

# Ponderosa News

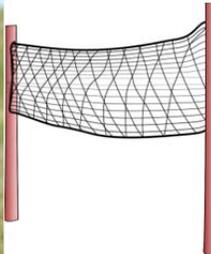
The Newsletter of the Ponderosa Hills Civic Association

Spring 2016

www.ponderosahills.org



## Don't Miss the Annual Ponderosa Hills Pancake Breakfast!



This fun, free event is a great way to meet your neighbors and enjoy a morning outdoors in our own magnificent park!

**Pancakes!**  
**Bacon and Sausage!**  
**Pastries!**  
**Coffee!**  
**Games!**  
**Special Guests!**  
**Families!**  
**Story Tellers from**  
*Cherry Creek Spellbinders!*



**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**9am - 11am**

**FUN!!**

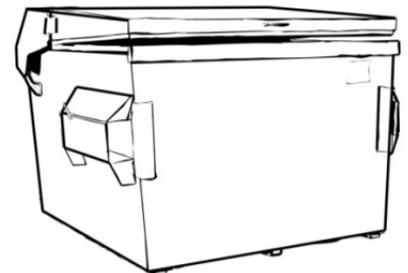
**Ponderosa Park at Woodland Trail and Piney Creek**

## And Remember, Summer Brings the Ultra-Popular Ponderosa Hills Dumpster Day!

**SATURDAY**  
**AUGUST 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Ponderosa Park at Woodland TR & Piney Creek**  
**8:30 am - 11am**

**Dumpsters, Chippers, Metal Recycling, Donation Truck**  
*First load free with your PHCA membership.*



## Ponderosa Paving Update

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners held a meeting to gather further input from Ponderosa Hills residents on the County’s plan to pave Ponderosa Drive and part of Summit Road.

Eighteen people testified before the Commissioners, 9 for and 9 against paving. The County also reported that among the emails or letters submitted in advance of the meeting, the tally was 44 for and 10 against paving.

The Commissioners decided not to take any further action and let their previous decision to pave Ponderosa stand. The County has appropriated \$340,000 for the project, and we will be providing periodic updates on the construction schedule, road closures, etc. as that information becomes available.

## More Roads Stuff

You may have noticed the rubber counting strips strewn across the roads around the neighborhood. In relation to all of the development going on in the surrounding area, the completion of the Inspiration-Antelope roundabout, and the Ponderosa paving project, the County is proactively assessing traffic counts, hourly patterns, and speeds in the neighborhood. One thing they are evaluating is the need for stop signs on Piney Creek Road, Antelope Trail, and Summit Drive, and may take action to address the intersection at Ponderosa and Pine Drive (it can be very difficult to cross Pine safely during peak traffic times).

Anecdotal evidence from residents suggests that the new roundabout at Inspiration has significantly decreased daily traffic along Antelope Trail!

The County traffic engineers like to stress that decisions concerning stop signs, lights, posted

speed limits, etc., are based on empirical traffic data to maximize safety and traffic flow, but it certainly never hurts to submit your own input on these matters!

### PHCA Board Update

The Board is pleased to announce our newest member, Sarah Klug! Sarah and her young family are new to the neighborhood (since November), and she brings a fresh perspective and lots of enthusiasm. All 10 seats on the Board are now filled, a great testament to the surging involvement throughout the neighborhood that we’ve been seeing over the past year. Welcome Sarah!

### PHCA Treasurer’s Report

Checking	\$7,757.76
Savings	\$2,653.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,411.56</b>

## Dead Trees

As always, please take steps to expeditiously remove any dead trees on your property. This is important for the entire neighborhood: fire safety; disease and insect prevention; and aesthetics.

While PHCA doesn’t endorse specific providers, we can refer you to a tree service if you contact us ([board@ponderosahills.com](mailto:board@ponderosahills.com)), or you can check out the [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com) website for specific recommendations from your neighbors.

## Give Us a Brake!

Several residents on Inspiration Drive have complained about the noise created by construction dump trucks on a daily basis when they use their extremely noisy 'jake brake' (engine exhaust brakes).

Inspiration is a ‘NO Jake Brake zone’ and is supposed to be posted (it is not) .The Board has brought this situation to the County’s attention, and they do advise that homeowners call the Douglas County Sheriff and Aurora Police to complain. They are the two departments that can enforce this ordinance.

### Important Messaging



PHCA's red "Drive Slow" sign campaign has been popular, and now includes a yellow version with the message "Enjoy the View". It has been shown that signs like these sprinkled around a neighborhood can be effective in getting drivers to pay attention and drive more responsibly, especially if you move your sign around or swap messages and colors occasionally. (Remember, post only on your actual property, not the public right-of-way.)

With that in mind, the PHCA is also developing a companion sign campaign around **high fire danger** for residents to use at critical times during the year.

As always, if you are interested in a sign, send a quick email to [board@ponderosahills.com](mailto:board@ponderosahills.com).



### NO BUTTS ABOUT IT !

Nobody wants to be known as the person who burned down the neighborhood! PH residents have been noticing a proliferation of cigarette butts on our roads, carelessly thrown there either by drivers or walkers. Of course, not only is this littering, but it is also profoundly dangerous. PLEASE dispose of your butts properly. If you think that workers or others visiting your property might be contributing to this problem, please have a word with them.



### How's Your HIZ?

Wildfire season is upon us again. The quality of the defensible space around your home combined with the structure's ignitability determines the size of your Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) – anywhere from 100-200 feet. We should all be taking steps to protect our home from wildfires by reducing or eliminating fuels and ignition sources within our own HIZ.

**Zone 1 – Out to at Least 30 Feet:** Minimize flammable groundcovers (wood chips, etc.). Remove pine needles (highly flammable!) from the roof, and rake back at least 10 ft. from all structures. Store firewood at least 30 feet away, uphill if possible. No overhanging branches. Prune, maintain, and irrigate any landscaping. The fewer trees, the better.

**Zone 2 - Out to at Least 100 Feet:** Remove dead or dying trees and shrubs. Remove enough trees to create at least 10 feet between crowns. Prune ladder fuels (old/dead branches, etc.) to 10 ft. above the ground. If you have a long driveway, include the trees within a 30 buffer on both sides out to the road. Try to mow wild grasses to a max. height of 6 inches, especially in Fall.

**Zone 3 - Beyond 100 Feet:** Gradually step down the mitigation techniques of Zone 2, with the goal of transitioning to a healthy forest/wildland that includes trees of multiple ages, sizes, and species. Mowing is not necessary.

PLEASE CHECK OUT THIS EXCELLENT WILDFIRE MITIGATION WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO  
[firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness.aspx](http://firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness.aspx)

## Be Smart. Be Prepared.

Every neighborhood has its own set of likely/possible emergencies that common sense dictates we need to be ready to deal with. Here in Ponderosa Hills, these include Wildfire, Snowstorms, Power Outages, Tornadoes, and probably others. From time to time we'll be publishing important ways that you can best prepare for events that hopefully never happen, but probably will.

A good general website for more information is [readycolorado.com](http://readycolorado.com).

The more of us who are prepared to ride out a difficult time, the better off the entire neighborhood will be. Please take a moment to assess your family's situation, and spend an hour or two now and then to improve your readiness!



## Today's Emphasis: WATER

How will you get water in an emergency? It is recommended that you be able to provide 1 gallon of water a day, per person, for a minimum of 3-10 days. Some websites recommend 30 days of water storage.

Our wells are of particular concern. Without some form of power you will not be able to get water out of your well. If you have a generator to supply power for your well do you have enough fuel to run it? You may want to treat the fuel so it can be stored for a longer period of time.

Storage in containers. Water needs to be stored in food grade containers and treated to prevent microbial growth, and should be changed every 6 months. Unscented bleach can be used to treat water, 1/8 t. bleach for every gallon of water if clear. Cloudy water needs 1/4 t. per gallon.

Do not store water containers directly on concrete; place them on some type of platform such as a pallet. Water should be in airtight containers and protected from light and heat. Water does go flat after being stored and you can aerate by pouring back and forth between containers.

Your water heater is a great source of clean water in an emergency. Hot tub water could be used for non-drinking purposes. Also, if you have some advance warning of say, an impending windstorm or snowstorm, you can scrub and then fill your bathtub or even fill an inflatable kids' pool or better yet, a collapsible emergency water tank. These are designed for just such occasions.

There are many websites that provide more detailed information, here are a few.

[jwcd.org/water/emergency](http://jwcd.org/water/emergency)

[www.cdc.gov/healthywater](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater)

[http://www.waterandhealth.org/drinkingwater/water\\_storage.php3](http://www.waterandhealth.org/drinkingwater/water_storage.php3)

<https://www.lds.org/topics/food-storage/drinking-water-guidelines?lang=eng>

## Keep Ponderosa Hills Clean!



### PARKER HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL ROUNDUP

This is a great service provided by Douglas County. Bring your unwanted household chemicals to be safely disposed and recycled! We must keep this nasty stuff from finding its way into our wells and septic systems.

They WILL Accept:

- House and garden chemicals
- Automotive fluid, fuels
- Fluorescent light bulbs and CFLs
- Scrap metal
- Propane tanks (1-20 lbs.)
- Vehicle and household batteries
- Items containing mercury
- Car and pickup truck tires, off rim
- Oil-based paint and paint products

They CANNOT Accept:

- Business and commercial waste
- Radioactive waste
- Explosive waste
- Smoke detectors
- Waste containing asbestos
- Compressed gasses other than propane
- Tractor tires
- Medical waste

**SATURDAY  
MAY 21<sup>th</sup>  
9am-3pm**

**Parker Joint Services Center - 17801 E. Plaza Drive  
(The Fire Department training facility at Twenty Mile RD and Plaza)**

### Congratulations!

After several years of arduous training at Parker Academy of Martial Arts, 11 year-old Brogan O'Connor on Antelope Trail has earned his Black Belt in Tae Kwan Do. Hi Ya!



***“All the News that Fits,  
We Print!”***

*If you have some news, advice, or interesting tidbits, why not share with your neighbors? Did you enjoy an interesting trip recently? Kid graduate from college? Have a club or event the neighbors might enjoy? Send it along to [soconnor@shm-us.com](mailto:soconnor@shm-us.com), and we'll try to work it into the Ponderosa News quarterly newsletter or other PCHA communications.*

### BBB Launches Scam Tracker to Help Fight Fraud and Scams

- Taxes
- Debt Collection
- Sweepstakes
- Tech Support
- Work from Home
- Credit Cards



These are just some of the top scam categories you might run into. Check out this tool that offers a heat map and search capability showing where particular scams are being reported.

**[bbb.org/scamtracker](http://bbb.org/scamtracker)**

## Ponderosa Hills Services Directory

This directory of services is provided as a service to PHCA members and does not constitute an endorsement by the PHCA Board of Directors. Send your ad requesting or providing a service to [board@ponderosahills.com](mailto:board@ponderosahills.com). If you no longer need the service, please let us know. The editor retains the right to edit or reject any advertisement.

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a partial list of  
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 is on the back




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