



CPW Quarterly News

September 2009

Working For You:

President: Dean Carpenter
Vice President: Randy Blondeau
Secretary: Mat Taylor
Treasurer: Margaret Hess
Manager: Sharon Greene

Member: Taz Chaudry
Member: Paul Gibb
Member: Jeff Lally
Member: Trent Merrifield
Member: Steve Omerod

Cottonwood Park West Homeowner's Association
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Annual Meeting and Elections

If you missed the annual meeting (which many of you did), then you missed a very productive and interactive meeting. Only 35 people attended representing 20 homes but those who did attend came with interest, excitement, great questions, and important input. The meeting started with President Dean Carpenter introducing the board and manager. He then reviewed what's happened in the past year (actually, he reviewed the past three years with the new administration). Next he discussed some of the projects and plans for the coming year(s). Dean also presented homeowners with a review of the past year's finances and discussed the budget for the new fiscal year. Homeowners asked several questions, some concerns were expressed and addressed (i.e. weeds, playground, snow removal, crime) and by the end of the discussions, everyone seemed satisfied. Finally, Dean thanked the four outgoing



board members for their service; Jane Betts, Joe Betts, Marva Litt and Fred Thiele. Then elections for new board members were held and all four vacant seats were filled. Many thanks and welcome to Randy Blondeau, Paul Gibb, Margaret Hess and Mat Taylor for their willingness to give board membership a try. Everyone agreed that the morning timeframe was better than previous late afternoons, though next year's meeting will be on a Saturday rather than Sunday (July 17, 10:30 a.m.). Thanks to Burt Steele for helping with the refreshments.

Other HOA Events

The July garage sale was once again a hit. Over 35 homes participated and everyone seemed pleased with the results. The May 1 party was canceled due to weather which left everyone hungry for the Summer Solstice party in June. The end of summer party in Central Park rounded off a full season of events. If you want to see more of these events next year, please consider being a part of the *Connections Committee*. Future events will not be held without this committees' involvement.

School's In, Slow Down!

School is back in session which means there are a lot more people in the neighborhood, walking back and forth from bus stops, or school itself. Unfortunately many of the drivers in the neighborhood (both young as well as the very experienced!) have forgotten some of the main rules of driving: watch out for pedestrians, obey the speed limits and stop at the stop signs. Please, everyone, take extra care when driving around CPW and if you see an infraction of the dangerous kind, please don't hesitate to notify the authorities.

Take Back the Sidewalks

Many of the sidewalks around CPW have become impassable due to overgrowth of branches, bushes, ground cover, weeds, etc. The HOA has started a "take back the sidewalk" campaign. Look along your sidewalk. If it is disappearing, then it's time for some pruning! Plus, once snow falls, you'll be able to shovel your sidewalks with much more ease because remember, each CPW resident is responsible for keeping their sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

Good Neighbors Make Good Neighborhoods

Thanks to the emails from the HOA office, most of you know that in the past few months there have been a number of incidents in the neighborhood, ranging from unruly behavior by bored kids to a vehicle being stolen. These incidents are obvious reminders about how important it is for everyone to keep an eye out not only for yourselves but for one another. Boulder County Sheriff deputies are supposed to be 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. If you see anything that could be considered questionable, please do not hesitate to contact dispatch at 303-441-4444, or, for

emergency situations, dial 911. Please do not take the "it's not my problem" attitude, otherwise we'll never make progress in this, or other areas of improvements.

Light's Out?

Have you noticed a street light in the neighborhood that doesn't work properly? Xcel Energy is asking that residents in Boulder County report any street lights that are out at night or on during the day (even ones that are too bright at night can be filtered). To report a problem, go to www.xcelenergy.com/streetlighting or call 800-895-4999. Be sure to note the address where the light pole is located, the pole number written in yellow and the problem with the light.

You and Your Dog

We don't understand why we continually need to remind folks of this, but we do. It is every dog owner's responsibility to pick up after their dog. If your dog poops anywhere other than your property, you must pick it up and take it with you. No ifs, ands or buts. If you are seen to be in violation, someone has the right to contact animal control and have you and your dog ticketed. And thanks to the folks at Left Paw Pantry (303-652-6060) for providing pet waste bags throughout the neighborhood.



Dues Reminder

3rd quarter dues of \$84.50 must be paid by September 25, 2009, otherwise a \$15 late fee will be assessed. Either mail your payment or simply drop a check into the black mailbox at the bulletin board.

Critter Control

Did you know that critters are not only hunters, but also scavengers and opportunistic feeders? Increase in the presence of coyotes and fox in suburban areas can often be attributed to homeowners leaving dog food outside at night. And a similar population increase can occur for raccoon, skunk, and even feral cats when cat food is left out. This increase in wild critters can only make life more dangerous for pet cats and small dogs.

What happens when we bring these pet foods inside? Do the animals go hungry? No, they don't! The critters just move on to a place with better pickings, sometimes another town, sometimes back into the wild for their own natural foodstuffs. You can help make this a less desirable place for wild scavengers just by keeping your pet food indoors.

Have you visited the website?

www.cpwhoa.org

Username: cpw
Password: niwot

Weed Control...or Not

A CPW homeowner is looking to hook up with anyone else interested in exploring alternate weed and lawn health care options for HOA grounds, including reduction or elimination of pesticide use on the grassy areas. If you're interested in being part of something like this, please contact Noel at dropaknee@mac.com.

Complaints, Concerns and What's Up With That?

(Forms can be left in the black mailbox at the bulletin board, given directly to the manager or any board member, or mailed to P.O. Box 421, Niwot, CO 80544.

Date:

Name of person submitting form (required):

Street address, phone, email:

Complaint, concern or comment:

Action Requested: