

the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

Jan 05
Vol. 05 Iss. 1



SFPD Receives \$200,000 DOLA Grant

Yes: a '2' with five 'zeros' after it. It was one of those letters we all want to receive.

Last month, December 2004, the Sunshine Fire Protection District received notice that its grant proposal to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, asking for financial support toward the construction of our new firehouse, had been approved. The grant will provide approximately 42% of the cost of the new facility, which will be located just east of the Sunshine Cemetery, on Sunshine Canyon Drive.

The application was made through the DOLA Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program. The program was created in 1977 to provide funds and technical assistance to communities affected by the mineral extraction industries. Criteria for the selection of the proposed project are many but, in

general, there are three overarching criteria that need to be met for successful funding requests:

1. A legacy of mining and energy extraction in the community;
2. Current impacts to the community; and
3. The overall feasibility of the proposed project.

In addition, the community or agency making the proposal to DOLA needs to provide at least 50% matching funds. How did all of this come about?

In July of last year, John Hoffmann, the architect on the firehouse project, was talking to an acquaintance who mentioned that Nederland Fire had received a DOLA grant for its firehouse. We investigated this funding lead and learned of the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program. We also learned that the grant application was due in August. The Fire-

house building committee (Steve Stratton, Pavel Bouska, Don Dick, Wanda Bennett, John Hoffmann and myself) worked feverishly to meet the application deadline. In September 2004, we received comments on our application and a notification that we would be presenting our proposal to the DOLA grant panel in Pueblo, CO, the first week of November. On November 5th, Steve Stratton and I made a five-minute presentation to a panel of six; our presentation was

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Sunshine Potluck March 11th



Calendar of events

Training and meeting schedules are also available at the Sunshine Fire Department website: www.sunshinefire.com

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

Squad meetings:

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

Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28, May 26, Jun 23, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 22, Oct 27, no meetings in Nov. & Dec. due to holidays

Medical trainings:

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

Feb 10 Gold Hill, Mar 16 Four Mile, Apr 14 Gold Hill, May 18 Four Mile, Jun 9 Gold Hill, Jul 20 Four Mile, Aug 11 Gold Hill, Sep 21 Four Mile, Oct 13 Gold Hill, Nov 16 Four Mile, Dec 8 Gold Hill

Board meetings:

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

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

Special Events:

Sunshine Potlucks, Mar. 11th and June 17th at 6:30 p.m.



SFPD Receives \$200,000 (cont. from p. 1)

followed by five minutes of questions. The panel then voted and unanimously approved our request for \$200,000. We received the funding contract from DOLA the first week of January 2005.

The receipt of this grant obviously has an enormously positive impact on the District and our firehouse plans. As many of you know, building in the mountains is expensive, especially a 'commercial' structure like the firehouse. This grant will allow us to construct the firehouse that we need to help your firefighters and medics provide better service in the District.

Over the next few months you will begin to see a lot of activity at our firehouse site. First, power and telephone cables will be rerouted and buried. If you drive by the site you will notice that trees and shrubs have already been cleared. Our plan is to have a contract made with a building

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 the public.

District Officers

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief
Bruce Honeyman, Asst. Fire Chief & Fire Marshal



Contact information

Steve Stratton, Fire Chief
Home & work ph. 303-786-8255
Pager 303-441-3851 #4561
steve@stevestratton.tv
SFPD-Chief@egroups.com

Bruce Honeyman, Asst. Fire chief
& Fire Marshal
ph. 303-786-7731
SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com

In any emergency, call 911.

contractor over the next month and for excavation to begin in early March. Look in your mailboxes over the next few weeks for a notice of an anticipated groundbreaking ceremony. Photo updates of the construction can be found at: www.sunshinefire.com.

Bruce D. Honeyman
Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal

Chief's Message

HELP WANTED-NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

This has been a pretty extraordinary year for Sunshine Fire. Thanks to a rather normal amount of rain and snow, our fire danger has been much lower than in prior extremely dry seasons. That's a good thing. Our firefighters worked only one blaze all season when we were contracted by the Colorado State Forest Service to work the Picnic Rock fire west of Ft. Collins early in April. There is nothing like on the job experience, the best kind of training our volunteers can receive. Especially when it's not in our district.

We ended the year having responded to 31 emergency calls, down about 22% from previous years. Most of these calls were motor vehicle accidents. In fact the last four calls of the year all happened Christmas week, and all four were cars that ended up on their tops. Interestingly, I don't think any of the drivers were Sunshine residents. It might be a good idea to remind guests that Sunshine is pretty steep heading down into town. Most of our vehicle accidents happen in the same two places, just down hill from the County Road 83 intersection, and in the last mile entering Mapleton, the area we refer to as the "skating rink". Cars tend to speed up when they transition from dirt to pavement going down hill and that first curve, though not sharp, apparently catches many off guard. The skating rink is pretty much always iced over during winter months, so beware, even on warm sunny days it never sees sunlight.

Another extraordinary thing this past year was our building program. Due to unusual effort by several SFPD members we were awarded a \$200,000 Colorado Department of Local Affairs grant toward the construction of our new fire station. The skyrocketing costs of building this structure have been discouraging. But this grant, combined with the generous donations of Sunshine residents, is assuring our community's needs are being met.

One thing in 2004 was not extraordinary. Over the last several months we have lost quite a few volunteers. Attrition is a regular thing in volunteer fire departments. It's always difficult to attract, train and motivate new fire fighters on a continuing basis in a small department. In the last 18 months six very active members have left the community or had their families request more of their time. Our active firefighting force is down to 8 to 10 volunteers. So while SFPD is as strong as it ever has been, our ability to respond to emergencies is being affected by the lack of personnel.

I would like you to consider volunteering for your fire department. No experience is necessary. We provide all the training. The amount of participation is totally up to you. You can be a firefighter, a mechanic, an emergency medical responder or an auxiliary member that provides support services. If you are interested, we have a place for you. There is probably no better way to get to know your neighbors. And if there

were a crisis in Sunshine you would have the satisfaction of having done your best to support your community. Besides that, it's fun.

To get involved simply come to one of our meetings or trainings. They generally are the second Saturday and fourth Thursday evening of each month. You can call me (303-786-8255) or check our web site (www.sunshinefire.com) for a calendar of opportunities. Saturday trainings usually last through the morning and Thursday evenings we pretty much sit around and talk about how much fun we are having. We would love to have you join us.

So 2004 was a great year. We've worked hard and gotten a lot accomplished. And most importantly, there were no injuries or significant loss of property. Thanks to each of our volunteers for a job well done. *Here's to 2005!*

Steve Stratton
Fire Chief

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Volunteer Profile

If you drive past the site of our new station, you'll see it has been cleared of vegetation, the first tangible signs of progress and something that gives John Hoffmann great satisfaction. John, Sunshine resident and new station architect, has spent hundreds of hours over the last three years helping get the site selected, station designed, funds raised and construction started. Although the building committee membership has changed over time, John has been a constant factor, patient and persevering through all tribulations.

John is not one to blow his own horn and hands credit for the committee's success to chief Steve Stratton, stating that, "Steve's great leadership, even handedness, and ability to get the most out of people has been the key to making this the most successful committee I've been on". At the fire department Christmas party, Stratton reciprocated, giving special recognition to John's contributions in many areas, including finding the DoLA grant that is making the new station possible.

As a resident of Sunshine since 1982, John has supported the community in a variety of ways. Before family responsibilities weighed in, he was an active fire fighter. His most vivid and frightening memory was fighting the Old Stage fire. Chris Voorhees and he took a look over a hogback only to encounter an enormous wall of flame bearing down on them. Each was equipped with just a "shake & bake" sheet of fire resistant mylar and a WWII-issue Apache

pack holding a mere gallon of water, forcing them to run for their lives with fire 30' behind them.

Compared to that experience, John says, "Our current department is much more professional than in those days. There's a methodology today." He chose to get involved in the Modernization Committee feeling that it would be the most valuable way he could contribute. His involvement started with assessing if the existing station could be used, and when the determination was negative, moved on to the exhaustive site selection, building design and county approval process for construction of a new station.

The county approval process, which included a limited impact special use review, was a "fairly hairy process, harder than a site plan review". The effort paid off, though, when our district's plan received unanimous approval.

By the time the approval was received, John had working drawings ready. He admits that it was, "hard to try to accomplish something with few resources, few building options, and county requirements. We were

pressed from all angles." Specifically, he had to work within the county constraints of a 30' height limit, the fire department's requirement for a level driveway, the community's desire for an aesthetic both pleasing and consistent with our historic roots, and the difficulties inherent in building in the mountains. Oh, yes, and there was the issue of money.

As always, funding was a formidable obstacle. Fortunately, John ran into an old friend who told him about a DoLA grant that had been tapped to help fund Nederland's and Eldora's new stations. He quickly looked into it and found that there were quarterly evaluations for grants and we had only three weeks to meet that quarter's deadline. Working with fire marshal Honeyman, fire chief Stratton, and the other committee members, a successful application was made resulting in \$200,000 of matching funds. (*See lead article p. 1.*)

In summary, John says, "It has taken a lot of stubbornness to get the project to move ahead, we've had to kick it in the stomach every step of the way."

John is no newcomer to the process
(*cont. back page*)



View from Inside a Rollover

Until the first week of 2005, I had never had the viewpoint of someone inside a rollover vehicle. This changed abruptly on January 7 just past noon on Interstate 84 west of Baker City, Oregon. It was my turn to see a rollover from inside the beast.

Having driven to a family Christmas in reasonably good weather from Boulder to Marysville (north of Seattle), Madeline and I were now returning home with our two dogs, Kiva and Silver Penny. Kiva had the look and energy of a stuffed toy, while Silver Penny had experience as a con artist, cookie thief, beggar, and fur-bearing sweetheart.

Heading southeast two weeks after Christmas, our Toyota 4Runner SUV had already succeeded in dealing with the worst of the winter storms forecast for the Pacific Northwest. TV newscasts almost convinced us it was snowing in Key West. With four brand-new snow tires and a four-wheel-drive vehicle, we successfully got through the Cascade Range of Washington state during a vicious storm and wind-driven snow.

We slowly but successfully passed Oregon's icy mountains, where we saw quite a number of wrecks, including several 18-wheel trucks lying upside down. There was also a surprising number of personal vehicles towing U-Haul trailers through the mountains, and we saw skid marks of several where they had gone over the side. We ourselves still had to negotiate the steep slopes of eastern Oregon, all of Idaho, Utah and Wyoming, as well as the northern part of Colorado. Storms were forecast for every state.

In several instances, police shut down interstate highways after major accidents or ice accumulations and we were forced to seek motels earlier than planned.

As we left Pendleton and drove in light traffic on I-84 in eastern Oregon, the weather was cold but there was only intermittent snow. I had the vehicle in four-wheel drive; even though there were no curves in the asphalt road, there were gently rolling sections.

We passed a sign that welcomed us to Baker City, where the road seemed clear and dry, with a slight downhill grade.

I was not using cruise control; it affects vehicle handling and tire traction on icy roads, challenging the driver's control. On potentially icy roads, never use cruise control.

That's the background.

Just as Madeline and I were exchanging opinions about the quality of the audio book in the tape deck, the SUV veered violently to the left without the slightest warning and began spinning at high speed, no matter what I did with the steering wheel. We were going backwards, then sideways, then forward, spinning all the time. Madeline had just enough time to brace herself, while I was trying to turn into the spin, assisted by a supply of epithets. A total waste of effort.

The phenomenon was caused by a

treacherous beast called Black Ice.

In just a few seconds (time under these conditions is relative, to say the least) the speed of rotation slowed and I thought the worst was over. At that instant, the SUV flipped over and crashed down onto its right side in the ice and snow with an incredible force, still sliding along the median strip. It was a wide, grassy area resembling a creek bed and we descended into it with a grinding, screeching, shattering sound as the windows blew out. I recall thinking that it must be like crashing in an airplane.

Police later told us we slid about 127 feet. Considering that the vehicle weighed two tons, that's a lot of kinetic energy.

When we eventually came to a stop, we found the interior of the vehicle filled with dirt, glass shrapnel, pieces of sharp metal and the occasional tuna fish sandwich. I heard a dripping sound and my first thought was gasoline, but it turned out to be water from the dogs' canteen.

It must have been quite a sight for travelers looking in our direction, though Hollywood could probably have surpassed it. We were not quite upside down. People came running from big trucks, little trucks, cars, and who-knows-where.

I was hanging upside down by my driver-side seat belt but couldn't

(Cont. p. 6)

View from Inside a Rollover (cont. from p. 5)

turn my head to see much of anything. That Toyota SUV model was one of the last to be sold without air bags, so they were not a factor.

I was convinced from the force of the impact and the extent of the damage that Madeline was dead because if I was inverted at the top of the wreckage, it meant she had to be at the bottom of it. I tried twisting around to see where she was, but could not move.

I reached straight down with my right arm and groped around, expecting to encounter blood, or worse. Instead, a hand slid into mine and Madeline asked:

“Are you OK?”

“Yeah,” I said with tremendous relief, “yeah, yeah, yeah.”

By this time, all either of us could see outside the SUV were boots, knees and belt buckles as our rescuers tried to plan their moves. Shattered glass was in tiny, sharp pieces that we spent the next week removing from our hair, clothes and ears. We both had glass bits in our eyes, which prompted the EMTs to tell us to keep our eyes closed, and which the ER later removed. It is difficult keeping your eyes closed with so much going on.

Madeline looked through the space where the windshield used to be and could see four furry feet walking across the median strip and toward the highway. Nearby lay a leash.

“My dog!” she screamed at nobody in

particular, “Get my dog! Before he runs onto the highway! Where’s my other dog!?”

Somebody was paying attention and soon Kiva had been apprehended and put into a sheriff’s patrol car, which took him to a nearby veterinary hospital.

“Where’s my other dog?!” Madeline yelled.

“We’ve got both dogs,” somebody said.

Someone else said: “Hey, don’t let him move his head!” and I realized they were talking about me as I dangled. My abdomen hurt because all my weight was hanging by the lap section of the seat belt.

From somewhere a towel was fetched. They folded it lengthwise and put it under the back of my head. A guy who was among the first to reach the wreck held each end of the towel to support my head as if it was in a sling. He held my head motionless until the fire department and an ambulance arrived.

I’ll never know who he was.

A face appeared. Above it was a yellow helmet with a shield that said “Baker City Fire Department” and under that was a single word: Fire-fighter.

OK, I thought, the pros are here -- not to denigrate the efforts of the passersby who helped, but there are

beneficial things that pros are expected to know.

Madeline began shivering uncontrollably and a State Trooper reached into the wreck and draped her with a yellow plastic blanket that looked like a painter’s drop cloth. She said it was remarkably warm.

Within a minute or so, two female EMTs crawled into the wreck. One began working with Madeline, while Sarah started packaging me for extrication. When our eyes and faces had been protected from sparks, glass and other stuff, the fire department cranked up their power saw and first removed the sunroof, then cut off the main roof of the SUV.

They put a thick collar around my neck then strapped me to a backboard to keep me from moving. They did the same with Madeline and we were soon inside the ambulance.

It was a short trip to St. Elizabeth’s in Baker, where we were checked out and had most of the glass removed from our eyes. They kept asking in disbelief: “Are you SURE you’re not hurt?” That was a clue to the state of the SUV, as well as the luck that accompanied us. The ambulance crew and ER staff attributed our survival to two words: “seat belts.” Not only did we survive, but we had no injuries except for yanked muscles.

(Cont. p. 7)

View from Inside a Rollover (cont. from p. 6)

I asked trooper Peggi Jones of the Oregon State Police how they respond to these winter accidents without spinning out and rolling over themselves.

"We use studded snow tires," she said, "and we approach slowly."

The major tragedy of the day occurred when Madeline was told at the hospital that Silver Penny had been killed instantly. She apparently had been thrown so violently by the rollover that her neck was broken. Until Madeline herself had been checked out, they didn't want to upset her even more by news of Silver Penny. So they chose their reassuring words carefully at the scene. Kiva had been taken to a local animal clinic, where he was found to have no injuries, and we retrieved him as soon as we had motel accommodations. For days he was a very confused doggie, looking for Silver Penny.

Madeline's purse disappeared in the chaos, but it was a temporary loss and the purse was delivered to us intact by Peggi Jones the next morning. Until we had it, however, we were broke because the ATM unit for some reason would not accept my credit cards. I think I was entering the wrong PIN number. That happens when you've been shaken up.

So there we stood on the sidewalk outside the ER with no money, no transportation, no housing, no nearby family or friends, and no Silver Penny ...and the nearest car rental agency was 135 miles away in Boise, Idaho. Weather forecasts warned of another large snowstorm coming our way. Just what we needed.

On the other hand, we also had no fractures, no lacerations, no burns, no scrapes, no amputations or other trauma.

The people of Baker were marvelous to us. The fire department, local taxicab owner, the motel owner, city police, state troopers, insurance agencies and many other people went out of their way to get us home. It wasn't that easy.

It was Monday afternoon when we were given a lift to Boise by a State Farm Insurance agent's wife. We rented a Ford Explorer and carefully crossed Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. The weather worsened and Interstate 80 was shut down because of ice and snow and a two-truck wreck. Our estimates of when we would arrive in any given town were always optimistically early due to that same weather.

The finely powdered snow blown by vicious winds in Wyoming was among the most dangerous of conditions. The interstate had been reduced to one lane in each direction. Driving several hundred feet behind an 18-wheeler, I was alarmed when such a truck would abruptly disappear into one of these horizontally moving snow clouds. Not daring to stop too suddenly, all I could do was gradually reduce speed and hope I wouldn't find the rear of a truck in a whiteout the hard way. The white lane markings were invisible.

In a coffee shop somewhere along the way, I looked across the table at Madeline and said: "I'm very glad

you're alive."

"Funny," she replied, "I was just about to say the same to you."

We paid for the coffee, returned to the rented SUV, and continued on our way home, giving Kiva a head scratch every few minutes.

We pulled into our own driveway late Wednesday night on January 13, unloaded the Explorer and returned it to the rental agency. Exhaustion would be an understatement and ours lasted several days, much shorter than our grief over Silver Penny.

Next year we'll take her with us again, if only in spirit. I know she'll enjoy Key West.

Frank Maguire



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Sunshine Trivia

1. *Who had a lion kill a deer in front of their house?*

- a. Chris Voorhees, but the lion drug it across the road when Chris tried to fight it for the carcass
- b. Tony & Linda Luchangco, but the lion left after Linda set out candles, matching placemat and napkin, and lemon in a squeeze bag
- c. Jenna & Danny Willams, but fled in terror when Iggy appeared

2. *Who did NOT appear on stage at the halloween Open Mike hour?*

- a. *The House Band*, featuring Steve Spencer, John Hoffmann, John Metzger
- b. *MLD and the Chemists* with Mike Wheeler, Lance Bender, and Dustin Spencer
- c. Nolan McFadden, vocals and guitar
- d. Dave Meyers, with a rendition of "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall" blown on mead bottles
- e. Nancy Engellener, competing against young children for prizes

3. *Whose band recently won the "Battle of the Bands" contest in Denver?*

- a. *The Bunko Babes*, but later disqualified for drunken and disorderly conduct
- b. *Stratton and the Fire Fighters*, performing a cover of Springstein's "I'm on Fire"
- c. Nathan Wheeler, having a blast playing trombone in *Angry Meter Maid*
- d. *The House Band*, who thought they entered the "Battle of the Blands"

Answers: 1. Chris Voorhees 2. Dave Meyers 3. Nathan Wheeler

New Station Update

If you've wondered what is happening with our new Sunshine fire station, we now have some information...and good news to share. The start of construction was delayed last fall in order to apply for a DOLA grant, which we were awarded - in the amount of \$200,000. This funding will be a major help in building the new station, so it was well worth the delay! The SFPD Building Committee is now in the process of obtaining competitive bids from contractors. The telephone and power companies are in the process of relocating utilities at the building site and we should also have our building permit in the next weeks. We are pleased to announce that construction on our new station will begin sometime in February or March.

Neighbor News

Achievements: *Forrest Soper* took first place in showmanship and second place in the obstacle course at the National Western Stock Show llama competition.

Deb Miller completed her first marathon in December, beating her personal time goal by five minutes.

Nathan Wheeler and his band, *Angry Meter Maid*, won the Battle of the Bands in Denver, topping numerous other bands for the honor.

New Addition: Congratulations to *Heather & Kyle Vermeer* who returned from India with their newly adopted daughter *Indira*



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Valentine's Day Wisdom from Kids

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

--Derrick, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.

--Martin, age 10

How would the world be different if people didn't get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?

--Kelvin, age 8

How do you decide who to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

--Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.

--Kirsten, age 10

What do you think your mom and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids.

--Lori, age 8



How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck.

--Ricky, age 10

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Halloween Carnival Photos



Photos courtesy of Linda Luchangco

Photo Captions (It to right, top to bottom) 1. Nolan McFadden 2. Rebecca Folsom, Steve Spencer, Steve Stratton 3. Michelle Carpenter 4. Gigi Mesch, Dee Spencer, Tucker Hall, Jean Gatz 5. The Ward Family 6. Lance Bender, Mike Wheeler, Dustin Spencer 7. Wanda Bennett 8. Ellen Young, Lindsey Lavington, Katherine Lapp 9. Brendan Hoffmann 10. Janice Wheeler, Mary Mesch, Eleanor Mahoney

Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



Sunshine Potluck

In the past, we've had an annual potluck held at the schoolhouse. This year, we want to try to have more potlucks, with specific activities associated with each one. The next potluck will be March 11th (details follow) and will include a Town Meeting session. The following potluck will be June 17th and feature an Open Mike Hour. (If we have fun on Halloween when we're numb with cold, we should have an even bigger blast on a warm summer evening!)

When: Friday, March 11th, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Sunshine Schoolhouse

What: Town Meeting & Potluck

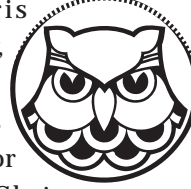
Bring: dinnerware & beverages for yourself plus dish to share with 8 persons

Sunshine Spiritual Hour

If you'd like to participate in an inspirational hour on Sunday mornings at the schoolhouse, please contact Janice Wheeler at 303-442-0657. The intent is to reflect upon moral, ethical, and spiritual topics in a supportive community. Janice would like an idea of how many might be interested and is seeking input on a format that would be most appropriate. This is non-denominational, non-theistic and all community members are welcome.

Wildlife Watch

In December, a lion killed a deer at the end of Chris Voorhees' driveway, then dragged it across the road into the trees where it fed off it for about ten days. Chris showed the Ballards the carcass, until the lion showed up and they made a quick (and wise) retreat.



New Zealand Mudsnails in Creek
The Colorado Division of Wildlife on Thursday banned fishing in a three-mile stretch of Boulder Creek because of the discovery of invasive New Zealand mudsnails.

The 90-day emergency ban is effective immediately and applies to the water between Valmont Road and 95th Street, said Division of Wildlife spokesman Todd Malmsbury.

Boulder resident Bruce Norikane was fishing in Boulder Creek near 61st Street in early November when he noticed the tiny mudsnails. Adults are 1/8-inch long, or about one-sixth the diameter of a penny. It was the first confirmed discovery of New Zealand mudsnails in the state.

The snails, which have no natural predators in the Northern Hemisphere, have turned up in several Western states, reaching densities of 500,000-per-square meter on river bottoms in Yellowstone National Park.

Since appearing in the 1980s, they have displaced native species, and have the potential to upend aquatic ecosystems.

Boulder and Boulder County already have posted signs along the creek asking that people and animals stay out to stop the snails' spread.

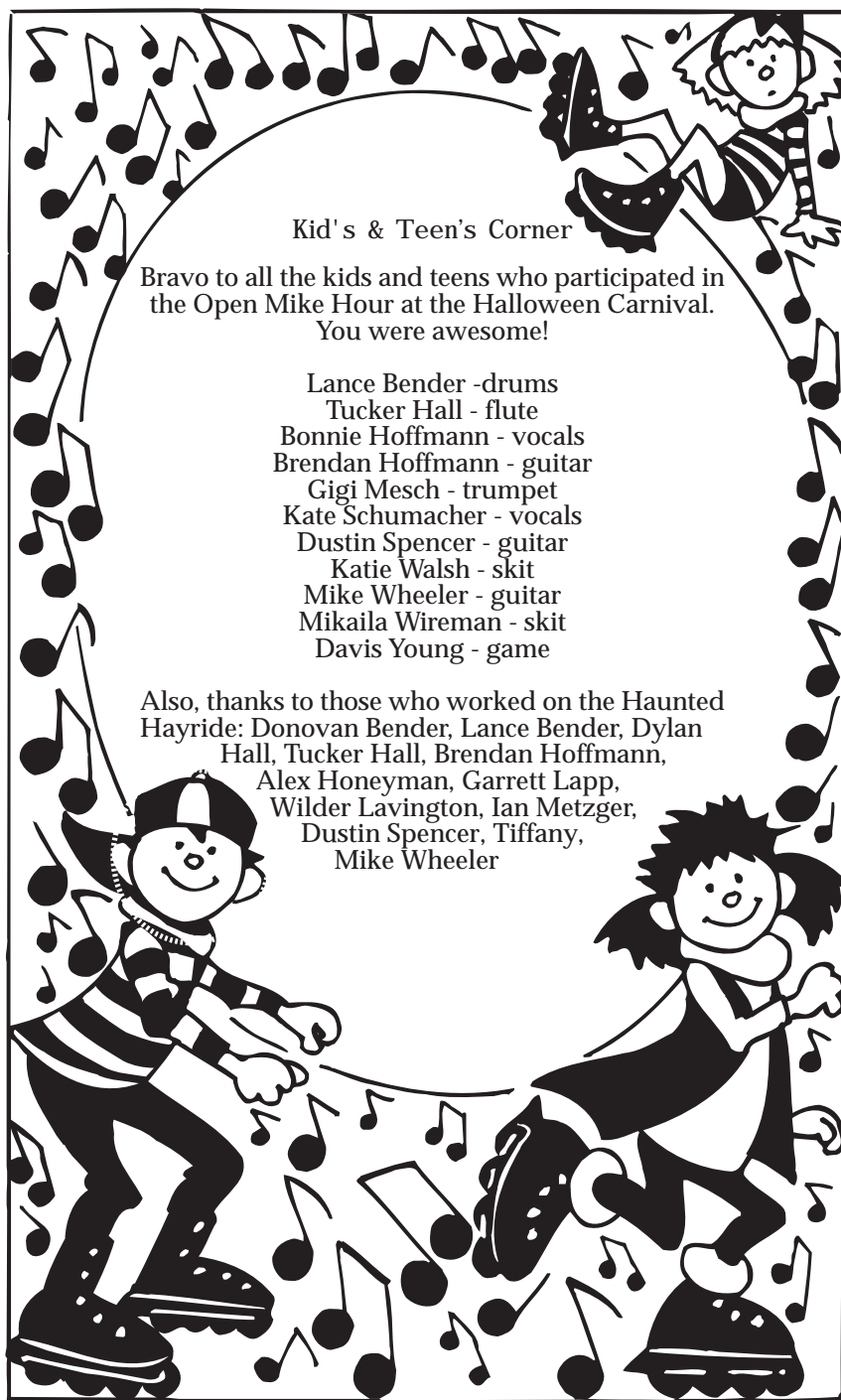
"Our goal is to keep people, fishermen and dogs out of the creek so they don't pick up the snails and carry them somewhere else," Dave Hoerath, a wildlife specialist with Boulder County Parks and Open Space, said earlier this week. *Excerpted from The Daily Camera, Todd Neff, Jan. 14, 2005*

County gives permission to kill deer
Sharpshooters received Boulder County's permission to take aim at 15 male deer on Rabbit Mountain open space land to help control chronic wasting disease in the area.

The approval by the Board of Commissioner came despite opposition from several Boulder-based environmental groups and concerned citizens.

Officials with the Colorado Division of Wildlife also received permission to begin trapping between 20 and 25 deer for live testing on the Heil and Trevarton open space properties.

The two chronic wasting disease management methods are part of a three-part proposal from the state's wildlife division to identify problem animals, areas and movements in the county with a goal of eventually stopping the disease's spread. *Excerpted from The Daily Camera, Vanessa Miller, Jan. 14, 2005*



Kid's & Teen's Corner

Bravo to all the kids and teens who participated in the Open Mike Hour at the Halloween Carnival. You were awesome!

Lance Bender - drums
Tucker Hall - flute
Bonnie Hoffmann - vocals
Brendan Hoffmann - guitar
Gigi Mesch - trumpet
Kate Schumacher - vocals
Dustin Spencer - guitar
Katie Walsh - skit
Mike Wheeler - guitar
Mikaila Wireman - skit
Davis Young - game

Also, thanks to those who worked on the Haunted Hayride: Donovan Bender, Lance Bender, Dylan Hall, Tucker Hall, Brendan Hoffmann, Alex Honeyman, Garrett Lapp, Wilder Lavington, Ian Metzger, Dustin Spencer, Tiffany, Mike Wheeler

Editorial Contact

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

Volunteer Profile (*cont. from p. 4*)

though, having worked on a wide variety of projects since his graduation from the CU School of Architecture in 1974. He knew already in high school, where he enjoyed drafting, art, and trigonometry, that architecture was his calling.

Staying in Boulder after graduation was a natural choice for John, who grew up in small communities with an appreciation for the outdoors. He recalls during his early years in a small town outside Toronto spotting two wolves in his backyard. At his current home, he's had more than one close encounter with mountain lions.

His hobbies include skiing, hiking, camping, and music and he and his family are also active in Sunshine social events. Last Halloween, John (dressed neck down as a bear) played bass guitar in the House Band at Sunshine's Open Mike hour. His son, Brendan, 12, also performed on the guitar, and daughter Bonnie, 15, sang. His wife, Eleanor Mahoney, has been involved for many years in organizing the Halloween Carnival and other Sunshine events.

Classified Ads

Art & Nature classes for pre-schoolers ages 3-5 years old, for more info call Dee Spencer at 303-443-0121

Nanny needed. We're looking for a part-time nanny for our 2 kids, ages 1 and 3. 1 day/wk immediately, gradually working up to 3 days/wk in June. Please call for an interview (303) 415-1167

During the sixteen plus years that John has lived here, he's seen the community evolve, with more young families and social interaction now. He appreciates the social diversity of our community and the common bond that we all love Sunshine.