

On Patrol in CPW

Sorry to say that the behavior of some of the teenagers in the neighborhood has started to affect the rest of the community. Vehicles are being broken into, fireworks are being set off in the dry parks, trash is being thoughtlessly thrown onto the streets and sidewalks, mail is rummaged through, alcohol containers are being discarded and broken in the parks and streets, and cars regularly speed and screech through the streets. And while we believe the old adage that “kids will be kids,” this behavior has far exceeded any level of understanding. So we’ve called in the big guns (literally!). Boulder County Sheriff deputies are stepping up the patrol of our neighborhood and we’ve assured them that the residents of CPW will do whatever is necessary to help reduce the trouble we’ve been having by reporting anything suspicious, dangerous, or out of the ordinary. Call dispatch at 303-441-4444.



Photovoltaic Cells Make Cents

IMAGINE the benefits of an almost zero electric bill, especially in the future with energy bills climbing. IMAGINE even “selling” electricity to the power company. These are the realities of installing a Photovoltaic (PV) Cell system on your roof! Expensive, yes. But IMAGINE Xcel paying for half of it, with a hefty tax credit to boot!! And for people who qualify, loan programs for the other half are available. Boulder County’s ClimateSmart Loan Program is now available for residential energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems. The application deadline is nearing. Visit www.climatesmartloanprogram.org for more information. Then, IMAGINE Cottonwood Park West as one of the “greenest” neighborhoods in Boulder County.

Annual Meeting and Elections

The annual meeting of CPW is scheduled for July 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Central Park.

At that meeting, elections will take place for open seats on the CPW Board of Directors. Members are elected for 3-year terms and this year, seven of the nine seats will be up for election. Some current members will hope for re-election, while others will step aside to make room for new faces. The commitment is small. Meetings are held once a month, usually on Tuesday evenings, and last between 2-3 hours. Occasionally members are involved in special projects or committees. Otherwise it’s mainly communicating with other members and the manager, helping resolve questions or concerns, approving exterior changes, and brainstorming on ways to raise money for future projects. So please give some serious thought to becoming a part of the Board. Contact Sharon or any current board member for more information.



Community Garden?

Would you be interested in sharing in a community garden? The board has been approached with this idea and wonders how much interest is out there. Sharon is compiling a list; let her know if you want to be on it.

We’ve Updated the Website! www.cpwhoa.org

This site is your link to information on association news, current events, documents, as well as any neighborhood issues and problems. There are several links including areas specific to homeowners. To access those areas you need a case sensitive username (**cpw**) and password (**niwot**). If you have suggestions on ways the site could serve you better, send a message to webguy@cpwhoa.org. And if the office doesn’t already have your email address, please send Sharon a note so she can add it to her confidential files, manager@cpwhoa.org.

Avoid CO Accidents

Recently there has been some tragic news in the media of people being overtaken by Carbon Monoxide (CO) resulting in death. CO is an invisible, tasteless and odorless gas produced during the combustion of fuel inside gas appliances like furnaces, boilers, water heaters, stoves, wall heaters, space heaters, etc. High levels of CO are not always caused by older appliances. It can even happen to a new furnace simply by the exhaust flue coming loose, rusted holes in the heat/exchanger/burner compartment, a clogged exhaust pipe (“stack”) to the roof or even a bird’s nest at the top of the exhaust cap on the roof! CO detectors are a great way to help prevent accidents and detect the presence of carbon monoxide. You can purchase CO detectors at any home improvement or hardware store & can also have your furnace inspected and CO levels checked by any good heating and air conditioning company.



Who Wants Roads Repaired?

Are you frustrated with the quality of the roads in CPW? The board is developing a petition to submit to Boulder County’s Road Maintenance Dept. Plan to stop by the bulletin board by the mailboxes to read the petition and obtain signature cards. Then just fill out the card and leave it in the black mailbox. The petition and all the signature cards will be sent together to the Road Maintenance department. In the meantime, if you want more information, please contact Taz at tasnim.chaudry@gmail.com. Although email is preferred, you can also leave a message at 720-308-2278.



The board is also developing a map of neighborhood sidewalks in need of repair. If you have an address to add to the list, leave a note in the black mailbox or send an email to manager@cpwboa.org. (Boulder County is happy to fix sidewalks. It’s getting them to pay attention the streets that’s an issue.)

RADON GAS AWARENESS

Gov. Ritter proclaimed January to be Colorado Radon Action Month and urged all residents to test their homes for radon. Even though January has passed, it is never too late to test for radon and fix a problem if one exists.

WHAT IS RADON?

Radon is naturally-occurring and is part of the decay chain of uranium, which is in the soil under our homes. It is a colorless, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas that enters our homes through cracks in the floor or small spaces around utility pipes. Many parts of our country have high radon levels including the Rocky Mountains, the upper Midwest and the Appalachians.

WHY IS RADON IMPORTANT TO US?

The EPA has found, through numerous studies covering many years, that long-term exposure to elevated radon levels is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers. And the radon levels, right here in Cottonwood Park West, have been found to be higher than the EPA action level of 4.0 pCi/L. Sometimes they are much higher.

HOW CAN WE TEST FOR IT?

There are several easy tests for radon available. Test kits may be obtained from the State (www.coloradoradon.info), or purchased at a local hardware store. **Did you know you also have NEHA-certified radon testers right here in CPW? Call Insight Inspection at 303-652-3828 to schedule a test for just \$30.** We provide the testing devices, place and retrieve them, and can give you a reading within minutes. Our normal fee is \$100, but this is special pricing for our neighbors.

WHAT CAN BE DONE IF LEVELS ARE HIGH?

The good news is that radon is always fixable through mitigation. Look around at your neighbors’ homes. Many have been tested and fixed. We can give you information and referrals if your radon is high.

PLEASE TEST NOW. The evidence is in, and the link is strong between exposure to elevated radon levels and lung cancer. RADON – AND YOUR RISK - CAN BE REDUCED!