

# the Sunshine fire protection district newsletter

Jan 08  
Vol. 08 Iss.1



## Fire Trucks

A couple of years ago, I stayed several nights in Seoul, S. Korea, on my way back from a conference near Gyeongju. As I often do when I have some free time on a business trip to another country, I visit the local fire station. This particular station, perhaps about twice the size of our Station #1, was wedged into a shopping area teeming with business activity. As I walked in to the reception area of the station, one of the firefighters hurried over to me no doubt thinking that I was in some sort of emergency. I showed him my fire department ID and he motioned for me to follow him. We entered an office area and I was introduced to someone who I assumed was the shift captain. He spoke no English as far as I could tell, and I no Korean, for sure. After a couple of moments of our nodding and shifting from foot to foot and both of us wondering what to do next, he suddenly got an idea, said 'fire truck' and

pointed out the door.

This station had two vehicles: a fire truck and an ambulance; both were white with red stripes. My host opened the door for me to climb in and it smelled like smoke and diesel—just like our trucks. In fact, I was delighted to find that everything seemed familiar to me. After about 20 minutes I told the shift captain 'thank you', gave him an SFPD patch and began to leave the station. At the same time, a group of elementary school kids arrived for a station tour and they had the same delighted look on their faces that I've seen on our own kids' faces when gazing on a fire truck in our District.

So what do we have in our District? Fire engines are classified by what they can do and what they carry, these include the amount of water, the types

and lengths of hoses, the number of ladders, the size of the pumps and the number of people the engine can carry. Part of this classification is so that firefighting resources can be requested according to need. In general, there are structure engines and wildland engines but, for us in the urban / wildland interface, our vehicles are used for everything. We have four engines. If you drive by Station #2 you can see their noses through the glass of the doors.

*(Cont. on p. 5)*



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## Calendar of events

Training and meeting schedules are also available at the Sunshine Fire Department website: [www.sunshinefire.com](http://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 9, Mar 8, Apr 12, May 10, Jun 14, Jul 12, Aug 9, Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13

### *Squad meetings:*

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

Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22, Jun 26, Jul 24, Aug 28, Sep 25, Oct 23

### *Medical trainings:*

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

New schedule tbd, contact Henry Ballard in the meantime

### *Board meetings:*

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at fire station 2 (station 1 when completed). Meetings are open to the public.

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

### *Team Sunshine*

Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 on an as needed basis, location rotates.

Next meeting: Jan. 17, Stratton residence 221 Whispering Pines

### *Special Events*

Spaghetti Feed, Sunday Mar 2, 5:00-7:30, fire station 2, \$7/adult, \$4/child under age 12, \$20 max/family

## Board Members

Pavel Bouska, Chairman  
Don Dick, Treasurer  
Jennifer Lansky, Member  
Frank McGuire, Member  
Pat Noyes, 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](mailto:steve@stevestratton.tv)  
[SFPD-Chief@egroups.com](mailto:SFPD-Chief@egroups.com)

Bruce Honeyman, Asst. Fire chief  
& Fire Marshal  
ph. 303-786-7731  
[SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com](mailto:SFPD-FireMarshal@egroups.com)

In any emergency, call 911.

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## Chief's Message

I have several tidbits...

We went through the whole of 2007 without a fire season (I'll wait for the applause to die down). What a wonderful thing. Pretty unusual for Colorado. The long-range forecast says otherwise for this next year however. The winter is expected to be very dry, less than normal snowfall, and spring might not green up like last year.

Three of our firefighters got to see a fire season however. Eric, Brett and Rick took one of our fire engines to California for a week and worked north of San Diego. This was a great experience, and gave them exposure to fire that can't be duplicated in training. Great job guys!

Speaking of training, over the past couple years Sunshine Fire has sent more volunteers through Fire Academy and EMS training than at any other time in history. I will be so bold to say our firefighting force is better trained than it has ever been. Five of our people, Bruce, Peter, Caleb, Brett and Rick just completed Emergency Medical Technician school. They can take your blood pressure better than anyone. So, even though Sunshine is a small fire district, you can expect help from professionals.

Here's my annual reminder to be careful with your fireplaces and stoves. Since most of us burn soft pine in our fireplaces, the build up of creosote in the chimney can be a real problem. Have it cleaned often (back in Ohio we would never think of burning anything but hardwoods). And if it does catch on fire (it will sound like a

freight train) throw a glass of water on the fire and, if possible, close any air supply to the fire, fireplace doors or vents. Then, call 911. Check the Internet for what kind of damage chimney fires do and how to prevent them.

Sunshine has received a small fire mitigation grant for this next year. There will be three projects in the district. More details will be coming soon, but think about thinning some trees on your property. SFPD may be able to do the work for you at a significant reduction in cost. We are working up a plan now.

Good progress has been made on our Sunshine Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Surveying of the district has been completed and we are assembling and analyzing the data to determine ways to make Sunshine safer. We will be designating escape routes, firebreaks and forest thinning, and using future grant moneys to complete these projects. Another Community Meeting will be coming up in the spring to discuss what you think is important.

Team Sunshine has been a huge help this past year. A community phone directory, "Welcome Wagon" kits for new Sunshine residents and feeding our Firefighters during trainings have all been among their accomplishments. If you would like to help Sunshine Fire without being a firefighter, let me know. You can become part of Team Sunshine or work directly with me on special projects. Right now we sorely need someone to help with routine maintenance of



our fire trucks. We'd even let you drive them!

And finally...I can't believe it, but Sunshine Station #1 is nearing completion. The infamous septic system is complete, interior painting has begun, and heating, electric and plumbing should be finishing up around the time you read this.

It has been another great year in Sunshine! Thanks for doing your part and supporting the efforts of your all-volunteer fire department.

*Steve Stratton*  
Fire chief

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## Birth Announcement

A son was born to Cydney Fodeman and Steve Dedrick in early December. At two weeks old, he attended his first Sunshine party, the Christmas Cookie Exchange.

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## John “Jack” Edwards

Sunshine residents bade farewell to Jack Edwards who died peacefully with his loving wife Donna, children, and grandchildren gathered around him on Christmas Eve. The words “celebration of life” often seem inappropriate, but in Jack’s case they were the perfect words to describe both his memorial and the man. His last words were, “I’ve had a damn good life.” And he did.

Most of us first knew Jack as “Jackanddonna”, one half of the couple who inspired us with their joie de vivre and open hearts; a couple who loved dancing and theatre, loved people, loved their work, loved each other, and who simply loved.

From his seventies into his eighties, Jack was probably the most energetic resident Sunshine has ever seen. Despite his white hair and age lines, Jack always had a boyish air about him and absolutely couldn’t sit still ...ever. Many remember Jack’s love of dancing which he did on every occasion possible, including many Sunshine parties. After meeting Jack, Donna took dancing lessons only to realize that Jack made up his own dances, which pretty well sums up his attitude toward life. Even when his health was failing, he joined in Sunshine volleyball games and sledding with the neighborhood children. With a hand saw, Jack thinned and limbed the trees on their property, a job that few people half his age would tackle.

Jack was the most well traveled person most of us will ever meet, traveling to all the continents. In their ten years together, Jack and Donna went on safari in Africa for their honeymoon and trav-

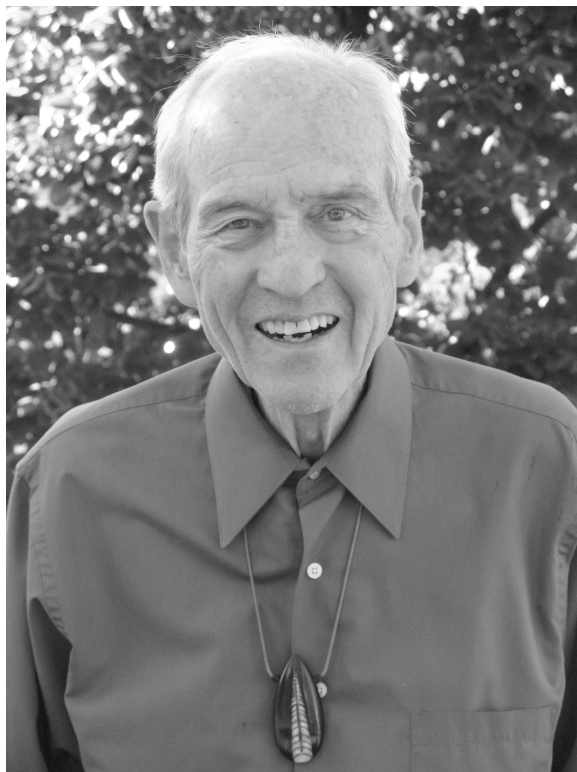
eled to China, Egypt, Jordan, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Brazil, Macchu Picchu, Argentina, Chile, the Caribbean, Hawaii, Scotland, France, Germany, Antarctica, and the Arctic. Jack went down the Grand Canyon over seven times and was famous for his knowledge of the geological formations.

His mind was as active as his hands and he was a great conversationalist, able to talk knowledgeably on a wide variety of topics. Donna often joked about how lucky she was to have a husband into “rocks” who enjoyed giving her gemstones. Of course, he was more than “into rocks”. In 2007, Jack had the honor of being awarded the prestigious Distinguished Service Award by the National and International Association of Petroleum Geologists for his groundbreaking work on 21st Century Energy and his global energy predictions. In 2002, he testified on the floor of the Senate about the future of petroleum and alternative energy directions that needed to be taken.

Although his accolades were many, Donna defines his greatest contributions as being his graciousness, generosity and goodwill. He cherished his role as a devoted father, grandfather and husband. He was a respected and beloved member of our Sunshine community. He left a great footprint

for his family, friends, students, colleagues and all who knew him.

Jack served in the navy during World War II before receiving his Ph.D. in Geology at Columbia, MS in Geology



at Colorado School of Mines, and BS in Engineering from Cornell. Not easily daunted, Jack attended classes at the School of Mines although he had been rejected. After a few weeks, he was called into the registrar’s office where he went expecting to be tossed out. Instead, they apologized for losing his paperwork and asked him to fill out the registration forms.

Jack had widespread influence in petroleum exploration and development at Shell Oil from 1949 to 1987 including serving as Chief Geologist and discovering the largest oil field in Brazil. After retirement from Shell,

*(Cont. on p. 5)*



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## Jack Edwards (cont.)

Jack served as adjunct professor at CU Boulder and Fort Lewis College in Durango. He was a world expert in the field of Future Energy.

As a younger man, he was very active in sports, including soccer at Cornell, skiing, hiking, tennis, water skiing, and dancing. Later, he was an avid fan of CU football and women's basketball.

A few weeks before his death, Jack suffered a major stroke at home where he received emergency treatment from neighbors who knew and loved him. During his last days Jack, the tough Scotsman, was able to summon his last energies to tell Donna, "I love you. We've had a great life." She told him she loved him and thanked him for the best ten years of her life. He died peacefully on December 24, 2007.

He is survived by his wife Donna, five children, four stepchildren, nineteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

In Donna's words, "We all know he is at peace and saving the last dance for us."

*In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: American Assoc. of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) in Memory of John D. Edwards Memorial Scholarship Fund for geosciences graduate students, P.O. Box 979, Tulsa, OK 74101-0979; or University of Colorado Jack Edwards Scholarship Fund, Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0399.*

## Fire Trucks (cont. from p. 1)

Our smallest engine, 4531, is our 'quick response vehicle. It is classified as a Type 6 or 'brush truck'. Since it is the most nimble of our engines it is usually the first out of the station; it is also our primary medical response vehicle. 4531 has a small pump in the bed on back, holds 125 gallons of water and it carries both wildland and structure hose that are 'preconnected' for a quick fire attack. It is also all-wheel-drive.

4502 is our oldest 'structure engine' and it is the one that is usually taken on wildland fire assignments out of our District. It is classified as a Type 3 engine. It holds 500 gallons of water, has a 500 gallon per minute (gpm) pump and has 1,000 ft. of attack line. 4502 can spray 'wet water', a foaming agent that is inducted into the water stream plus some aspirated air, to provide better water usage. It, like 4531, is white.

4541 is built on a 1953 deuce and a half chassis. It has no power steering but, when in low, can go anywhere. We lease 4541, a Type 4, from the State of Colorado. It is our primary wildland vehicle. 4541 hold about 800 gallons of water and is capable of spraying compressed air foam, or CAFS. In CAFS, unlike the foaming system on 4502, the main fluid stream is compressed air. Water and the foaming agent are injected into the air stream yielding something that amounts to shaving-cream-like material. CAFS uses far less water than is the case for 'regular' fire streams (something that is crucial in our District) while retaining excellent fire cooling properties. The 500 gpm pump on 4541 is mounted on the bed and

can be run independently of the vehicle's drive train engine. 4501 is a yellow green.

Finally, we have 4501, our largest and a Type 1 structure engine. We have had 4501 for about 4 years. 4501 carries 1,000 gallons of water, is 4 WD and is CAFS capable. Its pump is rated at 1,200 gpm and the cab can hold four people. 4501 carries 1,000 feet of structure hose, three ladders, has a generator that produces 120 volts and has fittings so that we can attach air-powered tools. It is fire engine red.

If you like fire engines and want a tour of the station, give me a call, particularly if you have kids or visitors and you want to a delighted look on their faces.

By the way, if you REALLY like fire engines, we can always use help at the station.

*Bruce Honeyman*  
Fire Marshal

Dear Tide:

I am writing to say what an excellent product you have! About a month ago, I spilled some red wine on my new white blouse. My husband started to belittle me and one thing led to another and somehow I ended up with his blood on my blouse! I grabbed Tide and all of the stains came out! In fact, they came out so well the detectives told me the DNA tests on my blouse were negative and I was no longer a suspect in my husband's disappearance.

What a relief! I thank you again for having a great product.

Well, gotta go, have to write the Hefty bag people.

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## Team Sunshine

First year a success

2007 marked the first full year for Team Sunshine and it was a busy, productive one. Projects included:

First Annual Spaghetti Feed. Last March we held a Spaghetti Feed with about 80 residents attending. The event was so enjoyable that we're making it an annual affair (see below for details)

Flapjack Fling. Team Sunshine has taken over sponsoring and organizing this annual breakfast.

Chairs & tables fundraising. Funds were raised to pay for about 100 chairs and 15 tables to be used for community gatherings. This saves us almost \$1,000 per year in rental fees.

Directory. A true team effort was put into collecting, publishing, and distributing a district directory.

Welcome baskets. Team Sunshine has distributed about 12 baskets to new residents, and will continue to do so as newcomers arrive.

Garage Sale. We hosted a garage sale this fall which raised \$1,300 for the Schoolhouse Electricity Fund. Special kudos to our "Garage Sale Queens" Maryann Looney and Beth Byerlein.

Fire fighter training support. Team Sunshine provides breakfast and lunch when SFPD sponsors trainings.

Garage Sale: \$1,300

Thanks to everyone who supported our Garage Sale Fundraiser this last September where we raised \$1,300 for the Schoolhouse Electricity Fund. Team Sunshine plans to hold this garage sale every other year to help fund our activities (welcome baskets, directory, etc.) and other special projects. So start saving your stuff!

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## Going to the Dogs

Sunshine is a community that loves its dogs, but arguably no one loves them as much as Tony Luchangco. Community canines frequently pay visits to his house where he always has treats to give them. Tony submitted this information from the Whole Dog Journal about the best and worst foods for your dogs.

WDJ's Approved Dry Foods:

California Natural  
Canidae  
Eagle Holistic Select  
Innova  
Natural Balance  
Newman's Own  
Pinnacle

Prairie  
Wellness  
Wysong

WDJ's Approved Wet Foods  
Avo-Derm  
Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul  
Drs. Foster and Smith  
Innova Evo  
Lick Your Chops  
Merrick  
Organix  
Prairie  
Solid Gold  
Spot's Stew

WDJ would NOT recommend:  
Beneful (By Purina)  
Iams  
Max Adult (by Nutro)  
Natural Choice Adult Lamb and Rice (by Nutro)  
Nature's Recipe "Breed Specific" Formulas  
Pedigree  
Purina Dog Chow  
Purina OneTotal Nutrition  
Science Diet  
Science Diet's "Nature's Best with Real Beef Adult Dog Food"

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## Solar Electricity at the First Amendment Ranch

*By Pavel Bouska*

Last year Beth and I decided to get even more energy from the sun and installed photovoltaic solar arrays on our house. Although I'm skeptical about anthropogenic global warming and catastrophic scenarios, I believe that we can and should use available energy sources much better. Living on a south facing slope in a place called Sunshine, in a state with 300 sunny days a year, it feels silly not to give the sun a better opportunity.

Over a year ago I began a consulting engagement with my old employer Gaia, Inc. Their Real Goods Solar photovoltaic (PV) residential program is booming spurred by initial utility rebates, federal tax credits and net metering contracts allowing customers to sell power back to the utilities. Beth and I looked at the available options and decided to go ahead with a project.

Real Goods' Dominick Morone helped us determine our desired electrical production capacity and decide whether to install the PV panels on our roofs or freestanding away from the houses. We selected a suitable south facing roof on our guest house and Dominick offered us several designs and pricing options. We found we could cover over 90% of our electricity demand with 30 Sharp PV panels (208 Watt each) but the panels would have to extend above the ridge of the roof. We decided to go with the more expensive but smaller Sanyo PV panels (200 Watt each) which fit on the surface of our existing 27° pitch roof without any extension or standoff

(see photo). After my employee discount, we paid about the same amount that a non-employee customer would pay for the same installed capacity of the larger but cheaper Sharp panels (see quote).

The "invisible" flush mounting was an important factor for us. We had just the right roof and we wanted the PV panels to integrate with the structure even if we had to pay more. Other homeowners with different structural conditions will make different decisions. For example, Jennifer and Rick Lansky's house at the 3-mile mark didn't have a sufficient south-facing roof surface to allow for effective flush mounting so they opted for standoff frames supporting panels at a 40° pitch above the roof line. From a solar efficiency point of view, all that matters are the angle of the panels towards the sun and any potential shading by trees, structures or terrain. The Lansky's' and our installations provide good examples of two different approaches.

Real Goods not only designed our system and but also managed the whole project to a full completion including county permit, contract with Xcel Energy, installation, testing, final inspection, net meter installation and go-live.

Here's how the installed system works. The inverter automatically "wakes up" when the morning sun hits the PV panels, performing a self-test of various components and monitoring the electric utility grid and production of its own attached arrays. When everything falls within defined parameters, it goes online and starts producing electricity by converting direct current from the PV panels into standard alternate current. At any given time the produced electricity is either used by the residence or fed into the utility power grid. The system functions automatically and if the residence is using more than it produces, it draws power from the utility grid as usual. If the system produces more power

*(Cont. p. 8)*



## Solar Electricity (cont. from p. 7)

than is needed, it is fed back into the grid and the net meter “spins” backwards (the new digital meters don’t actually spin but they do count backwards).

Each monthly Xcel bill shows either consumption from the utility to be paid or a credit for electricity “returned” into the grid at the same retail price per kWh. If by the end of the calendar year the customer consumed any electricity from the utility, i.e., the net meter shows a number higher than in January, the customer has paid or will pay for the net consumption. If there was a net production, the utility pays the customer the wholesale price of the produced elec-

tricity. Real Goods guides its customers to size the system capacity at just below their expected consumption since over-production is sold back at only a low wholesale price. Of course, actual consumption matters and we watch ours more closely than before. The Lanskys installed compact fluorescent lighting at their residence and their demand actually dropped below their production!

Our system has been functioning flawlessly and producing over 4.5 kW at the days’ peak even around winter solstice when the sun is at the lowest. After the recent snowstorms, the black PV panels absorbed enough heat through the snow to make it

slide clear and automatically resumed production. Over the years of my involvement with solar technologies I’ve heard friends and neighbors say that they were interested but also discouraged by the perceived complexity of such installations and afraid how it would affect the look of their residences. I decided to write this short article when I realized that our experience could dispel these common worries.

This spring we plan to have a neighborhood solar party at our house with Dominick and his Real Goods colleagues coming as well. In the meantime, feel free to give us a call if you have any questions.

## REAL GOODS

360 Interlocken Blvd. Suite 300 Broomfield, CO 80021  
Phone 1-888-212-5643 Fax 303-222-3786

	Budgetary Projections	Actuals
Module STC DC Watt rating:	208	
Number of Modules	29	
System Size	6032	
Utility Provider	Xcel Energy	

Estimated System Installed Cost:	\$43,732.00	
Cost per Installed Watt:	\$7.25	

Utility Company A37 Rebate	<\$27,144.00>	
Tilt Adjustment Penalty	\$0.00	
Cost of system payable to Real Goods Solar:	\$16,588.00	
Cost per Installed Watt:	\$2.75	

Federal Solar Energy Tax Credit:	<\$2,000.00>	
Out of Pocket System Cost:	\$14,588.00	
Cost per Installed Watt:	\$2.42	

30 Year Lifetime kWh Production	259,700
Oil Offset (Barrels)	500
Car Miles Not Driven	461,100
Acid Rain Emissions Reduction (lbs)	1,900
Smog Emissions Reduction (lbs)	900
Greenhouse Gas Reduction (tons)	184
Equivalent # of Mature Trees Planted	883



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## Reflections from a Rookie: Chapter 1

I've spent a career in high tech sales and marketing and, like most of my ilk, I've never actually had hands-on experience with what I've pitched. I've never configured a router, installed a switch, designed a network. I can talk the talk but not walk the walk. (*Not that this is all bad—you don't need or want a surgeon to sell a scalpel.*)

And so it had been with my other job: Sunshine newsletter editor. After years of writing about fire fighting, I recently decided to bravely walk the walk and join the ranks of Sunshine fire fighters. To be more accurate, Bruce Honeyman cornered me at a party and said, "I hear you're planning to join the department." My initial response was, "Who in the hell told you *that*?" Actually, my first reaction was to spray out my mouthful of wine. Bruce then proceeded to dismantle all my excuses and convince me that I, too, could be a fire fighter. (In sales, we call this 'overcoming objections', but with due respect for Bruce's professorial status, we'll call it 'dismantling excuses'.)

The son of a gun followed up too, until before I knew it I was at a department training feeling like a complete idiot. The good thing, though, is that I knew that everyone must go through this same learning curve, there's nothing really that prepares you for this job. At my first training, we practiced using fire extinguishers and tying knots, pretty tame stuff. I borrowed some bunker gear that included insulated rubber boots, heavy overalls, jacket, gloves, helmet. It seemed like overkill for something we could be doing in shorts, but I

learned that the point was to learn to do it suited up. Ever try tying a bolen knot wearing thick insulated gloves? Ever try *remembering* how to tie a bolen knot (plus five others) after age forty? ...okay, make that fifty. My instructors were very encouraging, treating me like a somewhat slow five-year old which was just perfect.

The fire extinguishers were much more fun and less brain draining. My instinct was to get right on top of a fire and blast away. Truth is that it's best to start several feet away and let off a short spray, then work your way closer with additional sprays as needed. It doesn't take much and as it's a mess to clean up, you don't want to overdo it.

The next training was a hose and pump exercise where we competed with Four Mile and Gold Hill to see who could lay hose up a steep hill and attain water flow the quickest. Sounds easy, isn't. I learned that just like realtors say "location, location, location", fire fighters say "fittings, fittings, fittings". Incredibly, there are no standards for hose fittings, so frequently fire fighters are caught with hoses that can't be joined to each other or to a pump, especially when different departments are working together.

I'm glad to say that SFPD had the right fittings, great teamwork and won the competition. It helps to have a brilliant physicist like Steve Waltman who can easily calculate in his head water pressures through different diameter hoses. Or Bruce Honey-

man who teaches a course in "Water Chemistry" at the School of Mines (I thought that two hydrogen and one oxygen covered that pretty well, but guess not).

My job was to sit in one place and hold down a length of hose. I made sure to rub some dirt into my clothes to look like I was a real part of the action like a second-string football player does during warm up.

My favorite training, though, was forcible entry and ladder skills. By this time, I had my own bunker gear and had taken photos of myself posed with an axe to send to my class reunion. Hopefully none of them recognized that it was a wood splitting axe for our firewood. Now, I would have the chance to use a real axe ...not. The tool of choice for police and fire departments is a Halligan which has a pry foot, flat wedge, pointed tang, and hammer head. Kind of like the fire fighter's Ginzu knife. It's a very useful tool and really, really heavy when you're carrying it up a ladder.

Which leads to my shining moment—carrying a limp body down a two-story ladder. So what if I chose the smallest person there, I felt like a real fire fighter! There definitely is something more glamorous, more macho, with more bragging rights about carrying a victim down a ladder than tying knots. And I only dropped her twice!

*Mary Mesch*

"You, too, can be a fire fighter!"

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# A Record-breaking Community Fest!

Wow! Sunshine did an incredible job raising funds at last fall's Community Fest. A record crowd of 151 persons broke our previous gross and net proceeds marks by raising \$15,000 for the Sunshine Fire Protection District. This is an astounding 50% increase over our previous high of \$10,000!

We thank every single vendor for their generous contributions. We want to give a big and hearty special thanks to Hurdle's Jewelers on the Mall for their super donation of a \$500 gift certificate (which was auctioned off for \$800). Also, Sunshine residents Evi Nemeth and the Waltman/Wong family made exceptional donations: two weeks of sailing in the Caribbean and a vintage Mustang convertible respectively.

Diane Anderson  
Eric Bader  
Bliss  
Boulder Army Store  
Boulder Beer Company  
Celestial Seasonings  
Colorado Canines  
Common Era Clothing  
Don and Marty Dick  
Peter Dillon  
Elevation Outfitters  
Farfel's Farm  
Full Cycle Bike Shop  
Gold Hill Inn  
Hurdles Jewelers  
Independent Motors  
Lazy Dog Restaurant

Linda Luchango  
Moe's Bagels  
Mountain Sun Restaurant  
Evi Nemeth  
Noodles  
Redstone Meadery  
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory  
Ardie Sehulster  
Abby Silver  
Spruce Confections  
Rob Steinway  
Wain Stowe  
Tapestry Salon and Day Spa  
Top Hat Supply  
David Tresemer  
Waltman/Wong Family  
White Swan Music

Silent Auction donors: thank you all!

We also thank our volunteers:

Organizer: Beth Byerlein

Chili makers: Lisa van Leuwen, Eleanor Mahoney, Mary Mesch, Wanda Stratton

Auctioneers: Beth Byerlein, Janice Wheeler

Donation solicitors: Team Sunshine

Treasurer: Stephen Hall

## Way to go, Sunshine!

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## FOR EVERY TIME THERE IS A SEASON

As Mark Twain famously said, “Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it.” Dog days officially start in August, but after two weeks of ninety-five plus degrees in June it was starting to feel mighty doggy before the advent of July. It was a long, hot summer, but now it’s over and we yearn for cold weather—those lovely crisp mornings, the snow whirling through the ponderosas, the joy of having your eyelashes turn brittle enough to break in the winter chill.

But wait, how long ago was it when the giant tractors rescued us from isolation and abandonment in the frigid reaches of Sunshine Canyon? The back hoes came in where snow plows dared not tread, and left piles of the white stuff as high as an elephant’s eye. The driveway was not quite a tunnel, but closely resembled a bobsled run. No room for fire engines there. But before we rejoice the departure of summer, think back. One particular time stays in my memory.

It was a dreary, chilly day that recalled one of the few poetic memories I have preserved from high school.

The sun that brief December day  
Rose cheerless over hills of grey,  
And darkly circled gave at noon  
A sadder light than waning moon.

Or if you prefer a rhyme that was more current at the time: “Spring has sprung, fall has fell, winter is here and it’s colder than hell.” True we had turned the corner from December and it was the first week of January, but John Greenleaf Whittier must have had in mind a day like this when he wrote “Snow Bound.”

My wife had left a few days earlier, off visiting friends in North Carolina. This was the day that the mercury rose to minus two, wheezed, gasped and sank back to the nether regions. As we used to say in Butte, if you have a brass monkey, don’t set him outside tonight.

This was the day the power went out at nine in the morning. I flung wood into the sunroom stove; I piled logs onto my study fireplace; I huddled under a blanket. I dutifully called our dependable energy provider and each time received the same message authoritatively announcing that the power would be back on one hour from NOW. I kept calling. The message never changed.

I realized at four that afternoon that not only was I without heat and water, but soon there would be no light. While Ardie was off soaking up the Carolina rays, I began to wonder where she had hidden the candles, bottled water and lanterns. I scoured the house and finally found candles and numerous bottles of adult beverages—never mind the water.

I lit four candles and strategically placed them around my chair in the study and began perusing Tucson real estate ads by their dim glow. Meanwhile I began preparations for consuming out of a can a decidedly unromantic candlelight dinner with Walter, my border collie.

The pale sun dropped further into the horizon. As Whittier said, “It sank before it set.” Suddenly, Bling! The lights came on; faucets gurgled; heat began to seep through the house. Pop! Out came the cork from the wine bottle. I sighed; Walter barked. Another winter day survived.

If it wasn’t quite so hot in the summer, or quite so cold in the winter, and if it wasn’t for that damn wind, this would be the perfect climate.

-- Gene Tidball

# 2nd Annual Spaghetti Feed

Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread,  
dessert & soft drinks  
BYOB\*\*\*

When: Sunday, March 2nd  
5:00 to 7:30 Food service  
6:30 Entertainment

Where: Firestation 2

Cost: \$7 per adult, \$4 per child under 12,  
maximum \$20 per family

\*\*\*BYOB means “Bring your own booze”, it doesn’t mean feel free to drink your neighbor’s wine! We’ll have a spot for communal bottles for anyone who wants to share.





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## CWPP Update

In September, about 50 neighbors gathered at Fire Station #2 to listen to a panel of experts discuss the value of a community-wide wildfire mitigation plan. Bruce Honeyman (in person) and our trusty fire chief, Steve Stratton (on a video recording), kicked off the meeting, emphasizing the importance of fire mitigation for the Sunshine Community.

Gold Hill neighbor, John Hilson, discussed the ecology of our forest. "The Sunshine forest ecology," he said, "...[is] dominated by one species, ponderosa pine." The trees depend upon wildfire to thin saplings and seedlings. But for well over 100 years, as more people have built homes and moved into this desirable mountain area, wildfire suppression has become the norm. As a result, our meadows and forests have grown dense, increasing the risk of a raging and destructive wildfire, should one break out. The importance of a CWPP is to identify the high risk areas within the Sunshine community and work together to build fire walls, open narrow roads to get residents out and firefighters in, etc. Hilson also reminded the audi-

ence that after the CWPP document is written and approved, after SFPD applies for and receives funding and grants to implement the recommendations within the CWPP, Sunshine residents still will need to contribute money and/or sweat equity.

And that this is a long term project.

John Chapman of the Southern Rockies Conversation Alliance underscored our efforts and pointed to the many maps posted around the fire station, identifying the topography, ecology, property ownership within our community. Finally, county and state representatives - Eric Philips, our Boulder County Wildfire Mitigation Office, and Bob Bundy from the State Forest Service - fielded questions from the audience.

Since the meeting, our resident-volunteers have assessed each of Sunshine's 150-plus properties, estimating property slope, determining home construction, judging defensible space around the home, and other details. As this letter is being composed, firefighting experts have

downloaded the collected data and are evaluating it to determine those pockets within the SFPD that pose the highest threat to structures, human and wild life.

Stay tuned. Once the committee has a clear understanding of the risk within our community, we'll communicate the findings to you.

Even though volunteers have completed the property assessments and the writing of the CWPP document is underway, our project has just begun. Over the years, our efforts will include such projects as grant-writing, fundraising and community/project organizing. Volunteers are welcomed and needed! If you're interested in becoming a CWPP team member, please contact Abby Silver at 303-442-1253/abberoo@msn.com or Martha Peacock at (303) 442-2966/Martha@mythosandcompany.com.

*Abby Silver*  
CWPP volunteer

*Ed. note:*

*An important point was brought up in the meeting. Rather than looking at how you can protect your home from wildland fire, look at it from the opposite direction: how you can save the forest if your home were to catch fire. In many ways, it is a more achievable and important goal. A home can be replaced, but not a forest.*

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## Sunshine Trivia

1. Which Sunshine resident works at Eldora?
  - a. Ian Metzger, a junior instructor who teaches advanced boot buckling
  - b. Pavel Bouska, teaching because he can't keep up with Hannah and Hailey
  - c. Hans Freyer, teaches backcountry survival skills
  - d. Erica Bader, as a ski instructor...anything to ski free!
  - e. Lisa Hall, on ski patrol to scout out new physical therapy patients
  - f. Lin & Henry Ballard, patrol nordic trails since they love crowds so much
2. At a recent fire fighter training, which skills were practiced?
  - a. Forced entry, known as breaking and entering if you're a civilian
  - b. Carrying unconscious bodies down ladders, just in case one of our FACs needs evacuating
  - c. Quick donning (dressing) drill, handy for a variety of occasions
3. What happened to the progressive New Year's Eve party?
  - a. David Wheeler refused to host when Janice told him he couldn't perform the drum solo from Inagodadavida at the party
  - b. The Spencers bailed, something about smoking a bad batch of Red Zinger
  - c. The Halls inexplicably chose skiing over hosting drunken neighbors
4. Who traveled the farthest over the holidays?
  - a. The Luchangcos-Linda convinced Tony that the shopping bargains in Hong Kong would cover the price of their airfare
  - b. Peter Beresford, who opted for the beaches of Australia and leaving Ene at home to plow the driveway
  - c. The Peacocks-Salt Lake City may not be far, but it's far different
5. Who is known as Sunshine's Dogfather? \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers:* 1) Ian, Pavel, Erica, Lisa, Ballards 2) forced entry and ladder skills  
3) Halls 4) all of the above 5) Tony Luchangco, ultimate dog lover



*Carole is the cellist on the right in this NY Times photo.*

## Familiar Face in NY Times

Very, very few musicians ever have the means to play on instruments of exceptional quality. Fortunately for Sunshine resident Carole Whitney, in 2004 the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra purchased 30 rare Italian violins, violas and cellos made by masters like Stradivari, Guarneri and Guadagnini for use by their members.

The purchase was huge news in the music world. At the time, the NY Times quoted Carole as saying, "We're like the working-class musicians. Instruments like these are totally out of our financial reach. I never thought I would be playing an instrument like this."

Carole, who performed with the orchestra for 30 years and earned the position of assistant principal cellist, got to play on a Goffriller cello, made in Venice in 1690. Carole estimates that the cello was worth several hundred thousand dollars. The instrument was "completely inspirational" and "reinvigorated" her career. The transformation of the musicians, she said, was interesting to watch. She admits that when she left, she shed tears for it.

However, it was time for her to start a new phase in her career. Carole is now Executive Director of the Boulder Bach Festival. The main festival will be held on Mar. 14th and 15th at the United Methodist Church and tickets are available at the Dairy. Carole will perform the evening of the 14th.

The fate of her beloved Goffriller? The orchestra, heavily indebted, is back in the news as they have to sell off their collection.

*For more info, see [boulderbachfest.org](http://boulderbachfest.org)*

## Sunshine Schoolhouse and Cemetery News



### Arts & Craft Fair Results

The Sunshine School Crafts Fair and Bake Sale raised \$918 towards the maintenance of the stone building, where moisture in the foundation continues and interior painting was last done in 1991.

The following contributed as donors, volunteers and vendors: Mike Aronson, Jim Armitage, Barb Barrago, Harry Covey, Colleens Cosmic Soap, Vera Dobson, Anita Hanson, Portia Hinshaw, Joe Howard, June Howard, Young Sook Kim, Sue Howard Krohn, Haydee and Jerry Kuner, Cathy Lin, Linda Luchangco, Nancy Mason, Pat Noyes, Silvia Pettem, Susan Scheurer, Dee and Steve Spencer, April Storey, David and Janice Wheeler, Danny

Williams, Felicity Wong.

Thanks also for the generous donations to the Bake Sale from Susan Doolas of Ideal Market and Laurie Bulloch of Breadworks.

This 14th annual event has changed some since the first held in 1994, but the joy of seeing old friends, many of whom have come every year, continues. Then there are the new friends who delight in experiencing the historic Sunshine School.  
*June Howard*

### Board Vacancies

The Sunshine Cemetery Association has two vacancies on its Board. All interested parties should e-mail or mail their personal biographies, brief summaries of their interest in these positions, and statements how election to the Board would benefit the association to:

Janice Wheeler  
479 County Road 83  
Boulder, CO 80302  
hgtvgal@aol.com

### Electricity Fund

As part of the major renovation of

the Sunshine school in 1991, light fixtures appropriate for the 1900 building were installed, powered by a line connected to the Fire House. This power was disrupted by the station fire. We are now looking into possible ways of having electricity again, and hoping to raise the estimated \$5,000 needed to do so. We are \$3,053 on the way to our goal, thanks to generous donations from members of the Sunshine community, \$1,000 seed money from the Sunshine Cemetery Association's general fund, and the outstanding Team Sunshine garage sale fundraiser (which brought in \$1,300). Donations can be made out to Sunshine Cemetery Association, c/o Paul Gatza, 732 County Road 83, Boulder, CO 80302.

Thanking you in advance,

*Haydee Kuner*, President  
Sunshine Cemetery Association

Composting toilet donated  
Gaia, Inc. has kindly donated a solar composting toilet to the Sunshine Cemetery Association for use at the Schoolhouse. Thanks to Beth Byerlein for securing this donation and to Gaia for their generosity.



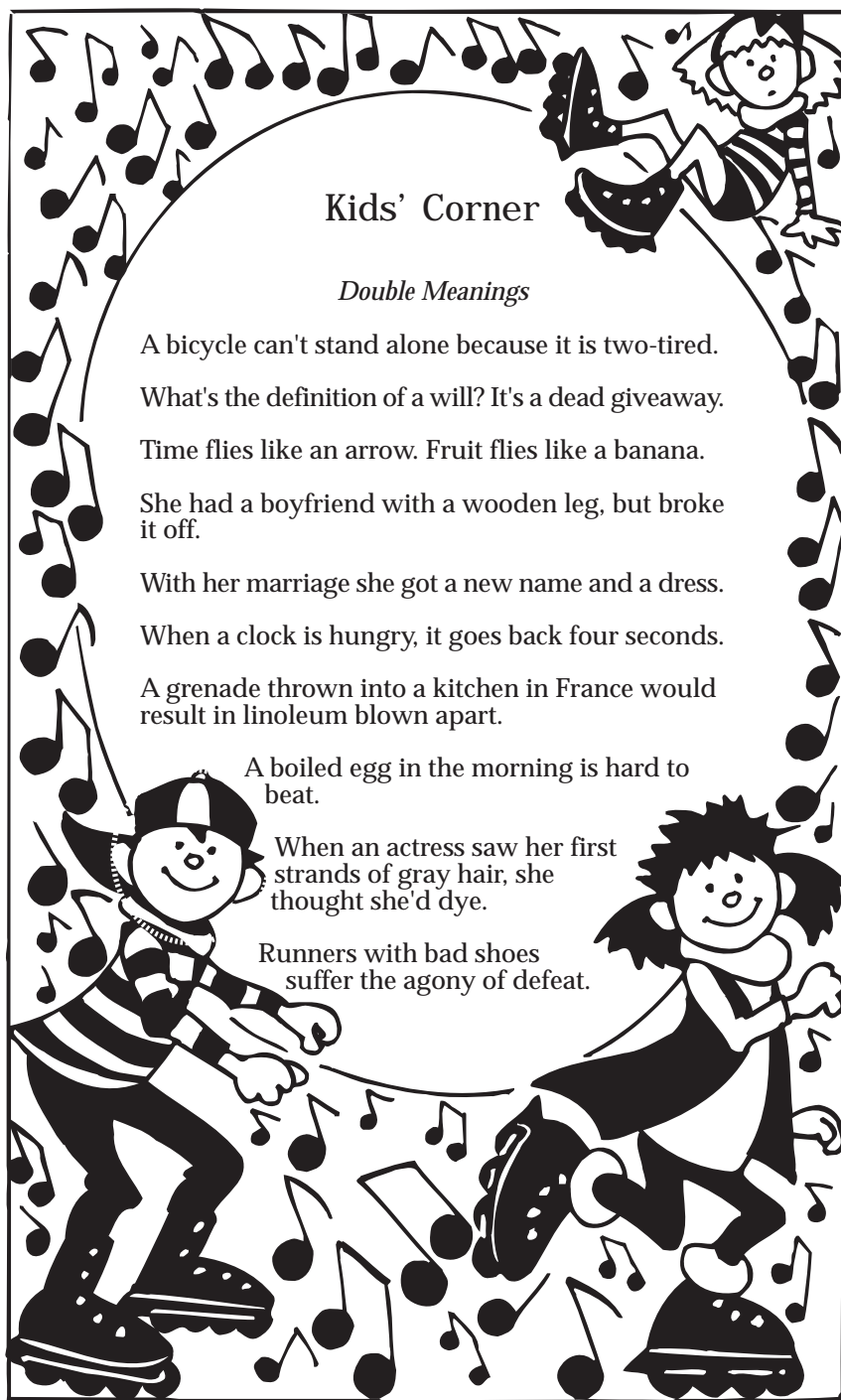
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## Kids' Corner

### Double Meanings

A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.

What's the definition of a will? It's a dead giveaway.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in linoleum blown apart.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of defeat.

## Editorial Contact

Remember, this is your newsletter!  
Please contact me with comments, ideas,  
or submissions.

Personal ads are \$1/line; business ads  
are \$10. Next deadline is Mar. 15th.

Mary Mesch

5188 Sunshine Canyon

ph. 447-1471 fax 447-2739

mmesch@ionsky.com

## Sunshine Structure Fire

An unoccupied cabin off Sunshine Canyon was badly burned when a fire broke out in the building that's used as a summer guest house. Firefighters determined the source of the fire was a small propane space heater that was left on to prevent frozen pipes over the winter.

In addition to SFPD, numerous agencies responded to the fire, including the sheriff's office, Boulder County Emergency Services, Boulder Emergency Squad, Pridemark Ambulance and the Fourmile, Boulder Rural and Boulder Mountain fire departments.



**Friends don't let friends teach friends.**

**Take a ski lesson from a pro.**

**Sunshine's own Pavel Bouska.**

My wife Beth allowed me to teach at Eldora for another season.  
Take advantage of it now. Her patience is not infinite.

Call 303-440-9559 or email [lessons@skipauli.com](mailto:lessons@skipauli.com)  
[www.skipauli.com](http://www.skipauli.com)

