

the Perry Park



Sentinel

FEBRUARY 2016

GOING DIGITAL: A NEW LIFE FOR *THE SENTINEL*

Beginning in April or May, the *Perry Park Sentinel* will change its production and delivery processes and become entirely internet-based rather than print-based.



The costs of printing and postage simply make the current methods of production and delivery impossible to maintain economically. Despite generous donations from readers and local organizations, as well as many loyal advertisers, we can no longer afford a print-based *Sentinel*.

The paper itself will not change. Production costs will continue to be supported by our advertisers and donations. The ever increasing printing and mailing costs are what we must eliminate to continue the quality publication that has been distributed free of charge to the Perry Park area residents for 38 years. The *Sentinel* staff will remain volunteer as it always has been.

Going online means there will be many improvements in the paper itself. We will be able to produce anything in color. Advertising and pictures of local events and activities will now be in the glorious color they deserve rather than the black and white we could previously afford. Additionally, an internet-based *Sentinel* will allow for links, making it much easier for readers to access advertisers'

websites and additional information about local activities.

The size of each issue will no longer be limited by the cost of printing and postage, so there should no longer be the cautionary "if there's room" when you submit something. This fact alone should encourage greater community involvement in the paper's content. Send us your articles and pictures!

In the next several months, we will provide specific information about where/how to find the *Sentinel* on the web in the future. We have only begun to work out the details, but within a couple of months, you should be able to access any future copy of the *Sentinel* on the web—no more calling the editor and saying, "My *Sentinel* got thrown out. Would you mind looking up...."

Local residents started *The Perry Park Sentinel* in 1977. Early editions contained no ads. The paper was paid for by local residents and businesses and consisted of several mimeographed pages. The staff drove the neighborhood and left a copy in each mailbox in Perry Park. Current circulation covers much of southwestern Douglas County, about 1800 homes in the Larkspur area, delivered by USPS. Processes change, but the tradition continues.

In the future, internet access will continue to increase readership. The number of copies available will no longer be limited by production and postage costs. You will be able to send as many "copies" of your hometown paper as you wish to your friends and neighbors all over the world from your own computer—just send them the link!

We want to thank our readers and advertisers for their support, and we look forward to bringing you an even more robust and dynamic *Sentinel* in the future.

Karen Dale, Editor-in-Chief

Linda Ross, Associate Editor

Diane Jauch, Advertising and Business Manager



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DOUGLAS COUNTY GARDEN CLUB meets the first Tuesday of each month from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. primarily at the Philip S. Miller library in Castle Rock. Meetings include speakers on a variety of horticulture topics for

all levels of gardening interest and knowledge. This group is for those who love gardening. Visitors are welcome! For date and meeting location changes, and additional club information, visit www.douglascountygardenclub.org or call Cindy at 303-625-3085.

THE PERRY PARK BOOK CLUB will meet on Tuesday, February 16, 10 a.m. at the home of Reatha Baker, 6509 Pike Circle in Perry Park Ranch. The book for discussion is the novel *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman (BCE) which is about a seventeen year old severely injured in an accident. Little by little she struggles to put together the pieces, to figure out what she has lost, what she has left, and whether she should choose to survive. The book for March is Ann Patchett's novel set in the Amazon rain forest, *State of Wonder*. For additional information on the book club, see the website: applelane.com.

LARKSPUR MOMS IN FEBRUARY: Visit our website at www.larkspurmomsmoremailusatlarkspurmomsgmail.com for more information on how to join this wonderful group of moms and families. We are also hosting our first couples night out- hope you can join us!

Play Group: Friday February 5: Valentine's Day Play Group. Time: 10:30-12:30; Thursday February 18: In home play group. Time: 2-4 p.m.; Friday February 26: Open gym at Sundance Studio in Monument.

Couples Night Out: You asked and we listened! Join us for a couples' night out on Saturday, February 20th. Location TBD- be sure to watch your email for more details to come!

THE HEALTHY LIVING EXPO: Douglas County Events Center in Castle Rock, Saturday, February 6, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Colorado's largest Expo focused on Living, Working and Playing in Colorado! The Healthy Living Expo offers interactive educational exhibits, demonstrations and presentations. This event is free to the public. Presented by the Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce.

TAKE A HIKE: On Monday, February 15, enjoy one of the many winter wonders at Castlewood Canyon, ice caves. This moderately difficult 3-4 mile hike is off-trail and involves a little rock scrambling at the rim. Weatherproof boots and clothing are suggested. Your dog probably will not enjoy this hike. Meet volunteer naturalists Scott Knight and Fran Tate at the Falls parking lot (west side of Park) at 11 am for this 2-3 hour hike. Event Location: Castlewood Canyon State Park, 2989 S. Highway 83 in Franktown. For additional information contact Brent Lounsbury, 303-688-5242, brent.lounsbury@state.co.us.

VOLUNTEER YOUR NEEDLE SKILLS TO THE BLANKET BRIGADE

Did you make a New Year's resolution to do some volunteer work in 2016? If so, here's an opportunity for you - join the Perry Park Blanket Brigade.

We don't considerate it work, but we are all volunteers! The Blanket Brigade makes comfy blankets that are given to children and adults who have suffered medical, emotional or traumatic situations and need a BIG HUG. If you are aware of someone who could use some comforting, please let us know. We have also joined forces with Operation Heartstrings to sew, knit and crochet items for the nursery at Castle Rock Adventist Hospital.

Meetings are on the third Wednesday each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Perry Park Country Club (you do not need to be a member of PPCC to join our group). If you are interested in joining us, please contact Gwen Underwood at gwenspur@mac.com or 303-681-2125 or Cindy Hotaling at cjaspsjr@yahoo.com or 303-681-0374. Most of the materials used for our projects are donated. If you have fabric remnants, blanket batting or yarn to donate, please contact Gwen or Cindy.

NOTE: The Perry Park Blanket Brigade is part of the Palmer
Continued on page 3

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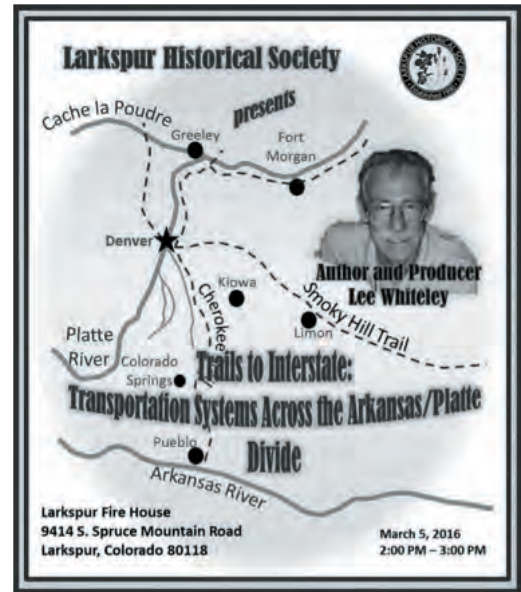
BLANKET BRIGADE continued from page 2

Divide Blanket Brigade a 501C(3) organization and accepts tax deductible donations at P.O. Box 222, Palmer Lake, CO 80133.

COLORADO: TRAILS TO INTERSTATE

Larkspur Historical Society presents an educational program, *Trails to Interstate: Transportation Systems Across the Arkansas/Platte Divide*, by author and producer Lee Whiteley. The program is March 5, 2016, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM at the Larkspur Fire Station, 9414 S. Spruce Mountain Road. The program is free to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Beginning with Native American footpaths along the base of the Rocky Mountains, the Monument Creek, Plum Creek, and Cherry Creek waterways have evolved into major north-south transportation corridors. The Trappers Trail, Smoky Hill Trail, and Cherokee Trail were used by mountain men, military expeditions, goldseekers, and homesteaders. The Denver & Rio Grande and the Denver & New Orleans railroads provided the transportation systems needed for Douglas County growth. Named “auto trails” such as the National Park-to-Park Highway, preceded U.S. Highway 85, also known as the “Ribbon of Death.” Colorado Highway 83, with its “Bridge to Nowhere,” was the original planned route for Interstate 25.



Lee Whiteley is a fourth-generation Coloradan now living in Centennial. He graduated from Englewood High School and the University of Denver. He took a very early retirement from the City and County of Denver, where he was a computer programmer-analyst. He and wife Jane are authors of five books on early transportation systems of the West. They are associate producers of the PBS documentary *Paving the Way, the National Park-to-Park Highway*.



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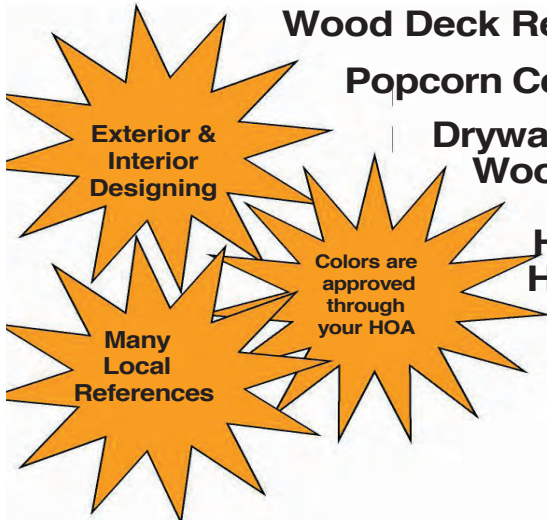
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PICKS & PANS, ETC.

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PICKS AND PANS GOOD-BYE

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! for the support readers have given this column for many, many years. Counting the years I served as editor, I figure I've been privi-

leged to be a part of the *Sentinel* for a quarter of a century! By sharing your comments and experiences with business owners and technicians who have serviced our communities, *Sentinel* readers deserve the credit for drawing the faithful advertisers who have provided the financial resources to keep our newsletter in print.

I am "retiring" from the occasional duties of reporting and will devote more time to exploring new ways to keep pesky deer out of my flower beds and planters. As a matter of fact, and as I've mentioned in the past, we have actually had very good luck using the product Liquid Fence to deter their appetites. It works well in the spring and summer if applied frequently, but, as you are aware, the deer will eat almost anything throughout the winter. Another valued tip for a successful gardening experience: Eko Compost made in Colorado for Colorado. As previously mentioned in my writings, we use it on everything around our house except pancakes. It's a great soil amendment and also superb for fall mulching around perennials.

If anyone out there is interested in filling this position for the next few years, please give Editor Karen Dale a heads up.

It has been a pleasure, indeed. Enjoy your community. It's a special place!

WALT'S WORDS

Walt Korinke

I need to start eating healthier, but first I need to eat all the junk food in the house so it's not there to tempt me anymore.



CASTLE ROCK – Castle Rock

continues its growth explosion with 10,187 (21 percent) new residents over the past 5 years for a total of 59,189 at 2015 year end.

The **PROMENADE** is under full steam development with its



first shops opened around last year's end and this year's beginning. The first two phases adjacent to Lowe's and McDonald's included the grand opening of

Kneader's Bakery, Tokoy Joe's, Café Rio, Mad Greens, Mod Pizza, Smashburger, Jersey Mike's Subs, At&T, Bar Nails

Continued on page 6

Caretaker

Want to trade a clean, private, nicely maintained 2BR 1 Bath home with all utilities paid, on a quiet, pretty 20 acre country residential property 4 miles West of Larkspur, for caretaker/handyman doing outdoor projects and maintenance. This is a permanent, year-round part-time position. Work averages 2 days per week, sometimes less in the winter months. The schedule is flexible: You can set your own days/hours and you can work elsewhere. This is a nice situation for a day off fireman, an independent contractor, or a semi-retired person with an agricultural or ranching background.

Duties will primarily include lawn and pasture mowing, string trimming, brush and tree removal and thinning, fence repair, weed spraying, snow removal, barn and corral cleaning, and light maintenance on the equipment. There will be other similar chores and repairs on a regular basis. You should be handy with and enjoy operating power and hand tools, tractor and implements, and you must enjoy working outdoors. You should know how to work safely, and take pride in the property's appearance. Good quality equipment is available to do every job. The property is currently very well maintained and in great condition.

Call 720-272-0580 for more information and to schedule an interview.

WORDS Continued from page 5

& Spa, Elements Massage, The Joint and Waxing the City. Coming later this year are the giant 123,000 **King Soopers, Sams Club, Sports Authority, TJ Maxx/Homegoods, Ulta and Berry Blends** and many more to follow. The Outlets have been preparing to join the exciting new retail opportunities and **Starbuck's**, after a long coffee break, is finally under construction. A new **Popeye's Chicken** has opened on the n/e corner of the Lowe's lot. Just off the n/w edge of the Promenade by the Christian Bros. Automotive facility, a site development plan for a **51,700 sq. ft. fitness facility** to be located on 5.5 acres are making their way through C R Planning.

Construction has started on Dr. Moroni's new 19,307 sq. ft., 3-story **MIRAGE DENTAL BLDG.** on the .7 acre lot behind Taco Bell and the Conoco Gas Station on Plum Creek Pkwy.



Construction commenced in December on the new 18,000 sq. ft. **GOODWILL** building on a 2.95 acre parcel backing on Founder's Parkway across from the Target. Access will be via Barranca Drive which is directly behind the Walmart.

The four new apartment buildings at the **Black Feathers Development** just south of Walmart, and the Park received their certificates of occupancy and adds new rentals and condos to the project.



The site development plan has been approved for the new 3,300 sq. ft. Japanese sushi restaurant to be built on the corner at 301 Jerry St

– (just down from Pegasus and across from the s/w corner of the old Court House.

The Meadows has a new pool and recreation facility under way on Meadows Parkway with a planned summer opening, and Lokal Homes has a site development plan for 69 new townhomes to be built south of the Castle Rock Middle School. Currently expected to start in the low \$300,000s.

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MONUMENT – Located in Monument's Old Town strip center (251 Front St.) anchored by the long term tenant, The Coffee Cup Café, a consortium of artists, four potters and a painter have opened a new shop, **CLAY N COLORS**, which markets their creative efforts of home grown artistic treasures.



LARKSPUR – After struggling through the end of the year's slowdown and following a community effort to support their operation – Charito's decided NOT to close and will continue to serve the community as long as economics permit. Coming soon – Patio Service & Liquor License.



Another strong community effort via the Facebook site, Larkspur Neighbors, brought two new **free bring-a-book/borrow-a-book** facilities to the community. One is being set up in the Larkspur Town Center, and the other in the form of a large book box is now located at the entrance to

Perry Park. Literacy is good for everyone.

Continued on page 8

941 for 2012: Employer's QUARTERLY Federal Tax Return
Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

COLORADO Individual Income Tax Form 104
Department of REVENUE

1040 U.S. Income Tax Return for an S Corporation
Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return 2012
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WORDS Continued from page 6

Perry Park experienced a vibrant residential year with 91 lot and home sales (\$30.1 million) (including 19 new properties under construction) Of particular note is the progress on the duplex condominium units – **The Retreat**



– which is charging through the winter with plans for its first four units in the early spring. These +/- 3,000 sq. ft. units bring a new level of luxury to the community’s condo market.

COLORADO SPRINGS – The Colorado Springs headquartered stationary/gift card giant, **CURRENT** sold its internet based business to Minnesota’s Taylor Corp, while its 77 – acre campus which housed its 660,000 square foot complex located at Woodmen Road and I-25 was sold to a limited partnership controlled by Houston based Realm Realty. Current will continue to occupy the space until September 2016, after which the complex will be demolished for development of a retail complex to be known as **THE CREST at WOODMEN**, which is scheduled to be opened by the fall of 2017.

Under construction on the north side of Powers Boulevard in the Target complex is an 18,000 square foot farmer’s market/restaurant/bar in four connected buildings with an 80-foot open kitchen that can seat 380 people. With the large mercantile



area, you can choose from the fresh daily prepared 120 product menu to go, including gluten-free items. Their farm-to-table items include fresh pot pies, soups, lasagna, and wild-caught salmon. The restaurant will feature an Italian wood fired oven, a full bakery and three wonderful meals a day and the high-end bar will have live music. The facility will include patio and private dining rooms. Watch for the June opening of **TILL** – open kitchen & mercantile.

The six-year-old, partially completed ghost shopping center, **COLORADO CROSSING**, located at the s/e corner of InterQuest Parkway and Voyager is about to see a new life if the current prospective buyer is satisfied with its due diligence process. Reportedly the buyer is looking at the entire site, which could house well over one million square feet of commercial space on the 153-acre parcel. The failed center is currently owned by the contractors who are hopeful of completing a one-shot sale rather than parceling out the property. On the active market since the late fall of 2015, it generated considerable interest, and the owners are confident that the property will complete this or another sale in the near



Continued on page 9

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WORDS Continued from page 8

future. It is a strong location, and gained tax credit status with its inclusion last year in the County's "enterprise zone."

Following the successful urban redevelopment of N. Nevada Ave with the Costco/Lowes anchored University Center, the City has now declared a 100-acre parcel of S. Nevada just west of I-25 as an **Urban Renewal District** with plans to change the used-car lots, pawnshops, aging motels and deteriorating buildings into fresh new restaurants, stores, groceries, apartments, etc. With the Nov. 2015 designation declared, two upscale restaurants are already planned for the area with April targets for opening. **PRIME STEAKHOUSE AND SEAFOOD** will



remodel an existing 8,300 sq. ft. two-story building into a quality restaurant with first floor dining and overflow seating and a new deck constructed on the 2nd floor. The address is 1605 S. Tejon. An Italian restaurant, **CASANO's** is also targeted for an April opening, and will have a first-floor winery and dining on the 2nd floor and deck as well as the 3rd floor (elevator) which will feature a banquet room. Hopefully much more will follow soon in the area's redevelopment.

In 1918, the Santa Fe and Colorado Southern railroads joined forces to build the **SANTA FE STATION** at 555 E. Pikes Peak Avenue, just east of downtown Colorado Springs. Abandoned in 1972 when rail service was consolidated on the west side of town, it served next as a freight house, then a business center. This grand complex was purchased by an O'Neil Group limited partnership in October 2014 with hopes to extend its life as +/- 100,000 square feet of hi-tech office and research space.



The newly named **CATAYLST CAMPUS**, has been awarded a \$750,000 grant by the Colorado Economic Commission, and along with an additional investment of \$1.5 million by the park ownership, the funds will be used to convert 10,000 sq. ft. into a Cyber and Space Operations Center with the initial objective of completing two Air Force research contracts. The entire facility can house up to 40 tenants geared to building an environment around cyber, satellite and space operations.

Planning their first Colorado Springs facility, the **ZOUP** will open in the InterQuest Marketplace late this month. With three other Colorado locations, the Detroit based, 85-unit operation brings a customers and will have an outdoor café area with eight more seats. It joins the recently opened Freddy's and Dickies restaurants. The hotel renovation/water park should be open by November.

Win some, lose some. With the coming of the many new restaurants to the area, we also lose some long time facilities that


can no longer compete. The yearend brought 'closed doors' for the old **Golden Coral** Powers and Woodmen Road in the Wal-Mart/Home Depot Powers Peak Shopping Center. Also shuttering their doors after a valiant effort, with the building now up for sale is the Black Forest local eatery, **The Breakfast Club**, that had an 80's atmosphere and was named after the 1985 movie.

DENVER – Cabela's is about to get some company when construction kicks off shortly for the new four-story, 121 room **MARRIOTT TOWNE SUITES HOTEL**. The extended stay (all rooms include kitchens) facility scheduled for September completion will occupy 3.3 acres of the Cabela site. Also coming is an 8,445 square foot **SIERRA GRILL** which will be at the northwest corner of the site and will be connected to the hotel via a pathway, courtyard and deck.

Several projects nearing completion down the street include the 190 unit **RIDGEGATE WEST VILLAGE** 1,2, and 3 bedroom apartment project – the **MORNINGSTAR SENIOR LIVING** development with 224 independent living suites, assisted living and memory care units located across the street from the new Douglas County Library – and the 57 townhouse **LINCOLN COMMONS ROWS** across from Morningstar.




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DOUGLAS COUNTY MOTORCYCLING

Michael Stone...

Winter Riding

Living in the Perry Park / Larkspur area of Douglas County, we are accustomed to some wild swings in the weather. Just for grins, I looked up the date of January 2 for temperature extremes in Denver. The average temperature for that date is 30 degrees. However, the record low was set in 1911, when the HIGH temperature was -17. The record high temperature for that date was set in 1997, when Denver reached a high of 72 degrees. Riding a motorcycle in 72-degree weather is normally very pleasant, but I'll have to admit I've never tried riding in weather as cold as -17 degrees. I may be a little bit crazy, but FAR from stupid.



I thought I would share some tips for riding, and these same tips apply to any riding in weather that is less than ideal.

1. Use that thing between your ears. Navigating through snow and ice is difficult, to say the least. Inclement weather and slippery road surfaces just compound the challenges that we face as motorcycle riders. If you are out on the road and it starts to snow, then go home if possible. Snow and ice can ac-

cumulate quickly, so go home and live to ride another day.

2. If you choose to ride on colder days, you should probably have a contract with a motorcycle specific towing agency, or a motorcycle insurance policy that provides for towing if you are stranded due to weather.

3. Realize that conditions can change drastically. I remember a ride from Littleton to Fairplay, Colorado. When we started, it was a beautiful April morning and it was 76 degrees in Littleton. I chose to ride with gloves, a tank top, helmet, and leather vest. By the time we got to Fairplay, the wind was howling, the temperature was 32 degrees, my windbreaker was in my saddlebag, and my fingers were so stiff from the cold that I was barely able to press the buttons on the gas pump when I tried to fill up. Hypothermia can happen quickly, and consequences are not good. In retrospect, I should have stopped and put on the jacket, but I didn't want to hold up the group. Mistake made; lesson learned.

4. Your tires will be cold. Cold tires lead to loss of air pressure. Loss of air pressure leads to less traction. Less traction can lead to many things, but none of them are good. Check your air pressure early and often. The life you save will be your own, so carry a pressure gauge and use it.

5. Be aware of road conditions. Increase your following distance, knowing that you may experience a loss of traction.

Continued on page 11

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MOTORCYCLING Continued from page 10

Patches of ice may exist, including black ice. If you can see them, then you can avoid them. Watch out for salt, and gravel. These are used to help melt roadway ice, but they are very slippery and can de-stabilize your bike and cause a skid. ANY loss of traction can lead to big problems.

6. Have the right gear. Some riders swear by layered clothing, and others swear by heated clothing. There is no right or wrong here, but there is one common principle, and that is that the rider needs to stay warm. How you do it is a personal choice, but there are many options. We each have our own tolerance level to cold, so do some research and pick the right gear to compensate. The choices can be bewildering. For me, the only things that ever gets cold are my hands. Knowing that, I'm currently evaluating the options. But there is no universal "right answer." Options include heated gloves, heated handlebar grips, or multi-layer insulated gloves. And of course, each option has a range of prices.

We choose to live here. Motorcycling in the winter is difficult, but not insurmountable. Let's face it, winter is not easy on anyone, but we endure, and we look forward to the next season. Thank you so much for your interest in this column.

I sincerely wish the best for everyone in the coming year. Holy Cow—2016? It's been 43 years since I graduated from CSU?

LIFE AMONG THE GADGETS

Linda Ross...

How do I dislike technology? Let me count the ways.

Let's start with my computer. For the most part, it does what it is supposed to do – runs my word processing, spreadsheets and banking programs, accesses the Internet and fills my inbox with fabulous offers from Nigerian royalty. Maybe it's just my imagination, but it seems like if I am working on something that is time sensitive, my computer picks that exact moment to give me the spinning wheel of death. I run my anti-virus program scans religiously, so I can only guess that my computer has some type of evil comic virus. One that thinks it's funny to see me swear and sweat while waiting for it to reboot and hope that I haven't lost my day's work. "Save Early and Often" doesn't refer to just money anymore.

Here's another one that really bugs me. Have you ever been the victim of disappearing emails? This one seems to happen in the business world – maybe you have emailed a company's customer service department about an order that needs to be returned. You wait patiently for a response, and never get one. So you end up calling them, only to be told that they never got your email. That's really interesting, because they certainly got my online order and credit card number without any problem, and emailed an order confirmation number within ten seconds

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TRUST MATTERS

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GADGETS continued from page 12

of me hitting “place order.” Is customer service being less than truthful when they say your message is still floating in the cloud? I hope not, but I fear they were trained by the same customer service people who when confronted with a difficult situation or question, seem to mysteriously lose your call.

Television remotes can turn me into a raving lunatic. We have one for each television, cable box and sound system. There is even one for our Roku. All I want to do is press one button and have the television turn on, be tuned to a channel and have sound. Is that too much to ask? Instead, I need to use one remote to power on the television, then find the cable box remote to select a channel and finally, if I want to switch from “movie”, “cinema” or “concert” quality sound, I need to track down that remote as well. Not an easy thing to do in a house where our dogs delight in taking said remotes and hiding them in various places.

The biggest annoyance I have is with smart phones. We did away with our telephone landline six years ago, and solely rely on our cell phones. It’s a trend that more and more people are moving toward, but it does have some downsides. We no longer have an extension in every room, which means that if I hear my phone ringing, I need to figure out where I left it last, hope I don’t break an ankle running to find said phone and that the person calling me doesn’t hang up after three rings. If you don’t

leave me a message, I am not going to return your call. Having your number show up on my caller ID is not a message. For all I know, you could have accidentally pocket-called me. I refuse to be one of those people who gets a mysterious call and then immediately calls back demanding to know who you are and what you want. I admit I am guilty of occasionally DWRG--dialing without reading glasses. It only takes me a few seconds to realize that I have the wrong number while listening to someone’s idea of a cutting-edge voicemail message. Please don’t call me back—it was an honest mistake. It’s not cool, and honestly, a bit rude. No one is out to get you. But if you make me break an ankle while trying to find my phone, I have ways of finding you, assuming my computer is in a good mood. And I don’t spend an hour trying to find where Fenway and Syrah the Soi Dog hid the television remotes. Now if you’ll excuse me, my washer and drier are beeping simultaneously. This can’t be good.



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AN UPDATE FROM LARKSPUR FIRE DISTRICT

Charles Walden, Division Chief

I am writing to bring you up to date about what is taking place with the Larkspur Fire Protection District (LFPD).



First, please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation for the overwhelming ballot support of the recent mill levy increase. Though any increased funding associated with that vote will not actually be assessed and collected until calendar year 2017, the positive result of that vote has permitted the LFPD and its elected leadership to forge a path ahead with the knowledge that our tax funding is stable and secure. Of critical import, this affirmation of our mission and goals will permit us to restore our financial reserves. We have already begun to return to our past levels of service by staffing a second fire station as frequently as possible. You have our pledge. We at the LFPD will be responsible stewards of this funding, and we will be both fiscally responsible as well as accountable for the amounts entrusted to us.

Second, the last week of 2015 and the first weeks of 2016 were busy times. Amid several winter snows and near zero temperatures, the LFPD was called to three separate structural fires resulting in the complete loss of a single-family home along our western border as well as the complete loss of a large barn located on our eastern boundary. (The home was located just outside of our District on private land in the Pike National Forest.) The third structure fire occurred in the Perry Park East sub-division and was confined to a garage with no damage to the attached home. The cause of three fires has not been determined and there were no human injuries, though livestock was unfortunately lost in the barn fire.

Residents of our area are accustomed to a heightened risk of danger associated with fire, but these concerns are often most prevalent during the summer months when wildland fires are most common. These recent incidents highlight the real danger that fire presents during the winter months, a time when many of our residents might be tempted to let their guard down. To cope with extreme temperatures and to guard against the possibility

of frozen pipes, homeowners and their guests are sometimes tempted to heat their homes and outbuildings in dangerous or hazardous ways, resulting in an increased risk of fire and/or the release of lethal fumes into a home. While we have no idea why these recent fires happened, these incidents drive home the fact that any home can have a fire at any time. During our winter months, please use caution and common sense when heating your home. Ensure that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are fully functional and take affirmative measures to reduce your fire risk. The life you save may be your own.

Third, it of course seems crazy for us to speak now of property mitigation with snow on the ground. Yet, even with the possibility of increased moisture this winter associated with Pacific moisture flows, we inevitably know that our summer months will bring red-flag days where our fire danger will be high. The threat of a fast-moving grass or forest fire during periods with little or no rain, high temperatures, and gusting winds is always present, and this coming fire season will likely be no different. Last summer, many of you will remember that a fast moving wildland fire devoured over 350 acres in the Greenland Open Space – a county park devoid of any residences. We were lucky that day, as that fire was slowed and eventually suppressed by a helicopter working in conjunction with firefighters on the ground. Even with aerial support, this fire required the response of many out-of-district resources from other fire departments, and necessitated the establishment of a line of defense to protect nearby homes and buildings had the fire crossed our lines. Nearly one hundred fire and public safety personnel were on scene that day – a resource that may not always be available to us.

Mitigating your property is one key element to successfully minimizing the risk posed to your family and home by a wildland fire, and it is never too early to begin planning for what you can do to help protect your property. Many persons choose to live in this area to be surrounded by the land's natural beauties, including its grassy meadows, abundant pines and oak, and it is not easy for us to clear away trees and shrubs away from our homes in order create an area of defensible space. On the other hand, a structure surrounded by trees and other ladder fuels may be impossible to defend or save from a fast-moving wildland fire, and scarce fire resources may be prioritized to homes which can be defended. The time to mitigate is not when a fire is nearby - during those times, you and your family should be more focused on potentially evacuating the area. As a free service, the LFPD offers mitigation advice. To arrange for a visit, please call our Fire Marshal Randy Johnson at 303-681-3284 or rjohnson@larkspurfire.org.

Fourth, we are always looking for volunteer members to join our department. There is no one type of person who succeeds as a volunteer firefighter, and those in our unpaid ranks work in many different fields and vocations – folks need only be physically fit and mentally able to handle the many challenges our personnel face and have the time to give. While quite a few of the folks who serve the LFPD are looking for fulltime employ-



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Continued on page 15

FIRE DISTRICT Continued from page 15

ment in the fire service, not everyone who wears our uniform wants to make the fire service a career. In addition, while many of our unpaid staff members reside outside the District, we are always actively seeking local residents to join the LFPD. Training and uniforms are provided. For more information, contact Training Officer Paul Hartigan at phartigan@larkspurfire.org.

HOUSE FIRE IN PERRY PARK RANCH

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, January 20, a home on Winged Foot Court, in the back of Perry Park Ranch, was engulfed by fire. Although the home is a total loss, the three human occupants and two dogs escaped uninjured. The people who lived there were leasing the home from long-time Perry Park resident Sue Armstrong who has been living in Castle Rock for the last several years.

Because of recent changes in the staffing the LFPD station in Perry Park Ranch, it is reassuring to know that Station 162 in Perry Park Ranch was staffed at the time of the fire and make a quick response. Fire Marshal Randal Johnson provided the following information.

Engine 162 from Station 162 (Perry Park Ranch) was the first in engine and it took them six minutes of travel time. Engine 161 from Station 161 (Larkspur) took 19 minutes as they were delayed by the train. Johnson also commented that, "A train delay happened on the last structure fire we had in the Perry Park East subdivision on January 8, 2015, which put Engine 162 on scene first at that event also. Two train delays in a row for Station 161 response on structure fires! You never know how the dice will roll with that one."

Units on scene were as follows,

- Engine 161 – Larkspur Fire
 - Engine 162 – Larkspur Fire
 - Engine 151 – Castle Rock Fire
 - Engine 142 – Jackson 105 Fire
 - Engine 143 – Jackson 105 Fire
 - Engine 2213 from Tri-Lakes / Monument Fire Protection
 - Medic 161 – Larkspur Fire
 - Medic 151 - Castle Rock Fire
 - Medic 154 – Castle Rock Fire



Should you have any questions or need any information, please do not hesitate to email us at jwarner@larkspurfire.org.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Division Chief Walden filed this article before a home in Perry Park Ranch was destroyed by fire on January 21. For more information about that fire see accompanying article. Although the cause of the January 21st fire is not yet known, it certainly reinforces Chief Walden's warnings about fires in winter. ~KD]

A Medic unit from Tri-Lakes Fire in Monument moved up to Station 161 to cover medical response for additional calls within the Larkspur Fire Protection District.

Investigation on the origin and cause of the fire is currently under investigation.



Photo from Dale and Marilyn Parker



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Pete Dunbar

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SAGE PORT HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

Carol Krueger...

Neighborhood Watch

The informational meeting for the Greater Sage Port coalition of Neighborhood Watch groups is scheduled for Tuesday evening, March 1, at 7p.m. in the meeting room of the Larkspur Fire Station. The coalition HOAs include Antlers, Hidden Forest, Perry Park East, Sage Port and Sterling Pointe, along with the Spruce Mountain Road Neighborhood Group. Information by a representative from Douglas County's Sheriff's Department about organizing a Neighborhood Watch group will be presented. All residents in the above mentioned areas are encouraged to attend, to ask questions and to learn more about how Neighborhood Watch works.



Special Recognitions

At the February Annual Meeting of the Sage Port HOA (SPHOA), Douglas County Sheriff, Tony Spurlock; Larkspur Fire Marshall, Randy Johnson and others recognized several individuals who have volunteered tremendous amounts of time working on special projects for the betterment of the Sage Port community. These projects have included: completing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan; serving on the Douglas

County Sheriff's Public Safety Advisory Committee; setting up a new SPHOA web site; serving on a new "Welcome To The Neighborhood" program, volunteering extra time on Chipping Day, and serving on the Neighborhood Watch committee. Thank you to all the individuals who are making Sage Port a desirable place to live.

Community Trash Collection Program

The details of this endeavor are being finalized. There will be informational meetings scheduled soon.

Please check the web site: www.TheSagePortHOA.com for information.

WHAT'S UP AT THE METRO BOARD?

Walt Korinke...

Welcome to 2016! There was no January meeting for the Metro District. At the Dec. 2015 meeting, the 2016 Budget was approved and is available on the District web site, www.perrypark.org.



Besides the normal district activities i.e. mitigation, community events, general welfare of the community, 2016 key targets include continued efforts to attack the destructive efforts

Continued on page 18

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PP METRO continued from page 16



of the Tussock Moth (spring spray), commencement of the new trail and fire buffer system and enhancement of the Gateway entrance to the Park.

The 2015 Perry Park residential sales results were pretty spectacular

with the following results:

Homes Sold	59
Condos Sold	5
Lots Sold	7
TOTAL SALES	\$30,038,105
New Home	1
Under Const.	19

Included in the 19 properties under development are the first four condominium units of the Retreat, which are progressing at a rapid rate and should be near completion by May. In addition, the first three new homes of the Inca Ridge filing 1 and 2 on Mohawk Drive are under construction. The Perry Park Metro District expanded in 2015 to include the addition of the Inca Ridge parcels to the district parameters, adding another dozen acres to the Park. Our current mailing list indicates there are 753 residences within the Park, and we probably missed a few.

Douglas County and especially Castle Rock is growing at an amazing pace and it looks like the outer reach of Perry Park is beginning to experience a portion of this expansion as well as recognizing the beginning of the increased housing costs experienced throughout the county

The Larkspur Fire Protection District received the voters' support for the needed tax increase to provide the district with the ability to fully service the surrounding communities. One of their first moves was the January reopening of the recently closed fire station located in Perry Park with partial staffing and with plans to fully staff it later in the year even though addition tax proceeds will not be available until 2017. This was the result of their ability to provide a better budget going

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forward and the need to provide rapid services to the entire fire district vs. having to rush from one extremity of their district to another distant point. It also helps alleviate the problem of the rail tracks splitting the district and slowing service in either direction.

In March, we will commence registration on our web site for participants in the **Resident Mitigation Grant Program** – watch for notice in the *Sentinel*.

Two District Board seats expire this spring – If you have an interest in servicing your community as a Metro District Board Member, please contact Walt Korinke at walter_korinke@msn.com.

Don't forget to date your checks 2016, and may you experience a wonderful new year!

Metro Board Members:	
President	Walt Korinke
Vice President	Karen Dale
Vice President	Randy Johnson
Secretary	Jim Cassidy
Treasure	Chris Korinke

Metro Board meetings are held at the Perry Park County Club the first Thursday of each month and will commence at 5 p.m. sharp. Complete meeting minutes are posted on the web site.

Metro Board web site: www.perrypark.org

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JANUARY NEWS FROM THE WATER DISTRICT

Jim Matchett...

The January meeting of the Perry Park Water & Sanitation District (PPW&SD) began at 4:30 p.m. with all directors present. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the December 16th regular board meeting, and it was unanimous. Disbursements totaling \$161,206.09 were then also unanimously approved.

The primary focus of this meeting then followed. The board had approved monies in 2015 to update the District's Comprehensive Master Plan, and this study was accomplished through the efforts of TST Infrastructure, LLC, Semocor, Inc. and District staff. Bill Goetz of TST was in attendance and led the board through the major considerations of the Draft 2016 Water and Sewer Master Plan. His presentation and the resulting discussions took approximately 2 1/2 hours, and each board member was given a copy of the Draft Plan to take home for their further study. In addition to the regularly scheduled upcoming board meetings, separate work sessions for the board to discuss and finalize the Master Plan will be scheduled.

Next, a resolution was unanimously approved to post notices of the board's regular and special meetings for 2016 in the Doug-



las County Clerk and Recorder's Office pursuant to Section 32-1-903, C.R.S., and at the following three locations within the District boundaries: 5676 Red Rock Drive (the District Office); Red Rock Drive and Highway 105 (the Perry Park Ranch entrance); and 1103 West Perry Park Avenue (the Larkspur Elementary School). Then, a resolution calling for the 2016 Regular District Election and appointing a Designated Election Official was introduced and unanimously approved.

The District Systems Report for December submitted by Semocor was reviewed and normal operations across the District were noted. The Monthly Staff Report submitted by the District Manager was then reviewed. It was noted by the Manager that the audited 2015 financials for the District will be available shortly.

There was no audience participation, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM. As always, further information is available on the District website, <www.ppwsd.org>.



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FILE EARLY TO AVOID A STOLEN TAX REFUND

From the District Attorney's Office,
18th Judicial District...

All that is needed for a criminal to steal a tax refund is a name, birthdate and Social Security number. To reduce the risk of having your personal information used by a thief to steal your refund, file as soon as possible. Protecting personal information goes a long way toward preventing tax refund theft, especially information that is transmitted or stored electronically. However, in this era of data breaches, a crime over which consumers have little or no control, it's difficult to know if your personal data is ever truly protected. Unsuspecting victims discover the theft at the time they submit their tax return. If a crook has already filed using a victim's SSN, the return will be rejected. Victims who report the theft will ultimately receive their refund, but it can take months to process and the criminals may never be found.

On average, the turn-around time on the issuance of a tax refund is twenty-one days from the date the refund is received by the IRS. This is also the operative period for identity thieves to submit fabricated electronic returns, including specific instructions on where and how to send their payment. In order to expedite the process of issuing tax refunds, the IRS relies solely on the information presented on the tax return. The verification pro-

cess of documents that are submitted to the IRS happens after W-2s and other tax forms are submitted by employers, usually by March. By then, most refunds have already been issued.

For the 2016 tax filing period, the IRS has imposed additional protections to control the high rate of tax refund theft. One such measure is the issuance of individualized IP-PIN numbers for victims of identity theft. Doing so will flag returns that require additional examination before a refund will be sent. In order to qualify, victims need to fill out the Identify Theft Affidavit – Form 14039 which can be found on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/

Signs of tax fraud:

- You submit your electronic tax return and it is rejected
- You are expecting a tax refund, but never receive it
- You discover that one or more tax refunds have been filed under your SSN
- You receive an email that appears to be from the IRS or other legitimate-sounding agency requesting personal information such as your SSN, DOB, etc. for verification reasons. This is likely an email phishing scam.

If you discover you have been a victim of a stolen tax refund, contact the IRS Identity Theft Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-998-4490.

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A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE...

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These little guys provide so much entertainment. The Pygmy Nuthatches, who we would see occasionally, have been quite active at the bird feeders this winter. They do not spook easily and have often joined us in the summer scrounging for goodies in the very nearby deck railing. When I see them, I have to pause and remember how therapeutic these moments are to be entertained by these tiny avians.



They are as cute as all get out with their round bodies and

cropped tail. They are quite sociable both in birdom as well as with homo sapiens. The ol' "it takes a village" is true of them. Almost like a wolf pack. A mating pair gets help from their extended family that aids with defense of the nest and incubating and feeding of the pair's young.

And amazingly to keep warm, it is a group hug in cavities of pine trees, while dropping their body temperature. Those traits make them unique among North American bird species. They really prefer Ponderosa pine, where they also nest and climb up and down – more down than up – to snarf down those salient insects. We definitely have the Ponderosas. Our score. As well as theirs.

As songbirds, their call has been described as like a rubber ducky. My rubber ducky lost its squeak, so I will have to rely on the experts to verify this assumption.

OK, here is a sobering statistic – they weigh a third of an ounce and need 9 calories a day. There are more calories in my morning toothpaste than that.

In Your Jammies

Yes, you can do your own backyard bird count with a cup of Joe in your hand, still in your jams, while balancing your binoculars in your other hand and then recording what you see. A partner comes in handy to do the documentation and bird book look up or refill your coffee cup. Often that person is called a "husband" or "wife" or "grunt."

Continued on page 23



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WILD SIDE Continued from page 22

Cornell University, the Audubon Society, and other organizations are sponsoring this event. The next GBBC (Great Backyard Bird Count) is February 12-15. There is a modest fee, but well-worth all the research that they do.

Short Takes

Ah, February...the month that the bluebirds begin returning. The male goldfinches don their waist coats of brilliant yellow. The house finches drag out their babe magnet red feathers. And then the screeching Evening Grosbeaks go for mating costumes that only Hollywood divas can provide, checking out new feeding grounds as theirs in other places diminish.

We encountered a Perry Park couple in Wal-mart who have the gigantic red rock in their back yard or as what is known as a "rock yard." Ahem. They told us of a bear doing a spread eagle position on the rock, facing the sun, soaking in the rays, and just enjoying the day. Sob. No photo. But it brought back memories of my youth on the beach or just trying to grab some rays, of course for Vitamin D. Hey, surely the bears need Vitamin D, also. Unfortunately, they do not have much skin to expose for adsorption.

And did you see the 60 Minutes segment about the mountain lions in the Los Angeles area? Please check out **CBS.com** and watch it. It covers what happens with mountain lion territory being encroached on by people, with their communities becoming isolated by highways clogged with cars. The results of this dilemma are horrific for this species. Very sad and disturbing, particularly after they went through a major extermination back in the late 1800s and into the 20th century. This area was among those that paid bounty hunters to exterminate them. For more information on this move, please read the book recommended to me by Lynn Casey – *The Beast in the Garden*. The initial setting is in Boulder.

That's all, folks, for this month. Gotta run...bird feeders to fill while I go off and get a knee replacement, trusting others to diligently do my bird feeding duties. They better get it right or I will get pecked to death the next time I go outside in the daylight. I will have to be STEALTH.

Photo credit: Lois Manowitz

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



THE PERRY PARK SENTINEL

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The Perry Park Sentinel staff reserves the right to refuse any article or advertising submission.

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