

Newsletter of the
STRATMOOR HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
"Where Country Charm Meets City Convenience"
Summer – Fall 2012

COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY



Upcoming Events

- August 12, Picnic in the Park, Stratmoor Park, 1:30 pm
September 5, Election and Installation of Officers, Stratmoor School, 6:30 pm
October 3, Supreme Spaghetti Supper, Stratmoor School, **6:00 pm**
November 7, Regular Monthly Meeting, Stratmoor School, 6:30 pm
December 5, Christmas Potluck, Stratmoor School, **6:00 pm**
January 2013 ~~~ no meeting

PICNIC IN THE PARK and SUPREME SPAGHETTI SUPPER

See you on August 12 at 1:30 pm for the annual Picnic in the Park. See flyer for details. Our single annual fundraiser is the Spaghetti Supper to be held October 3. See flyer for details.



SOUTH ACADEMY STATION

We've been in touch with Chad Ellington, Vice President, HC Development of Oakwood Homes in Denver. Ellington said, "We are partnering with THF, a retail developer, to jointly develop this project." THF is headquartered in St Louis. He confirmed that they are negotiating with WalMart* in hopes it will be the anchor store in the retail portion of the development. At a Water and Sanitation District meeting in May, a letter was presented from Classic Consulting (Classic Engineering) asking for updating of a commitment letter from the District which has been issued several years ago when the South Academy Station project first came up. The commitment is for submission to El Paso County as a "Will Serve" letter since the owner of the land "...is moving forward with the project." Ellington declined an invitation to address a meeting of the SHNA saying it is premature since plans are not finalized. We understand the site is across from Pikes Peak Community College. Currently the project intends to use 39.4 acres for open space, 18.1 acres for single family attached, 34.3 acres for multifamily, 54.6 acres for commercial, 8.1 acres for a school site and 7.3 acres for a right-of-way. All plans are subject to change and none are finalized. The Board of Directors of Stratmoor Water, Sanitation and Fire Districts have signed a letter of commitment to support the project.

ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY and CLOTHING CLOSET

This year the Board of Directors made the decision to collect canned goods during the Clean Up Day event for a food pantry closer to Stratmoor Hills. The Nazarene Church located at 1615 Cheyenne Road was chosen. Pastor Don works in conjunction with Father Gregory Golyzniak, pastor of St Joseph Catholic Church, to provide sustenance to the unemployed and/or needy. Parishioners of both churches hand out food, clothing and hygiene products on Tuesday and Thursday from 2pm to 4pm. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, through the auspices of Westcott's Edna Kosley, has also donated hand-made quilts to the Ecumenical Food Pantry.

WEB SITE

Bill and Karma Duggin of Chamberlin Avenue operate the Stratmoor Hills Neighborhood Association web site at no charge. Go to stratmoorhills.org to see this very well done web site which features background on the SHNA, our location in El Paso County, schedule of events, emergency phone numbers, the most current newsletter and a listing of the Board of Directors. If you'd like to send an email to SHNA, use the address stratmoorassociation@gmail.com.

CRIME PREVENTION COORDINATOR

Mikel LeAnne Baker is the newly-appointed El Paso County Crime Prevention Coordinator for the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. She will continue providing crime statistics for Stratmoor Hills. Get ahold of Michel at 520-7151 or neighborhoodwatch@elpasoco.com. Mikel has put SHNA on her list to have the flashing speed sign set up in our neighborhood.

HOUSE NUMBERS

The next time you pull up to your house, see if your house number is easy to spot. This is important for the Fire Department, ambulances, delivery persons and other visitors to your home.

CLEAN UP DAY

One of the most successful events in memory was the Clean Up Day held on May 5 at the Stratmoor School. A neighbor described it as an example of complete cooperation. Sturdy neighborhood men turned out to load the two dumpsters we rented from Best Way. Ladies of the neighborhood brought donuts, cookies, coffee and water. Joe Schimpf and Jalen Kuhn (to the left) greeted those bringing yard waste to the School to determine that they were Stratmoor Hills residents and to accept donations of canned goods and cash. Neighbors John and Dorothy Sulley presented the SHNA with \$100.00 to help pay the \$450.00 fee for two 30 yard dumpsters. Cash donations were \$210. Holly Durham collected canned goods and delivered them to the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Many residents brought materials to turn over to the El Paso County Hazardous Waste team. Pictured is Wally Mosher who stomped down yard waste to make more room in the dumpsters. Also pictured below is a small part of the Clean Up crew, L to R, are Tom Egan, Dick Heikes, John Sulley, Bob Colgrove, Jessica Zarayasi. Front row: Ava Durham and Jarrett Kuhn. We checked with several trash companies and it was BestWay Disposal who gave us the most affordable deal. We again thank the Sulley's for their cash contribution.



CALVARY COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

15 adults and 11 kids participated in the Calvary Community Church Clean Up Day this year. They cleared up four yards on April 28th at no charge to the homeowner. This is the second year this group led by Lesley and Pastor Matt Johnson has taken on the job of cleaning up for those among us who are unable to do it themselves. They raked and trimmed and hauled away the refuse. The SHNA commends the Johnsons for initiating this program. Their nondenominational Church is on B Street in the building next to the Fire Department.

DMV OFFICE ON FORT CARSON ?

County Commissioner Dennis Hisey is working to establish a Department of Motor Vehicles office on Fort Carson. Since the old Commissary has closed and the building is being repurposed, Hisey suggested putting a branch of the DMV there. During the discussion, El Paso County Clerk and Recorder Wayne Williams mentioned a "full service" office including the ability to obtain marriage licenses and take care of recording functions. None of this is definite yet but Commissioner Hisey will keep us up to date on developments.



CHRISTMAS PAST

We were honored during Christmas 2011 to host members of the famed 4th Infantry Division band. These young men and a woman singer entertained us with Christmas music as attendees paid close attention to their talent. These young warriors went thru the food line first, all the time being encouraged to "...have more, have more!" The young soldiers enjoyed the first class home cooking provided by our residents. And each band member was given a stocking stuffed with gifts and goodies.

NEWCOMER WELCOME PACKETS

Long-time resident Paul Stevens keeps us apprised of house sales in the neighborhood. The Vice President and Secretary then deliver "Welcome Packets" to newcomers to help them learn about Stratmoor Hills. If you are new to our community and have not received your packet, give Jessica a call at 358-7293.

IS SHNA A HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION ? ?

No, we are not a Homeowner Association. We are a group of residents that enjoy our neighbors, like to socialize with and learn with them. We have no dues but welcome donations to pay for meeting and entertainment expenses. We have potlucks and suppers and picnics in addition to superb speakers who attend our meetings to keep us up to date on numerous topics. Pictured are Misty Berger and Melissa Kellerman who recently spent an evening bringing us up to date on property rentals and purchasing real estate. Misty owns A Cut Above Property Management and Melissa is an agent with ReMax.



SLOW DOWN !!

We're begging you to slow down when you drive through our neighborhood. Every day there are close calls for residents walking on our roads, most walking their dogs. Be a good neighbor by taking it easy on the gas pedal and by picking up after your dogs! And yet another reminder to keep your dogs confined. The fine for claiming your stray or lost dogs at the Humane Society is substantial.

DISHWASHER SOLUTION

An upper Loomis neighbor uses this formula for her dishwasher: Mix half and half your favorite dish washer powder with Borax powder. Use a regular amount in the washer, sit back and enjoy the savings. This combination is cheaper to use and leaves no spots on your glasses. Borax may also be used in the laundry, kitchen, etc.

GAS POWER WASHER

The Fire Department could use a gas power washer if anyone has one to donate. Chief Martinez, 576-1200

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Setting the Pace

During the January 2012 Board of Directors meeting, I was invited to discuss the speed of the vehicles in the neighborhood and possible solutions. Some, if not most of the offenders, are not residents but are just cutting through the area in order to avoid the traffic lights and shave off minimal mileage from their commute. It was no surprise to learn that there isn't enough budget in any of the involved departments to implement a permanent solution, such as speed patrols, radar speed display signs or adding rumble strips to the higher traffic roads.

One free solution to cut down on the nonlocal traffic is to encourage all residents of the neighborhood to pay attention to how fast they are driving. The posted limit is 25 mph but we all know that on some of the steeper grade streets your vehicle will exceed that without applying the accelerator. You can't go any faster than the cars in front of you so if we all set the pace at 25 or lower, then the vehicles behind us will have to do the same. Also, coming to a complete stop at the stop signs will add approximately 3 seconds to the commute. If a driver who is "cutting

through" gets behind one of our pace vehicles a few times they may consider taking the route with a posted speed of 40-55 mph and no stop signs.

Another (free) solution is to have a "park on the street" day or week. The idea being that if vehicles are parked on both sides of the road it will become narrower and the driver would use more caution and possibly reduce their speed. It's a temporary solution but might be worth trying to see if it has any effect. If it does help, then when funds become available more permanent solutions could be discussed and implemented such as chicanes, curb extensions or medians.

Signed ~ *Wade*

RAILROAD SPUR COMPLETED



The railroad spur out of Fort Carson has been completed, a fence has gone up alongside the tracks, signal lights with arms have been installed, and a pedestrian bridge constructed over B Street. We asked Pam Pollard, who lives on Loomis Avenue, if she has noticed empty train cars being parked on the spur. She said, "No, I haven't seen any parking on the spur and I've really noticed no difference at all." Pam added that she is a heavy sleeper so if horns have been blown or overblown, she hasn't noticed them.

STRATMOOR PARK

Wally Mosher and Dick Heikes have been working with El Paso County authorities on upgrades to Stratmoor Park. New sidewalks have been poured, some play equipment has been installed and a new sign has gone up. We are still waiting for a permanent bench bearing a dedicatory sign for Iris Carey (Rosenthal.)

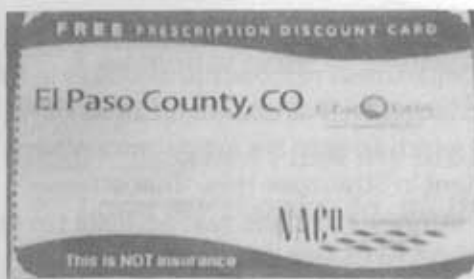
BARKER SURVIVES STROKE

Following is a reprint of a story that appeared in The Independent in May 2012

Apparently it takes more than a stroke to keep Representative Mark Barker down. The Republican representative for House District 17 wasn't feeling well last week and was driven to the hospital by his colleague, Rep Janak Joshi, according to media reports. There it was discovered that he had suffered a minor stroke. Barker, a first-term representative missed a few days at the Legislature, but was back in attendance for the last days of session. This fall, he faces a challenge at the ballot, with Democrat Tony Exum Sr vying for his Colorado Springs Seat.

URGENT CARE

In case you haven't noticed it, there is an Urgent Care facility next to Kohl's at 2767 Janitell Road. It is open 7 days a week from 9am to 9pm and is closed on holidays. It is affiliated with Memorial Hospital.



Pictured to the left is a Prescription Discount Card sponsored by El Paso County. When I phoned my Pharmacy to find out how much would be discounted from my prescription, I was told the card does not apply when you have insurance that helps pay for drugs. Check it out on your own to see if it would help you.

THE NEIGHBORS OF STRATMOOR HILLS

They say you can't choose your relatives but the same is true of neighbors. You never know who they are until you move in. At the last house we owned, in Norwalk, Ohio, the neighbors were less than ideal. Fortunately, the opposite was true when we moved here. Our immediate neighbors couldn't be more cordial and, in walks around our 111 Chamberlin house, people greet us when a cheery hello. Even their dogs are friendly.

When we originally came out here to house hunt, we were looking in the Loveland area. But what we found were too many developer houses that were so close you could jump from rooftop to rooftop. We liked the larger lots and houses with basements that we found down here. We especially like our house with the L-shaped layout and pie-shaped lot. We also like the alley behind the house.

We like our other neighbors, too. By that we mean the wildlife. Our house is on a pathway for the deer. They come up from Reuben and Dee's house, past LD and Song's house, and into our back yard. They never go through at Flo's yard. Since we have a combination of wild and planted flowers, we don't mind if they graze a little – except if they eat the Coral Bells. Nancy told them not to do that and, since then, they haven't gone near them. For a while we had some very entertaining squirrels but they seem to have gone on to someone else's yard. We also have a little bird that looks like a downsized robin. We call it the jump-back bird since that's what it does: it jumps backwards.

As far as the area itself, it is taking a little time getting used to the winds around here. Yes, we had them in Ohio but we also had the lake. We were wondering if it would be possible to flood the area down the hill, make the World Arena into an underwater diving attraction, and have some docks for sailboats at the top of the hill. Just a thought.

We are just getting out of the phase of living out of cardboard boxes and are beginning to know the area. Last night we went to a production of "A Little Night Music" at the Armstrong Theatre and tomorrow we're going to a sports car race in Pueblo Motorsports Park put on by Rocky Mountain Vintage Racing. We're gradually getting used to Stratmoor Hills, its surroundings, and its neighbors. Stop by and say hello.

Carl and Nancy Goodwin

VETERANS CEMETERY A STEP CLOSER

US Representative Doug Lamborn announced on June 5, 2012 that there are four potential sites for a Veterans Cemetery in El Paso County. There are two sites east of Colorado Springs, one northeast of Falcon and one east of Fountain. The budget is available and site selection will be made when site-specific environmental assessments have been made. The request for an El Paso County Veterans Cemetery was first made more than a decade ago.

WHERE IS STRATMOOR HILLS?

We're beginning to think that Stratmoor Hills is the best kept secret in El Paso County. After reading in the Gazette about shootings and fires in SH which we were unaware of, we went to Ralph Ravenscroft at the Water Department to get a determination of exactly where we are located.

According to Ralph, Stratmoor Hills is bound

On the North by B Street and Venetucci,

To the South by B Street,

To the West from the top of Crestridge down the hill to W Clover ~ the actual boundary being the backyards of houses there,

To the East by Venetucci Boulevard

To the North by Cheyenne Meadows

Anything outside these boundaries is not in Stratmoor Hills. A contributing factor to the confusion between Stratmoor Hills and Stratmoor Valley is that the Stratmoor Hills Volunteer Fire Department responds to all blazes in this part of the County and their fire trucks are clearly labeled "Stratmoor Hills." For instance, there was a fire in January that burned duplexes located on Greensboro South and Fairway South, both of which streets are in Stratmoor Valley. Another Gazette article in January claimed that a man was wounded in a shootout in Stratmoor Hills. That was inaccurate as well. In June KOA reported that a child had been abducted in Stratmoor Hills. She was actually taken from Forest Street in Stratmoor Valley. Any suggestions as to how to explain all this to the media?

IT IS ILLEGAL IN COLORADO TO FEED OUR THE BEARS

COUNTY ORDINANCE

We've had many calls about weeds on SH land and lawns. Here is quoted part of the County Ordinance on this issue:

Weeds and Brush: Any plant which a) ordinarily grows without cultivation, b) is not grown for the purpose of landscaping or food production and c) attains a growth of nine inches or more in height or grows or accumulates so as to become a fire, traffic, pedestrian or other public health or safety hazard.

Weeds and brush shall also include any vegetation that is growing in such locations that it obscures, obstructs, or otherwise impedes pedestrian or vehicular traffic along public access ways or that obscures, obstructs, or otherwise impedes sight vision along such public access ways, to the detriment of public health or safety.

Unlawful Acts: It shall be unlawful for any owner to allow the accumulation and/or outgrowth of weeds and brush on any residential lot, parcel, or tract of less than two and one half (2.5) acres within the County under such owner's control, possession, or ownership or upon any alley or sidewalk adjacent to such residential lot. To bring eyesores and hazardous materials to the attention of County Code Enforcement you may email pinweb@elp.usdco.com or phone 520-6300

CORCORAN TAKES SEAT ON BOARD



Long-time Chamberlin Place resident, Kathy Corcoran, was elected to sit on the Water, Sanitation and Fire District Board in May. She is pictured with Bob Colgrove on the left and Ed Singleton on the right. Other Board members are Paul Stevens and Duane Skupa. When asked about her new membership, Corcoran said, "I initially decided to run as a Board member because I wanted to be more active in my community, ensuring that all information is shared throughout this neighborhood in a timely manner. So far, my weeks as a Board member has been a learning experience and I realize the importance and impact this Board can make in our community. I really look forward to working with the other members and keeping the public informed. I also want to encourage my neighbors to please contact me with any questions or concerns." 527-9274

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY ROUTES

Vice President Jessica Kuhn, Newsletter Editor Sheila Egan and Hostess Jackie Schimpf spent an afternoon tweaking newsletter routes. Their goal was to reduce the heavy burden some neighbors have in delivering door-to-540 doors. The Newsletter is published twice a year in July and December. If you do not receive your copy please call Jessica at 358-7293. And please be sure to thank the person who hand carries your Newsletter to your door.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

It was the end of my shift when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking and I saw a little boy staring at me. "Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked. "It sure is," I replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, "What's he do?"

Just before I was deployed to Iraq, I sat my eight-year-old son down and broke the news to him. "I'm going to be away for a long time," I told him. "I'm going to Iraq." "Why?" my son asked. "Don't you know there's a war going on over there?"

A personal note of thanks to my good neighbors and friends who were so generous with cards, flowers and positive thoughts when I lost my nephew in July 2011 and again when I lost my brother in June 2012, both to cancer. Sheila Egan

I add my thanks to all those of you who were so thoughtful and helpful when my young brother was killed by a drunken driver last summer.

Jessica Kuhn



Paul Stevens was stationed with the Army in post- WW II Augsburg, Germany. In fact, he was stationed in Germany for 12 ½ years during three separate assignments. He was a bandsman who played woodwinds. While there, he met the beguiling Lydia Brandl and, after courting her for several years, he asked her to become his wife. She happily consented but the Army was not pleased with this development. Paul was informed that he was about to "marry the enemy." After a long year of continued petitions on Paul's part, the Army finally relented and allowed the marriage. Their marriage took place in June 1952. The next month Lydia was given a typhoid shot and came down with the disease. Paul succumbed to it in July, an inauspicious start to their 60-year union.

Shortly after their wedding in Germany finally occurred, Paul put Lydia on a plane to New York City. Traveling alone, she then took a train to Montrose CO to stay with Paul's mother. Paul followed on a troop ship to collect his bride in Montrose.

The Stevens were attracted to Stratmoor Hills when visiting Bill and Rita Boyd on Loomis Avenue. They liked the area so much that it led them to purchase a cozy home, also on Loomis.

Paul was born in Iowa, raised in Ohio and joined the Army in 1949. His first overseas destination was to Dachau where all Army bands assembled. After retiring from the Army, he worked for 18 years as the Senior Assistant Manager of the Broadmoor Hotel. He was instrumental in founding Neighborhood Watch in 1990 and was with them until 2004. He also participated in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy and encouraged 17 Stratmoor Hills residents to attend and graduate from it.

Paul dropped out of the Army for several years (later rejoined) while they lived in Grand Junction. While there, Lydia attended the junior college to study citizenship and became a naturalized citizen. While Paul was busy making music, Lydia volunteered at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, in the Army Community Center for which she received a certificate of commendation. Nowadays, like so many of us, she is kept busy with medical and dental appointments but finds time to attend Red Hat luncheons, she knits, she has a garden, she meets with German friends and goes to ball games. For at least 10 years, Lydia was the sole person to prepare refreshments for SHNA meetings. Lydia Stevens is passionate about the many dogs she's had over the years. Currently the family is made up of Paul, Lydia and Robn Stevens. Robn is a Shiba Inu, a Japanese dog, Yes, that's the correct spelling of the name of this AKC- registered dog.

*These pages are dedicated to
our neighbors who are
serving on active duty with
the US Armed Forces*



Marta Milczarek-McDonald left Stratmoor Hills in April for boot camp in San Antonio with the United States Air Force Reserve. She will work with satellite communications as a Reservist. She was the SHNA Treasurer and is an accountant. A native of Poland, Marta's husband, Matt, is keeping the home fires burning on Loomis Avenue.



SSGT Bobby Brown was recently welcomed home to Clover Circle from his third deployment. He is now stationed at Fort Carson. Brown and his wife Anne have three children. He has been in the Army for 17 years, loves to fish and spend time with his family.

Pictured to the right are TSGT Stephen and Shena Morgese. Stephen is a son of Janet and Paul Stevenson of East Clover Circle. A graduate of Harrison High School, Stephen enlisted in the U S Air Force in 1999 and married Shena a year later. He, his wife and four children are stationed in San Antonio, Texas.



Caleb Whitlock (to the right) was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation with the 2012 class at the Air Force Academy in May. Honored with numerous scholarly awards, Caleb will now go to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to earn his master's degree. After MIT, he will attend pilot training at Shepherd Air Force Base. Westcott Avenue was lined with American flags on Caleb's graduation day. He is a son of Wade and Paula Whitlock, brother to Jordan, and best friend to Beau, his Golden Retriever.



Nicholas Budnella (above) grew up in Stratmoor Hills, attended Pikes Peak Community College and enlisted in the U S Marine Corps in September 2011. He finished boot camp in San Diego and is now stationed at Camp Pendelton, Oceanside CA. Among his many talents is air gun shooting. Nick has advanced to the rank of Lance Corporal. He finished boot camp in San Diego and is now stationed at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, CA. . Proud parents are Tony and Trish Budnella of Sinton Avenue. Semper Fi, Nick

Pictured below are Airman Jason Pollard and his father, Dan Pollard. He is a 2011 graduate of Harrison High School and a native son of Stratmoor Hills. Jason worked for many years with his parents in the Pam and Dan Hauling Business. Jason and his wife, Sam, were married In April 2012 in his parents' back yard on Loomis Avenue. A sports enthusiast, Jason loves being in The Air Force, loves his job as a B52 crew chief and is looking forward to a long-term commitment with the U S Air Force. Sam is stationed in Tucson and Jason is in Minot, ND.



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