloves
- graded orange peel from one orange

Preparation:

Put spices in large non-aluminum kettle with cider and sugar. Take out the spices before serving. Simmer uncovered 15 minutes. Serve hot.



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.)

NEW INFORMATION ABOUT INSERTS:

We are no longer accepting advertising or other material as an insert into the newsletter.

Ad copy: It is preferable advertisements be e-mailed in the form of a .JPG, .DOC or Publisher 2003 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.

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

Make checks payable to: TrailMark HOA, NO CASH Please mail your check to TrailMark HOA, PO Box 270566, Littleton, CO 80127.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email the committee at:
communications@trailmarkHOA.org.

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

**THANK
YOU**

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 three formats (electronic – sent directly to communications@trailmarkhoa.org - as a jpeg or word doc file or Publisher 2003). 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. PLEASE NOTE: ALL ARTICLES AND ADS MUST BE IN THE 24TH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.** 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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DECEMBER 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.

*January 15, 2009
&
March 12, 2009*

**Meetings are held at the TrailMark Learning Center
9743 S. Carr Way**

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