



WESTRIDGE NEWS & VIEWS

A Monthly Publication of the Westridge Homeowners Association

Vol. 13 No. 11

November 2007

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Let's Talk

Letter to the Editor
Columbine Courier

RE: September 26th article: "Not All Westridge Neighbors Oppose Church Expansion"

Dear Mr. Bell:

The Westridge Homeowners Association (WHOA) would like to thank *The Columbine Courier* and **Matt Gunn** for printing the above-entitled article. Any exposure to our community's plight is welcomed.

The Westridge residents (and Rock Church members) quoted in the article, **Janet Fecht** and **Cecilia Dymecki**, are valued members of our community. WHOA respects their opinions, but believes they are misinformed as to the issues regarding The Rock Church's expansion, and other challenges faced by our neighborhood. We would like to take this opportunity to provide clarification.

WHOA's opposition to the proposed expansion is the same as the Jefferson County Planning Division's opposition, which has been provided to the church in writing by that agency. Here is an excerpt from the letter from the county to The Rock dated April 2, 2007.

"Therefore, it is Staff's position that the facility is already at or beyond the scale of what would be appropriate for the community, and does not support a rezoning that would allow further expansion."

Despite what Janet Fecht states, The Rock has done nothing to address neighborhood concerns regarding the size of the

expansion, or the related impact on the neighborhood. In fact, the Rock's more recent proposed development plans show an increase in the overall project size over earlier proposed plans.

Janet Fecht also states "the purpose of this building is not to bring in 500 more people." Despite this assertion, The Rock's true intentions for the "youth center" were revealed during a community meeting hosted by the church last July.

For almost a year, Pastor **Bruce Fosdick** has told the community that the 17,000 square foot building was a "youth center" for children to play basketball in while their parents are attending church. However, at the above referenced community meeting, church elder **Wendell Bash** admitted that, in fact, the "youth center" would be utilized as an event center. This building would be used to host weddings, receptions, conferences, large meetings, and other activities. After some very heated questioning, Mr. Bash admitted to the crowd that the "youth center" would have no time restrictions on use – it would operate 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

For those of you unfamiliar, there is huge demand in our area for large event centers. The Jefferson County Fairgrounds staff will tell you that theirs is booked months, sometimes years in advance and it is only 10,500 square feet. Jeffco's event center seats 900 for conferences, 600 for banquets and 250-classroom style. Their 400 parking spaces are often full.

This concern by WHOA is not unfounded. The church's development

plan does not preclude the church from renting out their buildings for large weddings, receptions, conferences, etc., and there is no time limit on the uses, events could go to the wee hours of the morning and during the hours of operation of the adjacent Westridge Elementary school. Additionally, The Rock has spun off at least two "satellite" churches. We are quite sure that they too will be taking advantage of such a large facility.

In addition to the 17,000 square foot "youth center," The Rock plans to add 16,000 square feet of meeting rooms as well as an additional 4,500 square feet of administrative offices. The typical office is 10 x 15 feet or 150 square feet. Why would the church need to add 30 offices if it does not plan on increasing the number of people using the facility? If the church's true intent is to use the "youth center" for only the current church's children, it would be very easy to add manner of use and time restrictions to the development plan. To this date, the church has refused to do so.

Janet Fecht also asserts that "The majority of the people have a 'no position' stance." This statement is just plain wrong. Anyone who has attended the two church-sponsored community meetings regarding the expansion and the monthly HOA meetings will tell you that *hundreds* are opposed.

Janet also states, "it's these people who are older members of the community. They don't have children, and they don't

continued on page 3

Westridge Financial Report

Last Reported Balance 6/6/07	\$1,933.57
Income	
Members Fees	\$.425.00
Insurance Refund	\$.662.26
Expenses	
Attorney Fees & Court Costs	\$.227.98
Colorado Lasertype (newsletter & flyers)	\$.52.55
Stamps & Office Supplies	\$.347.83
Insurance (semi-annual)	\$.421.00
Ending Balance 10/1/07	\$.1,971.47



RV & Trailer Parking Illegal on Jeffco Streets

The Sheriff's Office receives quite a few complaints about recreational vehicles, boats, etc., parked on residential streets. In many cases these large vehicles are blocking visibility for drivers in the area. There is a Jefferson County resolution that holds that no major recreational vehicle or trailer may be parked on any county roadway in a residential district in unincorporated Jefferson County for a period of more than 14 days in any one-year period. The Sheriff's Office may issue a citation or summons for this violation if there are at least two witnesses from separate households who have signed a complaint with a deputy (see county resolution 5.54). Violators will be issued a parking summons. If the violation continues, the vehicle is subject to towing.

To make a complaint, call dispatch at 303-277-0211. When leaving a message on the KOPS line regarding a traffic issue, remember to provide as much detailed information as possible. That information should include the time of day and/or days of the week that violations are occurring, the location, vehicle descriptions, and any other details that may be useful to the traffic unit.

COHOPE

Guest speaker **Bruce Daly**, RTD district representative, discussed the difference of opinion with Jeffco commissioners regarding the proposed FasTrack line to Golden. Commissioner **Kathy Hartman** rose to defend the county's demands, which include two track lines covering the entire route. The size of station parking lots also came under fire.

After reviewing Westridge's covenants as well as the proposals of The Rock of Southwest church, COHOPE members voted to send a letter to the county Planning Commissioners requesting denial of the zone change sought by the Rock.

The sheriff's crime report for September included 3 cases of arson, 37 assaults, 22 burglaries, 30 drug charges, 15 family disturbances, 4 government property damage, 1 kidnapping, 31 mischief, 2 morals charges, 7 motor vehicle thefts, 48 disturbances of the peace, 34 property damage, 76 thefts, 1 dwelling trespass, 28 vehicle trespass, 7 unlawful sexual behavior and 3 weapons charges.

Foothills Park and Rec. representative **Colin Insley** was asked to explain how and where property tax money is used and why the proposed mill levy went from 1.5 to 3 mills. Mr. Insley will provide answers at the next COHOPE meeting.



Sometimes I think the surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that none of it has tried to contact us.

—Bill Watterson

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<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/jeffco/wridge>

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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 at ColoradoLaserType.com

Important Numbers to Have on Hand

Jeffco Sheriff (non-emergency) 303-271-0211

Jeffco Sheriff (parking violations) 303-271-KOPS

*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.

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.

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!**

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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**

The Rock, continued from front page

have vested interest like we do." Again, anyone who attended the two church-sponsored community meetings would have seen all age groups in attendance and almost all are opposed to the church's expansion. Many of those who are volunteering their time to the HOA to oppose the church's expansion are parents with children of various ages. Regardless though, both parents and non-parents have an interest in making sure our neighborhood remains a quiet, peaceful place free from the kind of traffic that the Rock's expansion will generate.

Janet Fecht also expresses her opinion as to "other issues the HOA should be spending its money on." The HOA strives to be involved in any issue that affects the well-being of our community. We are quite aware that the church expansion is not the only issue in the community. It does however, happen to be the issue that poses the greatest impact to our residents at this time.

In answer to Janet's question "I want to know what they're doing about the 10 to 15 houses that got tagged last week," WHOA has done much in the area of prevention and removal of graffiti in the community. Earlier this year, WHOA established a graffiti committee which included residents of the community, Sheriff's deputies and members of Foothills Parks and Recreation. The committee worked to better understand the graffiti problem and to develop strategies to control it. One such strategy was that Foothills would remove graffiti at Blue Heron Park, which had the most instances of tagging, as soon as it was discovered in order to dissuade taggers. Foothills Parks and Recreation has done a great job in that area, and our thanks to them.

Another strategy was to have sheriff's deputies patrol Westridge more frequently, particularly during the evenings and nighttime hours. In the case Janet mentions, the Post/News carrier discovered the graffiti in the very early morning hours and notified the Sheriff who notified homeowners. Those cases are under investigation. Both WHOA and the Sheriff remain committed to fighting acts of crime in the Westridge neighborhood.

As to Janet's assertion that there are "houses that are run down and have wild animals living in them," we must confess that we are not aware of this problem. Janet, like all Westridge residents, may contact the HOA to report any violations of the covenants. Additionally, we would encourage Janet to contact Jefferson County Animal Control if she knows of a house with wild animals living in it.

In closing Janet, we invite you to pay your dues and join our HOA. We would love to have you!

Sincerely,

Naomi Ashcraft, President
Westridge Homeowners Association

November comes
And November goes
With the last red berries
And the first white snows.

—Clyde Watson

Valuable and Helpful Community Websites

Westridge Homeowners Association:
<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/jeffco/wridge>
COHOPE Council of Homeowners Organization
for Planned Environment: cohopejeffco.com

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Indecent Exposure in South Jeffco

There have been several cases of indecent exposure reported in south Jefferson County in recent months.

Indecent exposure is alarming to most people, particularly because it is usually associated with window-peeping and violation of one's privacy and personal space. It is considered a sex offense and upon conviction, offenders may be required to register as sex offenders.

Perpetrators of these crimes are typically active at night and utilize darkness and shadows to obscure themselves while they

watch their victims.

Here are some tips to deter these criminals from visiting your home:

- Keep window blinds and drapes closed when it is dark (all windows and doors should have treatments to protect your privacy)
- Install motion sensor lights, particularly on the back of your home, to alert you to unwanted visitors prowling on your property
- Use landscaping to your advantage – rock beds around the perimeter of your home make noise and prickly or thorny bushes can keep people away from windows
- Keep all doors and windows closed and locked, even when you are home

Should you observe a prowler on your property:

- Go inside
- Lock the door behind you
- Call 911
- Do not attempt to chase or apprehend the suspect

If you have any questions or would like additional safety and crime prevention tips, please contact your crime prevention deputy at (720) 377-2002.

The purpose of this notification is to inform you of recent criminal activity in your area. Please be alert for any suspicious activity and report it immediately to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office at (303) 277-0211. In the event of an emergency, please call 911 and be prepared to provide the location of the emergency.

—Sheriff Ted Mink

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Got Coats??

It's that time again! Judy Susman is ready to start her 12th annual COATS FOR COLORADO drive. Judy will do the legwork and make it easier for you to contribute by picking up your donations and delivering them to the

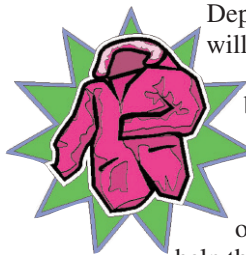
Dependable Cleaners collection site. She will also bring you a donation receipt.

Judy wants to make this drive an even bigger success than in the past. Well-over 1,000 coats have been collected from Judy's coat drives.

If you have coats that you don't need or want, and you wish to participate and help those less fortunate than you, please call

Judy Susman at 303-932-3322 by Wednesday, November 7th with your name, address and phone number to schedule a pickup on Saturday, November 10th between 8 and 10 a.m.

Participants will be entered into a drawing for a free holiday turkey – one entry for each coat donated. The turkey drawing will take place on Sunday, November 11th.



CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are \$2.70/line. Call Colorado Lasertype at 303-979-7499 to place an ad. The deadline for placing a classified or display ad is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue (i.e., 15th of Sept. for Oct. issue).

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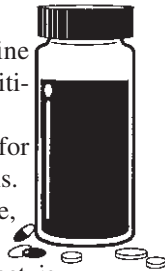
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How to Spot Fake Prescription Drugs

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy estimates that 1 to 2 percent of the drugs in North America are counterfeit and warns that the practice is on the rise. It offers these safeguards:

- Don't buy prescription drugs online unless it's through the website of a legitimate pharmacy.
- Examine your medicine closely. Look for runny coloring or shoddy logos on pills.
- Watch for changes in appearance, taste, or efficacy in the medicines you take.
- Bring any medication that you suspect is counterfeit to your pharmacist or doctor right away.



Success and rest don't sleep together.

—Russian proverb

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

Ryan Clark	15	L	303-972-4478
Corinne Dubovsky	12	B*/P	720-981-5021
Tessa Fecht	13	B*/P	303-933-7605
Emerald Mansur	12	B*	303-948-1910
Hannah Rossiter	17	B*/P	303-842-2996

Graffiti Reporting Reminder

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

For advertising information, ad rates and details about our graphic and web design services, visit our website:

ColoradoLasertype.com

Testing Cholesterol

Most of us know it's important to have our cholesterol tested because high levels can lead to heart attacks and strokes. But how often? According to the Mayo Clinic, adults should have their cholesterol measured every five years, starting at age 20, with more frequent tests if levels are high. Earlier testing is recommended, even for children, if they have a strong family history of heart disease.

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Presidential Libraries

On Nov. 19, 1939, in Hyde Park, NY, President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the cornerstone for the first presidential library. Roosevelt believed that his papers and other materials — such as books, photographs, and official gifts from foreign countries — belonged to the nation, and he had the idea of creating a special library to contain them. Roosevelt raised private funds to build the facility, which was dedicated on June 30, 1941, and then turned it over to the United States government to operate through the National Archives. In 1950, President Harry Truman followed suit with his own papers, building a library in his hometown of Independence, MO. In 1955, Congress passed the Presidential Libraries Act, which established a system of privately erected and federally maintained libraries and museums. Today, the Office of Presidential Libraries administers a nationwide network of 11 facilities. Although Roosevelt began the tradition, his predecessor, Herbert Hoover, is also represented. About 1.3 million people visit presidential libraries each year.

Coffee May Prevent Gallstones

Coffee drinkers have another reason not to quit: recent studies show that the brew can reduce the risk of developing gallstones. According to study results published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, men who drank four or more cups of caffeinated coffee per day were 45 percent less likely to develop gallbladder disease; those who drank two to three cups experienced a 40 percent lower risk. The Nurses Health Study found that women who drank four or more cups daily were 28 percent less likely to have their gallbladder removed. Gallstones are caused when liquid bile stored in the gallbladder crystallizes into sharp stones that can be trapped and cause inflammation. Doctors believe that caffeinated coffee helps lower cholesterol concentrations in bile, reducing the tendency to form stones.



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