



NEWSLETTER OF THE
STRATMOOR HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
“Where Country Charm meets City Convenience”
Winter 2012 - Spring 2013

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WISHES EVERYONE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Upcoming Events

- December 5, Annual Christmas Potluck, Stratmoor School, 6pm
December 21, Christmas Decorating Contest
January ~ no meeting
February 6, regular monthly meeting, Stratmoor School, 6:30 pm
March 6, regular monthly meeting, Stratmoor School, 6:30 pm
April 3, regular monthly meeting, Stratmoor School, 6:30 pm
May 4, Clean Up Day, Stratmoor School, 8am until dumpsters are full
(bring canned goods for the Ecumenical Food Pantry or a cash donation)
June 15, Garage Sale at your house
July ~ no meeting
-

MAJOR DECISIONS MADE
FEWER NEWSLETTERS TO BE PRINTED

The SHNA members who attended the November 2012 meeting decided to cut down on newsletter home deliveries. When we meet again in February, there will be a sign up sheet for those of you who want the printed newsletter delivered to your home and we'll see to it that you get a printed copy. Those who do not think it's necessary to have a printed copy may read the newsletter online at stratmoorhills.org. The most recent newsletter has been available online for well over a year along with older editions. We will also drop off newsletters at the Fire Department and the Water Department so you may pick up a copy at either place and we'll have some available at monthly meetings and other events. If you are on our email list, we'll automatically send you a copy online when it is published.

We're running out of people who are willing to participate in the labor-intensive work of bringing the newsletter to your door during the heat of summer and freezing cold of winter. Also, our newsletter printer, South Side News Editor Ed Duffy, graciously prints the newsletter for free but he may be unable to do so in the future. If you have any questions about this radical change in how you get the Newsletter, phone President Jessica Kuhn at 358-7293 or Newsletter Editor Sheila Egan at 576-0831.

Another decision was the elimination of the refreshments half hour prior to the start of the meeting. In future, the business meeting will commence promptly at 6:30 pm. Coffee will be available at the beginning of the meeting but we will no longer have cake or dessert.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

The Christmas Potluck party will be held on December 5th at the Stratmoor Elementary School. When the doors open at 6pm, come right in with the delicious dish(es) you've prepared to share with your neighbors. The tables will be beautifully decorated, there will be Christmas music in the background and good cheer will abound. We're going to do an ornament exchange. Bring a beautiful ornament (\$5 or less) to exchange with a neighbor and bring a neighbor!

CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

The decorating contest will be held on December 21 just after dark. Three persons attending the November meeting volunteered to tour all of Stratmoor Hills to judge the best house. Turn your lights and music on just after dark.

SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS

County Commissioner Dennis Hisey attended the September meeting to install the Officers for the next year. Colorado Springs native Jessica Kuhn, was elected President. Jessica spent the prior year as Acting President. Formerly an active duty member of the U S Army, she and her husband, John, live on Sinton Avenue and have three children. A go-getter and high-achiever, Jessica brings fresh ideas to the organization. If you haven't met her yet, introduce yourself at the Christmas Potluck Party.



SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS, THEFT

When neighbors were confronted by suspicious characters, we alerted you by email right away, When a car was burglarized, we alerted you by email right away. You may have your email address added by going to stratmoorhills@gmail.com or by signing in on the last page of our web site, stratmoorhills.org .

IRIS CAREY MEMORIAL

A plaque honoring the late Iris Carey, Stratmoor Hills Neighborhood Association long-term supporter, was installed in Sinton Park on November 19. Check out the pavilion to see the colorful reminder of a superb SHNA member. Stratmoor Board Member at Large, Jim Hanson, who was the eulogist at Iris' funeral, was the master of ceremonies for the memorial gathering which included several of Iris' relatives.

RUTH YATES SINGLETON MEMORIAL

Ed Singleton, SHNA resident and a member of the Water and Fire Board, has asked the El Paso Parks Department if they will permit him to install a bench in Stratmoor Park with a plaque dedicated to his late wife, Ruth Yates Singleton. Permission has been granted and the bench will be installed in December. Go feast your eyes on all the improvements made to our neighborhood park largely due to the persistence of Wally Mosher and Dick Heikes.

STRATMOOR HILLS FOOD PANTRY

The City of Colorado Springs has installed a food pantry on B Street, behind the 7-11 at B Street and Crestridge. It is open on Wednesdays. The Pantry is asking for donations of canned/boxed foods and for volunteers to work a couple of hours each week.

THE DEAL MAY NOT BE DEAD!

In June of 2011 the Board of County Commissioners denied a subdivision request which included a plan to construct 241 apartments along Venetucci Blvd, the primary reason being their disapproval of a roundabout on Venetucci. When we heard a rumor in October 2012 that the plan was active again, we contacted Craig Dossey, Project Manager, El Paso County Planning Commission. He said that the owner of the land, Peoples National Bank, filed an action with the District Court to challenge the legality of the Commissioners denial of the subdivision request. The issue was resolved with a settlement agreement under which the developer would be required to install a 4-way light at Venetucci and Bob Johnson. The initial developer, Place Properties of Georgia, has had its option run out on the land and there is no known builder involved. Stay tuned for further news as the saga continues.

WALMART* and SAM'S CLUB

Construction of a Walmart* store and Sam's Club has been approved. Ground will be broken in January 2013 and it is hoped that the buildings will be ready for customers in January 2014. They will be located across from Pikes Peak Community College on South Academy Boulevard.

\$\$\$ EARNED BY FIRE FIGHTERS

The Stratmoor Hills Volunteer Fire Department is participating in Will land Fire Response Deployments. Because SHVFD has sent a fire truck and fire fighters to help put out blazes in other areas, the SHVFD has earned \$45,364 to date. The SHVFD has also been awarded \$20,000 in grants. Their participation is entirely dependent on wild fires, which cannot be predicted. A proposal was presented to the Fire District Board of Directors to assure that only one vehicle will be out the district at any time, assuring protection of the Stratmoor Hills area. Reimbursement comes from FEMA and the State. "We take a truck and fire fighters out of our district to help others. This is risky but may turn into a lucrative venture," said Dottie Barrett of the FD.

EXPENSES and INCOME

Treasurer Tom Egan addressed the SHNA meeting in November explaining where your donations go. He's prepared a report for the 2012 year (through mid-November) You can see for yourself that the SHNA requires donations in order to remain afloat with all the services to the community that we provide without assessing dues. The Treasurer asks that you remember the SHNA at Christmastime.:

EXPENSES

\$450 two dumpsters for Clean Up Day	D
\$300 contribution to the Stratmoor Elementary School to be used for students	O N
\$200 storage unit	A
\$100 cakes for meetings	T
\$73 meeting signs	E
\$492 Spaghetti Supper	
\$212 Picnic in the Park	T
\$163 flyers	O
\$97 office supplies	D
\$43 Christmas Potluck	A

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,360

Y

INCOME

\$1,010 cash donations
\$287 newsletter advertising
\$825 Spaghetti supper tickets

We are not a homeowner association.

We rely entirely on your donations.

TOTAL INCOME \$ 2,125

VETERANS CEMETERY UPDATE

Bill Vogrin had a good column in the Gazette in August informing us that the Department of Veterans Affairs has narrowed the choices for an El Paso County Veterans Cemetery to two sites. It will be built at Bradley Heights or Rolling Hills Ranch and will hold 9,000 interment sites including 4,000 grave sites. Rolling Hills is near Bradley and South Meridian; Bradley is near Bradley and south Marksheffel. The cemetery's construction timeline and final funding are dependent on the VA's future budget.

STRATMOOR HILL'S HOSTESS

Jackie Schimpf of Loomis Avenue is the SHNA Hostess. You've seen her bustling around at the Picnic, the Spaghetti Supper and at monthly meetings. Able and reliable, Jackie sets a high standard. The mother of four sons, she and her husband Joe, are retired after 20 years in the US Air Force. They are delighted to live in Stratmoor Hills. Joe and Jackie moved to Stratmoor Hills on Christmas Eve 1993 after their home in Widefield burned to the ground because of a neighbor's fireworks.



CORRECTIONS

In the Summer-Fall 2012 issue of the Stratmoor Hills newsletter, Army SSGT Bobby Smith was incorrectly identified as Sgt Bobby Brown. In the paragraph about Marine Lance Corporal Nicholas Budnella, a sentence was repeated. We apologize to both of these warriors for our mistakes.

STRATMOOR PARK

Neighbors Wally Mosher and Dick Heikes have worked with El Paso County Parks Department over the past year regarding renovations to the park. At last report, the County had already spent \$60,000 on upgrades. One of the improvements is a long cement walkway from the street down to the play area and pavilion and the planting of trees.

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

Below is a reprint of an article in the SH Water and Sanitation District newsletter.

If you experience a problem with your water or sewer service, do not assume that we are aware of the problem. Call us immediately to report the problem so a technician can investigate and determine the cause of the problem. If you wait to call we may not be able to determine what the problem is or how to take care of it, especially if the problem no longer exists. Our technicians are on call 24 hours a day to respond to these problems. Phone 719-576-0311. In most cases the technician can take care of the problem over the phone. If not, then they will come out to your address and determine the cause and what needs to be done to remedy the problem. Do not call the District Board members or the Fire Department. They are not trained in dealing with these issues.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Defendant: Judge, I want you to appoint me another lawyer.

Judge: And why is that?

Defendant: Because the public defender isn't interested in my case.

Judge (to the Public Defender): Do you have any comments?

Public Defender: I'm sorry, your Honor. I wasn't listening.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TO: Sheila Egan, Newsletter Editor

FROM: Carl Goodwin, Chamberlin Avenue

SUBJECT: Neighbors of Stratmoor Hills

When we bought our house here, the real estate man told us it was not too far from the Zoo and our neighbors were monkeys. No sight of a single monkey yet. But they have to live somewhere.

I took advantage of the last warm weather to rake up more of the falling pine needles. Another nine bags put me ahead of the game. While bagging them, Lloyd and Betty Jones strolled by. I offered them some pine needles, free of charge, but they declined. They did give me the proper name of the little bird we've been seeing – the spotted tow hee, what we call the jump-back bird.

Lloyd said since I came from Ohio I would be more used to leaves from maple, oak and elm trees. They're bigger and heavier than pine needles but you can make quick work of them if you have a large dog, a harness and a sheet. Just put the leaves in the sheet and run toward the compost pile. After the dog follows you, unload the leaves.

A discussion of local wildlife was concluded with Lloyd's mention that the community bear had spent all of Halloween night in his (Lloyd's) back yard. At our house, we did have a very good carved pumpkin, and three kids came to the door so that Nancy and I didn't have to eat all the Butterfinger bars by ourselves.

We went to a nearby Italian restaurant where the service was somewhat leisurely and it made me suspect that they were slow in harvesting the spaghetti. Each year the Cleveland classical music station, WCLV, celebrates the harvest. In Italy, the pickers put their ladders up and actually pick the spaghetti from the branches and they do so tongue-in-cheek.

By the time you read this, the American Formula One Race at Austin, TX, will have come and gone and, if he didn't blow up his car, Sebastian Vettel will have clinched the world championship for the Red Bull team. It's been an interesting season.

We recently visited the Castlewood Canyon State Park, which everyone else calls the Prairie Canyon. It's near Franktown and Castle Rock so it's not much of a drive. Interesting geography and plenty of places to hike.

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Colonel David Grosso was recently assigned to Fort Carson as Garrison Commander. He replaces Colonel Robert McLaughlin. Col Grosso stated that Fort Carson wants to be a good neighbor to Stratmoor Hills.

FIRE DISTRICT

The District Fire Department personnel will measure your blood pressure at the station or they will come to your home. Phone them at 576-1200. The SHVFD reminds you that you should discard outdated prescription drugs.

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME STATISTICS

We were unable to get the statistics for this issue of the Newsletter.

CHRISTMAS GIFT

The SHNA presented a check for \$300 to the Stratmoor Hills Elementary School to be used as they wish to benefit students.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jessica Kuhn, President, 358-7293

Wally Mosher, Vice President, 540-8246

Tom Egan, Treasurer, 576-0831

Mellissa Kellerman, Secretary, 3498

Jackie Schimpf, Hostess, 540-9663

Sheila Egan, Newsletter Editor,
576-0831

Jim Fisk, Special Events, 576-5890

Jim Hanson, Member at Large

A Note from the President

The year 2012 is nearly at an end and it seems that I am continually reminded of how quickly life changes. I watch my children grow, see how quickly summer becomes fall and fall winter and I realize that our community changes too. We lost several special members of our community this year and gained some new residents. During this holiday season, take a few minutes to reflect on the changes in life and the changes you would like to make. Embrace you family, friends and maybe a neighbor or two. This is my third Christmas in Stratmoor Hills and when we bought our house we never imagined that we would have found such amazing friends and families in this community. They are what makes this place home for me and my family. Take the time to get to know those around you, the new and the old. You never know how they may positively impact the coming year and years.

WHERE'S MY NEWSLETTER?

1. Sign up to have one hand delivered to your door.
2. Go to Stratmoorhills.org to read it online
3. Pick one up at the Fire Dept or the Water Department
4. Check your email. It will be there if we have your email address.



**PLEASE SPEND YOUR MONEY LOCALLY TO SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS.
ALL ADS ARE PAID FOR BY INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS OR BUSINESSES.
TO PLACE AN AD, PHONE SHEILA EGAN AT 576-0831**

A Feisty Pomeranian

We drove to Western Nebraska in 1996 to buy Max. He was part of our family until May 2012. Max told us when to go to bed, when to get up and what he would agree to eat. He figured out how to blow the horn in our SUV if I left him in it too long. Cheyenne Mountain Animal Hospital's Dr Kasameyer, handled most of Max's medical needs over the years. We thank our neighbor, Dr Kasameyer, for the kind services she provided for our dear friend.

*We love you and we miss you, Max.
Bob and Hilde Colgrove*



With great thanks to our neighbor and Veterinarian, Gretchen Kasameyer DVM, for the final hours of care she provided our precious Standard Poodle, Abby, who died at age 13 in September 2012.

Tom and Sheila Egan



***In loving memory of Chance.
You are still missed everyday
Tony & Dana Costa***



In Memory of
Stoney, the Terrier

April 1996 - August 2010

Stoney was a happy little dog
and
A happy little dog was he

Loved by: Bruce & Dianne Cooper & Kimi

If you can start the day without caffeine, if you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains, if you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles, if you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it, if you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time, if you can take criticism and blame without resentment, if you can conquer tension without medical help, if you can relax without alcohol, if you can sleep without the aid of drugs, ~ then you are probably THE FAMILY DOG.

Premier Designs Jeweler

Jessica A. Kuhn
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Jessica.a.kuhn@gmail.com

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- Holding your Home Show on the originally scheduled date
- Having \$100 in Advance Sales (before the Home Show)
- Having 10 or more guest (18 years of age or older) at the Home Show
- Booking three or more shows at the Home Show

*To qualify for Hostess benefits, a Home Show orders

10% of Profits on ALL Home Shows booked because of THIS Advertisement will go to the Stratmoor Hills Neighborhood Association



GOLDEN GUARENTEE

Within the first sixty (60) days of purchase, an item may be returned at no charge for replacement due to a manufacturing defect. After sixty (60) days, an item may be returned for a service fee of \$35.00, plus tax.

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