



WESTRIDGE NEWS & VIEWS

A Monthly Publication of the Westridge Homeowners Association

Vol. 13 No. 2

February 2007

Circulation: 800

JOIN US!



Next HOA Meeting Sunday • March 18th • 1:30 p.m. Columbine Library

(West Bowles – East of Wadsworth – Next to Clement Park)

Agenda: Church of the Rock Update Please join us!

HOA Meeting: Church of the Rock

SPECIAL THANKS to all who attended our Westridge Homeowners' Meeting on December 12, 2006, at the Columbine Library, as well as the Community Meeting sponsored by and conducted at The Rock Church on West Alamo on December 19, 2006. It is **CRITICALLY** important that all area residents become aware and fully informed about the recent developments and plans proposed by The Rock Church for their future expansion. All questions and concerns expressed to date are also **MOST** important and appreciated.

With the holidays now passed, we need to have more Westridge residents come forth, become informed, learn about the impact(s) this expansion will have on our community, and share your concerns/comments.

PLEASE . . . MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help as we proceed in dealing with this critical issue. To volunteer your help, please contact one of the Officer/Board Members listed in this newsletter, or send your name, address and phone number to: WHOA, PO Box 621172, Littleton CO 80162-1172

COHOPE News

Council of Homeowners

Organization for a Planned Environment

Tuesday, February 6, 2007, at 7 p.m. COHOPE will feature **Kathy Hartman**, our new county commissioner. Please join us for this worthwhile meeting and hear Kathy's briefing about her goals and plans to serve our community. Questions are always welcome.

COHOPE is an umbrella organization of homeowner associations and homeowners in south Jefferson county. Their focus is to address issues that affect our community and quality of life.

Be still when you have nothing to say; when genuine passion moves you, say what you've got to say and say it hot.

- D.H. Lawrence

COHOPE regularly meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Peak (Foothills Fitness/Recreation Center on Ward Road adjacent to the Meadows Golf Course). These meetings are very educational, diverse, beneficial and interesting. They are free and open to the public.

Top 10 Crime Prevention Tips of 2006

1. Don't Assume Your Stuff is Safe in Your Driveway or Garage.

All too often, deputies respond to homes in nice, quiet residential areas where items have been stolen from an unlocked car or an open garage. It only takes seconds to access these areas and steal valuables: bikes, golf clubs, laptops and iPods. Most of these opportunity crimes can be prevented by keeping garages closed and cars locked. And if you leave your keys in your car — even in your own driveway or garage — you could easily lose your car too.

2. Teach Your Kids to Check First.

Charlie Check-First is a children's safety mascot who reminds

children, "Check first before you go anywhere with anyone. If you cannot check, the answer is no." Charlie teaches children how to deal with adults who may try to hurt them. To learn more about the sheriff's office Charlie Check-First child safety program, call 303-271-5665.

3. Don't Engage in Rage.

If you come across an aggressive driver, don't get sucked into road rage. Remove yourself from the situation by allowing the driver to pass. Don't exchange words, gestures or maneuvers. If you are unable to defuse the situation, call 911, but don't continue to follow the driver.

continued on page 3

One person with passion is better than 40 people merely interested.
- E. M. Forster

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Theft Prevention Reminder

The sheriff's office has seen a trend in iPod thefts at local middle and high schools. Valuables such as iPods, cell phones and wallets can be stolen quickly and easily when not properly secured. Leaving valuables in backpacks, gym bags or unlocked lockers makes them vulnerable to theft. The sheriff's office strongly recommends that students not bring iPods to school; students who do take these items to school should place them in a locked locker.

School resource officers are working to educate students in the schools about the risks of leaving valuables unattended. Please take the time to talk to your children about their habits at school—it may prevent the loss of hundreds of dollars' worth of electronics.

Also, citizens visiting local fitness centers or gyms should take similar precautions. When visiting the gym, place your valuables in a locked locker, or keep them with you.

To prevent the theft of valuables from your vehicle, do not leave items in a location visible to passersby. The best alternative is to place them in the trunk of the vehicle where they cannot be seen or accessed by breaking a window.

For more crime prevention tips, visit the Jefferson county sheriff's office Web site at www.jeffcosheriff.com.

Tax tips from the IRS

The IRS has provided information that may help you process your taxes.

Are you facing a lot of different tax questions this year? IRS experts have pulled together an overview of common tax issues in one convenient place – Publication 17, your Federal Income Tax. This updated publication, available on the IRS Web site, IRS.gov, contains a vast array of helpful information for individual taxpayers.

From stock sales to student loans, this nearly 300-page publication holds answers to many of your questions:

- Do you have a new child in the house? See Chapter 34 for the Child Tax Credit.
- Are you selling stock for the first time? Check out Chapter 16 for capital gains.
- Do you need to report the profit on your home sale? See Chapter 15 for some good news.

And the best part of Publication 17? It's free. To get a copy, visit the IRS Web site at IRS.gov or call 800-829-3676.

Information provided by

Sheri Pexa

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*****Anyone who wishes to be part of the Board, please contact any one of the board members with your interest.**

Committees

OPEN

COHOPE

If you would like to form a committee, please contact a board member for more information. Thank you for your help!!

The *Westridge News & Views* is published monthly by the Westridge Homeowners Association, a non-profit homeowners association. The HOA mailing address is PO Box 621172, Littleton, CO 80162-1172.

The deadline for articles and advertisements is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue except for the Jan. issue which is Dec. 6th. **All articles must be approved by the board for publication, or as space permits.** Appearance of an advertisement in this publication does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by the publisher or the association of the goods or services offered therein. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and not of the Board of Directors of your association or the publisher. Neither the Board, publisher nor the authors intend to provide any professional service or opinion through this publication.

For advertising info, contact **Colorado Lasertype** at **303-979-7499**, or e-mail getinfo@ColoradoLasertype.com. Visit our website

F.Y.I.

Here are some numbers to keep handy in case you ever need any assistance from the wonderful folks at the Jefferson county sheriff's department:

Emergency Only: 911

Non-Emergency: (303) 277-0211

Traffic Situations: (303) 271-KOPS (5677)*

*This number is for parking and driving violations that need to be brought to the attention of the sheriff's department. The streets are county property and part of their jurisdiction.

It's Not Too Late to Join Us!!

Your dues of just \$25 for the year helps support community activities, the newsletter and efforts to keep Westridge a first-class neighborhood! \$25 is a small price to pay to keep this community great!! Please send your dues in today. **Thank you!**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Make check payable to: WHOA
and mail to:

WHOA, P.O. Box 621172, Littleton CO 80162-1172

**Current members may use the above form
to renew your membership for 2007**

Crime Prevention, *continued from front page***4. Don't Place Outgoing Mail in Your Mailbox.**

Take it to the post office. Identity thieves often cruise neighborhoods looking for incoming and outgoing mail in mailboxes. Checks can be "washed" and used to steal your identity or money.

5. Don't Share Too Much in Online Profiles.

Whether it's a social networking site, dating site, or a personal homepage, don't share too much personal information. A stranger can use information such as your full name, where you work, the name of your school, or even your school mascot to identify you. Parents, monitor your teens' online profiles and educate them on the dangers of sharing too much online.

6. Report Suspicious Activity.

Trust your instincts. If something doesn't seem right in your neighborhood or your school, it probably isn't. Reporting suspicious activities might help the sheriff's office identify a suspect or a crime trend. For activities in progress, call 911. Otherwise, call the sheriff's office main number at 303-277-0211, or the Crime Prevention Hotline at 720-377-2190. Students can also use the statewide Safe-2-Tell hotline to anonymously report any safety issues at school: 1-877-542-7233.

7. Don't Stuff That Purse Under the Seat.

It's always a good idea to conceal valuables you may have in your car. But there are criminals who target areas like fitness centers and shopping centers, watching from the parking lot as people take pains to hide their belongings in the car before going inside. If you can, keep valuables in the trunk or take them with you when you leave your vehicle.

8. Lock the Doors and Windows, Even When You're Home.

Burglars don't often think strategically about how to access your home; they often take the path of least resistance. If your doors or windows are unlocked and they can easily get inside, they will. If they can't, they'll move on to another house.

9. Protect Your Account Information.

Do not give your credit card or bank information to anyone contacting you via e-mail or phone. Your own bank or card company will never contact you and ask you to provide account information. Once a year, run a credit check to be sure you haven't become the victim of an identity thief.

10. Start or Join a Neighborhood Watch Group.

Neighborhood Watch can benefit you and your neighbors by helping to increase awareness and reduce crime. Contact Crime Prevention at 303-271-5363 (north/mountains) or 720-377-2002 (south Jeffco). For more, visit www.jeffcosheriff.com.

—Sheriff Ted Mink

What's in a Name?

While many people know that the surname "Smith" is derived from a professional title, here are some other less common names and their accompanying trades:

- Fletcher - a maker of arrows.
- Sawyer - one who saws timber into planks and boards.
- Cooper - a barrel maker.
- Sutler - a merchant who sells provisions to soldiers.
- Lorimer - a maker of bits, spurs, and other metal accessories for horses.
- Baxter - a baker.

**Two More Students Complete
Judy Susman's 30 Book Reading Challenge!**

Judy Susman, Re/Max Professionals, says congratulations to **Madeleine Flack** and **Caleb Fosdick**. Madeleine and Caleb each read the required 30 books and received a free Blockbuster gift card for their effort.

Judy believes that encouraging our children to read is vital. Therefore, each child who reads 30 books earns a Blockbuster gift card! If you didn't get your reading card, they are available from the school library, the school office or directly from Judy Susman by calling 303-932-3322.

Because Judy also believes strongly in supporting our schools and our community, she donates \$100.00 from every home sale she generates from the Westridge Elementary School area. These funds are earmarked to support the Westridge Elementary technology and literacy programs. Judy has donated over \$2,000 to benefit the technology and literacy programs at Westridge.

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Westridge Resident Specialist!

Crime Trends

The Jefferson county sheriff's office would like to alert parents and daycare workers to a crime trend seen in the south area of Jefferson county.

There have been several incidents of purses and other items of value being taken from cars at daycare center parking lots while a parent is dropping off or picking up a child. Please remember to lock your vehicles, even if you only plan to be gone for a moment.

The sheriff's office has noted a trend in burglaries in the south area of Jefferson county. In several cases, suspects have used the victim's garage door opener inside the victim's car (parked in the driveway of the home) to open the garage and steal property. Please be sure to lock your car even when parked in your own driveway. Also, always keep your garage door closed...even when you're home.

For more crime prevention tips, please visit:
www.jeffcosheriff.com

B'nai Chaim Shabbat Services

B'nai Chaim, a Reform Jewish Congregation serving southwest metro Denver, will conduct Shabbat Services on February 2 and February 16 at 7:30. All services will be held at Congregation B'nai Chaim, 4716 South Coors Lane. An Oneg Shabbat will follow. All are welcome. Call 303-697-2668 or visit our website at www.bnaichaim.org for more information.

In the small matters trust the mind, in the large ones the heart.

- Sigmund Freud

Teen Services

This list is provided as a free service to residents of Westridge. If you would like your teen's name added to this list, please call Colorado Lasertype at 979-7499. No recommendation or endorsement of any of the names on this list is implied or stated by Colorado Lasertype or the association board. Categories: (B) Babysitting; *Red Cross Certified; (P) Pet & House sitting; (L) Lawn care/Snow removal

Kaydee Carson	12	B*	303-904-0765
Kaitlyn Dean	15	B/P*	303-973-0119
Melissa DePinto	16	B/P*	303-904-4342
Lauren Hedge	16	B*	303-904-1172
Hannah Rossiter	16	B*/P	303-933-7605
Lexi Weiman	15	B*/P	303-972-1280

Chase your passion, not your pension.

- Denis Waitley

Important Numbers to Have on Hand

Jeffco Sheriff (non-emergency) 303-271-0211
 Jeffco Sheriff (parking violations) 303-271-KOPS
 Jeffco Graffiti Hot Line 303-271-8247
 Jeffco Commissioners 303-271-8525
 Animal Control 303-271-5070
 Weed & Pest Management 303-271-8758
 Zoning Violations 303-271-8725
 Jefferson County Website www.co.jefferson.co.us.

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Basement Finish, Remodeling- We do it all w/integrity, quality workmanship & affordable pricing. 26 yrs. exp., free est. Advanced Homebuilding 720-530-0121 [2]

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HIGHLANDS PRIDE PAINTING- Int/Ext. Fully ins/ref. 303-738-9203

Door Doctor- Garage doors & openers. Sales, service & install. 303-973-2045

Concrete-New/replace drvwy, patio sdwlk. Free est Kirk 303-979-5628

Stephane's Housekeeping- The most reasonable prices & dependable service. Free est. Call Stephane 303-973-0388

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Winter Wildlife Alert

The snow and wind of recent weeks have been making life difficult for wildlife in Jefferson county and throughout the state. Elk and deer in Jefferson county are making their way toward roadways and train tracks that have been cleared. They are apparently attracted to these areas for relief from the difficult, snow-crusted terrain, as well as the salt in the gravel on the roads.

The sheriff's office urges motorists to drive with extra caution during this cold spell and be aware of the possibility for more wildlife near our roads. In December, 50 percent of auto accidents on Highway 285 in Jefferson county were animal-related; also in December, 25 percent of accidents on Highway 74 in Evergreen were animal related.

If you or someone driving near you hits a deer, elk, or other wild animal, please contact the sheriff's office. If you deem the situation to be an emergency -- for instance, creating a road hazard that might cause an accident -- please call 911. Otherwise, please call our non-emergency number at 303-277-0211.

State law dictates that only law enforcement officers may put down wildlife injured as a result of a traffic accident. While there are many people in the community capable of properly putting down an injured and suffering animal, state law requires that deputies undertake this task. Please call and provide the animal's location so that a deputy can quickly and humanely handle the situation and render the roadway safe again.

Thank you, and please drive safely.

Dealing with Floaters

Do you ever see small specks or threads that seem to be floating in your vision, drifting along with your eye movements? These are appropriately called floaters, and according to the University of Illinois Eye Center, they are small clumps of cells in the vitreous humor, the clear jelly-like substance of the eye, that cast shadows on the retina. Floaters become more common with age. Occasionally, floaters can signify a retinal tear, which can be treated with surgery, but most of the time they are harmless, if a bit annoying.

Valentine's Day, Feb. 14

While this holiday of love represents the single most profitable 24-hour period for florists and is a boon to candy and card companies, private investigators also report a surge in business. Many handle double their normal case load as they snoop to see who is buying gifts and spending time with illicit valentines.

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Important Help for Our Firefighters

With the recent snowstorms, it is extremely important to keep fire hydrants visible and clear of the deep snow.

Therefore, anyone living in close proximity of any fire hydrant is encouraged to help by keeping the fire hydrant visible and clear of high snows. Fire personnel were hampered when fighting a recent fire near Ken Caryl since they had to shovel away the snow first before they were able to connect to the area hydrant. In such emergencies, every minute is essential in saving lives and/or property. Such awareness and help from the community is truly appreciated.



Graffiti Reporting Reminder

This is a reminder to call and report all graffiti in our community. 720-377-2190

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Hall of Famer: Rosa Parks, Feb. 4, 1913

Often called the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," Rosa Parks was born in Tuskegee, Ala., the granddaughter of slaves. She attended Alabama State Teachers College, eventually marrying and moving to Montgomery, Ala., where she worked as a seamstress. She was active in the local chapter of the NAACP, which had long disagreed with the Jim Crow law of public transportation that stipulated that black passengers had to ride in the back of the bus and stand to let white people sit. On December 1, 1955, on her way home from work, Parks boarded a bus and sat in the front of the "colored section." As the bus became crowded, the driver insisted that Parks and three other black passengers give up their seats to allow white passengers to sit. The other three complied, but Parks remained sitting. She was arrested, convicted of disorderly conduct, and fined \$14. This prompted the Montgomery Improvement Association, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to organize a boycott of the city's buses, asking Montgomery's commuters to carpool, walk, or take cabs to work. The boycott ended a year later when the Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on buses is unconstitutional.

In her autobiography, *My Story*, Parks said people often viewed the incident as a case of a tired, old seamstress who merely wanted to sit after a long work day, but she noted that she was 42 and that she was not physically tired. "No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in." In her later years, Parks worked as a secretary for Rep. John Conyers' congressional office in Detroit. She also helped to found the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development to help young people. In 1996, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and in 1999, the Congressional Gold Medal. After her death in 2005 at 92, her casket was placed in the rotunda of the nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C. She was the first woman in American history to be laid in state, an honor usually reserved for Presidents.

Hail to the Chief

Whenever the President of the United States appears at a formal occasion, the band plays "Hail to the Chief." According to the Library of Congress, the song was written in 1810 by the English composer James Sanderson for a musical production of Sir Walter Scott's poem "The Lady of the Lake." It was first associated with the Chief Executive on February 22, 1815, when it was played to honor the late George Washington and the end of the War of 1812. In 1829, Andrew Jackson became the first living president to be honored by the tune. President Chester Arthur disliked the tune and asked John Philip Sousa to compose a new one, but President Harry Truman reinstated "Hail to the Chief," and in 1954, the Department of Defense declared it the official musical tribute to the President.

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