



the Perry Park

Sentinel

DECEMBER 2016

CHRISTMAS TIDBITS AND TRIVIA

Just a bit of trivia to astound and impress your friends and relatives during the holiday season...



Did you know Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer was created in 1939 by Robert May, an ad copywriter for Montgomery Ward? The story of an outcast, shiny-nosed reindeer who led Santa's sleigh one foggy Christmas Eve and returned a hero was a special Christmas

pamphlet that year, largely for advertising purposes.



And Santa Claus only became "a jolly old elf" with reindeer and a sleigh at Christmas, 1823, when Clement Moore's poem, *'Twas the night before Christmas*, was published anonymously in the *New York Sentinel*. It became an instant success and its image of

Santa Claus was forever inculcated in American lore.



Decorated evergreen trees have been used in winter festivals for thousands of years, but the modern "Christmas tree" is a fairly recent phenomenon. The city of Tallin in Estonia claims to have had the first public Christmas tree in the 1400s, and the tradition reached Western Europe through Germany over several centuries. Since Victoria, Queen of England, and her husband Prince Albert were both German, it is not surprising that they brought

the first Christmas tree to Windsor Castle in 1841. After that decorated trees with candles and baubles became an instant success in both Great Britain and the United States.

Christmas stockings are as old as the late medieval myths



of Saint Nicholas who supposedly left coins in the boots of good children. Bad children got lumps of coal. St. Nicholas became Sinterklaas in the Netherlands, and later Santa Claus in the English speaking world.

Christmas music comes in two strains—the hymns, often written by ministers or church music directors in the 19th century, and the secular. Versions of each are played constantly after Halloween in any ambitious department store! Most of the early secular Christmas songs in the English-speaking world were drinking songs—the *Wassail Song* comes to mind. *Jingle Bells*, probably the most pervasive Christmas jingle of all time, was written in 1857 by a music director in Savannah, Georgia. The first performance of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* was by Bing Crosby who sang it on his radio show on Christmas Day, 1941. His recording of the song is the best-selling single of all time, with estimated sales in excess of 100 million copies worldwide.



And what would our modern Christmas be without the classic movies? We all watch *Miracle on 34th Street*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Holiday Inn* (re-made as *White Christmas*), *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*—and marathons of *A Christmas Story*. I'll bet some of you can quote whole chunks of some

of those movies or immediately recognize lines and allusions to them. An official Red Ryder air gun, anyone?

So enjoy the trivial trappings of the season—with Rudolph and Charlie Brown, George Bailey and Ralphie Parker. Interested in a really interesting site about Christmas traditions around the world? <http://www.whychristmas.com/>

Happy holidays. ~KDale

THE PERRY PARK SENTINEL DOES NOT PUBLISH IN JANUARY

Come the usual deadline of December 20, staffers will have many things to do and places to see with families and friends, so we are taking a year's-end break. We'll be back in February, 2017.



So in addition to wishing you a Merry Christmas, we also wish you a Happy New Year this December. May 2017 be happy and prosperous for us all.

Give thanks to and for the *Sentinel* writers, photographers and editors who helped make the 2016 *Sentinel* memorable, especially in light of the fact that this is the year we went digital:

Karen Dale, Linda Ross, Diane Jauch, Garland Reed, Walter Korinke, Chris Korinke, Susan Peters, Ginny and Ken Sanders, Jim Matchett, Michael Stone, Sarah Bretz, John Cochran, Michael Montgomery, Cindy and Krystine Cramer, Jim Collier, Larry Schlupp, Lisa Warteman, Carol Krueger, Carissa O'Donnell and Dru Anderson.

Several of the 2016 columnists have retired or moved, and Linda Ross, associate editor and writer for five years, has moved out of state. People move and lives change, but the *Sentinel* remains the voice of the Larkspur communities. New writers and photographers are always welcome. This is a community newspaper. We need new voices, many different voices, from the entire community. So in 2017 help the *Sentinel* reach more of the Larkspur community—an article, a picture, a suggestion, it's all good. Contact Karen Dale at Sentineleditor10@msn.com.



LARKSPUR TREE LIGHTING: Saturday, December 3, 4 p.m.-dusk at the town park. Over forty trees will be lighted at once. Santa, hayrides, bonfires, food and more!

COLORADO GIVES DAY: For the seventh year, Community First Foundation and FirstBank will present Colorado Gives Day on **Tuesday, December 6, 2016**. This annual statewide movement celebrates and increases philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. The \$1 Million Incentive Fund created by the partners is one of the largest gives-day incentive funds in the country. For additional information and to see the Douglas County non-profits who are members of this coalition, visit the county page at <http://www.douglascountygives.net/index.html>.

THE BLANKET BRIGADE makes quilts to give to anyone needing special comfort while dealing with loss, illness or difficult circumstances. One of our partners is an organization

called Sweet Dreams in a Bag. They give a bag of bedding to children who are transitioning from a homeless shelter to a more permanent home. Included in those bags is a small stuffed animal. If you have new or nearly new Beanie Babies or small stuffed animals, please consider donating those to this very worthwhile endeavor. If you live near the elementary school, call Irina Donaldson at 303-681-3118 to arrange for pick up. If you live in Perry Park, call Dianne Clark at 303-378-5142 to arrange for pick up. ~GSanders

PERRY PARK BOOK CLUB will meet on Tuesday, December 20, at 10 a.m. at the home of Elizabeth Taylor, 8066 Bannock Drive in Perry Park Ranch. The book for discussion is *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman, a novel set in post-WWI Australia. All books read by the group are Book Club Express from the DC libraries. Additional information and a reading list for 2017 are available at the website, http://applelane.com/Perry_Park_Book_Club.php.

THE RINK AT THE ROCK at 414 North Perry in Castle

Continued on page 3

An advertisement for Wild Birds Unlimited. The top half features a watercolor illustration of a winter scene with snow-covered evergreen trees and a bird feeder. A red cardinal is perched on the feeder, and a blue jay is nearby. Text bubbles around the trees say "chick-a-dee-dee!", "per-chick-o-ree!", and "cheer-cheer-cheer!". Below the illustration, the text "Oh, What Fun!" is written in a large, red, cursive font, followed by "Give the Gift of Bird Feeding" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. A dashed-line box contains a "20% OFF" discount offer for one regularly-priced item. Below the offer, there is a disclaimer: "*Valid only at the participating store listed. One discount per purchase. Offer not valid on previous purchases, gift cards, optics, DSC memberships or sale items. Offer valid 12/01/16 thru 12/24/16. Code: PPS". To the right of the disclaimer is the Wild Birds Unlimited logo, which includes a stylized birdhouse and the text "Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop". At the bottom of the advertisement, the address "320 W. Allen Street, Castle Rock, CO 80108" and phone number "(303) 660-6334" are listed, along with the website "www.castlerock.wbu.com". The bottom of the advertisement features the text "BIRD FOOD • FEEDERS • GARDEN ACCENTS • UNIQUE GIFTS".

FYI Continued from page 2

Rock is open for skating through February 20. Normal hours: Monday and Tuesday, reserved for programming; Wednesday 4 p.m.– 8 p.m.; Thursday 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Fees: Adult \$8; Child \$6; Skate Rental \$3; Groups of 10+ \$8/ person (includes skate rental); 10 punch card with skate rental \$100 (adult), \$80 (child)/. www.rinkattherock.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS with the John Adams Band featuring the music of John Denver, December 9, 7 p.m. at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy 105 in Palmer Lake. Advance tickets: Members \$20 / Non-members \$22; day of show: Members \$22 / Non-members \$24. All tickets held at will-call! For tickets see <http://trilakesarts.org/events/rocky-mtn-christmas.html>.

LARKSPUR BOOK EXCHANGE is open in Larkspur in the Town Annex, 9524 Spruce Mountain Road, every Saturday (except holidays) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is staffed with knowledgeable volunteers who love books and reading. Kids are especially welcome to the Exchange's selection of over 4,000 books. The Book Exchange is free and provided by the town of Larkspur. You don't have to bring a book to take one (or two or three) from the Exchange.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING IN CASTLE ROCK:
Drop-off time/dates: Anytime December 26 through January 31, 2016.

Fairgrounds Regional Park, 500 Fairgrounds Drive

Centennial Park, 22 North Gilbert Street

Founders Park, 4671 Enderud Road

Metzler Ranch Park, 4175 Trail Boss Road – Mulch is available at the Metzler Ranch Park site from January 15 through March 31 while supplies last

Paintbrush Park, 3492 Meadows Boulevard

SPONSOR A NEEDY FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Santa's Sharing is the holiday adopt-family program of the Douglas/Elbert Task Force. The program organizes sponsors for current client families who have shown ongoing need and are referred by a case manager. Clients cannot refer themselves. On average, about 150 families are sponsored annually.



"We have several different ways for people to participate," said Nani Lindig, program coordinator. "Some sponsors deliver wrapped gifts directly to the families and enjoy meeting the children. Other sponsors prefer providing parents with one or more gift cards so the parent can shop and wrap the gifts for their children. Every year a handful of Santa Sharing volunteers accept new toys and gift cards for families who pick them up from the D/E Task Force when their

circumstances do not allow for them to be delivered directly by a sponsor." In 2015 there were 649 clients who received holiday gifts or gift cards from over 100 generous sponsors and donors.

Groups and individuals who wish to sponsor one or more families or donate new toys to the holiday Toy Chest please visit the website (www.detaskforce.org) to download a sponsor application or request one via email at SantasDETF@aol.com.

The Douglas/Elbert Task Force in a 501(c)3 human service, nonprofit that endeavors to meet the immediate needs of residents of Douglas and Elbert counties who are in financial distress. Visit the website at <http://www.detaskforce.org>.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE LARKSPUR MOMS' GROUP!

Sarah Bretz, Director of Larkspur Moms' Group

We are so excited that December is upon us as we have a lot to celebrate and to be thankful for. The Larkspur Moms' Group is an amazing group of Mothers that get together to provide a sense of community and support for the children, families, and moms of Larkspur!



We are open to all moms in the Larkspur area and hope you will consider joining us for a December event or two! For more information on the Larkspur Moms' Group, please check out our website at www.larkspurmomms.com or email us at larkspurmomms@gmail.com.

Here is what we have coming up:

Play Group:

Friday, December 2nd: Children's Christmas Party

Friday, December 9th: In home play group

Moms' Night Out: Join us on Friday, December 16th for our annual Ornament Exchange

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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4688 Starfire Circle, Castle Rock (Bell Mtn)
Offered at \$789,900



1275 Riva Rose Circle, Castle Rock (Bell Mtn)
Offered at \$859,000



7872 Taylor Circle, Larkspur
Offered at \$925,000



2436 Leafdale Circle, Castle Rock (Meadows)
Offered at \$499,500



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GET IT DONE

Michael Stone...

There has been some more very positive feedback for **IronHorse Interiors** from a resident in Perry Park. Here is what they had to say about Robin Mehl and his company.

We are Kevin and Janice Yancey. We moved to Perry Park about ten months ago and wanted our home redecorated. We chose Robin Mehl with Iron Horse Interiors and have been extremely pleased with the results. Robin is very easy to work with and has a great eye for the perfect look for any particular setting. We love our window treatments, floors, paint, and decor. We would recommend Robin for anyone's decorating needs.

I hear so many positive comments about IronHorse Interiors and about Robin that I had to explore a little further. After obtaining approval from Kevin and Janice to print their comments, I contacted Robin to talk about his business secrets for being so successful. He's been in the decorating business for over 40 years, and most of his work has been in Perry Park, Larkspur, and Bell Mountain Ranch.



First off, he said he's not in the decorating business: he's in the customer service business. He's all about service and in making sure that the end result is perfect. Through his network of professional contacts, he can negotiate prices so that his customers save money, even when compared to prices at "Big Box" stores, and he has access to the absolute best professionals when it comes to installation.

Please note: Robin will be taking a sabbatical from January 7th, 2017 thru February 17th, 2017. He'll be visiting Spain, Portugal, and Israel.

With winter finally starting to make itself known, my wife and I hired **Avalanche Home Systems & Service 303-736-8151** owned by **Andy Fezza**. Andy is a US Army Veteran, and his business is local. We needed a furnace cleaning and inspection, and some trouble-shooting on our whole-house humidifier. After I called Avalanche, Andy called back promptly, and we had an appointment in a few days. He was very personable, and efficient, and the prices were very reasonable. Check out his website: www.avalanchehomesystems.com to read the positive reviews.

Suggestions for column ideas and any comments can be sent to me at stoneman1951@msn.com.

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References Available - Licensed and Insured

DON'T MESS WITH LARKSPUR!

Sue Kober...

Like many environmental problems, litter is caused by human behavior. Whether intentional or accidental, litter begins with the individual.

Almost 65 years ago, with the construction of the Interstate Highway System and the increased mobility of many, the Americans Keep America Beautiful campaign against littering was founded. The original goal of the organization was to reduce litter through public service advertising (PSA) campaigns.



It was also from this campaign, the “Don’t mess with Texas” public education program evolved to promote litter prevention programs and grassroots efforts to clean up the roads!

So what does this have to do with Larkspur you might ask? Over the past year or so we have seen a significant increase in the amount of trash along our roads and especially in those areas “off the beaten track,” those dirt roads, where so many of us love to walk with our families and pets, ride bikes and ATVs.

It’s also a place where some like to camp. We have come across smoldering campfires surrounded by piles of broken glass and trash. A wildfire is a disaster waiting to happen in this area.

From rolls of carpet, piles of roofing shingles to gas grills, car bumpers, bicycles and lots of empty beer cans; people are just choosing to dump this trash in Larkspur.

So perhaps it’s time for our own PSA- *“Don’t mess with Larkspur.”*

If you see trash pick it up; talk to your family about the “pack it in, pack it out” concept. Remind everyone of the danger of leaving campfires unattended and burning. If you are doing any remodeling ask the contractors where they plan to dispose of the old materials, and if you see someone dumping, try to get a description and license plate number and report it to the Douglas County Sheriff’s office. They have investigated possible mail fraud from bunches of mail dumped. The Larkspur Fire Department has responded to potential fire danger.

I know that many people who frequent this area make the effort to pick up trash and report dangerous situations, but it takes all of us to make a difference and put an end to this dumping. So go “Talk Trash.” This is your opportunity!!



Mail-reported to DC Sheriff



Larkspur Tree Lighting

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 3, 2016
4PM - DUSK
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COMMUNITY PARK



See over 40 trees
come alive at once!

Santa, hot drinks,
caroling, bonfire,
hayrides & more!

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WWW.TOWNOFLARKSPUR.ORG

WALT'S WORDS

Walt Korinke...

The new source of power is not money in the hands of a few, but information in the hands of many. John Naisbitt



Building continues along the I-25 south corridor at an amazing pace; however the new starts or announcements for the month are primarily in the rapidly expanding Castle Rock area.

CASTLE ROCK – No longer a sleepy little town, the rapidly growing community of Castle Rock with just over 60,000 residents changes at every blink of the eye. With over



\$100 million of real estate activity in just the town's center core, my compliments go out to the Castle Rock Development Services Department for the job they are doing. With the massive 166 acre Promenade at Castle Rock, on the northside well underway, the town's second most important development is the scheduled kick off in January with **The Riverwalk Development**.

With the enormous amount of peripheral growth in Castle Rock, the importance of maintaining a viable downtown is crucial in order to avoid a future armpit in the center of the town. For a city center to be viable, it needs to provide a 24-hour experience, not a shutdown / go home at 5 p.m. persona. A solid core of inner-town residents combined with places to work and shop are what make a town core successful, and prevents deterioration, crime and other negative effects.

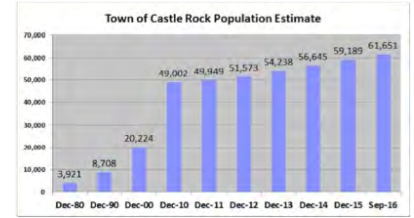
The RiverWalk North and RiverWalk South Development is a \$60 million project that will occupy two blocks just south of the central business district starting at the well known Mexican restaurant, the Blue Nectar and crossing Seller's Gulch to replace the former Town Center Plaza. The dual building complex will include 228 multifamily units, 21,000 square feet of office space and 10,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space. Parking will be provided for 328 cars with both street level and sub-grade space. It joins the new growth of mid-rise space adding a five-story and a six-story building to the inventory.



Its juxtaposition to the two sides of the Sell-

ers Gulch trail system encourages hiking/walking and provides additional support to the commercial structure of the area while enhancing the livability of the area. Simultaneously, the owner will be doing a \$5 million upgrade to Festival Park and the Gulch as the project itself develops. Weather permitting, a full completion of RiverWalk is scheduled for fall 2018/spring 2019.

The Golden-based developers, Confluence Companies, have an excellent track record for doing it right, proven by their other projects in the Metropolitan Denver area. With their history of acquisition, development, construction and management, they bring the complete package to the table.



More senior housing planned for Castle Rock, but with a new twist. The Proposed **HILLSIDE / ARBORS** development will be a 120-unit gated residential community consisting of single-family and attached duplex homes

designed for seniors (55 years and up). The location is another fill-in site on the north side of Wolfensberger between Coachline Road and Red Hawk Drive. This general area is becoming "senior" oriented with designated multi-family and senior care facilities along with nearby shopping, and most importantly, the expanding medical facilities surrounding the rapidly growing Centura Adventist Hospital nearby. Just east of Hillside at Auburn Drive, Auburn Ridge is getting ready to start its second phase to be known as **AUBURN VILLAS**, which will include both age restricted and non-age restricted dwelling units. With all the growth in Castle Rock, it is good to see the attention being given to senior living along with all the other growth. This phase is adjacent to the south side of Auburn Ridge Senior apartments. They have also leveled the 4.8 acre site on their west side at the corner of Wolfensberger and Auburn Drive which is designated for 96 additional units.



About a mile to the north, directly across from the Centura Adventist Hospital is a 14 acre tract where the 240-

unit **ECHELON** luxury rental apartments will be built in the Meadows PD. The project will consist of 24 two story build-

Continued on page 9

WALT'S WORDS Continued from page 8

ings plus a clubhouse. Originally zoned for 14,000 dwelling units, the Meadows PD was reduced to 10,644 in 2003 and currently stands at just over half completed with 5,660 residential units to date.



Activity continues to be forced southward as the north side of Castle Rock is rapidly filling up. The 48 acre industrial-zoned landfill site located directly across from the new P.S. Miller Park and Activity Center on Plum Creek Parkway is being rezoned to include office, commercial, restaurant, entertainment and extended parking for the Park. **Miller's Landing** will require state supervised remediation of the land fill site with its high stacks of old asphalt and other materials readily visible to the drive-by. Prairie Hawk Drive will be extended through the development to Plum Creek Parkway, and the town's trail system would be brought through the development and tie in the downtown trails with the P.S. Miller Park.

If you are an **ENT Credit Union** member, you no longer have to drive to Monument for their services. ENT is joining another new financial service, Bank of



America at the Promenade, and is planning a new 5,300 square foot building on lot 2a-1, Block 4 which I believe is the large parcel where the King Sooper Marketplace is under construction. With \$4.7 billion in assets, ENT services the area between Denver and Pueblo with over 25 service centers and 50 local free charge ATMs. Ent is a non-profit financial cooperative which anyone can join by opening a \$5 savings account, and they are a very competitive lender for various financial needs.



Last July, Channel 2 (Fox31) did a piece on the aged **Castle Rock Bar & Grill** located in the center of Castle Rock's old historic district At 302-304 Wilcox, reporting 15 health code violations ranging from rodents, flies and ants to improper food handling giving this two-star (yelp) rated facility an "F." Today the property is under a purchase contract, and the new owner is seeking to modify the façade of the Landmark property. Hopefully, work on the interior is planned as well, especially in the health category. We will see what the future holds for this purveyor of burgers and beer under the new ownership.

COLORADO SPRINGS – Gone, but coming back again. The last of the **RUBY TUESDAY** Restaurants in the Springs closed last August as a part of the chain's 95 store underperforming

Continued on page 10

Launch Your New Year with Our New Offering...

Yoga

Friday, January 6th 5:30pm – 7pm

Free Open House

Full Circle Pilates • 127 West Colorado Ave. • Larkspur, CO 80118

Join us and you can buy your first 6-pass card (normally \$90) for price of 5 classes (\$75).



This Yoga Thing	5:30 – 6
Mini Practice	6 – 6:30
Q & A	6:30 – 7



closures. The Powers/Stetson Hills operation may not have lived up to performance standards, but the city does as Ruby Tuesday management seeks to find a new franchisor under the prognosis that a local-based entrepreneur can perform better than a bulky corporate structure.

They believe that the community could support a half-dozen well located stores to open in the next couple of years. There is always room for another "good" restaurant. Just takes \$1.5 to \$2 million per store to make it happen.

It has been six years since the **POLARIS POINTE** development (*Bass Pro Center*) received its urban renewal designation with plans to develop two million square feet of commercial space on the 200-acre parcel.



The 120,000 square foot Bass Pro was a great start. Included in the overall complex is the retail complex on the east side of Voyager Parkway where Sprouts and Ace recently opened and additional retail space is currently under construction. Activity on the large tract of land anchored by the Bass Pro has been slow but ongoing. Some of the most recent additions to the complex have been Magnum Shooting Center (33,000 sf), Overdrive Raceway (34,000 sf), Boot Barn (10,000 sf), Southern Hospitality Steakhouse (9,500 sf), a car wash (20,000 sf) and about a dozen other shops. A new six-tenant building has just been completed behind the Loaf & Jug service station and three new tenants (Shots Coffee, Growler and Dog Haus) are preparing to open. Another small two-tenant building has just been completed to the west of the Loaf & Jug, and a third small building adjacent has just commenced dirt work. Currently no sign of the 135 room Grand Resort Hotel (and 32,000 sf water park) that was rescheduled to commence in the third quarter, and before the regional mall portion can commence, it will take a clear sign that the City's extension of Powers Parkway is ready to commence. I expect the project's window is much larger than originally anticipated, but hopefully with time, North Academy Drive will have a large retail complex that we can all easily access and enjoy, as house-

ing continues to fill in the few remaining tracts in the area.

LARKSPUR – Land work continues on the truck stop, and the



new Pet Hospital is really looking good as it nears an opening. Along Spruce Mountain Road, another one of the +10-acre estate parcels has just seen a ground breaking .

Another small grass fire on #105 in November reminds the area that all the dry grasslands in the area are potential fuel for fast running fires. This last one ignited by a lawn mower (doesn't take much to start a grass fire).

DENVER – Providing the finishing touch to the Union Station



project (opened 2014) is the announcement by the East West Partners/Amstar Advisor development group of their ground breaking on the high-rise condominium project, **THE COLORADAN**. This

brings more needed living facilities to the area and one of a few providing individual ownership opportunity. It also enhances the area with more 24- hour living to the Union Station neighborhood which is becoming the new downtown core. Scheduled for completion in September 2018, the 334-unit \$200 million condominium project will contain 33 "affordable" units priced in the upper \$200,000's and another 294 units ranging from the high \$200,000's up to seven 19th floor penthouses priced from \$1.6 to \$3 million. The ground floor of the 19- story building will have 19,000 square feet of retail space and parking will be provided in a 447-space garage. The amenities include a rooftop pool deck and club room, a fitness room and a residents' garden. The project is located at 1750 Wewatta Street, a one-acre block, located between the train platform and the under construction Pivot Denver apartment complex.



On-going area information can be found on the FACEBOOK site "Perry Park Sentinel" and in postings as they occur at on the recently modernized site covering the many development activities along the I-

25s corridor - www.waltswords.com



Pete Dunbar

1341 Quartz Mountain Drive
Larkspur, Colorado 80118
303-681-3809
Cell 303-638-6762



Happy Holidays!

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UNDER CONTRACT!



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JUST SOLD!



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JUST SOLD!



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DOUGLAS COUNTY MOTORCYCLING

Michael Stone...

Can you name a place in the United States where it can be 82 degrees on November 16 and then dump three inches of snow the next day? WHOA—wait a minute; there's more. Then on November 18, the temperature goes into the high forties, and the rest of the week is predicted to be in the mid 50s to mid 60s?



Anyone care to guess? It's right here in Douglas County, Colorado.

Motorcyclists face the question every fall. Do I winterize my bike and wait for spring, or do I take advantage of good weather days and ride when it's nice? Personally, I'm not a fan of winterizing my bike. Last year, there were times in all 12 months when motorcycling was an option. Yes—it can be a little cold, but there are ways to beat the cold and to continue riding all year.

My number one concern is road conditions. Accumulated snow and ice, coupled with an application of freshly spread gravel, tells me to stay home and enjoy being alive. Most people have

plenty to do at home without having to risk riding a motorcycle under those circumstances. If road conditions are not good, you can always go out to the garage and polish your chrome. Or you can just go out and hug your bike. Then go hug your wife or husband who supported your need to ride.

A second concern is the level of being prepared. If road conditions are OK, are you really prepared for winter riding? Do you have adequate clothing? Are you ready for fast weather changes? Do you have experience on wet or slippery roads? If your answers are NO, then winterize your bike and wait for spring. If your answers are YES, then read the questions again and answer truthfully.

Riding in inclement weather is not easy. In our trip to the Black Hills for Sturgis 2016, we faced torrential rains every afternoon. My eyeballs stung from raindrops that scored direct hits. I had a face shield, sunglasses, and a windshield. But still, you absolutely cannot ride through rain without getting wet, so be prepared. Dumping your bike is going to cost you, and may injure you. So use caution. Let's survive to ride another day because those days will be here soon enough.

Comments can be sent to me at stoneman1951@msn.com.

Season's Greetings



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IT HAPPEN**

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Photo by Lisa Warteman

On alert! We still have to get through Christmas!

NOVEMBER NEWS FROM THE WATER DISTRICT Jim Matchett...



The November meeting of the Perry Park Water and Sanitation District began promptly at 4:30 p.m. on the 16th with all directors present. The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the October 19th regular board meeting, and that approval was unanimous excepting an abstention due his absence from Gary Peterson. Disbursements totaling \$119,966.77 were then reviewed and approved unanimously.

Next, the budget hearing to formulate and approve the 2017 Budget was opened. An initial draft of this budget was originally presented to the board and discussed at their regularly scheduled meeting in September. The draft was subsequently updated, revised, and further discussed at the scheduled board meetings in October and November which were open to input from customers of the Water District. The final draft of the 2017 Budget was then reviewed by the board in the Budget Hearing. Motions were made with regard to a Resolution to Set Mill Levies, a Resolution to Adopt Budget, and a Resolution/Ordinance to Appropriate Sums of money and approved unanimously. The Budget Hearing was then closed.

A property owner in the district has renewed his efforts to develop his lots. However, issues have arisen with regard to the historic use by the district to employ the Larkspur Fire Protection District (LFPD) definitions of water supply for adequate fire protection and the location of hydrants. After discussion by the board, the district manager was asked to coordinate further with the LFPD to clarify and resolve these issues. Next the District Systems Report for October submitted by Semacor was reviewed. All operations across the district were normal. The Monthly Staff Report submitted by District Manager Diana Miller was then reviewed and briefly discussed.

There was no audience participation, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m. As always, further information is available on the district website, www.ppwsd.org.

WHAT'S UP AT THE METRO BOARD? Walt Korinke...

All board members except Derek Meredith were present and the meeting commenced at 5:10 p.m.



CHANGE TO BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017. Effective with the first meeting in 2017 (February) the meetings will be held on the: **2nd Thursday of each month beginning at 6 p.m.**

Meeting will continue to be held at the **Perry Park County Club** which hosts the district meetings as service to the community.

VISITORS – Bob Mobeck – Douglas County Search and Rescue – presented a request to run K-9 rescue dog training on district parcels in order to improve the dogs' training, familiarize them with our area and bring to our attention the important services they provide to all our communities. The training is proposed for Wednesday, November 9, and hopefully residents will have the opportunity to view them in action. The locations will be posted by the Team. There will be six dogs and trainers present.

Mike and Jennifer Wilson expressed their concern for the declining student enrollment at Larkspur Elementary School and its possible ramifications on the school's continued operation. They seek community support to keep a quality elementary school functioning in Larkspur and will keep the Metro District

Continued on page 15

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As I approach my 75th birthday, I have decided to slow down a little and after almost 15 years of involvement with the Perry Park Metro district (6 on the Board), I am ending the year by stepping down. You have a great Board consisting of our fine Fire Marshal Randy Johnson, Jim Cassidy, Derek Meredith and Chris Korinke who is also resigning due to his new job, and the Community is lucky to have them. Not on the Board, but always serving the community are Keith Worley, Steve Rea, Karen Dale, Kristelle Moore and of course Tony Perconti – to name a few - many thanks to everyone. Also thanks to the Perry Park Country Club for hosting the Board Meetings, and Perry Park Water and Sanitation who brings us the best water in Colorado.



Happy Holidays and thanks to everyone in the community.

Walt Korinke

YOUR PERRY PARK METRO DISTRICT -

- FIRE MITIGATION
- NOXIS WEED SPRAY
- TUSSOCK MOTH AERIAL SPRAY
- 2 ANNUAL SLASH PICK Ups
- ANNUAL JUNK DUMP FOR RESIDENTS
- MAINTAIN WAUCONDA PARK, GILLOON POND and CONSERV. LANDS (GATEWAY & BIG D)
- MONITOR AND CONTROL ACCESS TO UPPER CHEYENNE (+/- 200 wooded and privately owned parcels)
- LIBRARY BOX
- SEASONAL - FIREWORKS, PARADE, EASTER EGG HUNT, XMAS DECORATIONS,
- FIREWISE TRAINING
- DOUGLAS CO RELATIONS – ROADS / PLOWING/
- TRAFFIC CALMING / ETC.
- GRANTS 1) FOR PPMD 2) FOR RESIDENTS
- WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PPW&S AND PPCC
- ASSIST RESIDENTS ON A VARIETY OF MATTERS
- WELCOME AND ASSIST NEW AND POTENTIAL RESIDENTS
- And MORE



EFFECTIVE 2017

**Board Meetings
will be held the
2nd Thursday of
the month at
6:00pm**

The Metro District consist of 5 volunteer / elected residents who give their time to manage the affairs of Perry Park with the primary goals of 1] fire mitigation and 2] the safety and well-being of Park residents – providing a stable community to reside in and work to make things better for residents in general. The District is a governmental body funded by a very small mill rate applied to the real estate tax of the +760 homes in Perry Park. Annual tax revenue for 2016 of +/- \$150,000 – avg. of \$197/home.

PP METRO Continued from page 13

informed on their progress and how the district can participate in the future.

Also in attendance were five residents who discussed their concerns and/or opinions regarding the proposed fire buffer trails.

MINUTES – The minutes for the October District meeting were reviewed and approved with a typo correction to the Markit Forestry trail buffer bid. They are available on the web-site www.perrypark.org.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Financials – Nov 3, 2016

Receipts	\$ 1,291
Disbursements	\$ 21,719
Cash Account	\$452,195



There were 16 expenses including the following three major expenses this month: Forestree Dev, \$4,488 (firewise, grants, tussock moth and trail), All Traffic Systems, \$4,895 (electronic traffic sign), and M.R. Hauling, \$9,810 (partial payment fall slash pickup).



The 2017 proposed budget was reviewed in preparation for the formal approval at the December 4 Board meeting.

The board approved filing for audit exemption for the 2016 fi-

ancial statement in accordance with state standards.



DAFFODIL PROGRAM The daffodil program was highly successful with all but two packets picked up by program participants. Perfect timing for the fall planting along resident roadways as the + 10 year old program expands the roadside beautification.

FIRE BUFFER/TRAIL PROJECT – The proposed Haystack/Bannock Fire Buffer Trail was reviewed and modified to eliminate the western most portion that affected homes sited close to the trail and will now terminate on Bannock via the Metro District easement between the 4th and 5th lots east of Cheyenne Drive. Analysis continues on the remaining proposed routes. Residents have provided excellent comments and insights via the District Survey (notices were sent to all District web site registrants – and notice of the survey was posted in the Sentinel). The survey will be closed November 15, and the comments will be accumulated, reviewed and posted on the web site.



TECH ISSUES – Douglas County Traffic Engineering has approved our replacement electronic speed sign package, and we have ordered and received the majority of the equipment (short the mounting pole) and expect to erect the new sign and the location formerly located by a D C sign midway down the Red Rock hill heading westward. Traffic speeds have been noticeably increasing, and safety concerns have increased for the pedestrians, especially school children who walk along the

Continued on page 16

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un-pathed Red Rock corridor. New features will provide traffic speed reports and photos. The posted speed is 30 mph, not 50.



SLASH PICK-UP –The Fall slash pickup is over and thanks to all of the mitigation-minded residents, we have quite a pile (187 truckloads) stored at the gravel pit awaiting the perfect winter conditions to permit a burn. The

Larkspur Fire Dept. typically burns our slash on a snowy day in February once all the required conditions are satisfied. For those that come to watch, you are reminded of how fast and hot fire can burn. Quite a sight to experience and a good reminder of why we stress mitigation. Our thanks to M.R. Hauling for another great pick-up and to residents piling it high, not long, and away from utilities and other obstructions.



RESIDENT MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM – This year’s resident grant program is now CLOSED and grant payouts are in progress as work is completed.

Twenty one (21) grants are still outstanding and must be processed immediately for payout approval at the December board meeting, or they will be cancelled. Get your paid receipts in now!



UPPER CHEYENNE – A preliminary review of the Upper Cheyenne lot ownership indicates that almost 2/3rds of the lots are owned by the Denmark-based GMS group. There are two other

smaller groups with +- a dozen lots each, along with 12 lots and several unplatted areas owned by the Metro District. There are also about 125 lots owned by individuals. We are building an address list and color-coded map to provide the district better access to the owners. This is prompted by our beginning study of the Tussock Moth damage and expected dead tree exposure in the areas around the Park boundaries as well as Upper Cheyenne where owners are less attentive to the mitigation needs for fire safety.

The illegal access of motorized vehicles via the pedestrian entrance is being examined and will be altered.



It is important that you REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS with the District. Please go to the District website – www.perrypark.org

continued on page 18



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Ben Wolfe
 Managing Broker & Owner
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CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



"Donna and I recommend the Wolfe Realty Group unconditionally. Ben is without question the best broker we've ever dealt with, in addition to being a fine human being. If I had to describe him in just a few words, those words would be honest, personable, smart, diligent and experienced. He

really knows the market and always was impeccably prepared. Had we remained in Colorado, it is inconceivable that we would ever use anyone other than Ben for real estate transactions."

Greg Cannon & Donna Harris
 Regarding the sale of their home in Sage Port, Larkspur

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Metro Board Members:

President	Walt Korinke
Vice President	Randy Johnson
Asst. Vice President	Derek Meredith
Secretary	Jim Cassidy
Treasurer	Chris Korinke

Metro Board meetings are held at the Perry Park County Club the 2nd Thursday of each month and will commence at 6 p.m. sharp.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE...

Susan Peters...

*Snow?...Howling with the Wolves...
Short Takes*

What? Winter? For Real?

Yeah, I am the wimp that complains about long, cold, dark, snowy winters. After the very long spell of my wearing shorts every day, WHAM! Temperatures dropped 40 degrees and a covering of snow appeared. Say WHAT? We were preparing for a Hawaiian Christmas complete with Hawaiian shirts and a rousing hula session.



But I must say that I was getting concerned. Such a long period of warm days and no precipitation will leave hell to pay unless something changed. The current fire danger is obvious. People think of building snow men at holiday time, not fighting forest fires.

The impact of a good snow pack through the winter is critical to the health of our evergreen trees. Healthy trees can often fight off beetle invasions and dwarf mistletoe, both of which kill trees. However, mistletoe provides succulent berries for birds and nesting spots in the witch's broom formations. So in controllable quantity, it is not all bad. Our property has been without mistletoe for at least five years.

Stands of dead trees, however, are then a high fire risk, so bring on the snow!!!

However, even dead trees offer some opportunity to many of Mother Nature's critters. The carpenter beetles move in to break down the wood. Their larvae provide birds and wrens with yummy gourmet meals. Heck, one larva is a meal large enough to be shared by the entire brood. Dead trees offer great nesting spots for the woodpeckers. If the nests are built low enough that bears can easily detect them, the eggs or fledglings, possibly along with mom and pop bird, become bear snacks. And such it goes...the circle of life. The Colorado Forest Service actually recommends leaving up two dead trees per acre to help wild-life.



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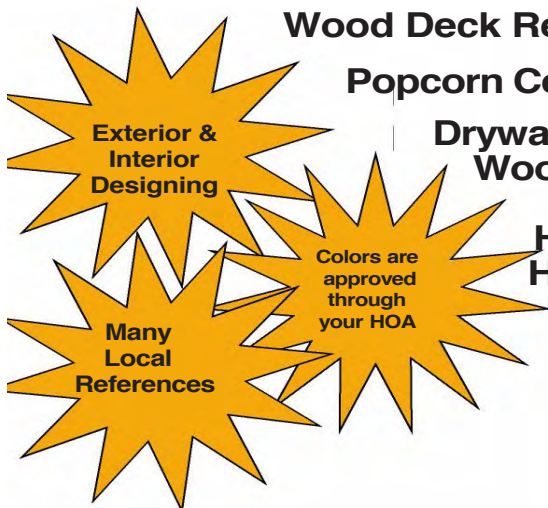
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WILD SIDE Continued from page 18

So, I had to welcome the first snow of the season with open arms. And, of course, snow brings out the bird population, as if were roll call time, Nature's G-rated entertainment. Our feeders, bird bath, and pond were inundated with all the local winter species from woodpeckers to doves and nuthatches. Okay, throw in a few hardy robins. And the jays, as always, dominated the platform feeders until a bag of whole peanuts was laid out for them. Feeders were vacated. After a while the opportunistic red wing black birds decided to see what the peanut fuss was all about and dove into the pile, too.

Wolf Encounters

We played hooky one gorgeous fall day to travel west of Divide to the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center, a sanctuary for wolves, some foxes, a couple of coyotes, and a flock of brave or foolish chickens. What a mesmerizing and educational experience.

Right now, 13 wolves reside in fenced-in enclosures, sometimes alone, frequently in pairs or triplets. Two white foxes, a color variant of the red fox, occupy a raised house. They were rescued from a fur farm that was raising them to pass their fur off as that of the coveted Artic fox. Two other foxes are swift foxes, whose talents include tree climbing. Last year someone in Larkspur took a picture of one here and published it.



The story was told at the Center that the swift foxes are the indigenous foxes, the red fox being introduced for the reason that they were easier to hunt, often with dogs. The swift foxes would disappear into trees. There is some disagreement with this. Some contend that it is unknown whether red foxes are native or introduced. Swift foxes, once highly endangered, typically range in prairie and short grasses. Their closest cousins, the kit foxes, occupy a different territory and are a different species.

The foxes at the Center pleased the crowd with playful antics. The tour guide would throw pieces of kibble to the foxes, which would make a lame attempt to bury them. As soon as they turned their backs, a very astute magpie would fly in and quickly snatch the kibble.

Having had a lab-timber wolf for his entire life, I thought I knew a lot about wolves, but there is so much more. Having fostered



about 70 retrievers in recent years, I know that each dog has its own story and its own personality. The same is absolutely true of wolves. They feel emotions intensely. When one wolf loses its companion or mate, it issues mournful howling, recognized by the other wolves, who keep their howls to themselves in respect for the bereaved wolf, who remains in deep mourning for many months, unable to tolerate another wolf in its proximity.

The tour guides go into extensive discussion about how critical wolves are to the food chain and the balance of nature and debunk many of the nasty wolf tales, including ways people will milk the tax payer, blaming the wolf.

We delighted watching the wolves diligently find the best burial spot for their treasures, deer and elk legs.

All of the wolves at the Center are socialized and interact with the staff or even visitors willing to pay \$200 per couple for a private tour when 15 photos are taken and given to the visitors on a thumb drive. One furry guy really laid on the "puppy kisses" with the tour guide. One-hour tours are regularly scheduled throughout the day for a nominal fee. And there are slightly more expensive Full Moon and Feeding tours, but not using tourists as the meal for the latter. Trust me.

The final part of a tour is indeed howling with the wolves. The tour guide started with a warm-up prolonged howl and then we all joined in as the wolves delighted us with a chorus of rousing howling, accompanied by the crowing roosters.

And their gift shop is filled to the brim with all things wolfy, if you are looking for holiday gifts or a jigsaw puzzle for you to work on snowy days.

Short Takes

Last month we discussed the declining fox population due to mange. Another fellow visitor to the wolf center said that the healthy foxes are returning to the Golden area, accompanied

Continued on page 20

WILD SIDE Continued from page 19

naturally by a decline in the rabbit population that had grown to ridiculous numbers, as bunnies do when they go unchecked.

That's all, folks, for this month. Gotta run...three more trees to wrap and a field to mow before winter seals us in for the next few months. Whoops – our latest puppy foster, who looks almost identical to a red fox, just swiped the tree wrap. Great.

Just great.

Photo credits: Wikipedia for the swift fox, Dave Peters for the black-faced timber wolf.

HowtoContactMe: Email is best at susan@larskpurconsulting.com. Alternatively, call my cell phone at (303) 725-6868 or send a short write-up to 2255 Quartz Mountain Drive.



Playing Peekaboo with Winter

Photo by KDale

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