# TRAILMARK TRACKS



February 2010

"Attention Homeowners, Committee Chairpersons and Advertisers!"

**New Newsletter Coordinator Needed:** 

irst, we want to give a big THANK YOU to Sharon Gambrell Elms who chaired the Newsletter Committee and worked with Hammersmith to produce 6 newsletters each year. She collected all of the articles and ads every other month; worked with the Hammersmith formatting department; spearheaded the labeling of the printed copies; and then took them to the Post Office for mailing to our TrailMark neighbors.

It is that dedicated, organized kind of person that we would like to find as a replacement to Sharon. If you are interested in volunteering for this position and helping out your community, please phone Karl Block at Hammersmith Management at 303-980-0700 or email him at www.e-hammersmith.com. We hope to find someone who can take this job over this month. Please give this some thought and call us today.

If you are responsible for submitting either advertising copy or articles Please take note of the deadlines! They are as follows:

March - Ads are due on Monday, March 15th and Articles are due on Friday, March 19th.

May - Ads are due on Friday, May 14th and Articles are due on Monday, May 17th.

July - Ads are due on Friday, July 16th and Articles are due on Monday, July 19th.

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# Happy Valentine's Day!





# TRAILMARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 270566 • Littleton, CO 80127

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Karen Millspaugh
Vice President	Wayne Lupton
Vice President	Mike McMahon
Treasurer	Lesa Rangel
Secretary	Doug Filter

#### TRAILMARK COMMITTEES

**Common Area Committee** 

Chair.....Karla Rogers

**Covenant Committee** 

Chair.....TrailMark Staff
Newsletter Editor.....Open

**Design & Review Committee** 

Chair.....TrailMark Staff

**Finance Committee** 

Chair.....Lesa Rangel

Social Committee

Chair.....Sandy Ocker

**Website Development Committee** 

Chair.....Denise Kato

**Safety Committee** 

Chair.....Mark Rogers

### **MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

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Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Community Manager Karl Block, CMCA®, AMS®

This Newsletter is an official publication of the TrailMark Homeowners Association and constitutes notice to all residents and owners. The Association is not responsible for the services or information provided by merchants.



# **ROUND-UP**

A Word from your TrailMark HOA Board:

2010 started out with the first meeting of the TrailMark HOA on Thursday, January 14th. The HOA Board consists of President, Karen Millspaugh; Vice-Presidents, Mike McMahon and Wayne Lupton; Secretary, Doug Filter and Treasurer, Lesa Rangel.

# The goals for the 2010 HOA Board are as follows:

- Establish Board Liaisons to each sub-committee of the HOA who will establish charters and budgets for each committee. Budgets will be reviewed quarterly by the HOA Treasurer to ensure fiscal responsibility.
- Create a map of TrailMark to include HOA responsibilities as well as Metro District's and South Suburban Recreational District's responsibilities. A Reserve Audit will then be ordered and completed to determine future financial responsibilities of the HOA.
- Review the Newsletter costs to determine savings for the community.

Update the HOA Website.

Improve communication with the Metro District.

Work on compliance with SB-100 and CCIOA laws.

Contracts have been signed with Alpine Waste and Colorado Lifestyles for waste removal/ recycling and for landscape maintenance/snow removal, respectively. The Covenant Monitor and Management contracts have been renewed for 2010. We have ordered an audit of the 2009 finances. It is the HOA Board's intent to trim more of the budget with cost-saving measures this year. The HOA will work to decrease spending and stay within the 2010 HOA Budget that was proposed and ratified at the November, 2009 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Millspaugh

Karen Millspaugh

# **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

### **FEBRUARY**

February 2nd CAC Meeting, 6:30 pm

February 8th
Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm

February 9th
HOA Hearings Meeting, 6:30 pm
at Daycare Center

February 19th
TMMD Meeting, 6:30 pm
at Daycare Center

#### **MARCH**

*March 2nd* CAC Meeting, 6:30 pm

March 8th
Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm

March 11th
HOA Meeting, 6:30 pm
at Daycare Center

March 15th
Ads are due to
Newsletter Editor

March 19th
Articles are due to
Newsletter Editor

March 16th
TMMD Meeting, 6:30 pm
at Daycare Center

HOA Work Sessions are held on Tuesdays of odd months before a regularly scheduled meeting of the HOA. Please call Hammersmith five days in advance for details of time and location, if needed.

Design and Review and Covenant Committees meet each month when it is convenient for members to gather due to work schedules and family committments.



# TEN REASONS TO GET INVOLVED

with your Association

- 1 Protect your self-interests. Protect your property values and maintain the quality of life in your community.
- Correct a problem. Has your car been towed, or do you think maybe maintenance has been neglected?
- Be sociable. Meet your neighbors, make friends, and exchange opinions.
- **Give back.** Repay a little of what's been done for you.
- 5 <u>Advance your career.</u> 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.
- **Get educated.** Learn how it's done—we'll train you.
- 8 <u>Express yourself.</u> Help with creative projects like community beautification.
- **<u>Earn recognition.</u>** If you would like a little attention or validation, your contributions will be recognized and celebrated.
- 10 <u>Try some altruism.</u> Improve society by helping others.

# **COMMON AREA COMMITTEE UPDATE**

#### **GRANT AWARD**

A Grant Award was made by Jefferson County based on matching funds from the HOA to improve the corner of TrailMark Parkway and Danzig. South Suburban Parks and Recreation District (SSPRD) has been a great partner and was very instrumental in procuring the Grant. They agreed to complete much of the labor at no charge to the HOA as a contribution to cost-sharing of the project. The improvements include the proper connection of the trail system in that area. This also involves the removal of the current narrow sidewalk and the removal of the asphalt turnout by the utility boxes. We will replant the corner with native grasses and some strategically placed plantings. We are also going to be shielding the utility boxes from view with a fence similar to the Carr street and TrailMark Project. This project will begin this spring.

#### **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

The lights and other **Christmas decorations** were taken down last week at the entrance to TrailMark Parkway. We hope they helped brighten your Holidays when the nights were longest.

#### **COMMUNITY GARDENS**

Community Gardens will be grown at the Denver arboretum this spring. There has been a groundswell of support for community garden plots. Since the arboretum is so close, and they are already offering a Community Garden, we will be monitoring the participation at the Denver Arboretum by TrailMark residents in 2010 to gauge the potential participation in our own TrialMark Garden Plots in the future. If you are interested in what they offer please inquire on our website.

# LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR COMMITTEES

If you are interested in volunteering your time, contact one of the following committees below or go to our website, Trailmarkhoa.org, to learn more about serving in your community.

Common Area Committee (CAC) - commonarea@TrailMarkhoa.org

Communication/Newsletter Committee (CNC) - communications@TrailMarkhoa.org

Covenant Control Committee (CCC) - covenants@TrailMarkhoa.org

Design & Review Committee (DRC) - designreview@TrailMarkhoa.org

Finance Committee (FC) - finance@TrailMarkhoa.org

**Safety Committee** - safety@TrailMarkhoa.org

Social Committee (SC) - social@TrailMarkhoa.org



# AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

elcome to the February, 2010 edition of the Covenant Corner! This month, we are talking about Holiday Lights, House Painting, Signage, Snow and Trash Cans.

#### **HOLIDAY LIGHTS**

As a reminder, your lights need to be taken down by January 31st. Please be safe in taking them down and keep them stored for decorating next year!

Use caution – remove your lights when it's reasonable. If the weather doesn't cooperate, then let's target mid-February for removal of all the lights.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Remember to take in your trash cans after they have been emptied on Fridays. This means storing them in your garage or behind a fence where they can't be seen.

Littleton laws ask homeowners to have their sidewalks shoveled 24 hours after the snow has ended.



### **RECYCLING FACTS:**

**Fact:** Pizza boxes can be recycled at any recycling location with other fiber (paper) materials, as long as the containers are clean and free of all food and drink remains. It might even become a new pizza box in the future.

**Fact:** Breaking down boxes and crushing aluminum cans and plastic bottles helps ease the entire recycling process, but materials won't be pitched if they are left intact.

#### **HOUSE PAINTING**

**Happy New Year!** What a treat it was to see all of the lights and decorations in our neighborhood during the holiday season!

Our neighborhood is aging and the homes that have not yet been painted are asking for a "makeover!"

In this newsletter, the Design Review Committee has included a great description of the process to get your exterior painting project approved. If you have not yet painted your house (or if you painted your house, but did not submit a DRC request – tsk, tsk); you will be getting a letter from Hammersmith reminding you to have your house painted. Hammersmith will be tracking the DRC requests and sending out follow-up letters to homeowners who do not respond with either a paint request or a letter explaining why you don't think your house needs to be painted.



A note on signage – when the paint company asks to put a sign in your yard – you have to tell them "No". There is a covenant that defines the type of signs that can be put up. This was done to keep the neighborhood looking nice and to keep the clutter of signage to a minimum. Basically, real estate signs are allowable as well as signage from the TrailMark HOA and Metro Board. Other than that, additional signage can be requested via the Design Review Committee.

# CHATFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

http://jeffcoweb.jeffco.k12.co.us/high/chatfield/ 303-982-3670

February 10 – Parent Teacher Conferences, 3:30 to 8:00 pm

February 12 – Staff Development - NO SCHOOL

February 15 – Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL

March 2-4 — C.S.A.P. Testing

March 9-11 - C.S.A.P. Testing

March 16 – National Honor Society Induction

March 29 – Spring Break Starts

## **FALCON BLUFFS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

http://jeffcoweb.jeffco.k12.co.us/middle/falconbluffs/ 303-982-9900

February 1-5 – 6th Grade Outdoor Lab

February 12 – Staff Development- NO SCHOOL

February 15 – Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL

February 24 -25 – Parent/Teacher Conference

(Teacher Request)

March 29 – Spring Break Starts

#### SHAFFER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

http://sc.jeffco.k12.co.us/education/school/school.php?sectionid=242 303-982-3901

February 12 – Staff Development - NO SCHOOL

February 15 – Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL

March 17-18 — Parent Teacher Conferences

March 25 — Class and Individual Photos

March 29 – Spring Break Starts

# **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**



INFANT • TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • PRE-K • KINDERGARTEN

Offer solid for new Goddard families at the above location only. Some program restrictions apply. Not solid with any other offer. Offer expires 02/28/10. The Goddard Schools are operated by independent franchi Programs and ages may vary. © Goddard Systems Inc. 2008



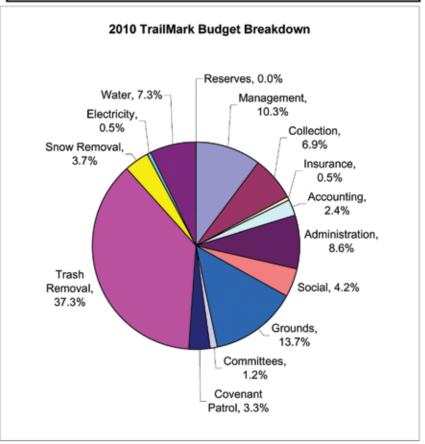


# TrailMark 2010 Ratified Budget

	2010 Budget	2009 Budget
ASSESSMENTS	\$307,200	\$307,200
OTHER INCOME	\$0	\$0
LATE FEES INCOME	\$7,500	\$10,000
LEGAL FEES-REIMB INCOM	\$10,000	\$6,000
FINES/VIOLATION INCOME	\$0	\$0
LIEN FEE INCOME	\$1,200	\$0
SOCIAL EVENTS SPONSOF	\$500	\$500
NEWSLETTER ADVERTISIN	\$1,000	\$1,000
BANK INTEREST	\$0	\$0
TOTAL INCOME	\$327,400	\$324,700
Administrative Expense MANAGEMENT	\$33,570	\$32,750
LEGAL - GENERAL	\$5,000	\$7,200
LEGAL - COLLECTION	\$10,000	\$6,600
LIEN FEE EXPENSE	\$1,200	\$0
LATE FEE EXPENSE	\$4,500	\$5,440
INSURANCE	\$1,800	\$1,800
AUDIT/ACCOUNTING	\$2,460	\$2,050
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$8,000	\$7,800
POSTAGE	\$5,000	\$8,490
COPIES	\$2,500	\$2,345
NEWSLETTER	\$12,000	\$12,000
BANK CHARGES	\$450	\$0
SOCIAL	\$13,820	\$12,000
BAD DEBT	\$2,000	\$0
COMMON AREA SAFETY	\$12,000	\$12,000
DESIGN REVIEW	\$1,000 \$1,000	\$1,000 \$1,000
COVENANT	\$1,000	\$1,000
COVENANT PATROL	\$10,800	\$10,800
FINANCE	\$1,000	\$1,000
TAXES	\$5,000	\$8,400
MISCELLANEOUS	\$500	\$1,000
LIGHTING	\$5,500	\$0
Grounds Expense LANDSCAPE CONTRACT	\$20,000	\$30,449
SPRINKLER REPAIR	\$7,500	\$4,000
SNOW REMOVAL	\$12,000	\$12,000
TRASH REMOVAL	\$122,000	\$115,596
Utilities		
GAS & ELECTRICITY	\$1,800	\$1,800
WATER & SEWER	\$24,000	\$24,000
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	\$0	\$2,180
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$327,400	\$324,700
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$0	\$0

Management Fee	2010 Budget \$33,570	Percentage of Budget 10.3%
Collection Expenses (Attorney, Late Notices, Lien Filing,		
Bad Debt)	\$22,700	6.9%
Insurance (Property, D&O, Umbrella Liability)	\$1,800	0.5%
Accounting (Tax, Audit, Bank Charges)	\$7,910	2.4%
Administration (Copies, Faxes, Coupons, Postage, Website,		
Newsletter, etc.)	\$28,000	8.6%
Social Committee	\$13,820	4.2%
Grounds Maintenance (Landscaping, Sprinklers, Lighting,		
Common Area Committee)	\$45,000	13.7%
Other Committees (Safety, Design Review, Covenant,		
Finance)	\$4,000	1.2%
Covenant Patrol	\$10,800	3.3%
Trash Removal	\$122,000	37.3%
Snow Removal	\$12,000	3.7%
Electricity	\$1,800	0.5%
Water	\$24,000	7.3%
Transfer to Reserves	\$0	0.0%
Total Expenses	\$327,400	100%

Non-Assessment Income	\$20,200
2010 Assessment Amount (Per Unit/Per Quarter)	\$96.00





# **SOUTH SUBURBAN PARKS AND RECREATION**

# PARKLAND STEWARDS DON'T DUMP

South Suburban Parks and Recreation appreciates residents' efforts in being responsible stewards of public parkland. Much of the developed and undeveloped public parkland in your neighborhood is managed by South Suburban and contributes to property values aesthetically, ecologically, economically, educationally and recreationally. However, if this public parkland is compromised through irresponsible and potentially illegal activities a loss is experienced by the entire community.

Two of the most common types of irresponsible/illegal activities are unauthorized encroachments and dumping of landscape debris and trash. Encroachments include any unofficial modification of public land for personal use, essentially, the "taking" of land. Examples of encroachment are unpermitted digging, mowing, planting and construction of retaining walls, decks, tables, bridges, irrigation lines and fence extensions. Violators may be issued summons and are often ordered to remove or correct such plantings and/or structures at their own personal expense. Illegal dumping includes dirt, landscaping rock, bricks, cinder blocks, leaves, branches, logs and other woody debris. Other violations include storing building/fencing materials or other belongings in public open spaces.

All these activities create taxpayer costs for clean up and restoration, generate issues of legal liability, produce structures that may be a public safety hazard or impede water flow, promote the spread of noxious weeds, cause erosion and damage wildlife habitat. Please remember to always be a good parkland neighbor and responsibly use our valuable public resources. If you have questions or concerns about encroachment or dumping, contact a South Suburban Park Ranger at 303-730-1022. To find the South Suburban park or trail closest to your home visit www.sspr.org.

www.sspi

# OSTERMILLER APPOINTED TO SOUTH SUBURBAN BOARD

John Ostermiller has been appointed to the South Suburban Park and Recreation District's Board of Directors. His background includes contributing over 30 years of time and talent to numerous local, regional and statewide organizations, and he has provided leadership in Littleton's planning and governance serving on city council and as mayor, nine years on city council and 20 years on the city's planning commission.

Ostermiller will complete a term of office on South Suburban's Board that became available when Board member Phil Cernanec resigned after being elected to serve on Littleton's City Council. Ostermiller will serve on the park District's Board until May 2010, at which time he will be eligible to be elected by residents of South Suburban for a full four-year term.

# TAKE PRIDE IN THE COMMUNITY - APPLY FOR SOUTH SUBURBAN'S MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

South Suburban Parks and Recreation's Board of Directors has allocated \$10,000 for its annual Matching Gifts Program. This program matches donated dollars with District funds, resulting in double the money available for the development and improvement of community parks, trails, facilities and programs. Neighborhoods, homeowner associations, sports groups, businesses, service clubs, individuals and other community organizations are encouraged to make an application for matching funds to complete their community projects on District-owned or leased property. Applications for \$2,000 or less are more likely to be approved for funding. The District is accepting Matching Gift applications for tree plantings and landscape improvements and will continue a water conservation program in conformance with any watering restrictions that may arise in Spring 2009.

Requests must be submitted by Friday, March 12, 2010, and it is preferred that the funding match be in dollars, but consideration will be given for documented in-kind services. The list of funded projects will be announced at the Wednesday, April 14, 2010 South Suburban Board meeting. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2010 including all final billings and reimbursements.

Applications may be picked up at the South Suburban Administrative Office, 6631 South University Blvd. or downloaded at www.sspr.org. Anyone interested in additional information may contact Nancy O'Connor, at 303-798-5131



# **STAR CANYON PATIO HOMES**

#### **BOARD BANTER**

#### **ANNUAL MEETING**

Jeff Pugh led his final HOA meeting as president on November 11th. Thanks to Jeff for his hard work over the past three years. He is largely responsible for controlling our expenses and eliminating any need for a dues increase. Please welcome Harry Brunett who was elected to take Jeff's place. Becki Vigil has agreed to join the Design Review Committee replacing Mary Ann Gehan. Our gratitude goes out to Mary Ann for her tireless work on the DRC.

### **FUTURE PROJECTS**

During 2010 the board will investigate the feasibility of adding water saving sprinkler controllers to our irrigation system. Additionally, look for a continuation of the exterior painting of our homes (15); selective shrub, tree and window well replacement; and a joint project with the condos to spruce up the fountain area (volunteers needed).

#### **VENDORS**

Our primary vendors for 2010 will be: Schultz Industries, Inc. (snow removal), Integrity Painting (exterior home painting), and Environmental Designs, Inc. (grass, shrubs & trees).

Joy Carlson jcarlson1347@comcast.net

If you need information about Star Canyon, please contact the HOA by sending an email to:
Milagros Matos at MMatos@associacolorado.com
or you can phone Milagros at 303.232.9200.
You may also copy Lou Zier at louzier@hotmail.com;
Jerry Mastenbrook at jobsrus@qwestoffice.net or
Harry Brunett at hbrunett@gmail.com.

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.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

One of our future projects is a joint project with the condos to spruce up the fountain area.

Please contact us if you would like to volunteer to help.

# TRAILMARK TRIVIA:

33% of men and 31 % of women say they have done this in the last 24 hours

See answer below.

#### **SOCIAL HAPPENINGS:**

**Dinner Club:** Mark your calendar for February 6th. We will enjoy an early dinner at Cafe de France in Aspen Grove. From there we go to The Buck Center for an evening with *The Windjammers*, a local dance band. Watch for a certain neighbor and band member in a special cameo role.

The Star Canyon Book Club: We will meet on February 9th to discuss *Weight of Silence* by Heather Gudenkauf. Meetings start at 10:00.

**Bunko (or Zilch/Farkel)** is the first Tuesday of each month at 6:45 p.m.

**Mahjongg** meets the third Tuesday of the month from 12:30 pm until 3:00 p m.

**Movie Club:** This club does not have a regular "outing" day. If there is a movie you would like to see with a group contact Joan Flenner or Karen Milspaugh.

For any information on these events, contact me, Joy, at jcarlson1347@comcast.net

**Men's Breakfast** is the 2nd Tuesday morning of each month when the gals are having book club. **Bernie Gehan is the contact person.** 



# TRIVIA ANSWER: Taken a nap!

(trivia courtesy of The Mindbender, Dom Testa, Mix 100)



# **COLORADO HISTORY CORNER**

# A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FORT RESTAURANT BY HOLLY ARNOLD KINNEY

t all began in 1961 when my mother, "Bay" (Elizabeth Arnold) wanted to build an adobe style home in the country outside of Denver, so my brother, Keith, and I could grow up in the country with clean air, horseback riding and fishing. My father (Sam'l P. Arnold) and mother were amateur historians. Bay was reading a book about Bent's Fort, a famous Colorado fur trade fort built in 1833, and saw a drawing in the book of this adobe castle on the plains. She turned to Sam'l and said, "Let's build an adobe castle like this!" At this time, they discovered this beautiful red rock property that was for sale and bought it in 1961.



They hired William Lumpkins, the top architect in adobe construction from Santa Fe, and he hired a contractor from Taos, New Mexico. With the help of 22 men, we puddled over 80,000 mud and straw bricks, weighing 40 pounds each, to construct the main building. When the costs of construction exceeded the budget, the bank suggested that we put a business in the historic "Fort" we had built as our home. Sam'l turned to Bay and said, "You can cook!" and then she said to Sam'l, "Well, you can cook!" They had Lumpkins redesign the lower level to be the restaurant and the upper level as our living quarters. All the furniture, gates, doors and chairs were hand carved by Taos artists in the same style as they were in 1833. The Fort restaurant opened for business in February 1963.

That same year, we adopted a Canadian black bear cub named "Sissy" who lived at The Fort for 19 years. She was my pet bear, and died of old age. There are many stories and photos of Sissy bear at the Fort. Go to our web site, www. thefort.com, to see pictures of Sissy bear. Today, our offices are on the upper level where we lived when I was a little girl.

# **TrailMark Homeowners Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 270566 Littleton, CO 80127 PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID LITTLETON, CO PERMIT NO. 547

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