

May, 2006

Director's Corner:

By Jeff Held

Dear Neighbors:

Hello, my name is Jeff Held and I am your newest board member for the CHOA. My wife, Fran, and I chose to move to this neighborhood almost two years ago because of its many appealing qualities. We wanted our children to grow up in a neighborhood similar to what we grew up with as children. The lots are big enough to play catch or toss a frisbee. The trees are mature enough to climb and the streets are quiet enough to ride a bike or skateboard. Most houses these days are quick construction built on lots the size of a postage stamp. We chose this neighborhood not only as a place to invest in a home, but as an investment in our children's future.

Fran and I just finished reading the book, "The World is Flat" by Thomas L. Friedman. The book is about how the world is becoming a flatter place due to the advances in technology. Individuals anywhere on the planet these days have the ability to behave like Fortune 500 companies, using the same tools to market and sell their products and services. I have spent most of my career working in this "flat world" using e-mail, the internet and wireless technology to work with colleagues anywhere from the United Kingdom to Singapore to Japan. Working these days is no longer an 8-6 endeavor; it can be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year if you let it. The technology and forms of communications are great for business, but are very impersonal. In a world where communication has become so impersonal, it is nice to be able to walk out of your house and see your neighbor waving to you as they check the mail or wave as you drive by on the way to taking the kids to school. It is a nice refuge from the impersonal.

I look forward to serving on the board and meeting all of you at some point in the future.

Board Buzz:

The CHOA board is hard at work representing the interests of Columbine Heights in the surrounding community. Currently, directors are serving as liaisons to several situations: construction at Vintage Reserve, the proposed cell phone towers at Normandy Farms, sound-level research regarding the widening of Coal Mine, and forming alliances with adjacent HOA's. Norma McHenry, our ACCORD rep is reporting what she learns from the monthly Arapahoe County planning meetings and Pepper Abbott polled the residents of Coal Mine about a potential sound wall. Please bear these projects in mind when you write your CHOA dues check.

Grackles:

They're loud, they're aggressive, they're obnoxious and they're back. Those blue-headed members of the blackbird family have migrated their way north to spend spring to fall in our yards. The common grackle is indigenous to the southern United States, particularly Texas. Their range has expanded greatly due to deforestation, contributing to their huge success. They travel north in huge flocks to nest in colonies, preferring coniferous trees in

open areas near water, making our neighborhood an ideal site. They typically only raise one brood a year and gather in the fall to return south.

Grackles' reputation for being a nuisance is well earned. Opportunistic omnivores, they commonly forage in the grass for food. But they are equally comfortable stealing worms from robins or intimidating smaller birds off of feeders. And, like the magpie, they are happy to raid trash sites and picnic areas. They can also be predatory on the eggs and nestlings of other birds. Grackles combatively defend their nests from any danger, real or perceived, by diving and attacking animals and even humans. They have an affinity for depositing their droppings in birdbaths, swimming pools and of course on vehicles. Far from the happy chirp of the chickadee, grackles have the grating gripe of a perpetually annoyed bully. They are considered a major crop pest and are credited for destroying millions of dollars in sunflowers and corn.

The news on grackles is not all bad though. They are significant predators of the Japanese beetle at our elevation, even feeding on small rodents. Their predators include hawks, owls and cats.

Mark your calendars:

Due to budgetary constraints, there will be only one dumpster this year. Starting May 13 at 8 Glenview, it will be available to those whose CHOA dues are paid and ending when it is full, or no later than May 21.

4th of July parade

Annual CHOA Picnic – August 26, 2006

Look for details to follow from the social committee.

Reminders:

- ❖ In keeping with our covenants, please remember to contact an Architectural Control Committee (ACC) member regarding any external changes to your property, **including sheds, fences, additions and roofs**. The ACC is also a good resource for information on materials for these projects.

ACC Members:

Kim McQuarrie – (303) 794-2797

John Backes – (303) 798-5906

Steve Loo – (303) 798-3944

Chris Abeyta - (303) 797-3100

- ❖ The increased traffic in our neighborhood is bringing with it unwanted attention. From suspicious vehicles in the middle of the night, garage theft and attempted entry of a residence, it is more important than ever that we are vigilant, safety conscious and communicating. Will Darken emails these and other noteworthy events to those who have provided their email addresses. If you would like to be on the list, email Will at willhdarken@aol.com.
- ❖ We have had more incidents of mail theft recently. Raising the flag on your mailbox invites thieves to steal your mail and more. With the aforementioned increased foot and vehicle traffic we are and will continue to experience, it is so

Over, please

important to collect your mail expeditiously and not to use your mailbox for outgoing mail.

- ❖ Overly chatty dogs are not music to everyone's ears, particularly during late evening or early morning hours. Nor is the calling card of a well-fed canine appreciated by others. Be a good neighbor and do the right thing.

South Suburban News:

South Suburban Offers 100 Days of Summer Fun

South Suburban Parks and Recreation is offering a special summer fun pass for everyone. Youth, 2 to 17 years, and seniors 65+ can experience unlimited play all summer, from May 27 through September 4, at three recreation centers and four outdoor pools for only \$100. Inexpensive pricing is also available for adults and families. South Suburban recreation centers and outdoor pools are located across the district.

Attend South Suburban's Unique Summer Theater in the Park

South Suburban Parks and Recreation presents *Commedia del Arte*, a 500-year-old theater tradition. Working with the classical commedia scenarios of 17th century Italy, youth 11 – 18 years will tour and perform FREE at 10 am in five South Suburban parks during the week of June 20-24. Mime, dance acrobatics, music and legendary commedia characters like Harlequin will be featured. The schedule is as follows:

- June 20, Walnut Hills Amphitheater, 8195 E. Costilla Blvd.
- June 21, Gallup Gardens, 6147 S. Gallup St.
- June 22, deKoevend Park, Shelter B, 6301 S. University Blvd.
- June 23, Cornerstone Park Senior Shelter, 5150 S. Windermere St.
- June 24, Sweetwater Park, 8300 ½ Sweetwater Rd.

For more information call 303-730-4612. For other performing arts opportunities visit www.sspr.org.

The CHOA Board:

President: Will Darken – (720) 981-9126
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Vice President: Ray Ziehm – (303) 794-1413
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ACC Director: Kim McQuarrie – (303) 794- 2797

Member at Large: Jacque Drinkwine – (303) 794-4070
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Member at Large: Jeff Held - (303) 738-1812
jeffheld@jeffheld.net

Home Repair & Remodeling

Miscellaneous Handyman Services and
Light Remodeling: Plumbing, Electrical,
Cabinets, Decks, Shelving, Painting, Tile
No job too small.

Jim Tobias 303-973-5221
(Normandy Estates Resident for 15 years)