



THE HONKER

Columbine Lakes Community News

Vol. 02 No. 12

December 2009

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President's 2009 Annual Report

The largest matter confronting the Columbine Lakes community was the repair/replacement of the pool roof and the heating/cooling system for the pool area. The roof shingles, as well as the support beams, were replaced and/or repaired as found to be necessary by the construction team. This was undertaken by the firm of Smith Construction. The upside of this project was that it was accomplished for thousands of dollars less than was originally presented to the Board. All pool pumps and drain covers now meet the federally mandated Virginia-Graeme Baker Act.

The second item of accomplishments in 2009 was the installation of the key card security system. This card system has been mostly user friendly and is becoming even more so as we continue to learn how to fix the occasional problems. This system has resulted in much higher usage of the facilities, especially in the use of the billiard and ping-pong tables and the racquetball court.

A large event for our community was the retirement of our Clubhouse Manager, **Lydia Cristello**. Lydia was our manager the last 16 years and off and on during the last 30 years. We owe her a large THANK YOU for keeping things moving along all that time! We had a farewell and thank you party for Lydia in June, which was well attended.

We have welcomed our new Clubhouse Manager, **Rosanne Beers**, who is doing a good job. She is the newsletter contact person and editor. Stop by the Clubhouse and introduce yourself to Rosanne.

The Board has been offering incentives to residents to purchase and install low-flow toilets and energy efficient washing machines. This is in addition to the incentives provided by Denver Water. People have been able to collect total rebates of up to \$225 per toilet and up to \$250 for a washing machine depending on the models selected. Our effort has met with some success, but has not been as successful as we thought it would be. The Board will continue reminding residents of this program in the hopes that there will be more participation. Even if Denver Water discontinues their program next year, our 2 associations will continue to rebate \$100 per toilet or washing machine.

The Board also voted not to raise homeowner's dues at this time.

Congratulations to new board members **Bill Dodd and Dennis Beers**. We look forward to your contributions in the upcoming months.

— Louise Carlson



Important Communication From the Board

As many know by now, a concerned homeowner requested that the Board consider options to handle the goose population and the excrement that comes along with having geese on the property. The Board requested and received feedback from homeowners on this issue because we listen and consider requests made by residents. The overwhelming sentiment was that the geese are part of this community and are enjoyed by many. The company with the Border Collies has been notified that their proposal is not under consideration.

The Board understands the concerns of the homeowners who are displeased with the goose excrement. We are open and willing to consider any ideas from homeowners on how to deal with the goose excrement that does not involve removing the geese from the property, or involve excessive fees.

We would like to thank all of you who provided us with thoughtful and respectful input. We value your opinions.

At the same time, we received 2 letters from anonymous authors that were full of misinformation, false allegations, insults, and threats about Kent Kuhlman, our property manager, and board members. One letter, in particular, made some serious allegations against Kent that are blatantly false and ridiculous. The Board and Clubhouse Manger have full confidence in Kent and appreciate his knowledge of our community and Association Law, his professionalism, and his dedication to this community. Unless you regularly attend board meetings or are active volunteers in our community, you may not know how knowledgeable and helpful he is to all of us.

To those who wrote anonymous letters, please know that residents' opinions are important to us and you do not have to resort to such tactics to be heard. Additionally, there is no way to address someone's concerns that does not sign their correspondence.

"Happiness is a small and unworthy goal for something as big and fancy as a whole lifetime, and should be taken in small doses." —Russell Baker

December Calendar

Activity	Date	Time(s)
Ladies Bridge	1st Tuesday	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Pinochle	2nd Tuesday	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Bunco	2nd Friday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
No HOA Mtg.		
Aerobic Swim Group	Tue-Sat	8 a.m. – 9 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Clubhouse and Office Hours
Mon. closed • Tues. - Fri.: 1 - 5 p.m. • Sat. 2 - 6 p.m.

Next HOA Meeting
No Meeting
In December!
Happy Holidays!

Annual Maintenance Association Meeting

Tuesday, December 8th at the Clubhouse.

All are encouraged to attend. An annual meeting notice will be mailed in the near future. Please return your proxy or attend.

The Maintenance Board met November 9, 2009. Present were **Vicky Haddock, Bonnie Douglas and Patricia York**. Both Vicky and Pat have agreed to run again for a 2-year term. They will appreciate your support.

The 2010 budget was approved and asphalt repairs were ordered for various road failures including a pot hole in front of the school.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Cecilia Kelsey, Outgoing Vice President

Thank you, Cec, for serving on the Board. Only people who have been on the Board or worked closely with board members have any idea of what is involved. You are appreciated and admired for all that you have done. Thank you for being my newsletter proofer, for all the times you have come in to sign checks and party room applications, and for being such a good supporter of our President. I'd say enjoy all your newly found free time, but I know better!

— Rosanne Beers

Social Committee Report

We had our Bingo game night November 20th, contrary to the schedule in the November Honker. I had not realized that the last Friday would be the day after Thanksgiving. I also did not check the calendar to see the last Friday in December is Christmas, and I doubt that many of you would attend, so no Bingo until January 29th.

We keep telling you how much people who volunteer are helping our community. In the past years, Lydia, our Clubhouse Manger, has organized a Christmas decorating day. Now that Lydia has retired, **Dorothy Evans** has volunteered and recruited her husband, **Bob**, as well as **Sherry Brienzi, Joelle Bromfield, Joanna Breggin, and Caryl Morrell** to decorate. Decorations will be up by the time you receive this newsletter. On behalf of the residents, thank you Dorothy, Bob, Sherry, Joelle, Joanna and Caryl.

Several dishes have been left in the Clubhouse kitchen. Please pick up any you may have forgotten to take home.

Have a wonderful holiday season,

— Paul Morrell for the Social Committee

A New Committee Is Forming

If you are interested in serving on a committee to coordinate arrangements when someone in our community needs our support, please call the clubhouse. I have someone who has offered to be the initial contact in coordinating these efforts. There are a few of us who have been trying to work together to pull things off in the past, but a contact person will be immensely appreciated, and a few more volunteers who would like to be involved in this cause would be an asset to the community. I can attest to how much this means to the families that are served.

— Rosanne Beers

2009 Board of Directors

Ann Louise Carlson, President
303-730-2564
lcarlson22@q.com

Laura Dougherty, Secretary
303-797-0764
ldougherty@lrflegal.com

Cecilia Kelsey, Vice President
303-734-1616
kelsey_cec@msn.com

Paul Morrell, Member-at-Large
303-979-7436

Gaston Pougnet, Treasurer
303-795-7824
gjpougnet@comcast.net

murfmor@aol.com

COMMITTEES

Architectural Control Committee

Janie Hubka, 303-797-1273; Helen Oatis; Bob Haas

Social Committee

Rosanne Beers, Paul & Caryl Morrell,
Jerry Murray, Dot Smebye, Sherry Brienzi,
Bonnie Douglas, Ron Carlson

Landscape Committee

Fred Garland, 303-794-5866, fgarland31@msn.com,
Rosalind Ogden, Doris Knapp, Bill Krempasky, Rene Valero

Young Families Committee

Katie Tice, 303-730-5740, Katie@petsfly.com,
Dave Robinson

RTD Senior Ride Committee

Dot Smebye, 303-674-5831, Dsmebye@msn.com

Security Committee

Janet Kanatser, Cathy Southern, Sandy Eggleston, Ken Shelton

Repair & Maintenance Committee

Dave Gusky, Chairman

MAINTENANCE BOARD

Bonnie Douglas, Vicky Haddock, Pat York

CLUBHOUSE

4192 W. Pondview Dr., Littleton, CO 80123, 303-795-8222
email: ColumbineLakes24@msn.com

WESTWIND MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.

Property Manager: Kent Kuhlmann
15150 E Iliff Ave, Aurora, CO 80014-4513, 303-369-1800
Fax: 303-369-0007, Email: kent@westwindmanagement.com
For Work Orders call 303-283-0061

The *Columbine Lakes Honker* is published monthly by the Columbine Lakes Townhouse Association, a non-profit homeowners' association.

The deadline for articles and advertisements is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue except the Jan. issue which is Dec. 6th. **All articles must be approved by the editor for publication, or as space permits.** To submit an article, e-mail an attachment to Lydia at ColumbineLakes24@msn.com. All letters or articles need to include your name and daytime phone number. All articles must be approved by the Board for publication, or as space permits.

To place an ad, call Colorado Lasertype, **303-979-7499** or e-mail getinfo@ColoradoLasertype.com • www.ColoradoLasertype.com

Appearance of an advertisement in this publication does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by the Association of the goods or services offered. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and not the Board of your Association. Neither the Board, publisher, nor the authors intend to provide any professional service or opinion through this publication.

National Stress-Free Family Holiday Month

Don't let your family drive you crazy. Remember to make some quality time for family togetherness in the midst of all the holiday bustle.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are \$2.80/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), except the January issue, which has a deadline of December 6th.

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Looking for **Great Holiday Gift Ideas?** **Partylite Candles & accessories.** Contact Jan. www.partylite.biz/janderby or **303-979-3880.** Online ordering now available.

Aminals Pet Sitting Service: Pet sitting (in your home). Bonded & ins. Refs. avail. Call Nancy at **303-335-6237**

Drywall & Basement Finishing Services. **26 years experience. Gary 303-829-6363**

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED: Spring International Language Center at Arapahoe Community College is seeking families to host international students. Families must be interested in cultures, have private bedroom for student. Compensation of \$650/month for room & board. For more information, contact **Missy at 303-794-2622.**

Tree trimming & removal- Columbine Tree Svc. 303-979-5330. 32+ yrs exp. [12]

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On the Wild Side 12-09

A Stream, A Brook, A Trickle

A small stream feeds our pond all year long. During summer storms, it can rage through the ponds, overflowing the banks of the spillways by 20 feet on either side. At other times, it slows to a mere trickle. Is there anyone in our community who knows what the source of the water is or knows what the stream is called?

Skot Latona, with South Platte Park, is very knowledgeable about the water systems in the south metro area and has very detailed maps of the area. On the map, the stream seems to appear out of nowhere northwest of here and feeds our ponds on its way to the South Platte River. It doesn't appear to come from the Marston Reservoir.

Perhaps some of you who have lived here a long time would have information that could help us figure out this mystery! If you do, please email **Kent Kuhlmann at kent@westwindmanagement.com.**

You may contact me for questions or with interesting sightings through the clubhouse at **303-795-8222.** Thanks!

— Deb Carstensen

Connecting With Spirit

When I need to reconnect with my spirit, my first choice is to head to the mountains. I want to see Rocky Mountains, pine trees, and hear bubbling brooks. *This is the place where all my senses soak in the beauty God created – a place where I feel one with the universe.* At that moment, everything seems possible and I am totally fulfilled.

But, I can't always head to the mountains, so I've had to find other ways to reconnect with spirit. *I find simple pleasures everywhere.*

When I go for a walk, I come back feeling on top of the world. Sometimes when I'm alone doing chores, I get into my own rhythm and experience pure contentment.

I love night skies, especially when it's crisp and clear, and I look up and see a thousand diamonds sparkling down on me. During winter months there's nothing better than curling up in front of a fire with my journal and reflecting on all the wonders of life.

And, I can get completely in the flow when I am creating art.

What about you? How do you reconnect with your spirit? I find spirit at the core of making life changes.

— Rosanne Beers

Free Teen Services List Available For Teens

We offer a free teen services list for teens living in Columbine Lakes. Our categories include: (B) Babysitting, (*) for Red Cross certification for CPR; and (P) Pet & House Sitting. To be included, please call **Colorado Lasertype at 979-7499** and leave the following information: the **neighborhood you live in** (this is very important - we do 22 newsletters and need to know which one your name is in), your age, phone number and the categories you would like included. No recommendation or endorsement of any of the names on this list is implied or stated by the homeowners association board or Colorado Lasertype. Thank you.

— Colorado Lasertype



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Call us to ask how to get added to one of the categories above!
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www.ColoradoLasertype.com

Accomplish More with Less Effort

Achieving all that you want without major cost requires that you take good care of yourself. People that put themselves first by attending to their own needs discover that they can accomplish more with less effort.

Commitments, unfinished projects, and dissatisfaction with your life all drain your energy. They cause you to lose clarity about who you are and where you want to go. When you tolerate too many things, your work quality and production suffer, you feel tired, and your creativity also suffers. In fact, your whole quality of life is significantly diminished and you can't feel joyful.

Putting yourself first strikes some people as selfish. It is not. Putting yourself first is the most loving thing you can do for yourself, your family and other people. Only when you put yourself first can you come from a place of joy and fulfillment. From that place, you can truly be supportive of others.

If your giving is not coming from a place of joy and fulfillment, it is coming from your attempt to get a need met and you end up feeling unappreciated in the process. On top of that, the people you are sacrificing for are apt to feel resentment and guilt over the obligation.

There are two ways to run your life. One is nearly effortless and the other is draining. Which will you choose? By integrating the concepts presented here, your life will become much simpler and you'll accomplish more with less effort. The benefits are many:

- **You'll feel happier.**
- **You'll be naturally lighter and more fun to be around.**
- **You'll be more in touch with yourself, which makes it easier to express your values, gifts and talents.**

Whether you realize it or not, there is a direct correlation between your level of self-care and the amount of struggle you experience in your life. You will notice that the way I'm defining self-care is probably broader than the definition you're used to.

— Rosanne Beers

National Handwashing

Awareness Week, December 6-12

Sponsored by the Henry the Hand Foundation, which seeks to raise awareness of the health benefits of washing your hands to avoid the spread of disease.

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This 'n That

We had about a dozen or so critters for Halloween and I hear that some folks didn't have any. That's too bad because there were lots of folks prepared with treats. But some decorations and spirits (pun) were out, so we'll wait for 2010 to see what happens.

The last board meeting was well attended. New board members were elected and we'll have to wait to find out who will fill what position next year. We all thanked the members who had volunteered their time and talents.

It turned out that the turkeys were the only ones in the fowl world with a problem. Speaking of Thanksgiving, I hope your year was filled with blessings.

It's hard to believe that as the Honker arrives, some organized folks will be all prepared for Christmas. Some families will look forward to being together and all sorts of colored paper and ribbons will appear. Remembering the real reason for Christmas still seems to be the motivation for most Christians, but did you know we could all celebrate Hanukah too? Hanukah is the happy Festival of Lights that celebrates saving the children marked for death in Egypt.

Is there anyone who plays the guitar, accordion, piano or other instrument that would like to accompany an occasional sing-along at some of our social events? Without your help, we are jovial, but not necessarily lovely, as many of us don't have great voices, but loud ones! Please let Rosie know or call me at **303-674-5831**.

RTD Senior Ride takes a tour of the city Christmas lights on December 16th. Call **Pat Zeller at 303-797-8649** or **Dot at 303-674-5831**.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!!

— Dot Smebye

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