

# Bear Mountain

## Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 2068 Evergreen, CO 80437 | [bearmountainhoa@gmail.com](mailto:bearmountainhoa@gmail.com) | [www.bearmountainhoa.com](http://www.bearmountainhoa.com)

### Board of Directors

#### President

Michael Grenko

303-670-3571

#### Vice President

Roseann Morrison

614-397-1370

#### Treasurer

Teresa Gildersleeve

910-262-8123

#### Secretary

John Burghardt

303-670-5974

#### Director at Large

Steve Reed

303-674-1665

## Spring Has Arrived

We are now receiving needed moisture after a very dry winter. The dry winter is a reminder to all residents that we need to be fire wise and take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of our community and surrounding areas. *Nuff Said.*

Following you will find articles of two important issues that need immediate attention. To continue on with our community party tradition we need volunteers to host the summer and winter parties. We are starting the planning phase now. We need hosts ASAP. We appreciate your consideration. Second is the AED program. It has fallen into despair. We are on the fence! ***Do we discontinue it or revive it?*** It is solely up to the residents of our neighborhood to decide this issue as the board members can't be the only participants.

We hope you enjoy the two historical articles by John and Steve pertaining to our neighborhood.

## Party Hosts Needed

The annual HOA **Summer Picnic** is usually scheduled a weekend or two after kids return to school in the fall on a Saturday or Sunday from about 2:00 to 5:00 pm. The whole family is invited. The **Christmas Party** is a more formal event for adults only and is usually held on a Saturday or Sunday evening in early December. For both events the HOA furnishes the main dishes and drinks. The residents provide pot-luck appetizers, side dishes, and desserts. The parties are free for all dues-paying members and provide a great time to catch up with old neighbors and meet new ones.

**Hosting** the parties is actually quite easy. BMHOA board members handle all of the details and assist volunteers with help serving, set up and clean up. The hosts just need to sit back and enjoy the party. If you think attending one of these parties is a good way to get to know your neighbors, just think

how well you'll know them after you host. Please call one of the board members if you're interested, or ***watch out: we may call you!***

## AED ALERT

*By Dr. Roseann Morrison, Vice President*

It has come to the attention of the HOA that we need to address and “Revive” the AED program on Bear Mountain.

For those who may not be familiar, an AED is an **automated external defibrillator**. It is a portable device that automatically detects and diagnoses life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias (abnormal heart rhythms) and pulseless ventricular tachycardia - sudden cardiac arrest. It is able to treat the arrhythmia through defibrillation, the application of electricity, which stops the abnormal rhythm of the heart. It can figure out if a person needs a shock and, if so, will apply the electricity, allowing the heart to reestablish a normal, effective heartbeat. It is designed to be very simple to operate.

Currently, there are two AEDs on Bear Mountain. One is located at 5787 High Drive and one at 5077 Bear Mountain Drive. Maintenance by the resident is easy; once a month they press a button to check the battery charge and report this monthly check to the appropriate entity.

The Bear Mountain AED program was originally instituted because it takes so long for the Evergreen paramedics to get to the victim here on Bear Mountain. AEDS have been proven to dramatically increase the survival of a victim of sudden cardiac arrest. Time is of the essence in these cases. The sooner CPR is instituted, the better the outcome.

A list of “Volunteer Responders” was compiled. These volunteers took a **FREE Basic Life Support** class given by Evergreen Fire/Rescue paramedics which included instruction in the use of the AED. The class also included anyone from the general public who wished to take the course. This garnered everyone a Certificate of Completion. The certification is good for two years.

The list of “Volunteer Responders” was given to Evergreen Fire/Rescue. The original system was designed to work as follows: When a 911 call came in, Evergreen Fire/Rescue paramedics were dispatched and simultaneously, the “Volunteer Responders” were notified via a text telecommunication message which consisted of the address of the victim and a map of the location on Bear Mountain. The responder would then go to the closest AED location, pick it up, and proceed to the victim’s location where they would start CPR and use the AED as directed until the paramedics arrived.

It has come to the Board’s attention that somehow, somewhere along the way, this system dropped off the radar and is no longer being utilized by the Evergreen Fire/Rescue Department. The Dispatcher is no longer sending the text messages to the Volunteers. For that matter, we are not really sure at this point in time, just who the Volunteer Responders are. The list is old and people have come and gone, moved away or become disinterested in participating. It has also been more than two years since the volunteers were certified in Basic Life Support and AED use. Therefore, this Certification course needs to be retaken. There is no written test to the course and only requires an hour or so of your time. We are asking anyone who is interested in taking the course or volunteering, to contact our HOA president, Michael Grenko by email @ [kgranch@q.com](mailto:kgranch@q.com) or by phone 303-670-3571. Please leave a message if no answer. We ask that you respond by May 18<sup>th</sup>. The quicker we can get a somewhat

accurate number of both "Volunteer Responders" AND people simply interested in taking the course, the sooner I can facilitate getting the **Basic Life Support** (Basic CPR) with AED instruction course scheduled with Evergreen Fire/Rescue. Remember- this will only take about an hour or so of your time with no written test requirement.

Even if you are not interested in becoming a "Volunteer Responder" for our Bear Mountain Program, I would strongly encourage everyone to take this course. You never know when a loved one may need your help to resuscitate them at some time and there may be no one else around but **YOU!**

I personally have had to resuscitate a victim twice in my life, outside of my medical environment. Once was my own niece and once was on vacation on a tropical island. Both of these times, I was the only one around with any CPR training. Two people would have died without my intervention. This may be the case for you at some time and I know you would want to be prepared. You don't have to be a medical person or an expert in CPR. A **Basic course is enough** to save a life. The life you save may be a family member! So, please at least consider signing up for the course.

I will be coordinating with the Evergreen Fire/Rescue Department to reinstate the program for their Dispatcher to send text messages to our new list of "Volunteer Responders" for the 911 calls on Bear Mountain. I will also be working with the Paramedics to schedule a class as soon as possible for the Basic Life Support/AED instruction with resultant Certification.

The BMHOA Board is very anxious to reinstitute this life saving Program on our mountain. We ask for your help in this effort and hope to get adequate volunteers to make this work and save the lives of cardiac arrest victims who might otherwise perish. Remember, it could be you or a family member who may one day need this service.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration on this very important subject.

## Bear Mountain "Ute Trees?"

*By John Burghardt, Secretary*

Have you ever noticed the high incidence of oddly-shaped trees on some of our properties and Denver Mountain Park (DMP) lands in and around Bear Mountain? Since I arrived here in 1988, I've always been captivated by one at the north end of "DMP Stanley Park Tract 80" (pictured) - the 80-acre DMP adjacent to my property, which has an entrance at the big curve in North-to-South Mountain Park Drive. Some of the old-time locals have referred to this as a "Ute Tree" that they believed the Ute Indians may have deformed to mark an old trailhead. But as I hike around on my property and its adjoining 80-acre park, I have catalogued perhaps 20 trees that appear to have been deliberately shaped in ways not necessarily explained by natural processes. I started researching this phenomenon and found that others have documented this as a real phenomenon.



The broader context would be the study of "culturally-modified trees" (CMTs). The Japanese "bonsai tree" is perhaps the most familiar example, but indeed, the practice of shaping trees for a number of purposes has been practiced by numerous cultures, including the Ute Indians who used to inhabit the Evergreen area. Scholarly studies have revealed that the Utes would shape or scar trees for a number of purposes such as:



- Trailhead Marker Trees
- Directional Trees, pointing to major landmarks (or perhaps to cardinal directions or certain stars?)
- Medicine Trees, where the bark has been peeled back to harvest cambium or sap
- Prayer Trees, bent perhaps to draw attention to a sacred site or to act as a place to make offerings
- Message Trees, or "arbor glyphs," and
- Burial Marker Trees.

For more information, check out these websites, or perhaps you'll find others to share:

- [\*History of the Indian Presence in the Pikes Peak Area, Colorado\*](#)
- [\*Culturally Modified Trees in El Paso County Parks, Colorado\*](#)

I've been talking this up with a number of our neighbors and some of you have mentioned or shown me possible Ute trees on your properties, as well. Wouldn't it be fun to catalogue more of the trees in our area, and perhaps to coordinate the effort with Denver Mountain Parks and Colorado Forest Service? If you have such trees in your area please contact me. If there's enough interest I would be glad to coordinate a tour for the HOA of some of the trees in my area later this spring or summer. Let me know if you're interested and we'll set something up!

## Blakeslee Ranch

*By Steve Reed, Director At Large*

Have you ever wondered about the history of the meadow where the new houses are going up? Those of us who enjoyed walking there before development may remember the wooden remains near the ephemeral spring runoff pond north of the current year-round pond on Lipka's Bear Mountain Ranch property. This was the childhood home of Byrnina Jones. Her father and mother were Gertrude and Hubert Blakeslee. The Blakeslees farmed the meadow and grew peas and potatoes that were transported to Denver for sale. They also raised cattle, pigs and chickens.

Byrnina moved from there in 1936 to where she currently lives at the end of Stanley Park Road. Her property was homesteaded by her great grandfather, John West, in 1867. That makes this one of the oldest homesteads in Jefferson County. John West was a Civil War Union Army

veteran. Like many of the early pioneers who walked from the East to Colorado seeking fortunes in gold and silver mining, John West ended up homesteading.



If anyone has further interest in these pioneers, you may hear an interesting taped interview of their history on Bear Mountain by Gertrude and Hubert Blakeslee recorded June 19, 1979.

It is tape number B109 located at Hiwan Homestead Museum's Jefferson County Historical Society library.

---

## A \$35 Investment in your Mountain!

---

Please mail in your dues if you have not already paid. Make your check payable to **BMHOA** for **\$35.00** and send it to: **BMHOA / P.O. Box 2068 / Evergreen, CO 80437**. BMHOA dues cover the calendar year but members are welcome to pay ahead.

Even if we already have your information, please complete the form below and include it with your check so that we can keep the Directory up to date.

Dues pay for Newsletters, your copy of the Directory, and your family's attendance at all annual parties, including the Summer Picnic and Winter Holiday parties. Dues also contribute to noxious weed and pest controls.

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address if different than property:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_ CPR Certified: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_