



Photo by Jenny Robillard

November 2023

# TrailMark News Update

TrailMark at Chatfield HOA's Newsletter

## November Calendar

**11/1 - News Update**

**11/14 - Annual TMMD/  
HOA Meeting**

**11/23 - Thanksgiving Day**

**11/25 - Small Business  
Saturday**

Visit [TrailMark.org](https://www.trailmark.org) for the most current neighborhood news.

## Annual TMMD/HOA Meeting Tuesday, November 14th



**TMMD/HOA Annual Meeting**

The 2023 Annual TMMD/HOA Meeting is Tuesday, November 14th. The TrailMark Metro District Board will meet at 5:30 pm, followed by the HOA Board at 6:00 p.m. The combined meeting will be held in person at Fire Station 19 in TrailMark.

The HOA will ratify the 2024 HOA budget as well as present the Board of Director candidates for the HOA. There are two (2) positions open on the Board this year. If you are interested in running for the Board, please contact the property manager at Westwind Management Group - <https://www.trailmark.org/management-company.html>

## Board Members

**President**

Ken Colaizzi

**Vice President**

Carole Brooks

**Secretary**

Tonya Sloan

**Treasurer**

Phil Kinney

**Member at Large**

Arwen Vaughan

Email the HOA Board:  
[TrailMark@westwindmanagement.com](mailto:TrailMark@westwindmanagement.com)

The HOA board election will take place at this meeting. According to our CCR's, your current HOA dues must be paid in full in order for your vote to count. Please make sure your HOA dues are up to date.

A mailing with the meeting notice, 2024 budget, a self-nomination form, the proxy and the ballot was sent out in mid-October. If you did not receive yours, please contact [Westwind](#). Proxies and ballots may be mailed back to Westwind in the envelope that was provided, or you can [email](#) it, or fax it to 303-369-0007.

**Update: We have received enough proxies! Thank you, everyone!**

The HOA needs volunteers to process and count ballots. In order to volunteer, you may not be related or affiliated with any of the HOA candidates running for a Board position. If you wish to help with this process, please contact the property manager at Westwind Management Group - <https://www.trailmark.org/management-company.html>.

All are welcome to attend the annual meeting.



**Click here  
for a list of  
TrailMark's  
Websites &  
Pages**

# Candidates: 2024 TrailMark HOA Board of Directors

(in alphabetical order)

- **KEN COLAIZZI**



**Tell us about yourself:**

“I have been a board member since 2019. My family and I own and operate a 49-year-old business in North Denver named Secure-All. When I am not working I enjoy throwing the football with my son Domenic, eating spaghetti with my daughter Sabrina, and doing yard work with my wife Brooke. I am a die-hard SEAHAWKS fan!!”

**Why do you want to be on the Board of Directors?**

“I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this Board. We have an extraordinary relationship amongst our HOA Board. We truly treasure and value helping our residents, as well as keeping TrailMark the beauty that it is. Our Board has been through some rough pot holes in the past few years. We are now cruising down the highway with a very competent management company - who also helped influence my decision to seek re-election, as Westwind has truly helped our Board and our residents. Thank you Julie! We truly have a solid foundation with an excellent Board, a terrific and competent management company, a fantastic HOA attorney, a super landscaping and snow removing company, and great rapport with South Suburban, the City of Littleton, Jefferson County, the Botanic Gardens, and the TMMD. This Board has fostered and nurtured each of those relationships. This Board is really clicking right now, and the Board staying together to keep TrailMark the best neighborhood in Littleton, along with helping to keep your home values appreciating, is also a priority to each of us. Our Board is truly committed to serving our residents and following our guidelines. Our Committees are thriving and improving TrailMark. The Board is very thankful for all of our volunteers in each committee - you make our jobs easier. A big shout out to our Committee Chairs, thank you Mary from the CAC. Thank you Spider Woman from Communications. Thank you Sally and JT from the DRC. Thank you Lori from the Social Committee. I look forward to a great election in November. I am humbled and honored to currently serve as your HOA President. Hopefully, we can keep our Board mostly the way you see it today. Now that campaign season has officially begun, I would appreciate your support and your vote this Fall to stay on this wonderful HOA Board of Directors.”

- **ARWEN VAUGHAN**



**Tell us about yourself:**

“Hi, my name is Arwen Vaughan. Together with my wife Heather, we’re bringing up two kids here in TrailMark - a 16 year-old Junior at Chatfield High and a 12 year-old 7th grader at Falcon Bluffs. We moved to Colorado 17 years ago, to be closer to the mountains and enjoy the great outdoors. I earned my BS in Biology (Evolution, Ecology & Conservation) from the University of Texas at Austin and my Masters in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from Texas State University. After a brief stint as an Entomologist for the City of Austin, the bulk of my career has been in high tech, first as a software developer and consultant, and eventually as Director of Technology. In addition, I have owned and managed several rental properties over the past twenty years, both long-term unfurnished units as well as fully furnished short-term rentals. As far as interests and hobbies go, Heather teases me that I never sit still. Renewable energy has been a passion of mine. We have an off-grid cabin out near Buena Vista, which I’ve powered with solar and wind. I

love the outdoors - camping, hiking, mountain biking - and back in 2004 I took off six months to hike the Appalachian Trail with Heather. I’m also a handyman, tinkerer and general fix-it guy.”

**Why do you want to be on the Board of Directors?**

“We’re coming up on two years since we purchased our home in TrailMark, and Heather and I are amazed at how much life has changed for us in that time. TrailMark seems to us a rare gem. It feels like a village where community bonds are strong. The nature that surrounds us and the wildlife that inhabit the area are a constant source of wonder and joy. The kids have made friends and have thrived in excellent schools. We’ve felt so welcomed into the community and have made good friends ourselves. I’d like to serve on the board in order to do our part to help keep TrailMark the amazing community it already is. My varied background, from technology skills to property management to professional leadership, provides what I hope is a wide array of abilities that will allow me to serve our community well. I believe in listening to differing perspectives on issues, engaging in civil discourse, and rolling up my sleeves to get a job done. Setting goals, following through, and holding myself accountable have always served me well. We are grateful to have found our “forever home” here in TrailMark and getting to know more of our fellow residents.”

*If you are interested in running for the HOA Board, you may write in your own name on the yellow ballot that was mailed to you in the HOA Annual Meeting Packet, or announce your candidacy at the Annual HOA Meeting on November 14th, at 6:00 pm, at Fire Station #19 in TrailMark.*

Visit the [HOA BOARD ELECTION](#) page.

# Regarding the Community Solar Garden

## A letter from Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms

We have heard from a handful of neighbors who have questions and concerns about the Community Solar Garden that Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is installing in partnership with National Renewable Energy Labs (NREL), City and County of Denver and Xcel Energy. The project was displayed and discussed at our community Open House on March 26, 2022. The event was advertised in your HOA newsletter. Several neighbors from TrailMark attended based on our sign-in sheets.

We recently met with your HOA board president and HOA manager about the project. We reiterated our commitment to preserving the natural beauty of this area. We would not embark on this project if we had any reason to believe that this beauty would be degraded. As a public farm established in the early 1970s, we are constantly looking for new ways to grow crops and educate the public. Agrivoltaics (growing crops under solar arrays) is an emerging field that allows land to remain in production while generating renewable energy. A percentage of this power allotted to Chatfield Farms will make our operation self-sustaining in terms of electricity.



Click on image to enlarge.

We confirmed that the solar panels in the installation will be non-reflective and will not negatively impact wildlife nor create reflected heat issues. This location was also selected as it is out of the wildlife corridor that exists at Chatfield Farms. We also discussed the possibility of planting trees as a buffer in some areas.

We will continue to update TrailMark homeowners through your board president and the TrailMark News Update newsletter. We value our relationship with TrailMark and look forward to sharing updates on this project.

Larry Vickerman  
Director, Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms

Drew Halpern  
Energy Project Manager, Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency

## It Takes a Village!!!

Huge THANK YOU's to the Common Area Committee members (CAC) and volunteers who spent several hours beautifying TrailMark!

Kudos to: Gary & Sharon Shepherd, Sandy Farish, Pene Yerigan, and Dennis and Mary Kreeger! Special thanks to HOA member Phil Kinney for supplying tools, trash bags & removal, and bottles of water!!!!

The CAC continues to welcome new committee members as well as ideas for CAC projects! Please email [common-area@trailmark.org](mailto:common-area@trailmark.org).

Photo by Phil Kinney. View more photos at <https://www.trailmark.org/1115-it-takes-a-village.html>



Gary Shepard and Sandy Farish



# Current water quality condition at Fairview Reservoir #2 (FR2)

October 13, 2023

In response to the various complaints by residents of a bad smell in the area of Fairview Reservoir #2 (FR2) that were received on October 11th, a site visit was performed by Aquatics Associates, Inc. (AAI) early the following morning to assess this situation. On October 12th, we confirmed that the water at FR2 had a sulfur-like or dead animal odor, which was consistent with field water test results indicating elevated hydrogen sulfide and low dissolved oxygen levels with other water quality parameters being normal. Note that this “off” water quality condition at FR2 is temporary and will recover naturally on it’s own, typically in days, as oxygen levels increase to normal and any hydrogen sulfide gas present dissipates.

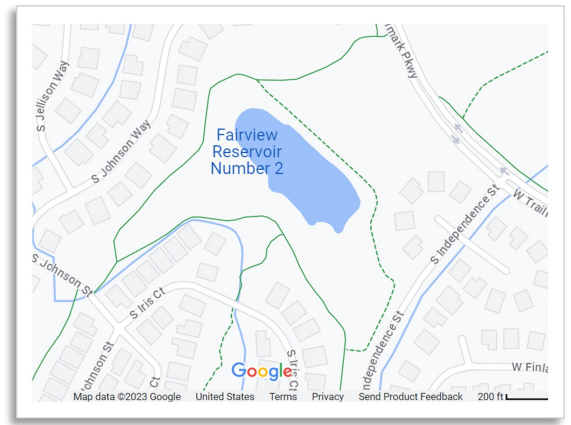


Image by Google Maps

The current water quality situation is typical for pond/lakes such as FR2 that are shallow and highly eutrophic due to a thick layer of organic muck/sludge on the pond bottom (nutrient rich) which is usually anoxic (no or very low dissolved oxygen). A hydrogen sulfide odor (rotten egg smell) is associated with organic muck and these gases are released naturally from the bottom sediments anytime oxygen levels are low and when physically disturbed by various causes. While gas releases from the sediments occur naturally on a regular basis, the event was higher than usual for unknown reasons.

TrailMark Metro District (TMMD)



## Keeping our Neighborhood Beautiful

### The Facts About Dog Poop

**Dog Poop Doesn't Biodegrade Like Wild Animal Poop** - Because we feed our dogs food that's different from the food wild animals eat, dog waste does not biodegrade quickly like wild animal waste. And due to the large number of pets in suburban neighborhoods and local parks, this hardy dog waste accumulates.

**Dog Poop Contains Harmful Bacteria, Parasites** - Dog waste can contain harmful organisms like E coli, Giardia, Salmonella, roundworms, hookworms, and Cryptosporidium. These can be passed on to you or your pet and may cause health problems.

**Dog Waste Pollutes Groundwater, Water Bodies** - Bacteria in dog waste can harm water quality in creeks and rivers and alter the ecosystems of these stream corridors. Humans who come in contact with creek water can also face health hazards.

**County Ordinances Require Cleanup** - Jefferson County ordinances make “failure to clean up dog feces in public places” a petty offense with a fine of at least \$30. Many local park districts have similar regulations and fines.

**How You Can Help** - Please share this message with your friends and neighbors. Together, we can debunk the poop fairy myth and clean up our county.

Source: <https://www.jeffco.us/416/Myth-of-the-Poop-Fairy>



Photo by Colorado State Forest Service,  
Colorado State University

# Fading, Off-Color Pine Needles Normal in Autumn

FORT COLLINS, Colo. – Although thousands of evergreen trees in Colorado’s high country, foothills and communities are beginning to display fading yellow or brown needles, most are simply going through a natural shedding process – they are NOT being damaged by bark beetles or any specific tree insect or disease.

Colorado evergreens shed their older, interior needles as part of an annual growth cycle. Needles on the lower portions of the crown or closest to the trunk are most commonly shed, but trees stressed due to drought or root damage may shed more needles to keep the tree in balance with its root system. Soon-to-be-shed needles typically yellow first; then, they turn a reddish-orange or brown color before dropping off. Trees can have

varying levels of needle shed, even within the same property or general area.

In Colorado, ponderosa and lodgepole pines, as well as some spruce and fir species, are the trees that are most commonly reported to be shedding needles in September and October. Evergreen trees that shed fall needles have a different appearance than trees infested by bark beetles. The needles on a beetle-infested tree typically change color throughout the entire tree (as opposed to only the older needles in healthy trees), initially starting with an off-shade of green and turning to reddish-orange by the following summer. In addition to changing needle color, bark beetle-infested trees will show other signs of attack:

- popcorn-shaped pitch tubes on the trunk
- boring dust resembling fine sawdust collecting in bark crevices and at the base of the tree
- regular woodpecker activity

This fall needle drop is frequently mislabeled as “needle cast,” but that term actually refers to a fungal disease of spruce and fir trees. There is no need to spray or otherwise chemically treat pines and other evergreens exhibiting normal fall needle drop.

For more information about tree and forest health, contact your local [CSFS field office](#) or visit [csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/](http://csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Save the date* Future Social Event dates to remember

December 4th - **TRAILMARK NIGHT AT THE LIGHTS**

Visit [trailmark.org](http://trailmark.org) for more details.

All TrailMark events will follow whatever current [CDC](#) and [Jeffco](#) COVID-19 guidelines are in place.

## ANNUAL TMMD/ HOA MEETING



**TMMD/HOA Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, November 14th  
Fire Station 19 in TrailMark

- **5:30 pm - TrailMark Metro District**
- **6:00 pm - TrailMark HOA**
- We would like to request that people bring chairs as there may be a shortage of seating.
- HOA Annual Meeting information - <https://www.trailmark.org/1115-hoa-annual-meeting-info.html>
- [Agenda](#)

All are welcome.