

the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

Nov 05
Vol. 05 Iss.4



Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries

Is your life and that of your family worth about \$2? That is the price of a typical 9-volt battery, the one that powers most smoke detectors. And the cost of a smoke detector?: as little as \$7. Smoke detectors save the lives of *thousands* of people each year, in addition to helping reduce property loss. Properly placed in your home, and with a good battery, smoke detectors are one of the best things that you can do to keep your family, property and pets safe. Smoke typically travels much faster than fire, so smoke detectors are like an early warning system. A correctly operating smoke detector can reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by fifty percent!


How do smoke detectors work? There are two kinds in common use: photoelectric and ionization. Both detector types have a sensing unit and a noise-

making unit. In a photoelectric detector, a light source shines through a tube; when smoke is not present, the light travels through the tube without interruption. However, when smoke is present in the tube, smoke particles scatter the light and a sensor positioned at a right angle to the light beam sees some of the scattered light and sets off the horn in the smoke detector. This type of detector is good for smoldering fires that produce a lot of smoke (e.g., a couch on fire).

The second common type of smoke detector uses ionizing radiation in the sensor. These detectors are better at detecting the small amounts of smoke that is produced by hot, flaming fires. Ionization detectors use a tiny quantity of radioactive material, americium-241 (about 1/5000th of a gram). The americium atom 'de-energizes' by producing 'ionizing radiation' in the form

of a helium nuclei (called an alpha particle). Ionizing radiation has the ability to strip electrons from material that it hits (thereby forming ions), such as smoke particles. The free electrons that are created in the ionization process have a negative charge and they are attracted to a positively-charged plate; the movement of the electrons sets up an electrical current. The detector is constructed so that when the electrical current starts, an alarm goes off. *(Cont. on p. 2)*





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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.

Dec 10

Squad meetings:

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

No meetings in Nov. & Dec. due to holidays

Medical trainings:

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

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.

Dec 13



Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries (cont. from p. 1)

Pretty neat for \$7!

Where should smoke detectors be placed? At a minimum, you should install smoke detectors in the hallway outside each sleeping area. The detectors should be close enough so that the alarm can be heard with the bedroom doors closed. Ideally, detectors should be mounted as high as is possible, preferably on the ceiling. Dead air space should be avoided in detector placement.

The most common cause of smoke detector failure is a missing, dead or disconnected battery. Changing your detector's battery twice a year is good insurance against detector failure.

Change your clock; change your battery.

Brcue Honeyman
Fire Marshal

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.

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Chief's Message

With the arrival of November the property owners and firefighters of Sunshine enter two new seasons. The first is the renewal of higher fire danger. As was anticipated we had a very normal summer this year. We received somewhat regular rains and your fire fighters had one of their easiest summers in several years. The only wild-fires we worked were the North Foot-hills fire on Sept. 1st which burned 65 acres and the 30 acre Lykins Gulch fire south of Lyons on July 16th. But at the end of each year, just as we start to believe the fire season is over, the afternoon rains stop and the air over the mountains is just cold enough to force the winds to drop their snow before reaching us. Smaller amounts of rain and dry winds make for a second fire season just as we are preparing our Thanksgiving turkey. We often assume we can reduce our worry of fire right now, however, the last two significant forest fires in Sunshine were during this time.

The second season we are beginning is slash burning season. The Boulder Public Health Department lifts its burn ban on November first each year and those of you who have been mitigating your property against forest fire probably have large piles of tree limbs to dispose of.

I always get a significant number of calls at this time asking how to safely control a fire for this purpose. Starting an open fire on the front range, where everyone can see it, gets a lot of attention. So let me remind you of the acceptable, and legal, way to go about this.

You must have a Boulder County burn permit. This permit is easy to get and costs nothing. Go to www.co.boulder.co.us/health/ and you can fill it out on-line. The Health Department will mail you, and me, the signed permit. Or you can stop by the Health Department at 3450 Broadway in Boulder and do it all in person.

You must follow the instructions on the permit. Guidelines on the size of fire, what may be burned and when you can do it are all included on the permit.

You must call the sheriff and me. This is part of the permit instructions, but I mention it again because failure to obey this will guarantee a visit by the sheriff and myself. That in itself is not so bad, but half the county will respond to the community's smoke reports, and fire fighters from Sunshine and all the surrounding districts will drop what they are doing to come see you. The day you are going to burn simply phone the sheriff's dispatch (303-441-4444), then call me (303-786-8255). We'll want to know the address of the burn and I'll probably confirm that the weather conditions are okay for burning. Even if I don't answer my phone, please leave a message.

You must not burn in dry or windy conditions. The safest time is when there is snow on the ground, no wind and a low overcast. During or right after a rain may be okay. And the cooler the day the better. A flame needs heat to grow. Any departures from this require strong consider-



ation. Any questions? I'll be happy to help.

Probably the question I am asked more than any other is whether the fire department can help you burn your slash. More and more I am having to say no. While burning slash isn't hard work, it usually takes all day to baby sit the fire. We have a fire crew of only a handful of dedicated people. And while we are often happy to help a neighbor, spending all our time cleaning up some one else's yard is beyond the volunteer firefighter's call of duty. It also takes us "out of service" to respond to a real emergency.

So, enjoy the season. This is probably the most beautiful time in Colorado. And it is also the time of year to keep your eyes open. Even though it might not seem like fire season, it is. Pay attention to the weather and don't burn without playing by the rules.

Steve Stratton
Fire Chief

In memory of Greg Stearns

Former Sunshine resident and fire fighter Greg Stearns recently died of injuries sustained from a fall off a cliff. Greg was camping out while on a four-day biking trip that would span 100 miles along White Rim Road in Utah's Canyonlands National Park.

At the time of his death, Greg was a resident of Nederland. Before that he lived for six years with his sister, Pam Aronson, and her husband Michael here in Sunshine.

Greg's mother, Nancy, said her son died "doing what he loved."

He was an accomplished potter, teaching assistant, landscaper, carpenter, stone mason and volunteer fireman. But above all, she said, he was an avid outdoorsman who spent time surfing in Mexico, hunting, rock climbing, fly fishing, skiing, playing hockey and mountain biking.

"These activities defined him as much as his quiet artistry with clay and woodworking," she said. "Although Greg lived and worked in Utah, Hawaii and Maine, the draw of Boulder and its mountains proved overwhelming, time and again."

What his friends recalled was Greg's quick wit and wisdom. He was in touch with nature, loved adventure and didn't place much stock in material things, they said.

His friends and family attended a memorial service at the Sunshine Schoolhouse. On display were Greg's skis, mountain bike, pottery and other items that reflected his passions. Brother-in-law Mike Aronson felt that the spirit of the schoolhouse was the perfect place to celebrate Greg's life.

Includes excerpts from Nov. 7 Daily Camera

Halloween Carnival Success

For the Halloween Carnival, the schoolhouse was transformed into a spookhouse full of activities for the younger kids. For the older kids, the Haunted Hayride provided thrills, whether they were on the ride or working it.

The diehards who stuck out a spell of rain and wind were rewarded with Open Mike jokes, limbo dancing, and shake-your-butt music by the Blowtorch Hillbillies. Not only was the event fun, but it also raised \$150 for the Schoolhouse.

Thank you to everyone, especially the organizers:

Children's Carnival: Michelle Carpenter & Jean Gatzka

Open Mike: Steve Spencer

Haunted Hayride: Julie & Steve Lavington

Food Service: Eleanor Mahoney & Janice Wheeler

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New Station Update

Fire Station Stalls

... More Cash Needed

Increasing costs, climbing technical requirements and slowing subcontractors have reduced the progress of the new Sunshine Fire Station #2 at 5880 Sunshine Canyon Drive. Construction of the new station had been proceeding faster than anticipated until its final stages when the district's structural engineer delivered new design specifications for the driveway and parking area. The approach to the station must be capable of supporting our heaviest fire truck, which weighs 40,000 pounds when fully loaded with water. This raised concern over the ability of the newly compacted soil to support such a load.

Since the beginning of construction, concrete prices have climbed 35%, asphalt costs, 21%. Finding a solution that would contain costs and still meet the design requirements resulted in significant delays.

The good news is design specifications have been locked down.

Subcontractors have been hired and completion of the parking area is expected by the middle of November. The original plan to forgo paving of the entire area until next year has given way to completing the entire project now, saving many thousands of dollars in temporary measures to make the area usable until paved. While this has forced the project over budget, it has also reduced overall expenditures in future years.

Items still awaiting completion are:

Concrete apron, \$6,290

Parking lot paving, \$19,368

Stone façade on building, \$2,497

Gutters and down spouts, \$2,182

Exterior 911 telephone, \$372

Grass seeding, \$2,000

Cistern sealing, \$1,200

Lightning arrestors, \$2,400

The station itself is complete and will be ready for our new Pump Engine as soon as an occupancy permit is received from Boulder County.

Several Sunshine property owners have expressed concern that the

filling of the 130,000 gallon cistern may have an effect on their home water supplies. To date, no water has been pumped into the cistern, and restrictions have been applied to the well so that only small amounts of water may be pumped to the cistern at a time. Cistern filling is expected to take several months and may be augmented with water from surrounding districts.

The building of this station, until recently, was proceeding on schedule and on budget. The budget however has been extended to accomplish goals that if delayed would result in very large cost increases in the future. The District is running perilously close to exhausting its project funding, while still leaving the necessary reserves to respond to emergencies in Sunshine. However, after years of research, planning and fund raising, Sunshine Station #2 is almost done.

Steve Stratton
Chief

"I Support Sunshine FPD" t-shirts are still available after the Community Fest!

Adult sizes S, M, L & XL and also Youth sizes S, M & L. The price is 1 for \$15, 2 for \$25, 3 for \$30. The proceeds from sales of these colorful shirts go 100% to Sunshine Fire Protection District! If you are looking for a great gift idea...here it is! Contact Wanda Bennett or Steve Stratton (303.786.8255) and we'll make sure you receive your t-shirts promptly. Thanks to the Sunshine community for supporting your volunteers.

Another crisp, beautiful day in Sunshine provided the backdrop for a great Community Fest gathering at the "old" fire station. We raised over \$8,000 because of the efforts of many, many people.

Before setting off for Hawaii, past chairman Stephen Hall passed off the various duties for the Community Fest with me, Beth Byerlein, acting as coordinator. That's what happens when you're the last one to duck.

The set up and break down committee of Gigi Mesch, Danny Williams, Steve Stratton, Wanda Bennett, Frank McGuire and others got everything spit spot for the big crowd.

The chili makers—Mary Mesch, Jennifer Lansky and Eleanor Mahoney—were on the scene early with their crockpots. Danny provided beer lovers a never-ending beverage supply through his network of beer making friends. David Meyers and Paul Gatza also pitched in with mead, beer and merchandise and then left town quickly, but not before David left his checkbook with Danny to bid \$1,000 for one of Hildegard Stowe's pastry creations! It's good for us that Steve Spencer has the Celestial Tea connection so there was something for the young to drink.

Several people twisted the arms of their favorite merchants for donations, including Danny, Eleanor, Bruce Honeyman and myself. These generous donors who are solicited several times a week somehow still find it in their budgets and hearts to offer something to the Community Fest. (If everyone getting this newsletter calls just one of the merchants on the attached list to thank them, our donations would be that much better next year!)

In turn, auctioneers Janice Wheeler, Dee Spencer and I twisted the arms of our neighbors. (Thanks neighbors!) At the same time, Wanda handled t-shirt sales and raised over \$600. (Contact Wanda at 303.786.8255 if you still want to buy one.) Gigi and Mary handled entry fees and raffle ticket sales while Eleanor collected money from the auction items.

Thanks to Stephen for channeling how to run a Community Fest from Hawaii—great job Stephen— we followed your directions correctly!

Beth Byerlein

Community Fest Donors

Business Donors

Hurdles Jewelers
Mike's Camera
Crystal Galleries
Lefthand/Tabernash Brewery
Boulder Beer
New Belgium Brewing
Redstone Meadery
Art Mart
Verlo Mattress
Tom's Tavern
Pasta Jays
Gold Hill Inn
Juanita's
Science Artworks
Boulder Printing Company
On Broadway and Boulder Spa
Lazy Dog Saloon
Celestial Seasonings

Earl's Saw Shop
8 Days A Week
West End Gardener
Planet Bluegrass
Independent Motors
Front Range Precast Concrete
North Boulder Chiropractic
Littlehorse Galleries
14th Street Bar & Grill
Common Era 2000
Spruce Confections
Pedestrian Shop
Ray Geier
BJ's

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Eric Bader
Bill Bender
Wanda Bennett

Susie Covey
Peter Dillon
Donna Edwards
Gigi Mesch
Mary Mesch
David Meyers
Michael Sakoske
Abby Silver
Steve Spencer
Wain Stowe
Danny Williams
Blowtorch Hillbillies: *John Hoffmann, John Metzger, Dee & Steve Spencer, David Wheeler*

THANK YOU, THANK YOU,
THANK YOU, donors! Your
contributions benefit our community
in so many ways.

One Person's Trash Is Another Person's ...

I had just unwrapped my chicken/bacon ranch sandwich from Subway when my SFPD pager beeped. It's Sunday, October 16th, at 12:36 PM. I look at my pager's display:

PRI: 2 INC: FRF051016008718 TYP: ASSIST AD: 4200 SUNSHINE CANYON DR CTY: SS MAP: O16 LOC: BALD MOUNTAIN OS CMT1: MAIN PARKING LOT / NON-EMERG FOR A TRASH CAN WITH THE LID DUCT TAPED ONTO CMT2: IT TIME: 12:36 XST: 1 POOR-MAN RD XST2: 1 COUNTY RD 83

I take a couple of quick bites of the sandwich and head to my car. Listening to the radio I hear Rick Lansky 'go arrival' at the Bald Mountain parking lot. I radio him and ask him if we need any of the fire apparatus.

He replies that Eric Bader is on his way to Station #1 (311 County Road 83) to pick up our brush truck (4531). I'm thinking about what it could be and I begin to worry that it is waste from a 'meth' (methamphetamine) lab. Such wastes are terrifically hazardous and I try to mentally review what we have learned in our trainings about handling such wastes.

Eric Bader and I arrive at the station at the same time and we put our gear in 4531. Just as we pull out, Steve Waltman shows up and he says that he will take 4502, one of our pumpers. Eric tells the dispatcher that we are en route 'non-emergent, status two' and we head out to Bald Mountain. At the junction of CR 52 and 83, I see that Steve in 4502 is just behind us.

The Bald Mountain lot is empty except for Rick Lansky's SUV and a Boulder County Sheriff's pickup. It's the Sheriff who asked us for assistance. Looking into the lot, we see a light blue, plastic garbage can with its top duct-taped on. It looks odd sitting next to the standard issue, brown, bear-proof Open Space garbage can. After discussing what to do, we use 4531 to block the entrance to the lot and then position 4502 on Sunshine Canyon Drive.

Rick, Steve, Eric and I put on our turnout gear. While Rick and Steve put on SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus), Eric and I set up a hose from 4531 in case we need water in a hurry. With Eric, the Sheriff officer and myself stationed upwind, Steve and Rick walk to the garbage
(Cont. on p. 10)

Sunshine Trivia

1. Which Sunshine band has been performing at neighborhood functions and FACs?

- John Metzger, John Hoffmann, Dee & Steve Spencer, and David Wheeler in *Blowtorch Hillbillies*
- Linda Luchangco, Mary Mesch, & Ardie Sehulster in *Neighborhood Patrol*
- Pam and Fred Goldsman in *Nit Wits*
- Danny & Jenna Williams in *Iggy Poop*

2. Match neighbors to their backgrounds (more than one may apply):

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Michelle Carpenter | a. recently slept through a bear raiding the kitchen |
| 2. Tony Luchangco | b. survivalist |
| 3. John Metzger | c. full-time rocker for seven years |
| 4. Mary Mesch | d. loves dogs despite going through rabies vaccine series three times |
| 5. Donna Edwards | e. grew up in town ranked "worst place to live in the country" |
| 6. Hans Freyer | f. lived out of a Volkswagen van as a photojournalist in Europe |
| | g. currently lives in a Volkswagen van |
| | h. hobby is rebuilding car engines |

3. How many Sunshine residents can you name who have traveled to Antarctica? _____

4. Which donation commanded the highest bid at the Community Fest?

- Blowtorch Hillbillies—music that will blast your windows out
- Eric "Scarface" Bader—mitigation services with an attitude
- Hildegard and Wain Stowe—cake at 20,000'

Answers: 1) b. Blowtorch Hillbillies 2) 1c & e, 2d, 3a, 4e, 5f, 6b & g 3) Dennis Covey, Donna Edwards, Jack Edwards, Madeline Koehler, Frank McGuire and who knows who else? 4) Hildegard's cake at \$1,000

Call for Blankets

The Boulder Shelter for the Homeless—which opened for the season October 1st—does not have enough blankets for its 160 beds. I'm hoping that our Sunshine Community can help! If any of you have a blanket that you no longer need, you can call me for pickup (303-473-9485) or drop it off at our house (4598 Sunshine), and I'll take it with me the next time I go. Thanks very much!

Kady Offen

Community News

Passing: Greg Stearns, former Sunshine resident and firefighter. Survived by Sunshine residents Pam and Mike Aronson

New neighbors:

- Ene and Peter Beresford and daughters Taisia and Anna
- Martha and Jim Peacock

Achievements:

- Katya Jewell and father Jack were awarded their Tae Kwon Do black belts
- Deb Miller qualified for the Boston Marathon



To Our Sunshine Friends

We would like to express our appreciation for our Sunshine friends, neighbors, and SFPD members. Please join us to celebrate the Holidays.

Friday, December 2nd
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
4590 Sunshine Canyon Drive
Music provided by
Blowtorch Hillbillies

Madeline Koehler
and Frank McGuire
RSVP: (303) 447-0705 or
frankmcguire@springmail.com

Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



Sunshine Arts & Craft Fair

Thank you to all the vendors who participated in the annual Sunshine Schoolhouse Art & Craft Fair. Special mention needs to be given to Linda Luchangco, the Craft Fair chair, for an incredible job organizing the event and decorating the schoolhouse.

Vendors:

Harry Covey
Suzi Covey
Vera Dobson
Anita Hanson
Portia Hinshaw
June Howard
Linda Luchangco
Nancy Mason
Gigi Mesch
Mary Mesch
Mike Rose
Michael Sakoske
Aprylisa Snyder
Spencer Family
Hildegard Stowe
Janice Wheeler
Mikaila Wireman

Thanks also to all those who supported the fair with purchases and donations. The fair raised \$539 for the Schoolhouse and Cemetery fund.

Wildlife Watch

Recently, Sunshine residents enjoyed the sight of Bald Eagles winging overhead. Colorado is a very popular wintering area for Bald Eagles with an annual midwinter count of 700-900 eagles. Historically, only two to three pairs of Bald Eagles nested in Colorado, but the nesting pairs have recently increased to more than 45 each year.



The distinctive white head and tail feathers that made them easy to spot do not appear until Bald Eagles are about 4 to 5 years old. Bald Eagles are about 29 to 42 inches long, can weigh 7 to 15 pounds, and have a wing span of 6 to 8 feet making them the second largest bird in North America. They have a life span of up to 40 years in the wild, and longer in captivity.

Bald Eagles feed primarily on fish, but also eat small animals and occasional carrion, such as winter-killed deer. They swoop down to seize their prey in their talons, exerting about 1,000 pounds of pressure per square inch in each foot. Bald Eagles can fly at speeds of about 65 miles per hour in level flight, and up to 150 or 200 miles per hour in a dive. They can

fly to altitudes of 10,000 feet or more.

Bald Eagles are monogamous and mate for life, only selecting another mate if its companion should die. They build new nests of about 2 feet deep and five feet across at the top of sturdy tall trees. The nests become larger as the eagles return to breed and add new nesting materials year after year. Eventually, some nests reach sizes of more than 10 feet wide and can weigh several tons. The female lays 1 to 3 eggs annually in the springtime, which hatch after about 35 days of incubation. Eaglets are full size at 12 weeks of age.

Bald Eagles were once very common with a U.S. population estimated at 300,000 to 500,000 birds in the early 1700s. Their population fell to threatened levels in the continental U.S. of less than 10,000 nesting pairs by the 1950s, and to endangered levels of less than 500 pairs by the early 1960s.

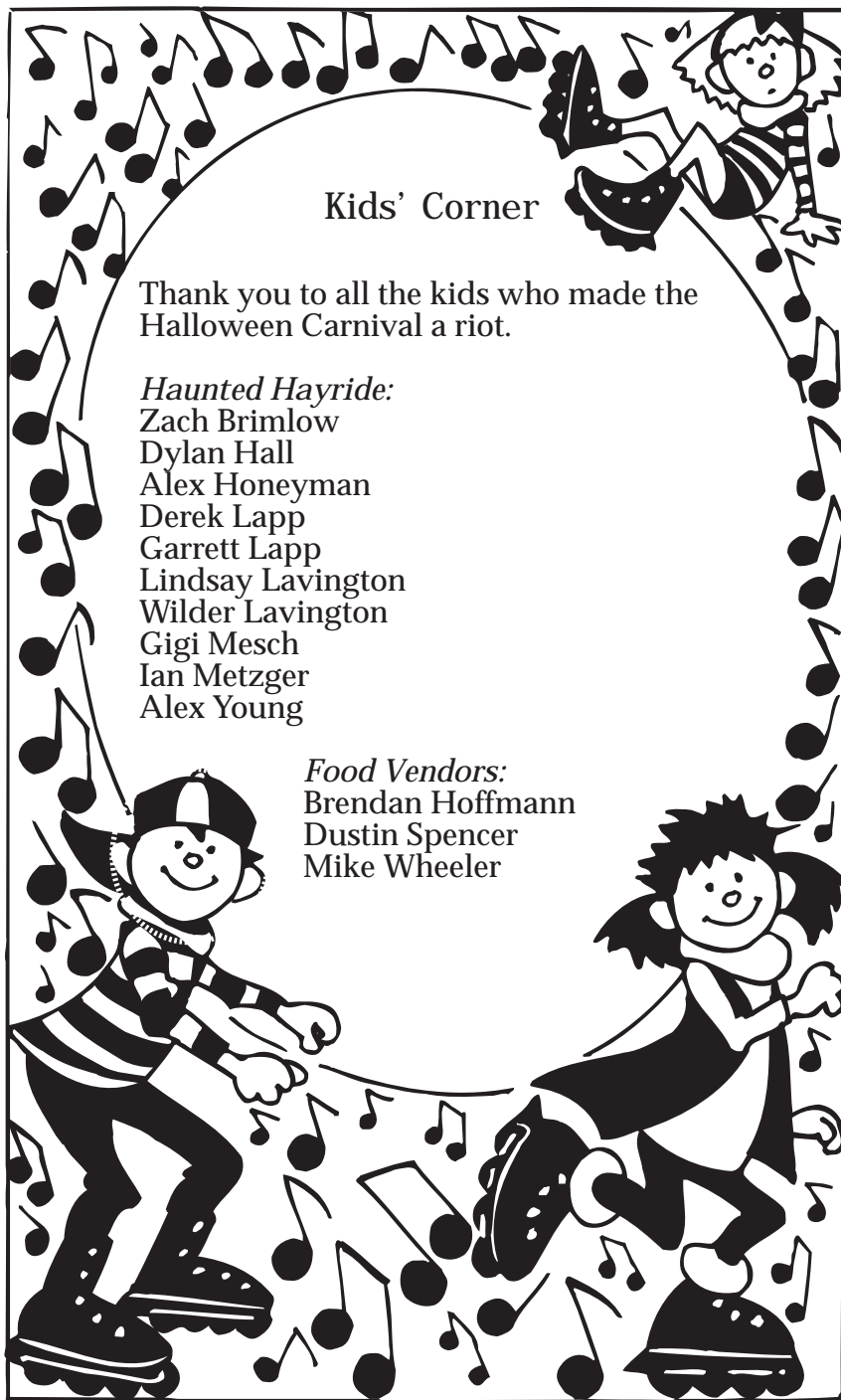
There are now over 5,000 nesting pairs and 20,000 total birds in the lower 48 states and over 35,000 Bald Eagles in Alaska.

Excerpted from American Eagle Foundation website: www.eagles.org

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Editorial Contact

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Another Person's Trash (cont.)
 can, cut the duct tape, open the lid a bit and, using a flashlight, peek in. They look at each other then walk back to us.

'It's a black plastic bag, puffed up, and surrounded by plastic peanuts' says Rick. We discuss the possibilities for a bit and then decide that they will cut the bag to look inside. We think that it is likely a dead animal that someone is trying to dispose of. Steve and Rick walk back and carefully take off the lid of the garbage can. Rick reaches inside and I can see that he is cutting something. Steve looks in; they look at each other; and then walk back to us.

'It's something dead', Steve says, and my nose confirms it as odors from Steve's gear reach me. 'Lots of maggots', he adds. I walk toward the can and, as the wind shifts, get a good whiff of decaying animal. Steve and Rick, still on SCBA, bring a roll of duct tape and reseal the bag and lid. The can is then put in the back of the Sheriff's truck and we put away gear. On the way back to the station, Eric and I talk about what if it had been something else and what we would have done differently. I think about my lunch as my stomach growls.

Anyone who spends much time driving Sunshine Canyon knows that a lot of items are left for trash pickup. When leaving your trash, please be mindful of the above incident. Carelessness and unorthodox packaging can, at a minimum, cause uncertainty among trash collectors; at worst, it wastes the time of first responders, such as your fire department members, and puts us at risk for injury.

B ruce H oneyman