

# the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

Oct 04  
Vol. 04 Iss. 3



## "I've Got to Go"

Sunday, August 22nd 1:51 am:  
'.... beep, beep, beep....beep, beep beep....' tugs at me from some distant place and I struggle awake. I grab wildly for my alarm clock wondering why it is so dark outside. My glasses, clock and a book tumble to the floor from my nightstand as it becomes clear to me that it is my fire department pager that is summoning at me. I turn on the bedside lamp, find my glasses under the bed and look at the pager display:

'...Rollover accident, 6000 Sunshine Canyon Drive; LOC: AT&T wireless Services...'

Dread grabs me as I realize that the accident is near my driveway. Joyce, my wife, is in Washington, D.C., and I have our 10 year old son, Alex, to watch. I try to collect my thoughts as I shake off the vestiges of sleep. 'What's

going on, Daddy?' comes a sleepy voice from the next room. 'There is a car wreck near our driveway and I need to go. Get your clothes on.' I've made my decision: it's too close to home and, where minutes can count, I need to go. At 1:54, Alex and I get in my car. I turn on my portable radio (pacset) and say, 'Dispatch, this is 4566. I am en route'. ['45' means Sunshine Fire and '66' is my Sunshine identity.] I get no response; my home is in a communications 'hole'. Thirty seconds later we arrive at 6000 Sunshine: it is dark and quiet. I listen for a moment to the emergency services channel (RED 1) but hear no radio traffic.

'Dispatch, this is 4566. I am arrival at 6000 Sunshine; there is no sign of an accident. Do you have a better fix on the accident location?'

'4567 (Rick Lansky), this is Dispatch:

what is the location of the incident?' [Rick had arrived at the scene from his house at 4000 Sunshine and reported the accident to be at about 5700 Sunshine, but I hadn't heard the report]. Rick comes up on the radio to clarify the correct accident location. He also indicates that the vehicle had a single occupant and that she is out of the vehicle with minor injuries. I head east on Sunshine and hear, 'Dispatch, 4531 (our quick response vehicle) is en route, status two' (i.e., two people). (Cont. p. 7)



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## Calendar of events

Training and meeting schedules are also available at the Sunshine Fire Department website: [www.sunshinefire.org](http://www.sunshinefire.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.

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.

Oct 28, no Nov. meeting, Dec. 23

### *Medical trainings:*

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

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.

Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec. 14

### *Special Events:*

Halloween Carnival, 4:00 p.m., Oct. 30th, Sunshine Schoolhouse



## Change your Clock, Change your Battery

Although smoke alarms are present in 94% of U.S. homes, 20% don't work, mostly because of worn or missing batteries. 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.

So take a few minutes to change the batteries in your smoke alarms (or install alarms if none exist), as well as take a few other fire safety prevention measures:

- ✓ 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.

## Board Members

Pavel Bouska, Chairman

Don Dick, Treasurer

Bill Bender, Member

Frank McGuire, Member

Joyce Schroeder, Member

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.

## District Officers

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief

Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal



### Contact information

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief

Home & work ph. 303-786-8255

Pager 303-441-3851 #4561

[steve@stevestratton.tv](mailto:steve@stevestratton.tv)

[SFPD-Chief@egroups.com](mailto:SFPD-Chief@egroups.com)

Open - Asst. Fire Chief

Bruce Honeyman, Fire Marshal

ph. 303-786-7731

[SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com](mailto:SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com)

In any emergency, call 911.

Sage advice:

*The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.*

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## Chief's Message

Fires, Helicopters and You. I don't know if you have paid much attention to how a forest fire gets put out, but it requires a lot of different resources. They always say it is the "footpounders", the people that hoist the shovels and climb the mountains, starving the fire of fuel as they go, that bring a fire to an end. But the truth is these fireline ditch diggers can't do their job without a lot of support. Some how they have to get to the scene. A system has to be in place to support them; food, water, communication. And sometimes all these resources can't get pulled together in time to prevent a small fire from turning into a Walker Ranch burning inferno. In times when the fire is too inaccessible, the hill too steep or the supplies too far away, the hero that steps up to the challenge is ... the helicopter.

I don't know if you have paid much attention to how expensive a helicopter is, but it's big bucks. So much so, that few state or federal agencies have them. Boulder certainly doesn't. But there are times when the only thing that will do the job is a chopper. They carry firefighters to the blaze, douse water where no one can reach and deliver supplies where supplies can't be delivered. They have also been known to rescue a person now and then, firefighter and civilian alike. A couple houses were saved in the Wonderland Lake fire that most assuredly would have burned otherwise.

Now, I don't know if you have paid much attention to what's going to be on the November ballot this year, but somewhere you're going to see the

word "helicopter". Issue 1B is about helicopters, even though they are mentioned only in passing. This ballot issue is asking if you would be willing to add 3 mills, that's 3 cents out of 10 dollars, to your sales tax in order for the county to rent a fire helicopter during the four most fire prone months of the year. DON'T STOP READING. This is where you would expect the fire chief to pump you for more money. I think I have already done that enough lately. I just thought you might like to know what IB it is all about. I'll try to give you the facts and you can decide for yourself.

Issue 1B is about spending money to mitigate and suppress fire, while also upping our search and rescue ability. What this is really saying is "helicopter". For the last three years Boulder County has rented emergency helicopter service during the fire season. The money to do this came from a few high level firefighters who begged, borrowed and stole (figuratively speaking) from the state, the county and a few fire districts to muster up enough funds to have a chopper that could respond within 15 minutes. When the aircraft was not in use or the fire danger was low the chopper was farmed out to surrounding fires and that supplemented the programs funding. Now, after three years, this program can not continue because the money is harder to cajole and the firefighters are exhausted trying to make the program work without money. So, Issue 1B is simply about maintaining the same program we have had for some time now, that otherwise will go away.

What happens if the chopper program goes away? Well, there are still aircraft available via the federal government, and those craft will respond to Boulder when needed. That is of course, if they are available. Some times they're not. Those craft would be responding from Ft. Collins so our 15 minute response turns into an hour. Not much help in the first throws of an emergency.

Now, I don't know if you have paid much attention, but choppers have been helpful lately. Just a few weeks ago we had an evening of spectacular lightning that set off several blazes around Boulder. Our Boulder County chopper soaked three small fires that might have become something bigger. A lost child was located a couple weeks ago with the help of our rotary winged friend.

So what do you think? Is it worth it? You have to decide. Can we survive without the chopper program? Yes. May we sustain additional damage or loss without it? Maybe. Probably. You decide. Let me know what you think.

Steve Stratton  
Chief

Tax Deductible Donations  
Please send donations to:  
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Boulder, CO 80302

Donors will receive a letter thanking you for your donation and giving you a tax deductible record.

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## Volunteer Profile

Back in the winter of 1968-69, Don Dick found a notice in his mailbox concerning starting a volunteer fire department. Don had just moved here a few months earlier from Wisconsin to teach electrical and biomedical engineering at CU, but he could already see the need for better fire protection. At that time, it took Boulder Rural Fire Department over 45 minutes to respond to calls up here. Don recalls a chimney fire where the homeowners tired of waiting for fire fighters and put out the blaze themselves by shoveling snow down the chimney.

Accordingly, he joined the fledgling department being organized by Bob Dougherty, Harry Covey, Ran Sclar, and Lloyd McIrvin. The founders realized that reliable funding was a significant problem for volunteer departments, so they proposed establishing a Sunshine tax district, rather than relying on bake sales, etc. Our tax district is in effect a quasi-municipality and now almost all other departments in the county are of that form.

Our first fire truck was an old, yellow state vehicle in just passable condition. Lloyd McIrvin and another contractor started building a station for it, mistakenly believing that this type of structure didn't require a permit. The county promptly shut down construction. After the required permit was obtained and building resumed, Don helped with the wiring and conduit which helped him later when he built his own house on Sunshine Canyon Drive.

Our first chiefs were called "captains" and the fire fighters "lieutenants". Bob

Heflin and Fred Niccore were the first two chiefs, backed up by Don and about three other lieutenants. Training at that time was pretty minimal. "Basically," Don states, "if you showed up for a fire and could stand upright, you were given a shovel." Fortunately, Don had worked in the forest service for a few summers which included some fire fighting. An issue then (as now) was that the fire fighters were mostly men who were away from the neighborhood during the day. The most likely people to be at home were the women and there was an attempt to teach them how to drive the truck to fires to be met there by the fire fighters.

After a few years, Don became a board member, including acting as chairperson. We had a small amount of debt and an annual budget of \$1,800. During that time, the board secured some breathing apparatus, but it scared Don to death since the fire fighters didn't have the training to use it.

After five years, Don took a job in private industry in Denver and had to drop out as an active member. He still pitched in as needed and in the mid-70s worked on the Gold Hill fire which took out some houses. On this fire, he remembers helicopter drops, one of which hit Audie Covey. He and wife Marty also went in as relief on the Old Stage Road fire, where he recalls being about "30 seconds from dropping the hose and running" while protecting a structure with blazes on three sides.

Don is semiretired now, allowing him time to get in about 30-50 days per year of XC and alpine skiing, as well as hiking, backpacking, and sailing.

His semi-retirement also freed him up to become more active again in the department. In 2002, he rejoined as a fire fighter and, as far as he can tell, is one of the oldest red card certified fire fighters in the county. This last winter, he was appointed to the board as treasurer and also serves on the new station committee.

And so Don has come full circle, but with significant differences. The department recently purchased a new custom-designed engine that is a far cry from the old state truck. The new station is underway, going through the necessary mountains of red tape, approvals, and bids. And the district's annual budget is now around \$300,000.

Of all the differences, he's most impressed with the dedication to the department, the degree of training, and the emphasis on safety now.

For Don, volunteering fosters a feeling of community and he encourages everyone to get involved in some way. Outside of fire fighting, the department needs help with our new computer system for reporting and inventory; housekeeping; grant research and writing; and fund-raising.

"Being involved is what makes Sunshine more than just a bedroom."



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## Community Meeting to Discuss New Station Plans

August 26<sup>th</sup> – Over 30 persons attended a community meeting concerning the new fire station to be located on CR52 just east of the cemetery.

The following is an outline of SFPD's review and response to audience questions. Chief Stratton led the meeting, with additional background provided by former chiefs Bader, Waltman and Young; fire marshal Honeyman; board members; and project architect John Hoffmann.

### History of decision

1. About ten years ago, the department wrote a Master Plan, which later evolved into the Modernization Plan. Some of the major elements included developing better water resources (the Cistern Project), an apparatus plan (the acquisition of Engine 4501), and a facilities plans (a new station).
2. A mill levy was passed in 2000 to finance purchasing Engine 4501, a truck

specifically designed to meet the requirements of our district. Some of its features include four-wheel drive and a large water holding capacity, both important in our rugged, dry district. No manufacturer was able to deliver the specified truck without the truck being too tall to utilize the existing station.

3. The department, based on its experience and discussions with other districts, chose not to compromise the truck design but instead to expedite the plan to build a new station.

4. There was extensive discussion and research concerning whether the existing station could be modified to meet these needs. After receiving an independent report from a structural engineer, the Board voted against this option for these reasons:

- + The walls are not reinforced and cannot support a second floor.
- + Raising the roof even a few feet would increase the wind shear factor

by an unacceptable 30%.

- + Expanding the footprint of the building was not feasible for several reasons, including property lines, easements, excavation costs, location of the well and septic tanks.
- + The slope of the ramp is dangerous and cannot be adequately modified.

- + Scraping the existing station and rebuilding would interrupt the operation of our fire department.

### Site Selection

1. The Building Committee conducted an extensive search for available sites within the district, leading to their choice of Government Lot 183, just east of the cemetery and with direct access to CR52.

2. Of the possible sites, only this one was both suitable and available in the desired time frame. SFPD already had a patent for this site, so could move more quickly and did not have to allocate funds for its purchase.

### Building Design

1. The new station will be a three bay station, designed to be aesthetically pleasing and consistent with the schoolhouse and surroundings.

(To view, visit the department website: [www.sunshinefire.org](http://www.sunshinefire.org))

2. The slope of the lot requires a large lower level which will be used as a cistern, effectively doubling our district's water storage capacity.

### Budget and Funding

1. The district currently has about



(Cont. on p. 6)

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## Community Meeting (cont. from p. 5)

\$250,000 available for the construction:

\$150,000 capital budget, \$25,000 operations budget reserve, \$10,000 cistern budget, and approximately \$60,000 fundraising.

2. Bids were recently received from three different contractors, with an average bid of \$414,000 (\$292,000 hard items, \$122,000 allowance items). In reviewing the design, the committee feels that they can make changes that will reduce this to a total of \$368,000.

However, this amount still exceeds the projected funds available.

3. At this same time, John Hoffmann, the project architect, alerted the committee to a DoLA (Dept. of Local Affairs) grant available to communities with a mining history. The committee has submitted a grant proposal requesting \$200,000 funding to be used for the station construction. They expect to have an indication from DoLA by late November.

4. Chief Stratton felt that the grant has a fair likelihood of being approved, either in its entirety or in large part. If we're unsuccessful in securing this grant, the committee must reassess the overall plan.

### *Timing*

1. Based upon a positive response from DoLA, construction would begin in March 2005.

2. In the meantime, Engine 4501 is garaged in Lyons during the winter months and on Eagle Drive (adjacent to our district) during the high fire danger months.

### *Questions*

A list of audience questions was compiled, most of which were answered during the course of the review. Questions answered separately were:

Q. Why was the new station plan not discussed with the community earlier?

A. This plan is discussed at board meetings, which are open to the public. Also, Stratton stressed that the community elects a board, and through them a fire chief, to make these decisions. Running a department through referendum would be ineffective and inappropriate.

*Ed.'s note: the station plans were discussed in the February '04 and June '04 newsletter issues and preliminary draw-*

*ings were shown at the Community Fest in Sept. 2003. A fundraising letter was also sent to the public which briefly outlined the plan.*

Q. What is the size of our district?

A. 147 residences, 463 residents

Q. What will be the disposition of the existing station?

A. This question was overlooked, but the answer is that the department will continue to use the existing building for vehicles, training, storage, and office space.

Q. Why did the relationship between Chris Voorhees and the department deteriorate over a disagreement on his cistern?

A. Stratton stated that he wasn't a resident at the time, but his understanding is that Chris disengaged his cistern in order to sell property on which it was located. The new owners have reengaged the cistern.

Sunshine residents

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## I Got to Go (cont. from p. 1)

Alex and I arrive at the intersection of CR 52 and CR 83. I slow down to head to the firehouse and see the blue and red flashes of 4531 as it heads down CR 83. I decide to head directly to the incident as I have Alex in the car and can't leave him alone at the station. 4531 is 50 yards behind me as my headlights sweep the accident scene: a small SUV is on its roof, perpendicular to Sunshine Canyon Drive, with its front in the ditch. It looks as though it fell from the sky, landing like a fat javelin in the earth.

I pull over to let 4531 pass and I park. My pacset squawks: 'Dispatch: 4531 is arrival at 5700 Sunshine Canyon Drive; a vehicle is on its roof, no flames are visible, one person visible. This will be Sunshine Command'. Eric Bader and Rick get out of 4531 and head to the wreck. I tell Boulder County Dispatch that I am 'arrival', exit my car, put on my turnout gear (the yellow fireman suit), grab a flashlight, ask Alex to stay in the car and jog the 50 yards to the scene. My pacset tells me that 4502 is en-route, status two, and I recognize Steve Stratton's voice.

Rick Lansky reported earlier that there was only one accident victim and that she was relatively uninjured. I still gird my feelings against what we might find, glad that 4531 is between Alex and the wreck. I say a quick prayer that my firefighter brothers and sisters remain safe over the next few hours and tag on 'and don't let me mess up'. Eric is the Incident Commander (IC) and I know that I'm in good hands. At the firefighting academy we were told over and over: 'Remember: it's not YOUR emergency'. I try to calm myself after

the adrenaline rush of the incident response. Eric is doing an initial medical assessment of the victim; he tells Rick and me to do 'inner and outer circles' around the wreck to check for hazards and other possible victims. Eric also informs Boulder Emergency Dispatch that Boulder Rural Fire and Gold Hill Fire, with whom we have autoaid agreements, do not need to respond further. After a few minutes, Rick and I complete our inspection and report to Eric that nothing was found. Pridemark Paramedic Services has arrived in the meantime and they are tending to the victim's injuries. Eric asks us to set up traffic control. Rick and I go to 4531 for traffic cones and I tell Alex that the victim seems to have only minor injuries and what our plans are. Alex asks me if there is a lot of blood, the way that a 10 year old boy, both fascinated and repulsed by gore, can ask. I laugh and say 'No, hardly any.' 4502 is now arrival with Steve and John Clark. Steve goes to talk to Eric; John helps Rick and me with traffic control. There is a surprising amount of traffic in Sunshine at this early hour.

While we are setting up the traffic control, a Boulder County Sheriff's Officer arrives. I brief the officer on the incident status and direct him to Eric, who is the IC. A Boulder Emergency Services (BES) vehicle soon follows the Sheriff's arrival. We also have an autoaid agreement with BES for vehicle accidents. BES takes over traffic control on the west end of the scene. They are the County's experts on the extrication of victims from vehicle accidents and they provide

support services on many emergency incidents. Like Sunshine, BES is a volunteer organization. They are County heroes: unassuming, professional, lifesaving. Within a couple of minutes, two more BES vehicles arrive, including a truck with scene lighting. With a flip of a switch, our accident scene becomes bathed in bright light. For some reason I flash to the scene in 2001: A Space Odyssey where the alien obelisk on the moon is unveiled. BES, now with more resources, takes over traffic control for the remainder of the incident. Finally, an officer from the Colorado State Patrol arrives. All business, he surveys the accident scene and interviews the accident victim, who by now has been treated and released by Pridemark.

The evolution of an emergency incident is akin to the self-assembly of a multiple-organism colony. After the initial call for help, resources are alerted and brought into motion. Initial uncertainty and disorganization becomes orderly; information is shared and tasks are assigned. The activity accelerates and builds to its needed level. At night, an accident scene is both frightening and beautiful, as darkness turns to light with the arrival of emergency resources, and the lonely, afraid and sometimes injured are comforted and treated.

At this point in the incident, we begin to release resources and the 'organism' dissipates. It has been nearly an hour since the initial

(cont. p. 11)

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## Sunshine Trivia

1. *Whose donations raised the most money at the Community Fest auction?*

- a. Steve Spencer, for the phone number of his model for the Naked Lady saloon sign
- b. Hildegard and Wain Stowe, for the chance to eat cake at 20,000'
- c. Bill Bender, for auto repair services; his motto: "If I can't fix your brakes, I'll make your horn louder."
- d. Doug Young, until Pam said the kids couldn't be raffled

2. *Which resident(s) hosted neighborhood parties this summer?*

- a. The Luchangcos, but canceled due to health problems...really, what's a little bubonic plague among friends?
- b. The Abts, until their yurt's official capacity of 150 persons was exceeded
- c. The Spencers, after discovering that tequila is a great weed killer
- d. Abby and Bill, but regretted it after the Community Fest chili eaten earlier kicked in

3. *Match residents with their past Halloween Carnival characters:*

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Steve Stratton | 1. Gold miner and prisoner |
| b. Janice Wheeler | 2. Fortune Teller          |
| c. Dee Spencer    | 3. Miss Lily, saloon girl  |
| d. John Hoffmann  | 4. Hanging Judge           |
| e. Butch Helper   | 5. Piano player            |

4. *If you take walks, you'll meet many of the neighborhood pets. But do you know their owners? Match pets with their people:*

- |            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| a. Bear    | 1. Mike Wheeler  |
| b. Milo    | 2. Peter         |
| c. Takota  | 3. Donna Edwards |
| d. Misty   | 4. Lavingtons    |
| e. Carlton | 5. Carpenters    |

Answers: 1. The Stowes 2. all 3. a-4, b-3, c-2, d-5, e-1 4. a-4, b-1, c-5, d-3, e-2

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### Personal Notice

*All b----es and gripes concerning speeders on CR 83 be addressed to Boulder County Sheriff's Dept as per their request.*

*All b----es and gripes concerning the Sunshine Fire Dept be addressed to Steve Stratton, fire chief, and/or Pavel Bouska, chairperson.*

*Chris Voorhees*

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## Neighbor News

*Achievements:* Jack Jewell, completed the Leadville Ultrathon

*New Residents:* Tim Zych and Tracy Ferrell, CR 83 (remodeled Gunn house); Allison Weliky and Nolan McFadden, Whispering Pines

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## New Schoolhouse Handrail

Thanks to Danny Williams and Chris Voorhees, a new handrail is installed at the schoolhouse improving safety and accessibility. All wagers on who would be the first person to break a tailbone slipping on the icy steps are now officially canceled!



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## Community Fest Thank You

Thanks to all who attended the Community Fest on September 11th. The weather was perfect. We as a community raised over \$8,500 for the Sunshine Fire Protection District. We had a total of 136 people attend, an 11% increase from last year. While we were down on admission and raffle ticket sales, the money raised from our auction was an increase over last year.

As every year, the Community Fest is the result of the work by many. Special thanks are due to these volunteers:

*Business solicitations:* Beth Byerlein, Paul Gatz, Danny Williams

*Set up:* Lin & Henry Ballard, Don Dick, Bruce Honeyman, Frank Maguire

*Auctioneers:* Beth Byerlein, Dee Spencer, Janice Wheeler

*Chili:* Jennifer Lansky, Eleanor Mahoney, Mary Mesch, Lisa van Leeuwen-Hall

*Beverages:* Paul Gatz, David Meyers, Steve Spencer, Danny Williams

Thanks to all of you for making the 2004 Sunshine Community Fest one of our best ever.

Stephen Hall  
Community Fest Director

Pavel Bouska  
Chairman of the Board, SFPD

We as a community need to thank the following local merchants for their valuable contributions:



Bart's CD Cellar  
Body Shop  
Boulder Outdoor Center  
Fourteenth St. Bar & Grill  
Gaiaam  
Gold Hill Inn  
Guiry's  
Independent Motors  
Indochine  
Lefthand/Tabernash Brewery  
Moe's Bagels  
Mountain Sun Brewery  
New Belgium Brewery  
Nick 'n Willie's  
Planet Bluegrass  
Redstone Meadery  
Rockies Brewing Company  
Science Artworks  
Sundown Saloon  
Tom's Tavern  
West End Gardener

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## Community Meeting Recognition

The SFPD Board of Directors thanks Chief Steve Stratton and his team for the outstanding and comprehensive presentation of our district's modernization plans at the community meeting on Thursday, August 26.

The feedback from Sunshine residents confirms that no questions were left unanswered by Steve Stratton and Bruce Honeyman, as well as past chiefs Doug Young, Steve Waltman and Eric Bader.

We also thank Wanda Bennett and the fire fighters for their help with the preparations.

Pavel Bouska  
Chairman of the Board, SFPD

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## Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



### Halloween Carnival

*When:* Saturday, Oct. 30th, starting 4:00

*Where:* Sunshine Schoolhouse

#### *Events:*

- *Children's Carnival* 4:00 to 6:00
- *Haunted Hayride* 4:00 to 6:30
- *Open Mike* 5:00 to 8:00
- *Happy Hour (BYOB)* 5:00 to 8:00
- *Pumpkin Carving Contest* 4:00 to 6:30
- *Rock 'n Roll Dance* 8:00 on

*Bring:* carved pumpkin; talent, skit or joke; adult libations for Happy Hour  
*Entry fee:* \$5/person, max. \$20/family  
*Food:* NEW! for your convenience, a commercial vending cart will sell hot dogs, quesadillas, etc.

### Arts & Crafts Fair

Our thanks to the following vendors who raised \$380 for the schoolhouse:

Jim Armitage

Coveys: Audie, Janice, Anita & Susie

Pat Dawson

Vera Dobson

Jenny Dowe

Claiborne Espinosa

Howards: June and Lois

Nancy Mason

Gigi Mesch

Michael Sakoske

Scheurers: Sue & Sara

Steve Spencer

### I Got to Go (cont. from p. 7)

'tone' from Boulder County Dispatch.

Pridemark begins to leave and we joke that they should leave our traffic cones alone. Steve Stratton tells me that when his pager went off he thought he was in Wyoming. It is a beautiful, warm night and I think about how lucky I am to know these people who would get up in the middle of a night for a stranger. I hope that Alex can find a community of friends like this when he is an adult.

I tell Eric that unless he has another assignment for me that I need to get Alex back in bed. Alex, for his part, likes the excitement and wants to stay but I've already asked enough of him.

At home, in bed, I can't sleep. The adrenaline has worn off but I know some of my friends are still up, closing down the incident. But, I know, too, that all around the U.S., volunteer firefighters are still up, doing what they can for their communities.

At our recent community meeting on the new firehouse, we were asked what happens when 911 is called. Nearly two-thirds of firefighters and emergency medical personnel in the US are volunteers. The call for volunteers to respond varies: sometimes it is a digital page, for others it is a voice pager with the dispatcher's call, still others hear a siren or whistle set off at their firehouse. No matter the method, it means life's daily trajectory for the volunteer is disrupted: dinners are left on the plate- 'I've got to go' is said; sleep is interrupted or deferred to another night ('I've got to go', is thought); children aren't tucked in for bed by their moms or dads; conversa-

tions are halted; work is stopped; spouses, lovers and children are left to remake plans: "I've got to go"; I've got to go'; I've got to go', echoes throughout the department's members- to a room full of friends, a lover, a spouse, to empty houses. 'Be safe; come back', we hear. Fear of the unknown rises in our hearts; 'Please, whatever else, don't let me fail my comrades', we think; hearts pound, trainings are remembered and forgotten; we see joy, beauty, horror; friendships are tempered in that place where the truth of our character is exposed; we fight against death and cope with sadness and hurt and rejoice in the miracle.

Sometimes we are thanked, kissed or hugged by those we serve; most often we are left to return home hoping that we did our best, thanking God that we have the comrades we have and knowing for certain that the best thing on Earth is to look into the faces of our family and friends once again.

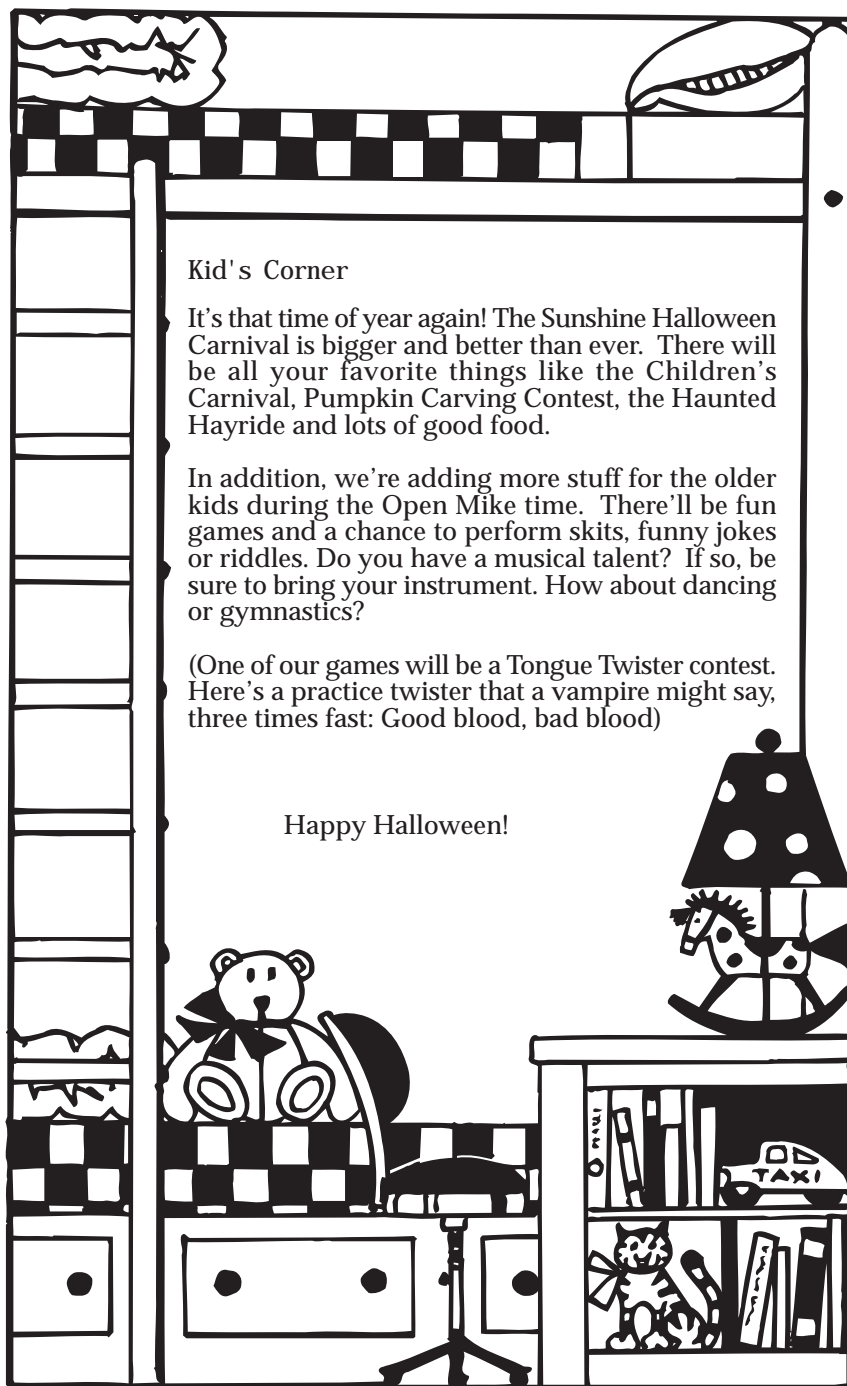
Between the emergency call for incidence response and 'Incident terminated' is a separate reality; it's the world created when 911 is called. It's the world of your volunteer fire department:

'Sunshine Fire: respond to ....'  
...'I've got to go'

...'Dispatch, Sunshine Fire is arrival...'

...'Dispatch, this is Sunshine Command. The incident terminated; personnel and vehicles are back in service.'

Bruce D. Honeyman, Fire Marshal



### Kid's Corner

It's that time of year again! The Sunshine Halloween Carnival is bigger and better than ever. There will be all your favorite things like the Children's Carnival, Pumpkin Carving Contest, the Haunted Hayride and lots of good food.

In addition, we're adding more stuff for the older kids during the Open Mike time. There'll be fun games and a chance to perform skits, funny jokes or riddles. Do you have a musical talent? If so, be sure to bring your instrument. How about dancing or gymnastics?

(One of our games will be a Tongue Twister contest. Here's a practice twister that a vampire might say, three times fast: Good blood, bad blood)

Happy Halloween!

### Classified Ads

License plate 130-HDM found during our annual CR-52 cleanup. Has current registration tag. Call Mary at 303-447-1471 to pick up.

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



### Poker Night to Benefit Sunshine

Come enjoy poker, drinks and more!

Where: Bill Bender's  
4801 Gibbs Ave, Boulder

When: Saturday,  
November 6th,  
8:00 PM until ?



Suggested donation of  
\$10 p/p to benefit  
Sunshine Fire  
Protection District

RSVP to 303-442-8949  
or williamsbender@cs.com



### Missing Cat

Fluffy black and white cat. May be wearing a blue collar with a red tag with his name "Mischief". If seen, please call 303-447-1471. If possible, holding him in your home until we can come over would be fabulous. He usually responds to a knife tapped on a can.

Reward: good "katma"  
in your next life!

The Mesch Family