

# the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

## Fire Station News

About five years ago, your Sunshine Fire Protection District (SFPD) embarked on a modernization plan. The elements of the modernization include increasing our capabilities and training in wildland and structure firefighting and medical response, the development of a pre-plan for emergency fire response with an eye toward lowering the District's ISO rating (this rating determines your fire insurance costs), and updating and expanding the District's emergency response apparatus, equipment and physical plant. As reported earlier in this newsletter, the District now has a state-of-the-industry Class A pumper, and a recent grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the SFPD is providing funds for the purchase of modern, and sorely-needed, personal protective equipment (PPE). Our attention is now turning toward our fire station.

A site familiar to many, our fire station at 311 County Road 83 is too small for even current needs: three fire apparatus

are crammed into a space originally designed for two; firefighting gear is stuffed into every nook and cranny; and training usually demands that vehicles be moved out of the fire barn to so that firefighters have room to move around. Unfortunately, a recent analysis by structural engineers indicates that the walls will not support renovation.

Based on our needs and the realities of the current fire station, the District is submitting an application to the County for a permit to build a new fire station on Government Lot 183, to the east of the Sunshine Cemetery. The building site will provide direct access to C.R. 52 (Sunshine Canyon Drive), providing the opportunity for decreased response times to the majority of our calls. The fire station will hold three fire apparatus, room for storage and a small office. It will also provide a substantially safer environment for firefighters for vehicle operations than does our current fire station, which will continue to be used

Feb 04  
Vol. 04 Iss. 1



for training, meeting, and storage needs.

As part of the county approval process, residents of Sunshine will be receiving copies of the Site Plan for review. In addition, we plan to hold a community meeting, once the Site Plan has been distributed, to provide you with the opportunity to discuss the fire station and District activities with us. As always, your hardworking volunteers appreciate your support.

Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal



## Inside this Issue

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Board Election May 4th



## Calendar of events

Training and meeting schedules are also available at the Sunshine Fire Department website: <http://www.sunshine-fpd.org/>

### *Firefighter trainings:*

Trainings are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the fire station.

Feb 14, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8, Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11

### *Squad meetings:*

Squad meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the fire station.

Feb 26, Mar 25, Apr 22, May 28, Jun 25, Jul 22, Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 28, no Nov. meeting, Dec. 23

### *Medical trainings:*

Medical trainings are held from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

Mar 17 Gold Hill, Apr 8 Four Mile, May 19 Gold Hill, Jun 10 Four Mile, Jul 21 Gold Hill, Aug 12 Four Mile, Sep 15 Gold Hill, Oct 14 Four Mile, Nov 17 Gold Hill, Dec. 9 Four Mile

### *Board meetings:*

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the fire station. Meetings are open to all residents.

Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11, Jun 8, Jul 13, Aug 9, Sep 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec. 14

### *Special Events:*

Sunshine Cemetery Assoc. Board Meeting, April 22nd, 7:00 p.m., Sunshine Schoolhouse



Chief's Message (cont. from p. 3)

but the point is that the state of Sunshine is good. Very good. We are meeting the challenges and are excited about the future. If you would like to join the fun, please volunteer. We can use your help. Help us continue to serve our community in the richest way possible.

Steve Stratton  
Chief

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.

## Current board

Pavel Bouska, Chairperson  
Don Dick, Treasurer  
Bill Bender, Member  
Mary Mesch, Member  
David Wheeler, Member

## District Officers

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief  
Tom Higbee, 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 and are open to the public.



## Contact information

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief  
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Tom Higbee, Asst. Fire Chief  
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Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal  
ph. 303-786-7731  
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Heard at the last board meeting: Q: What does a dyslexic, agnostic insomniac do? A: Lie awake at night wondering if there's a dog.

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## Chief's Message

It's the beginning of the year and time for a "State of the Fire Department" rundown. Now, seems like an excellent time to review what is going on in Sunshine and give you an update on where we think we are headed.

The past year has been pretty exciting. Our department has continued to grow, primarily for two big reasons. Clearly the Sunshine community is asking the Fire Protection District to provide more services. Fire protection is becoming more and more important in the minds of most of our property owners, particularly in the light of rising property values. In addition, recent fires have gotten everyone's attention.

The other reason for growth is that our department has taken on more responsibilities in an effort to have better qualified firefighters within our district. We are actively providing firefighters and equipment for emergencies outside our district. As a small district, our volunteers need every opportunity to acquire the necessary skills. So far, the federal government has paid for enough of our services that this training and experience comes at no financial cost to the district. The benefit is that several of our firefighters have gotten actual fireline experience, even some of our newest members.

Speaking of members. None of the growth we have experienced would be possible without many truly dedicated volunteers. SFPD currently has 15 very active firefighters. Increased involvement by some of our

newer members has allowed a couple of the "old timers" to rest a bit. Rest that was sorely needed and deeply deserved. Five of our firefighters are Colorado firefighter certified, with another of our members starting Fire Academy just this last week.

Winning a \$42,000 Personal Protective Equipment grant from FEMA was a milestone this last year. For the first time ever each of our firefighters will be outfitted with the clothing and equipment that is necessary for safe emergency intervention. We are in the process of purchasing the required gear. Completion of this project is expected by mid summer.

With all this new equipment we have been forced to institute tracking and inventory measures to keep tabs of our assets and plan for maintenance, repair and replacement. Part of the grant money is being used to acquire the computer equipment necessary. This networked system will act as a central depository of day-to-day information that, before now, has been spread out over several locations. Significant duplication of effort should be avoided, and much of the data we need to operate the department will be available for the first time.

Of course, the most exciting thing for our firefighters was the delivery of the new fire truck. With virtually no water in our district, the new pumper will provide the water moving capability that never before was possible.

For the first time ever a document of Standard Operating Procedures has been developed for the fire district. This will act as a guideline for the operation of our organization, as well as provide members with an outline of what is expected of them and how they should go about being a good volunteer. This manual will be ever changing to meet our needs and accurately describe the way we go about business.

With this growth has come some significant challenges. Yes, you are right. The new fire truck doesn't fit in our fire station. A problem that was unavoidable, but one that was accounted for several years ago in our modernization plan. We are now in the middle of a building program to add a new fire station on Sunshine Canyon Dr. near the Sunshine cemetery. Long term plans call for a possible new station closer to Boulder, to replace the current "firebarn" on Co. Rd. 83. That is quite a ways off however.

There are still new homes being added to the district. As truly acceptable building lots become harder to find, it is an increasing challenge to limit steepness of driveways and provide the water necessary to meet the needs of an emergency. Finding ways to protect properties that can not be accessed by the fire department is become more and more of a problem and increasing the danger to all our homes

I could go on and on with more good news, and more difficult challenges,  
(Cont. p. 2)

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## Volunteer Profile

David Wheeler's commitment to community service was instilled in him by his father while growing up in Cheyenne, Wyoming. His father advised him that you get out of a community what you put into it. And in Wyoming, our least populated state, every person's contribution counts.

David took the advice to heart and began volunteering as a child when he joined the Boy Scouts, followed by Key Club in high school, and Kiwanis as an adult, including a term as president of the Fort Collins chapter.

It was there in Ft. Collins that David met Janice Covey. A district manager for Radio Shack, David interviewed Janice for a job. He asked her what her short and long term goals were, and she responded that short term she needed a job, long term she wanted to be married with two children. To himself, he decided that he could help her with both. That night, he told his mother he had met the woman he was going to marry and one year to the day, they

were married.

In 1991, Audie and Harry Covey arranged to spend the winter months in Arizona and offered Janice and David the chance to share their Sunshine home. Janice was thrilled to return to her childhood home and David was agreeable, believing it to be a more wholesome place to raise their sons, Nathan and Mike.

Having grown up in Sunshine, Janice knew everyone, but he didn't know anyone. He remembered that he didn't feel part of Ft. Collins until he joined a service organization. So, he started going to Sunshine Fire District board meetings and four years ago was appointed to the board.

In addition to board work, David and Janice help at the Halloween Carnival, Community Fest, and are active socially. Janice is on the Sunshine Cemetery Association Board

and was secretary at Mapleton Elementary for several years, forging close ties with Sunshine families. Their son Nathan has chosen to construct a community volleyball court as his Eagle Scout project. The court is close to completion and the Wheelers expect to host a fundraiser soon to buy the sand.

And it all worked. Their involvement, David states, has helped him feel part of the community. David encourages everyone to become engaged in the process in some way.

Although he's been in the technical and electronic fields since 1972 (including 27 years with Radio Shack), David started out in landscape horticulture and was the landscape foreman for Laramie County Community colleges. He's still an avid gardener, and also enjoys stream fishing for trout and downhill skiing.

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Unlimited local calling, 10 custom calling features,  
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Unlimited local calling, 3 custom calling features,  
6.9 cents per minute \*long distance

\*within US, from US to Canada, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam

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## False Alarms

Sunshine Fire Department firefighters and medics respond to many calls for help when 911 is dialed. We respond to medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, smoke reports, helping find lost persons, and fires both small and large.

Sometimes we are asked to provide non-emergency assistance such as helping with traffic control. While Sunshine Fire Department responders haven't yet rescued a cat from a tree, we have pulled a (very happy) dog from a mine-shaft.

Increasingly, however, the Sunshine Fire Department is responding to false alarms sent by automated fire detection systems. Over the last two years, approximately 15% of our emergency responses have been to, what it has later been shown to be, false alarms. In many cases, there have been multiple false alarms at the same residence.

The problem, of course, is that we must treat every alarm as the real thing. If, upon arrival, no one is at the residence, it is the policy of Sunshine Fire to make entry into the home, and we notify the Boulder County Sheriff that we are doing so. It is also our policy to enter the home making the least amount of damage as is possible. Boulder County has a policy that, after three false alarms, the County will fine the owner of the home, and we have begun to report false alarms to the County. Clearly, false alarms are costly in terms of time, and wear and tear on equipment and personnel; emergency response also puts responders at risk of injury.

Most new homes in our District have automated fire detection systems installed during construction; more and more, owners of established homes are retrofitting them.

If you have such a system, be sure to have it serviced and checked on a regular basis. Please, also, let us know that you have a system via e-mail to: [firemarshal@sunshine-fpd.org](mailto:firemarshal@sunshine-fpd.org).

Our new pumper (4501) is being equipped with a Knox Life Safety System. Part of the system is the installation of a 'Knox box' at your home. The Knox box looks somewhat like a small safety deposit box that holds a key to a home's door.

You have no doubt seen these little vaults next to the doors of businesses in downtown Boulder. Our fire truck will hold a master key for District Knox boxes. The system is monitored via a tone sent to fire dispatch that both documents and

permits the release of the master key. The master key is then used to unlock the Knox box on the home to which we responded. Knox boxes cost several hundred dollars to purchase, plus installation, but the system allows us emergency entry without damaging the home.

If you are interested in participating in the Knox system, please contact me via e-mail at .

Bruce D. Honeyman  
Fire Marshal



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## Upcoming Board Elections

The Sunshine Fire Protection District is seeking Sunshine residents interested in serving on the District's Board of Directors. The Board consists of 5 members and 4 of the seats are up for election in May. Three of the seats have four-year terms and the remaining one is to complete a two-year term. Any Sunshine resident who is eligible to vote in the District is eligible to run for the Board. Election is by a ballot of all registered voters in the District.

The Board sets the policies for fire and medical services in the District. It also has financial and legal responsibility for the provision of fire and medical services to the District. Operations for the fire and medical services are delegated to the Fire Chief

and other fire and medical officers. All positions, both Board and Operations, are volunteer.

Obligations of Board members include willingness to serve and the ability to attend the regular monthly meetings of the Board. The District is seeking candidates with good communication and interpersonal skills as well as basic administrative, business, and financial management expertise, and the ability to deal with policy issues.

If you are interested in being a candidate, please contact Bruce Honeyman (see contact info on next page). Bruce has volunteered again to serve as this year's Election Official. The state of Colorado will be

distributing the election materials shortly. Candidates must fill out certain forms, including affidavits on eligibility and a nomination form requiring signatures of District residents. For further information about being a Board member, feel free to contact any of the current Board members: Bill Bender, Pavel Bouska, Don Dick, Mary Mesch and David Wheeler. Information about the upcoming election and the forms required are also available on our website at [sunshine-fpd.org](http://sunshine-fpd.org).

by Pavel Bouska  
Chairman of the Board  
Sunshine Fire Protection District

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, and, particularly, to the electors of the Sunshine Fire Protection District of Boulder County, Colorado.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that an election will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2004, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, 3 directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms and 1 director will be elected to serve a 2-year term.

Self-Nomination and Acceptance Forms are available from Bruce

D. Honeyman of the Sunshine Fire Protection District at 6101 Sunshine Canyon, Boulder, CO, 80302.

Self-Nomination and Acceptance forms or letters are to be returned to the Designated Election Official not less than 67 days prior to the regular election: Thursday, February 27, 2004.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that applications for and return of absent voter's ballots may be filed with Bruce D.

Honeyman, Designated Election Official of the District, at 6101 Sunshine Canyon, Boulder, CO, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., until the close of business on the Friday immediately preceding the regular election (Friday, April 30th, 2004).

Sunshine Fire Protection District

By Bruce D. Honeyman  
Designated Election Official

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## The Magic Number

Once upon a time it was necessary for residents of every community in America to memorize the seven-digit telephone number of the local fire department, which was usually different from the local police department, while ambulance services were provided by a local funeral home. Really.

Those days are gone and now we have one magic three-digit number for all emergencies.

If you drop an anvil on your toe (and you weren't wearing shoes) call 911.

If your 1965 Mustang convertible slides into an old mine shaft (with or without dynamite) call 911.

If you go out on such a hot date that your mustache catches fire (even if your date doesn't smoke) call 911.

It's a small, magic number with a bigger payoff than the lottery. 911. Really.

Frank McGuire



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## Sunshine Trivial Pursuit

1. *Who was offered a college scholarship as a fire twirler?*

- a. Chris Shields, but was asked to switch to philosophy after dorm burned
- b. Eleanor Mahoney, one hot date
- c. Doug Young, which explains the red hair
- d. Steve Stratton, which explains the lack of hair

2. *Which resident was a professional jai alai player?*

- a. Nancy Engellenner, under the name Pasquale until forgetting to pack her minimizer bra
- b. Pavel Bouska, until Czechs discovered tennis balls are softer
- c. Tony Luchangco, before fleeing the Philippines chased by angry bettors

3. *Who was voted Boulder High Winter Ball King?*

- a. Maybe Chris Voorhees, but records weren't kept prior to 1900.
- b. Nathan Wheeler, it's amazing what a trombone will do for your lips

4. *Which resident(s) have lived in Sunshine the longest?*

- a. Ruby and Bob Heflin, during the first year the bears fed *them*
- b. Audie and Harry Covey, they just now found the key to get out of the jailhouse
- c. Chris Voorhees, judging by the contents of his fridge
- d. Hans Freyer, if you count the six months it took his car to get up the hill

5. *Who was the first female to climb all Colorado's fourteeners within one year?*

- a. Linda Luchangco, who decorated the summits with seasonal decor and lights
- b. Julie Lavington, it was easier than chipping granite
- c. Definitely not Chris Voorhees

6. *Who was dubbed "Mayor" of Sunshine?*

- a. Steve Spencer, but recalled after discovered cross-dressing as a chicken
- b. Hans Freyer, but declared the election a conspiracy
- c. Chris Voorhees, he's got to be the answer to one of these questions

Answers: 1. Eleanor 2. Tony, for 10 years in Manila 3. Nathan 4. Audie and Harry moved here about 40 years ago, followed months later by Ruby and Bob; Chris has been here for 35 yrs. 5. Julie 6. Chris

Ed's note: if you have any trivia for the next issue, please e-mail to me at [mmesch@ionsky.com](mailto:mmesch@ionsky.com)

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## Sunshine Photo Gallery



*Captions on next page.*



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## Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



### Annual Sunshine Cemetery Association Board Meeting

The annual Board meeting will be held on April 22nd, 7:00 p.m., at the Sunshine Schoolhouse. The meeting is open to the public.

**Christmas Party Acknowledgements**  
Many thanks to Linda Luchangco for organizing our first annual Sunshine Holiday Party, which included tree decorating, potluck dinner, and carols led by Steve and Dee Spencer on guitar and flute. The evening captured the true holiday spirit.

### Photo Gallery Captions

From left to right, top to bottom:  
#1: Square dancers at the Halloween Carnival - Wanda Bennett, John Hoffmann, Suzanne Metzger, Steve Stratton  
#2: Old West gals & guys - "Ruby Dee" Spencer, Janice Wheeler, Eleanor Mahoney, Kathy Sullivan, Hans Freyer, Tony & Linda Luchangco  
#3: Decorating the Sunshine Christmas tree - Lindsay & Steve Lavington  
#4: Halloween Open Mike - Pavel Bouska and "Big Bird" Steve Spencer  
#5: Butts on Butzel - Eleanor Mahoney, Mary Mesch, Linda Luchangco, Janice Wheeler, Dee Spencer, Kathy Sullivan

## Wildlife Watch

Sharpshooters from the Colorado Division of Wildlife will soon pick up where they left off last winter, toting their rifles to northern Boulder County and southern Larimer County, on the hunt for deer.



Their mission: to cull some of the herd, which has tested 21 percent positive for chronic wasting disease.

Over the past two winters, the division, with the permission of the Boulder County commissioners, has killed a total of 53 deer in and around the county's Rabbit Mountain Open Space, northeast of Lyons. Division officials have employed sharpshooters, since hunting by permit is illegal in the area.

"That's a hot spot for infection," DOW spokesman Todd Malmsbury said. "If you knock down the hot spot, you can drop the prevalence" of the disease.

Local activists have opposed the killings saying they don't think there's sufficient proof to show it reduces spread of the disease, in part because it is not known how it is transmitted.

Across Colorado, the division has begun curbing the number of deer it kills in CWD hot spots. It killed nearly 1,100 deer statewide in 2002. Last year, it killed 500, and expects to kill roughly the same number this year.

*excerpted from Daily Camera, Feb. 6, 2004*

## Property News

*Below is an article concerning property mergers which impact many mountain property owners, just ask the Mayor.*

Angry Boulder County mountain landowners packed a county commissioners hearing to demand the repeal of a controversial property-merging provision, and the commissioners promised to give the issue further review.

Under a regulation enacted in 1993 and designed to limit new development in western Boulder County, if vacant lots in mountain areas were adjacent to developed ones with the same owner, the two properties could be merged. The measure prevented landowners from building on the vacant lots that were merged.

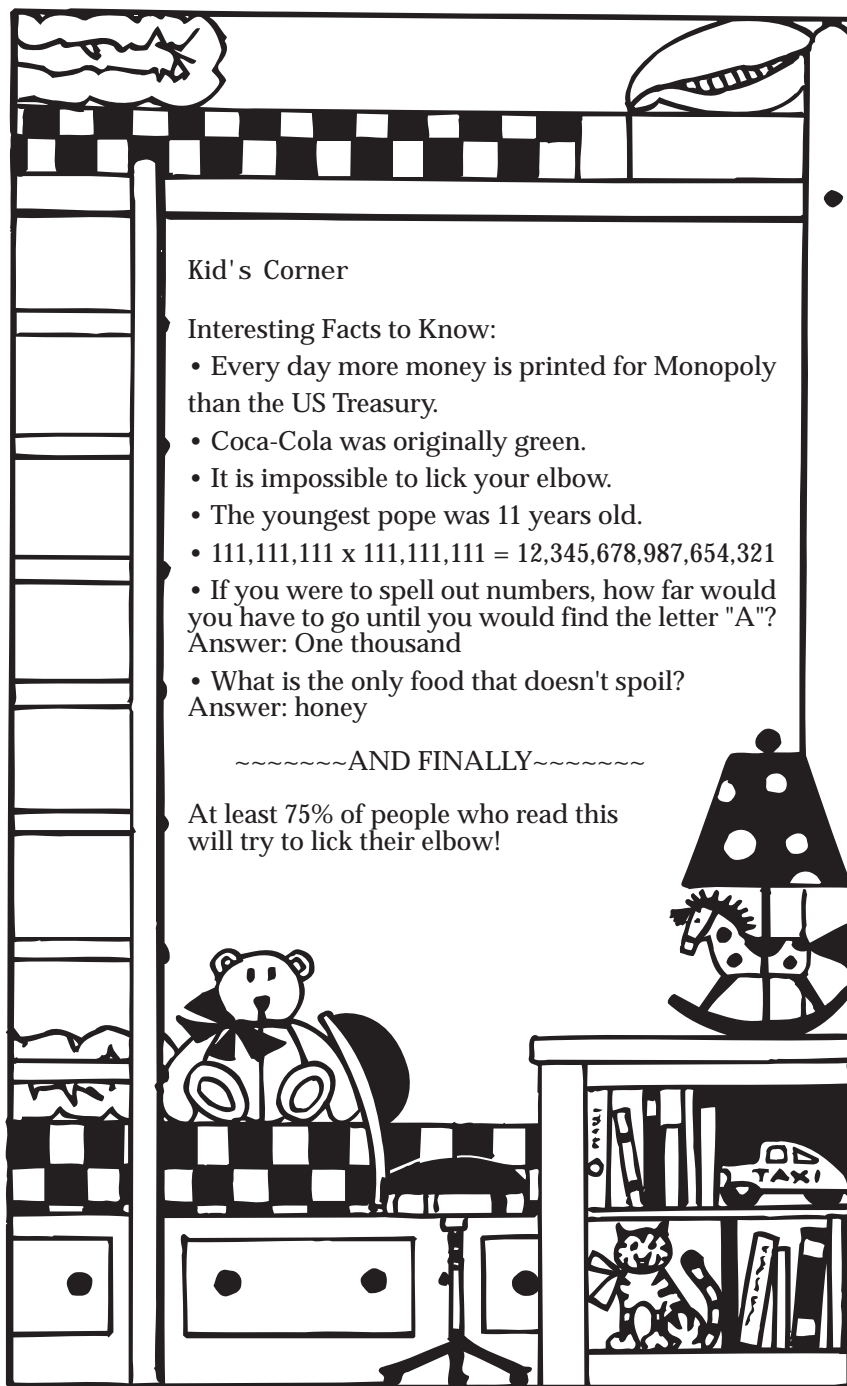
The mergers occurred without the owner's consent — and some say without the owner's knowledge.

About 30 people testified at the hearing, most demanding that properties that were combined before a 2003 Colorado law banning such mergers be re-divided into separate lots...

County commissioners denied requests for a blanket "unmerging" of the affected properties, but directed Land Use Dir. Graham Billingsley to develop criteria for dividing some of the lots on a case-by-case basis.

"I want to take time to look at this more carefully and see if we can craft something reasonable," Commissioner Thomas Mayer said.

*"rom Daily Camera, January 23, 2004*



*Classified ads are \$1/line. Business ads are \$10. The deadline for the next issue is Apr. 15th.*

## From the editor

Remember, this is your newsletter! If you have any feedback, ideas, letters or would like to submit materials, please contact me.

Mary Mesch  
5188 Sunshine Canyon  
ph. 447-1471 fax 447-2739  
mmesch@ionsky.com

## Call for Community News

I'd like to start a new column where we introduce newcomers, recognize residents' achievements and significant events, etc. I need your help. If you're new to the neighborhood or know someone new, please e-mail or call me per above. Likewise, contact me for any other noteworthy community news.

Please help!  
The Editor

**Madelyn Helper studying abroad**  
On February 4th, Madelyn Helper left for a one-year study abroad program in Costa Rica with the goal of improving her Spanish speaking skills. A junior at Boulder High, Madelyn is known as being responsible and goal oriented beyond her years. Not only did she compete for this honor, but she earned much of the funding for this trip herself from neighborhood babysitting jobs.

If you'd like to let her know that we're thinking of her, she can be e-mailed at: [kne5617@aol.com](mailto:kne5617@aol.com).

Good luck, Madelyn.