

# Ponderosa News

The Newsletter of the Ponderosa Hills Community Association

Fall 2016

[www.ponderosahills.org](http://www.ponderosahills.org)



**SORRY TO BE SO LATE WITH THIS NEWSLETTER – WE COULD USE HELP, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!**

## Recap of PHCA Annual Meeting

### 2016 Annual Ponderosa Hills Civic Association Meeting

The annual meeting was held September 22 at the Parker Senior Center. We had a good turnout and some terrific speakers. Cathy Lichty, the current President of the PHCA, introduced the new Board for the 2016/16 year.

#### 2016/17 PHCA Board

- Terry Bell
- Janet Finer/Jensen
- Sandra Fish
- Jeremy Hixon
- Cathy Lichty
- Gary Rasmussen

**The Board has four remaining opening for new members.** If you are interested, send an email with a short biography and the reasons for your interest to [board@ponderosahills.com](mailto:board@ponderosahills.com).

Terry Bell is an experienced board member who has agreed to return again to the board and lend her years of experience. All of the other members are returning members whose term will continue for one more year.

You can see the necessity of increasing this year's board to bring on new two year members.

The next board meeting will be held in October and officers will be elected at that meeting. A sincere thank you is extended to all of the returning members and to Terry Bell for once again agreeing to serve.

### Issues for the 2016/17 Board to address:

- ✓ Improvements to the open space and bridal trail
- ✓ Improvements to the Ponderosa Park sign
- ✓ New Ponderosa Hills neighborhood sign(s)
- ✓ Continued efforts to reduce speeding
- ✓ Continued efforts to promote fire prevention
- ✓ Monitoring development plans in surrounding areas and evaluating the effect on life in P H
- ✓ Represent P H interests at Douglas County planning meetings

### Guest Speakers at the annual meeting

#### **Rhett Everett, USGS Well Water Concerns.**

Rhett explained about our Denver Basin Bedrock Aquifers of Douglas County. He stated that Ponderosa Hills' wells are from the Upper Dawson, Lower Dawson, and Denver Aquifers. This is good since we all are not drawing from the same aquifer. He also stated that a study between 2012-2016 shows that our water table is only dropping about ½ foot a year in Ponderosa Hills. He suggested that we still use our water sparingly but that we may see some ground water seepage into the aquifers to provide some replenishment in wet years. If your well goes dry or has problems, you are able to drill a deeper well, at your own cost.

## Recap of PHCA Annual Meeting (cont.)



**Pine Dr. and Ponderosa**  
Started by homeowner burning  
wood chips in a container.



**Two views of Spring Creek fire**  
Started by rodent chewing on electrical lines.

## *An Appeal for Safety and Common Sense!*

### **Einar Jensen from the South Metro Fire District.**

Einar's message was that Preparedness pays off! He stated a **recent fire in Ponderosa Hills** was extinguished more easily and quickly because the homeowner had done **mitigation of low lying branches on trees and had mowed grass down short**. This kept the fire damage down to about 3 acres of just brush, and no buildings or structures. Rapid response from all the surrounding fire districts and the Douglas County Sheriff's office also made a difference. The fire department was on site in 8-9 minutes after the fire was called in. Einar stressed the importance of clearing 30 Ft. around your house, then move out to 100 Ft., if possible.

### **Donation checks awarded**

Donation checks of \$500 were presented to Einar Jensen of South Metro Fire District for **Fire Safety Fund** from PHCA and to Tim Moore, Douglas County Sheriff's Department, for the **Fallen Officer's Fund**. PHCA was delighted to take the opportunity to commend our local first responders and to celebrate the high level of cooperation these organizations have exhibited with the Ponderosa Hills community. Tim Moore also gave us an update on the Douglas County detective still in critical condition but recovering at our local hospital. This detective was involved in an unfortunate encounter with a resident near Sierra Middle school.

### **Roads in Ponderosa Hills**

Sandra Fish provided an update on the roads. Ponderosa Drive and part of Summit Rd have been paved. Douglas County is still working on getting everyone into their driveways. In the next two weeks, DC will be finishing the sides of the roads and installing the horse/hiking path on the north side of Ponderosa Drive. The traffic study will continue after the paving is completed. They are still considering installing stop signs at various intersections in PH, especially the intersection of Pine Drive and Ponderosa Drive.

There is no change with the Inspiration Dr and Gartrell Rd. intersection. The builders must have around 750 permits before Aurora will finish the connection. At that time, Rocking Horse Parkway will be closed off at Inspiration Dr.

**Members seeking to address the board can request an invitation to the board meeting by sending their request to [board@ponderosahills.com](mailto:board@ponderosahills.com).**

**Editor's Note: There have been four fires in and around Ponderosa Hills in the last two months.  
FIRE DANGER IS HIGH! TAKE EXTREME CARE!**

### **Four Board positions remain open, and we need you!**

The PHCA Board is privileged to interact with our neighbors on a wide range of neighborhood issues. We receive a steady stream of inquiries, comments, and helpful input on items large and small. Often this input comes in the form of truly in-depth thought and analysis, and sometimes downright serious research and legwork on the part of individual PHCA members.

Why not channel your energy, brainpower, and enthusiasm for Ponderosa Hills directly into the neighborhood?! Being involved is rewarding, interesting, fun, and couldn't be easier: the PHCA Board meets once a month, typically on Wednesday evenings.

***Join the Board! You know you want to!***  
[board@ponderosahills.com](mailto:board@ponderosahills.com)

### **Treasurer's Report**

Checking & Saving	\$5,726
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<u>Water Fund CD</u>	<u>\$17,472</u>
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We have 385 homes/lots in Ponderosa Hills of which 40% are members for 2016 of PHCA.

### **WHY ARE THE FAUNS SO LATE??**

Residents in Ponderosa Hills may have been scratching their heads over the apparent lateness of the appearance of fawns in the last few years. Could something be causing the mule deer in our area to drop their fauns later? Well, yes.

Mule deer live in areas where humans like to live or hang out, like Ponderosa Hills. Human disturbance as well as weather, habitat loss, disease, predation, and cars take their toll on fawns and adults. At the start of the hunting season, round mid-September, fauns should be well on their way to losing their spots. They should be putting on fat for the winter. The fauns in the Ponderosa Hills area have not lost their spots as yet, not this year anyway, suggesting that something may be affecting the breeding season.

The breeding season for most Rocky Mountain mule deer begins in late October with fawning occurring as early as late May and peaking in June. Mule deer have a gestation period of about 210 days. This year we did not see the does drop their fauns until late July or August. We can only hope they get a long mild autumn to give them time to fatten up.


Mule deer may be a hindrance to those wanting to grow flowers, especially roses. They can jump out at your car quite unexpectedly and they can certainly set the dogs to barking, but they are also a big reason that residents and visitors love our rural setting.

Information gleaned from an article on the [Muey Madness website](#); *It All Starts With the*

## 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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7905 E. Hampden Ave. #100 • Denver, CO 80231



**KATIE MARKMAN**  
THE POWER TO MOVE YOU

PHONE 303.944.5202  
EMAIL [KATIE@KATIEMARKMAN.COM](mailto:KATIE@KATIEMARKMAN.COM)  
WEBSITE [WWW.KATIEMARKMAN.COM](http://WWW.KATIEMARKMAN.COM)

*Katie Markman*  
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[paul@coloradoenergygeeks.com](mailto:paul@coloradoenergygeeks.com)



**Monique Durham**  
Broker Owner, CRS, GRI, CNE, SFR

Cell (303) 884-9223  
Office (303) 779-7979  
Fax (303) 223-3445  
E-mail [Monique@homesinparker.com](mailto:Monique@homesinparker.com)  
Website [www.RealtyInColorado.com](http://www.RealtyInColorado.com)

**Realty In Colorado, LLC**  
8480 E. Orchard Road, Suite 1100  
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If you are a PHCA member in good standing and would like your business advertised in the PHCA Newsletters, contact Board @ponderosahills.com. There is no charge for inclusion for PHCA members.