

the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

June 04
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Putting the Wet Stuff on the Red Stuff

There is a scene in Ron Howard's movie *Backdraft* where a rookie firefighter describes the essence of firefighting as, 'Putting the wet stuff on the red stuff'.

[Firefighters like to joke that the only thing true about the film is that fire trucks are red.] It is no secret that firefighters love to put water on fire but, in truth, the best firefighting practice is to not have to fight a fire at all. Or, as Sun Tsu stated in *The Art of War*, 'To win without fighting is best'. Sunshine FPD is, after all, a fire *protection* district.

Fire protection has a number of different attributes. Forest mitigation is one means of helping to prevent fire initiation and spread. Another is the use of good storage practices for combustible household chemicals and in the operation of machinery in forested areas during summer months when the woods are tinder-dry (two fires that

Sunshine firefighters worked on last summer in the Grand Junction area were started by woodcutting operations!).

It is impossible to prevent all wildfires but we can plan to slow their rate of spread once they are started. Once again, forest mitigation plays a role. Another key strategic element in fire prevention is the distribution of water resources to enable the efficient and rapid deployment of the 'wet stuff'. Sunshine, as many of you know, does not have a pressurized water system: the closest such systems are at the pumping station at about 2300 Sunshine Canyon Drive and at the Mapleton Center at the bottom of the canyon.

Because we are off the city's water distribution grid, SFPD approaches the water problem from a different

angle: we have cached water in a series of cisterns throughout the district, the water pressure comes from the pumps on our fire trucks and the distribution system consists of the long 'hose lays' that we set up to help move the water to where we need it.

The cistern project has been a long-time effort. Jim Burch, my predecessor as Fire Marshal, developed the original plan and we have been implementing it over the last decade.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

Jun 8, Jul 13, Aug 9, Sep 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec. 14

Special Events:

Annual Sunshine Potluck, 6:30 p.m., July 23rd, Sunshine Schoolhouse

Current board

Pavel Bouska, Chairperson

Don Dick, Treasurer

Bill Bender, Member

Frank McGuire, Member

Joyce Schroeder, Member

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief

[Open position] 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 all property owners.



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Sunshine Clean Up

This spring, the fourth Sunshine Canyon Drive cleanup came off without a hitch. Since fall of 2002, I have been coordinating his fall and spring activity, cleaning the roadside from 4.1 miles to 6.35 miles.

In the first cleanup, we must have hauled away 7 bags of trash as well as a bunch of recyclables. This time around, we were down to two bags, and it would be even less if there weren't some significant construction debris finding its way to the roadside. I would encourage everyone to be careful with the trash and particularly with anything that might be light enough to blow around (with some of the winds up here, that isn't necessarily all that light.)

My thanks go to my helpers last Sunday, Bruce Honeyman and his son Alex, Wilder Lavington, and Lin Ballard. In the past, I have also been helped by Doug Young and his son Davis, Frank McGuire, and Tony and Linda Luchangco. All volunteers are welcome. I hope to have the next cleanup on the day after the community fest next September. Anyone that would like to help should call me at 303-449-8619.

Henry Ballard

Chief's Message

All the moisture we have been getting lately is great! It has really reduced the risk of wildfire, at least for the time being. Though, I am sure I don't have to remind you how quickly that changes around here. The bad news is of course, that all the snow and rain helps spring grasses grow, quickly increasing fuel loads. If we have a dry summer, tall grasses can actually make matters worse. But for the moment things look good.

All of the wet weather in Sunshine lately has made it possible for many residents to burn slash piles which have been building up. But, with slash pile burning comes telephone calls. I have had an unusual amount of calls recently, expressing concern over smoke in the Canyon. There is nothing like driving through a smoke cloud on the way home from work to get one's attention. And of course, with a mild (maybe not so mild) panic comes the question of what to do.

I recently sent a letter off to a concerned Sunshine resident who was questioning the safety of "controlled burns". My letter will probably answer a lot of your questions as well:

Dear Sunshine Neighbor:

Thank you for your concern regarding "controlled burns" in Sunshine Canyon. You have expressed the same concern that many Sunshine residents have voiced and the concern is quite warranted. The drought we are

experiencing is extreme and our forests are as dry as they have been in many years.

Ironically, controlled burns and prescribed burns are the best mitigation we have against potential wildfire. In order to prevent catastrophe, burns such as these are necessary. They have proven to be the most effective way to prevent and control a wildfire. Having said that, I understand your concern and fear when smoke is sighted in the canyon. Each person who elects to burn must have a Burn Permit issued by Boulder County. The permit requires the holder to inform both Boulder County fire dispatch and me, as the local fire chief, of the intended burn. We have a very high rate of success in being informed of these incidents and I try to keep track of each one. In some cases I visit the sight in order to make sure all is well.

Erecting a "sign" at each burn sight is an excellent idea. Such an effort has been tried in the past, but with very limited results. Burners either erect a sign voluntarily, or fire volunteers need to do the work. It simply becomes a matter of prioritizing the fire department's time and energy. In addition, we have found that it is very difficult to place a sign so those that are most likely to be concerned can see it. Most smoke reports come from across the canyon, or other areas not near where a sign would be posted or visible. However, I will continue to consider this possibility.

Here are a couple of guidelines you and others might use when sighted smoke is a concern:

All burns in Sunshine must be conducted when conditions are not actually conducive to burning. This means if we haven't had rain or snow for weeks and you see or smell smoke, and you can rule out a smoking chimney or fireplace, call 911, immediately. I won't approve a burn unless it is wet out. Conversely, if there is smoke and the streets are wet or there is snow on the ground (preferred), then either look for the source yourself, call me (303-786-8255) or call Boulder County Dispatch (303-441-4444) to ask if there is a controlled burn going on. I am always willing to take your call about these matters.

So you see, none of us are alone in our concern about fire.

Currently, I am working on a plan that will make it possible to obtain burn information on our web site, so when in doubt you can check to see what is going on. Until this web page is up and running, please do not hesitate to give me a call. In the meantime, here's to a wet spring!

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.

In memory of Bob Heflin

June 15, 1926 - April 10, 2004

On April 24th, Bob Heflin's friends gathered at the Heflin home to share their memories with his wife Ruby and family. As befitted Bob, the friends were numerous, the stories humorous, and the setting outdoors.

Born and raised in Boulder, Bob and Ruby were neighbors as kids, sweethearts in high school, and husband and wife for 58 years. In 1964, their son suffered severe asthma attacks and, finding the mountain air beneficial, they moved to their current residence. Bob always loved the mountains, but Ruby admits to having been more of a city girl and, at that time, it felt pretty remote up here. Ruby remembers that there were only three houses in the mile stretch of road around their home.

Soon, Bob was involved in the Sunshine community and took on the responsibility of fire chief for two terms. Along with buddy Chris Voorhees and others, he pitched in to build our fire station. When our

new station is complete, a plaque will be placed and a tree planted in memory of Bob.

Bob always loved working with his hands, as a professional sheet metal worker and welder, a home do-it-yourselfer, and in giving a helping hand to others. As much as he liked handiwork, he also loved shooting the breeze and was quite a raconteur. If the conversation lagged, Bob was glad to stir the pot. Ruby says that Chris once told her that he braced himself when Bob came over, because if it was raining, Bob would argue with him it was sunny.

Another passion was his love of wildlife and Ruby says that his best moments over the last years were watching "his" deer and bears. Everyone who knew Bob knows about his concern for the bears when they suffered during the drought. After a visit from the DOW at that time, Bob recounted, "I told them that I wouldn't feed the bears any more...but I didn't tell them that I would feed them any less!"

Bob's sympathetic nature also extended to people and there are many who have private memories of Bob's kindness and helpfulness during difficult times.

Many Sunshine residents who attended Bob's memorial service were surprised at the large, diverse group that attended. Somehow, we thought of Bob as all ours. In fact, Bob and Ruby were well-loved in many circles. They kept in close touch with high school friends, former coworkers, square dancing acquaintances, and fellow companions on their trailer trips. They were loving parents and grandparents to their daughters Lori and Janna, son Steven and their families. Bob also had one great-grandchild, 19 month old Micah, who was the apple of his eye.

The Heflin family interred Bob's ashes at the Sunshine cemetery, marked by a natural rock placed by friend Chris and a choke cherry bush.

Recognizing a stroke

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- * Ask the individual to smile.
- * Ask him or her to raise both arms.

* Ask the person to speak a simple sentence.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of nonmedical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and

speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions.

They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

Firefighters Sweat, Supporters Party

On Thursday, May 27th, Sunshine firefighters undertook their annual Red Card physical endurance tests—all successfully—qualifying them to fight on federally funded fires. The firefighters attempted either the Run or Pack Test on a course that consisted of laps between the fire station and the junction of County Roads 52 and 83. Department supporters watched the huffing and puffing from the station, while downing beers and chips. Hey—anything to help our department! After the tests were completed, everyone joined in for grilled brats and other refreshments.

Run Test – run 1.5 miles within 12 minutes 36 seconds; completed by Rick Lansky, Stephen Hall, Pavel Bouska

Pack Test – walk 3 miles within 46 minutes 15 seconds carrying 45 pounds of weight on back; completed by Henry

Ballard, Don Dick, Bruce Honeyman, Lisa LePome, Michael Sampliner, Michael Schmitt, Steve Stratton



Putting the Wet Stuff (*cont. from p. 1*) It was funded in part by a special mill levy that was approved by Sunshine District voters. We currently have nearly 90,000 gallons of water in cisterns in the District, with the cisterns spaced about a mile apart (the approximate addresses are 7000, 5400, 4500 and 3300 Sunshine Canyon Drive, and 300 and 1300 County Road 83). Our new firehouse at 5900 Sunshine will have a 180,000 gallon cistern in its foundation! In addition, we have fitted some swimming pools in the District with fire department connections that will allow us to easily access those water resources in emergencies (during the summer months when the pools are full).

We occasionally get a call from a District resident who would like to con-

struct a small (e.g., 1 – 2K gallon) cistern on his or her property for emergency fire suppression. In addition, for new constructions, Boulder County requires either the placement of a small cistern on site or the builder making a \$1,500 contribution to the District's cistern fund. We generally discourage the construction of such cisterns: they contain insufficient amounts of water to contribute to a major fire fighting operation and they are difficult to site for easy and rapid access by heavy equipment. Furthermore, constructing a cistern for both potable water storage and emergency fire use is not a good idea: we do not use potable water in our fire suppression activities and once we tap into the drinking water supply it should be considered to be con-

taminated. We have made a lot of headway in solving the District's water supply needs, but the development of the community cistern network remains an ongoing project. The best use of your 'cistern money' is to contribute to the District's cistern fund.

Certainly, the exciting part of the fire department is the hurried, bright and loud activity of an emergency response. And we are dedicated to help you when the emergency comes. But much of our activities are devoted to preparedness, hoping that we do not have to 'put the wet stuff on the red stuff' in an emergency, but ready to do so if needed.

Bruce D. Honeyman
Fire Marshal

Sunshine Trivia

1. Which father & son recently posed for a nude photo shoot?

- a. Eric and Trigg Bader, with fire hoses (at least we *think* those were fire hoses)
- b. Bruce and Alex Honeyman, nude with fish... or was it with nude fish?
- c. Stephen and Tucker Hall, annual ski naked day at Chapped Butt..., er, that is Crested Butte

2. Which resident(s) recently saw a mountain lion at their home?

- a. The Lavingtons, but it's not true they staked Wilder to attract it
- b. Chris Voorhees, but he won't reveal how many martinis it took
- c. Madeline Koehler, who chased it away by saying, "Bad kitty, bad kitty"

3. Which couple met while working as bush pilots in Africa?

- a. Donna and Jack Edwards, but left to establish commercial flights between Gold Hill and Ward
- b. Jennifer & Laurent Nicault, but why anyone would want to fly bushes they haven't explained
- c. Janice and David Wheeler, but licenses were pulled due to tailspin while attempting to join the Mile High Club

4. Which resident was a nationally ranked kayaker?

- a. Pavel Bouska, whose Czech dictionary translated "Eskimo roll" as a hot date with a Inuit
- b. Eric Bader, which explains his immersible dress shoes
- c. Wain Stowe, that's not a steep driveway, it's a chute!

5. Which Sunshine youth(s) are/will be studying abroad?

- a. Mike Wheeler, that was studying a broad, right?
- b. Madelyn Helper—Costa Rica, after hearing Nancy sing "Do you know the way to San Jose" one too many times
- c. Alex Honeyman—Japan, you'd flee the country too after posing nude with a halibut
- d. Colin and Cora Shields—England, did they mention the drinking age is only 15 there?

6. Bonus question: which Sunshine resident is pictured in *Story of Sunshine: Life in a Mining Camp*, p. 54 or 58 (depending on edition)

Answers: 1. Alex & Bruce Honeyman 2. Lavingtons, Madeline Koehler
3. Jennifer & Laurent Nicault 4. Eric Bader 5. all except Mike Wheeler
6. Dee Spencer

Ed's note: if you have any trivia for the next issue, please contact me at 303-447-1471 or mmesch@ionsky.com

Neighbor News

Passings: Longtime resident Bob Heflin, April 10th (see Volunteer Profile p. 4)

Births: Julia, to the Nicault family

Departures: Dorrie, Tom & Mazlin Higbee are relocating to coastal Maine. Kathy Sullivan and Chris, Colin & Cora Shields will be moving late this summer to England where Chris has accepted a professorship at Oxford University.

Graduations: Nathan Wheeler, high school, will attend CSU next year

Achievements: Erin Kirton and mom, Deb Miller, were awarded their Tae Kwon Do black belts

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Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



Annual Sunshine Potluck

The annual Sunshine Potluck is planned for July 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with 8-10 people and your own table service and beverage.

Schoolhouse Repair

Joe Howard will be repairing a leak in the school house roof near the stove pipe.

Wildlife Watch

Over the last few months, at least two residents saw lions within feet of their doors. The Lavingtons spotted a lion on their deck curiously watching the family one evening and Julie believes she saw the same lion a few weeks earlier, calmly observing our emergency medical team responding to a call, not even scared away by a siren wailing.

From her deck, Madeline Koehler spied a mountain lion in a tree and shouted at it to scare it away. Hearing her, her visiting forest ranger son dashed out and told her to stop, the lion could



New Fire Station Report

Volunteers have been busy furthering progress on the new fire station, with groundbreaking expected later this summer and a usable structure in the winter. John Hoffmann, architect and resident, has completed the drawings; the building permit has been applied for; and we're now awaiting bids from three contractors. On the bureaucratic front, the Planning Commission has approved our request for a special use permit and the matter will now be heard by the County Commissioners on June 17th at 11:30.

The fire department has a patent from the U.S. government on the building site, subject to certain stipulations including building. The fire station committee has been working closely with the BLM and feels confident our request to amend the patent will be approved expeditiously. Chief Stratton assures residents that every effort possible will be made to mitigate the impact of the station, which is adjacent to the Sunshine Cemetery. Landscaping is planned and a cleanup of trees killed by beetles. The current station at 311 County Road 83 will remain our main station.

have bounded onto her deck in two easy jumps.

Residents may be interested in the book "Beast in the Garden" by David Baron which chronicles the increase in lion/human interaction right here in Boulder.

Due to the property's grade, a large lower level is required and has been designed to be used as a 180,000 gallon cistern. This is a very fortuitous feature, doubling our water-starved district's storage capacity and at the most needed location. Combined with the greater water pumping capability of our new engine, the district will have its strongest fire fighting potential ever. In the meantime, the new engine is being stored adjacent to our district at Eagle Point, courtesy of the Widemeyer family, allowing easy access for training and fire calls.

Within the next few weeks, each property owner will receive a brochure from the department with more complete information on the project, its history and fundraising goals. Continuing updates will also be available at this website: www.sunshinefire.org

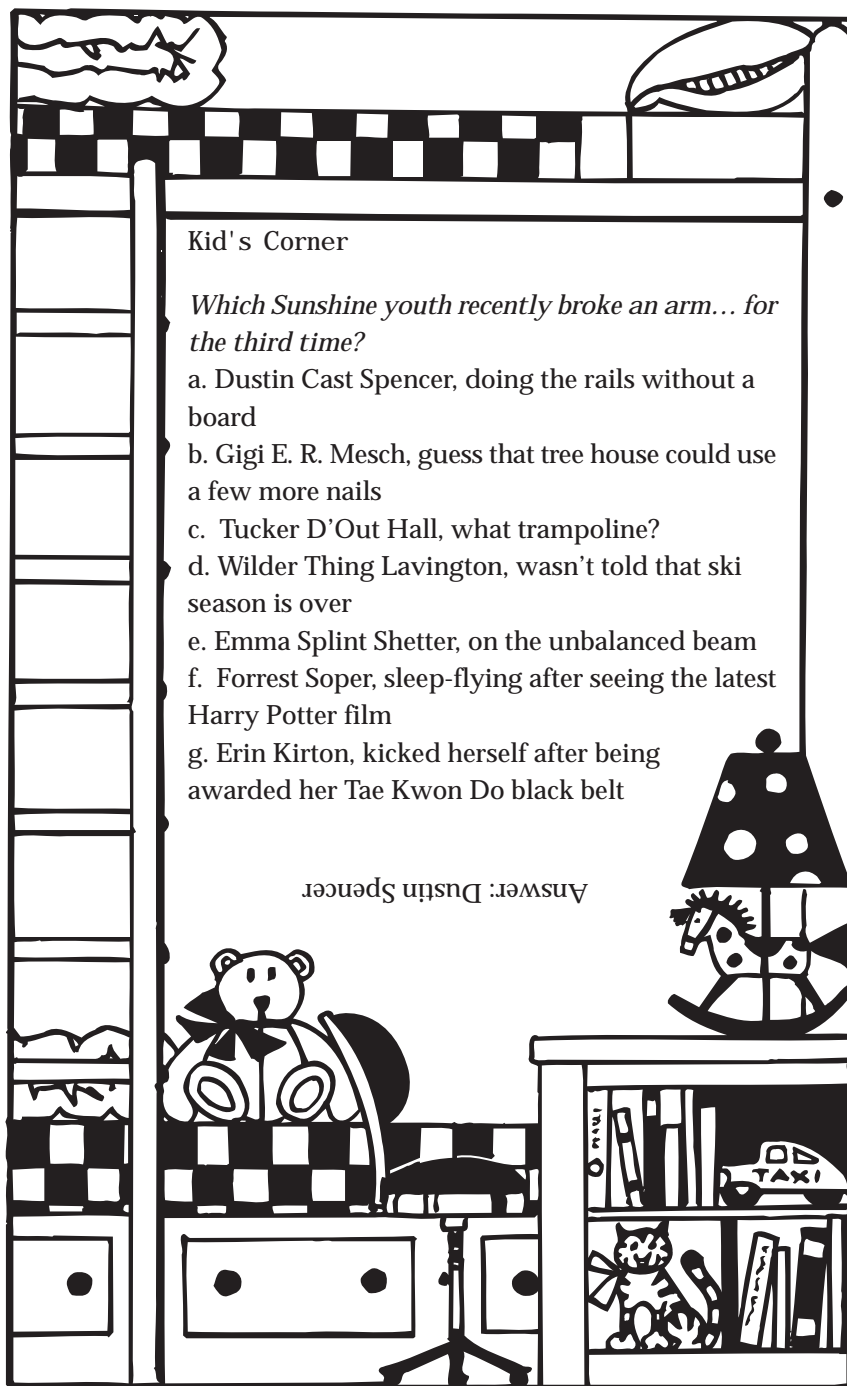
To date, over \$30,000 has already been donated toward our goal of \$100,000. Way to go, Sunshine!

i j Local Sunshine Classes

1254 County Rd. 83
Instructor: Dee Spencer

Children's
Art & Nature Classes

For more info, call Dee
at 303-443-0121



Mitigation Grant

SFPD still has not heard from the state of Colorado regarding this grant. We expect to know before the end of June. At this point, our belief is that we have a 50/50 chance of getting the \$30,000 requested. Please e-mail Steve Stratton to receive information as it becomes available: steve@stevestratton.tv

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