



the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

Oct 01
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Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery™

“Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery™” is a national home fire safety campaign sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (ICHIFFS) and Energizer.

Home fires. Somewhere in the nation, a home fire occurs every 85 seconds. The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.—when most people are asleep.

Tragically, many people mistakenly believe they’d be awakened by the smell of smoke in time to escape, however recent clinical experiments have found that the sense of smell lessens during sleep. In addition, smoke disorients people, making their ability to respond worse.

Fire deaths peak in winter months—December through February. Smoking materials and poorly installed, main-

tained or misused portable or area heating equipment are leading causes of fatal home fires.

Children and Home Fires. Children ages five and under are twice as likely to die in home fires. About 900 children die annually in home fires, 80% of whom were in homes without working smoke alarms.

The Issue: Smoke Alarm Neglect. Although smoke alarms are present in 94% of U.S. homes, 20% don’t work, mostly because of worn or missing batteries. That means nearly 16 million homes are at needless risk.


In the U.S., between 75 and 80% of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Half of the home fire deaths resulted from fires in the small percentage of home (6%) without any smoke alarms. Data

indicates that the US continues to have one of the highest fire death rates among the industrialized nations.

If a fire occurs, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire nearly in half by providing early warning and extra seconds to escape. Due in large part to smoke alarms, home fire deaths dropped to 2,895 in 1999—the lowest ever recorded.

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Calendar of events

Firefighter trainings and meetings:

Held at fire station on Saturday mornings from 0900-1200, unless otherwise noted.

Nov 3, Sat, 0900-1200 – Hazardous Materials Training

Nov 8, Thurs, 1930-2130 – Officer meeting

Dec 1, Sat, 0900-1200 – Incident Command/Communications (ICS, radios, pagers)

Medical trainings:

Nov 21, Weds, 1930-2130 – Gold Hill Fire Barn

Board meetings:

Second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 pm, fire station, all community members are welcome

Nov 13, Dec 11

Special Events:

Sep 27, Sat, 1700-1930 – Sunshine Schoolhouse, Childrens Halloween Carnival and Spirits of Sunshine Historical Spook Walk, Adult Dance Craze party to follow 2000-2300

Since the training schedule is subject to change, please call Assistant Chief John Metzger at 303-440-1921 to confirm.

(Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery cont. from p. 1)

The National Fire Alarm Code recommends a minimum of one smoke alarm on each level of a home, one inside each bedroom and one outside each sleeping area.

So, when you change your clock back on Oct. 28th, take a few minutes to change the batteries in your smoke alarms, as well as take a few other fire safety prevention measures such as:

- √ Push the test button to make sure the alarm works
- √ Clean smoke alarms by vacuuming them. Repeat the cleaning monthly.
- √ Check flashlight batteries and place working flashlights near all beds to help family members exit if electricity is not working or to signal for help during a fire.
- √ Plan and rehearse two escape routes during a fire and select a meeting place for family members outside the home.
- √ Replace smoke alarms every ten years as components may degrade over time.

Information provided by ICHIEFS and Energizer™ brand batteries. For additional fire prevention information, please contact Bruce Honeyman, SFPD Fire Marshal.

Current board

Rich Landen, Chairperson

Bill Bender, Treasurer

Kimberly Neill, Secretary

Nancy Talmey, Member (retiring)

Jay Schumacher, Member

David Wheeler, Member

Eric Bader, Fire Chief

John Metzger, Asst. Fire Chief

Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal

Board meetings are at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the fire station.



Contact information

Eric Bader, Fire Chief

Home ph. 440-8123

Work ph. 444-8420

Pager 441-3851 #4561

SFPD-Chief@egroups.com

John Metzger, Asst Chief

Home ph. 440-1921

Work ph. 786-7000

Pager 441-3851 #4562

john@metzger.com

Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal

ph. 303-786-7731

SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com

Chief's Message

Talmey Thanks. Nancy and Paul Talmey are moving out of our district. I want to wish them a wonderful new life in Telluride. I know that all of us in Sunshine will miss them. Nancy Talmey has been serving on the Sunshine Board for a long time. She has been chairman of the board in years past. She has done a great deal of work as a board member for the betterment of our district. I want to thank both of them for being an active part of Sunshine.

With Nancy leaving, we have a position available on the Sunshine Board.

Volunteer Requirements. Volunteers are needed. We need to have footers put in at the station for the new Diesel tank stand if anyone is interested in concrete work. We hope to have a new Forest Service truck this month that uses diesel.

Swimming Pools. If anyone plans on putting in a swimming pool, please contact Eric Bader at 303-441-3851 pager number 4561, then enter your phone number. We have had two swimming pools built this past year that have fire department hookups. We can draft from these pools in an emergency. These pools are helping the Sunshine Fire Department work toward a lower ISO rating for the district. I want to thank the two households that put in the extra plumbing for the fire department and encourage anyone that is putting in a pool to contact me so that I can explain what is needed and see if it will work with your new pool.

Firewise Landscaping. The following

is from the Firewise program sponsored by the National Wildland/Urban Interface Program.

To create a firewise landscape, remember that the primary goal is fuel reduction. To this end, initiate the zone concept. Zone 1 is closest to the structure; Zones 2-4 move progressively further away.

Zone 1. This well-irrigated area encircles the structure for at least 30' on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency. Plantings should be limited to carefully spaced fire resistant species.

Zone 2. Fire resistant plant materials should be used here. Plants should be low-growing, and the irrigation system should extend into this section.

Zone 3. Place low-growing plants and well-spaced trees in this area, remembering to keep the volume of vegetation (fuel) low.

Zone 4. This farthest zone from the structure is a natural area. Thin selectively here, and remove highly flammable vegetation.

Also remember to:

Be sure to leave a minimum of 30' around the house to accommodate fire equipment, if necessary.

Carefully space the trees you plant. Take out the "ladder fuels" vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops. It can carry fire

to a structure or from a structure to vegetation. Give yourself added protection with "fuel breaks" like driveways, gravel walkways, and lawns.

When maintaining a landscape: Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Prune all trees up to 6' to 10' from the ground. Remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches. Mow your lawn regularly. Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.

Store firewood away from the house. Use care when refueling garden equipment and maintain it regularly. Store and use flammable liquids properly. Dispose of smoking materials carefully. Become familiar with local regulations regarding vegetative clearances, disposal of debris, and fire safety requirements for equipment. Follow manufacturers' instructions when using fertilizers and pesticides.

Additional information on the Firewise program can be found at: www.firewise.org

Eric Bader
Sunshine C-1

Tax Deductible donations can always be sent to:

Sunshine FPD
311 County Rd. 83
Boulder, CO 80302

Anyone donating money to the fire department will get a letter from us thanking you for your donation and giving you a tax deductible record.

Volunteer Profile

I had the good fortune to call Linda Luchangco on a night when she had laryngitis—not that I didn't want to speak with her, but most people are too modest to talk about themselves. Luckily, Tony was handling her calls and was proud to share her contributions.

Since moving to Sunshine in '94, Linda has been an indefatigable volunteer, with active roles in the Arts & Craft Fest, Halloween Carnival, Schoolhouse quilt project, annual Sunshine potluck, Community Fest, Schoolhouse Centennial Celebration, and Schoolhouse New Years Eve party.

After the Sept. 11th tragedy, Linda and Tony organized a very touching gathering at the Schoolhouse, where the bell was rung, a moment of silence observed, and patriotic songs sung.

Additionally, Linda brings neighbors together by hosting many social activities, including the Ladies Coterie, Bunko and the Christmas Cookie Exchange.

Her involvement draws upon what Tony considers her strongest traits: active commitment, artistic talent, and exceptional organizational abilities. Linda has a long history of volunteering, including a very strong involvement with the Boy Scouts while living in Manila.

It was an odd twist of fate that led Linda and Tony to Boulder from their home in the Philippines. They had planned to move stateside when Tony retired, but Linda liked Cape Cod and Tony preferred Hawaii. Then their second son, Charlie, surprised and shocked

them by choosing CU Boulder over Arizona State as his college choice. In an irritable mood, they came to Boulder in the summer of '89 to help him move in. When they saw the Flatirons, it was love at first sight.

Next semester, they returned to check on their son. To kill an hour while Linda was engaged, Tony drove up Sunshine Canyon. He was so impressed with the beauty of the canyon, that he told Linda that if she could find a house within 10 minutes of 4th and Mapleton—at a great price—to buy it. Tony returned to Hong Kong where he was working as a private banker and thought no more of it. He was completely caught off guard when Linda called to say she had just bought a house.

For the first three years, the house was used as a second home for them while visiting their son. When their daughter Vickie also enrolled at CU in '94, Linda moved the whole family here while Tony continued to work in Hong Kong, though visiting frequently. Linda oversaw an extensive remodeling which doubled the size of the house, originally built around '78 and owned by the Earnshaws. In '98, Tony finished his contract with Merrill Lynch and joined Linda here.

Tony says they found it easy to fit into the community and make new friends here. Of course, they both have considerable experience adjusting to new environments. When Linda was thirteen, her father relocated the family to Manila. Similarly,

Tony's family relocated there from Shanghai. Linda learned Tagalog, the Philippine language, and to fit in to the local culture.

Tony, who met Linda at the International School, tells a story about a time Linda wasn't quite so successful. His uncle had invited them out to a festive dinner, including entertainment. As one of the few foreigners there, Linda got pulled onstage to learn the native Bamboo Dance. To Tony's puzzlement, her version looked more like the Funky Chicken as she held her arms tightly to her sides...to keep her baggy underwear from falling off!

Her multinational background and enjoyment of crafts led Linda to start her own gift basket business, Specialties International. Linda had friends all over the world from different social backgrounds who wanted to give personalized gifts reflective of their cultures. With her artistic and sewing abilities, Linda tailors baskets according to the givers' wishes.

Although Linda misses friends and family in Manila, she's delighted to be part of our community. Her children who originally brought her here are now far flung—Charlie lives in Hong Kong and Vickie in California—but her oldest son Dennis lives in Boulder. When asked if they plan on staying here permanently, Tony answered, "We're buying cemetery plots, I guess you'd call that forever."

The Big Blowup of 1910: the Day the Mountains Roared

David Tresemer sent me this wonderful piece which traces our Forest Service policy back to the Big Blowup of 1910. This created a war against fire, including cleansing fires, for the next 90 years. Now, for the first time, lawmakers are generously funding fire prevention, instead of fire suppression. Stephen J. Pyne's article, which I've excerpted, was published in the Apr 23, 2001 edition of High Country News. Ed.

“What happened that astonishing summer was that American society and American nature collided with almost tectonic force. Spark, fuel, and wind merged violently and overran 2.6 million acres of dense and variously disturbed forest from Idaho’s Selway Mountains to the Canadian border.

The sparks came from locomotives, settlers, hobo “floaters,” backfiring crews, and lightning. The Rockies had experienced a wet winter but a dry spring that ratcheted, day by day, into a droughty summer, the worst in memory.

The summer witnessed the first great firefight by the U.S. Forest Service. As the weeks wore on, the fires had crept and swept, thickening during calms into smoke as dense as pea fog, then flaring into wild rushes through the crowns. The fledgling Forest Service, barely five years old, tried to match them. It rounded up whatever men it could beg, borrow, or buy and shipped them into the backcountry. The regular army contributed another 33 companies. Then the Big Blowup shredded it all.

Perhaps 75 percent of the season’s total burn occurred during this 36-hour period. Smoke billowed up in columns dense as volcanic blasts; the fire’s convection sucked in air from all sides... Crews dropped their saws and mattocks and fled. That day, 78 firefighters died.”

“The idea that fire protection on the public lands meant firefighting was, in 1910, a novelty. Most of the general public were indifferent or hostile to aggressive fire control, barring fires that immediately threatened property of lives. Rural Americans relied on fire-burned everything from ditches to fallow fields and accepted the occasional wildfire as they did floods or tornadoes. The argument that one ought to systematically fight the flames, all of them, seemed odd, academic and ridiculously expensive.

The reservation of extensive lands for public parks and forests, however, broke that laissez-faire logic...The national forests existed to preserve the forests... If federal agents logged them off, they were no better than lumber companies or homesteaders. If they adopted wholesale burning, the lands were no differently managed than if they had not been reserved at all. To forestry officials it appeared plausible that clearing people out of the landscape, fielding patrols, and attacking the wayward flames would be enough.

Yet the critics were adamant. The doctrine of light burning or “the Indian way,” as it was called, was

remarkably pervasive. Almost all categories of settlers burned, and saw no reason to cease.”

“At national headquarters, foresters fretted whether the Great Fires might be the funeral pyre of the besieged Forest Service. In fact, those far removed from the flames saw them otherwise. They saw a gallant gesture, not an act of desperation. Quickly, the political tide turned in its favor.

The young Forest Service had the memory of the fires spliced into its institutional genes. Not until this entire generation passed from the scene would the Forest Service consider fire as fit for anything but suppression.”

“By the 1990s, the American fire establishment was a wonder of the world. It could field crews and aircraft to fight fire in numbers larger than the military of some Third World nations.

It seemed to many critics, and to not a few of its own members, to have broken. In 1994, wildland fires burned 2.5 million acres of the public lands, killed 34 firefighters, and swallowed up \$965 million off-budget; last summer burned still more land, more intensely, consuming upwards of \$1.6 billion. The full range of the costs of fire suppression became public in the 1990s, along with the admission that firefighting alone could not contain wildfire.”

Dear Sunshine Community,

On behalf of all the generous people who helped make this September's Community Fest a resounding success, thanks! We didn't have the Walker Ranch Fire to contend with this year, just the weather. In spite of the rescheduling to Sunday because of Saturday's snow, attendance was remarkable (only 18 fewer people than last year).

Although last year's \$7000 number would have been hard to eclipse with the economy being what it is and the reschedule to Sunday, we were able to raise over \$6000 to be used to supplement the taxes the Sunshine Fire Protection District collects.

I'd like to thank the volunteers who contributed time and effort to this year's Community Fest:

Pavel Bouska • John & Fran Clark • Donna Edwards • Paul Gatza
John Hoffman • Bruce Honeyman • Linda and Tony Luchangco
Eleanor Mahoney • Mary Mesch • Pat Noyes
• Steve & Dee Spencer • Lisa van Leuwen-Hall • Steve Waltman
Janice Wheeler • Doug Young

I'd especially like to thank Dorrie Higbee and Danny Williams for the tremendous jobs they did getting contributions. We had far more in the way of door prizes, raffle prizes and auction items than ever before.

...and to those many who helped clean up! Hopefully I've identified you all. If not, sorry.

I'd also like to acknowledge those area businesses/artisans who contributed their products to the Community Fest this year

Mike Aronson (wood bench)
Art Source International
Bart's CD Cellar
Boulder Bookstore
Boulder Drum
Boulder Outdoor Center
Cafe Alvarez
Celestial Seasonings
Color Me Mine
Dushanbe Tea House
El Loro Jewelry and Clog Company
Eldora Mountain Resort
Emiliana Folks Festival
Fred's Propane
Paul Gatza
Gaiam
Gold Hill Inn

Hangouts
Independent Motors
Indochine
Jenna Moran (riding lessons)
Mountain Sports
Mountain Sun Brewery
Oskar Blues Grill and Brew
Pedestrian Shops
Red Fish Brewery
Rocky Mountain Anglers
Rhumba Restaurant
Single Malt Band
Specialties International
String Cheese Incident
Sturtz and Copeland
The Med
University Bicycles
West End Wine Shop
Wild Oats

Thanks again for such a great event!
Stephen Hall
Community Fest Coordinator

Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



A Howling Halloween

The annual Sunshine Halloween Children's Carnival will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27th, from 5:00 to 7:30 at the Schoolhouse. The event includes games, crafts, treats, costume parade and carved pumpkin contest.

NEW! A Spirits of Sunshine Historical Spook Walk will accompany the Carnival. Be sure to wear warm clothes and good walking shoes.



A donation of \$5 per child or \$10 per family is requested and will include both events. Please bring a potluck dish. To volunteer, please call Holly at 444-8949.

Immediately following the Carnival is the ever-popular Adult Dance Craze Party from 8-11. *Who said Halloween is for kids?* A keg is provided and attendees are asked to bring a potluck dish. During the adult party, childcare is available for \$6 for the evening. Please call Holly by Oct. 20th at 444-8949 to reserve space and for location.

Mountain Gardening

Volunteers are needed for a reseed-ing project at the Sunshine Schoolhouse on Sunday, Nov. 4th at 10 a.m. The goal is to reclaim about 1/2 acre around the Schoolhouse by seeding it with Sandberg Blue bluegrass, Sheep Fescue MX86 blend, and a wildflower mix. After the planting is established, the area will be used as a romping area for children during our community gatherings.



With enough volunteers, the project should only take about 1.5 hours. Please bring a rake and gardening gloves.



Building a Pool?

If you're considering building a swimming pool next summer, please check with the SFPD to learn about how your pool can help lower the community's ISO ratings and, consequently, lower insurance rates. If the pool is 30,000 gallons or more, it can count as a district water supply with the same ISO impact as a cistern.



Sunshine Art & Craft Fair Results
The Sunshine Art & Craft Fair raised over \$800 from vendors' fees & donations which will be used for the Schoolhouse and Cemetery fund. Our thanks to the participants: Harry Covey, Dara McKinley, April Story, Dee & Steve Spencer, Ruby Heflin, June Howard, Sylvia Pettem, Anita Hanson, Janice Wheeler, Nina Landen, Linda Luchangco, Jim Armitage, Donna Edwards & her granddaughter Alex, Chris Voorhees, Rob Steinway & Michael the Potter.

Wildlife Watch

Persistent bear problems have led the Colorado Wildlife Commission to adopt an emergency regulation enabling state wildlife officers to ticket people intentionally leaving food and trash out for bears. Ticketed persons will be fined \$68 each for each infraction. However, the real price is paid by the bears—and that price is their lives. If a "problem" bear must be relocated, its ear is tagged. If a tagged bear must be trapped again, it is destroyed.

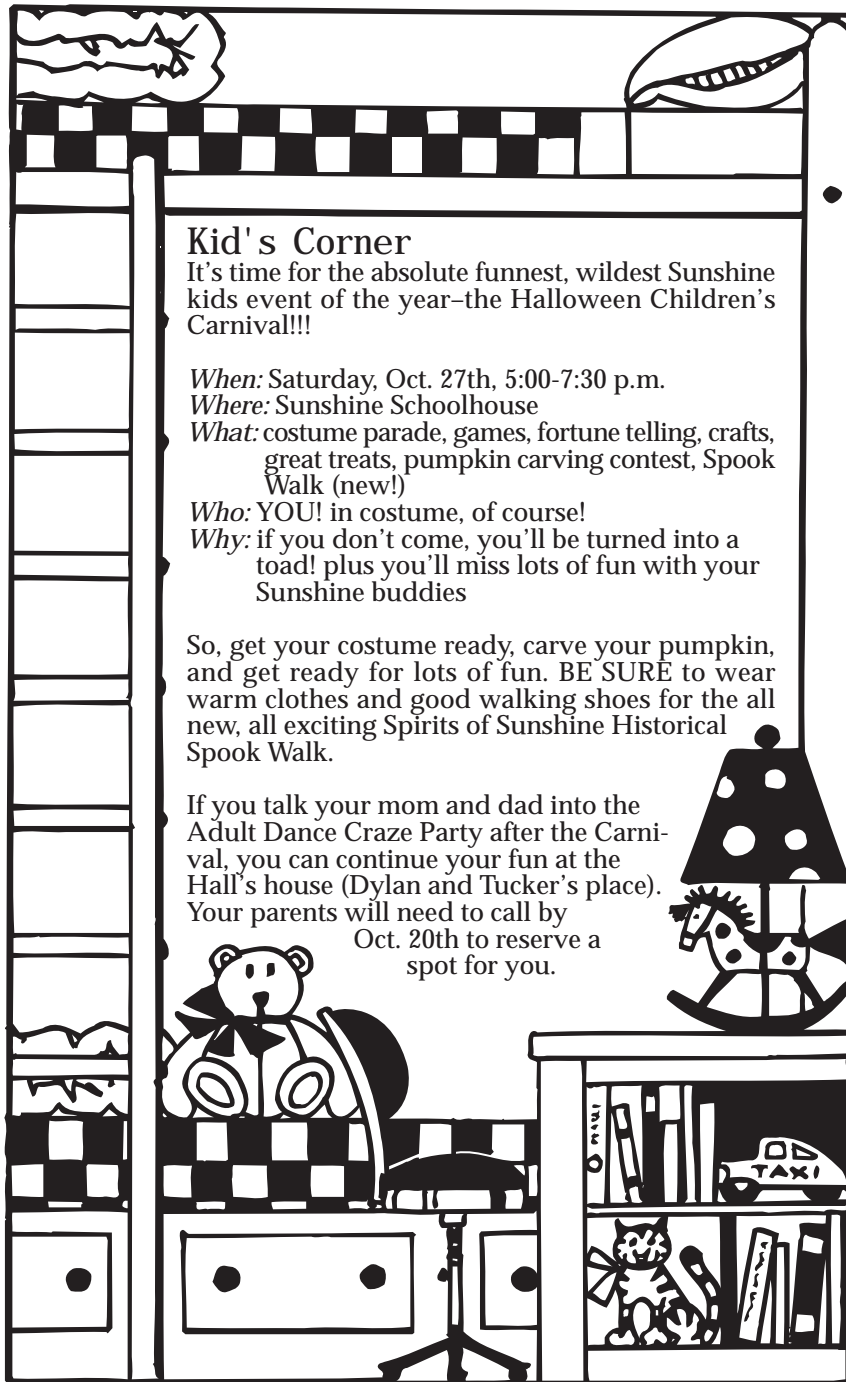


A dry spring and late spring freeze reduced natural forage for bears this year, so they are seeking additional sources of fuel. This often leads them into backyards, which are expanding at the rate of 10 acres an hour in Colorado. At this time of year, they become more aggressive in their foraging as they require 20,000 calories per day in preparation for hibernation.

Although the number of bear complaints is up sharply from last year, DOW bear killings are down from 25 to 14 bears due to officers making every attempt to chase away bears rather than trap them, avoiding strike one of their two strike policy.

At least one instance of a bear entering a Sunshine house has been reported this season. Besides eliminating outside food sources such as bird feeders, BBQ grills and trash, it's a good precaution to secure doors and windows that provide easy bear entry.

Excerpted from Junk food is bad news for wildlife, Clint Talbott, Daily Camera, Sept. 18, 2001.



Kid's Corner

It's time for the absolute funnest, wildest Sunshine kids event of the year—the Halloween Children's Carnival!!!

When: Saturday, Oct. 27th, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Where: Sunshine Schoolhouse

What: costume parade, games, fortune telling, crafts, great treats, pumpkin carving contest, Spook Walk (new!)

Who: YOU! in costume, of course!

Why: if you don't come, you'll be turned into a toad! plus you'll miss lots of fun with your Sunshine buddies

So, get your costume ready, carve your pumpkin, and get ready for lots of fun. BE SURE to wear warm clothes and good walking shoes for the all new, all exciting Spirits of Sunshine Historical Spook Walk.

If you talk your mom and dad into the Adult Dance Craze Party after the Carnival, you can continue your fun at the Hall's house (Dylan and Tucker's place). Your parents will need to call by Oct. 20th to reserve a spot for you.

From the editor

Remember, this is your newsletter! If you have any feedback, ideas, letters or would like to submit materials, please contact me. (Please note that my e-mail address has changed.)

Mary Mesch

5188 Sunshine Canyon
ph. 447-1471 fax 447-2739
mmesch@macconnect.com

Ads

Business ads are \$10. Classifieds are \$1/line. Please submit ads by Dec. 1st for the next issue.

**Premiere Property
Brokers**

1877 Broadway &
12286 Switzerland Trail

Tom Stevens
MOUNTAIN REALTOR
AND RESIDENT

449-7720 or 459-0457

Volleyball Court Update

Nathan Wheeler is undertaking a project to construct community picnic area/volleyball court to earn the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts. Thanks to the SFPD and Chris Voorhees, a great start has been made to clearing the site. However, there's still a need for volleyball equipment, sand, tables, benches, railroad ties, gravel, fence material, potting soil, and donations. To help, please contact Nathan at 303-442-0657 or Noodle2340@hotmail.com.