



## July 2019 Newsletter

### **HOA Wildfire Risk Mitigation — Progress and Plans**

During spring cleanup, we made some great progress toward reducing fire risk in our common areas. Thanks to all who helped! We removed some junipers on our west-end walk, we limbed up evergreens in our grassy areas, we raked out 20 (!) big bags of pine needles, and we offered a chipper to the neighborhood to help people remove risky items on their own property. Boulder Fire-Rescue is delighted with the results, and we continue to work with them to reduce our risk even further. Stay tuned for a neighborhood meeting date with BFRD at which you can learn more and ask all your own questions.

### **And Speaking of Sparks....**

It's that time of year. As things heat up and dry out, our fire risk goes up. Please be mindful of anything that might spark a fire — fireworks, grills, lawn tools, etc.

### **Please — No Planting in Common Areas**

Neighbors have recently reached out to express concern about plantings in our open space common areas. Based on the long-standing wishes of our homeowners to keep our grasslands wild, our policy prohibits members from annexing any of our grassy common areas as extensions of their yards (Policies and User Guide, page 10).

We do currently allow a few feet of weed whacking behind the split rail fence to create fire breaks, but planting anything or mowing paths, etc., is off limits. There is good reason for this — several people over the years have planted items that can invade the native grasses. Things like vinca, lambs ears, spurge, snow-in-summer, catmint, some shrubs, and more all have this potential. Please refrain from planting anything at all in our grasslands, and if you've already done so, please remove it. We know that's a big ask, but thank you. Please also think about what you plant in your own yard that can escape.

Also, while we've occasionally worked with and been grateful to neighbors who wanted to plant and tend items in parking islands and outlots near their homes, it's something that needs to be okayed. Our common areas are just that — common to all — and others should have a vote in how they look. In these cases, too, there is risk from escapees. Plants that like to spread can and do infest our rocky areas, creating maintenance headaches and expense for the HOA. If you'd like to adopt a spot, or if you'd like to request a planting, please get in touch so we can make a plan that suits all and doesn't set us up for problems down the road. Thanks!

### **Non-Toxic Weed Spraying in SR4**

If you see Merilee or Jere Eggleston out with a pump sprayer dousing weeds in parking pads or along the street, please know it's only common vinegar, salt, and a bit of biodegradable dish soap. We don't use Roundup, 2,4-D, or anything else nasty!

### **Split Rail Fence Repairs**

If you're aware of any posts or rails in our perimeter fencing that need repair, please alert the board ([bod@shanahanridge4.org](mailto:bod@shanahanridge4.org)). We know of many already, but we don't want to miss yours! Thanks.

Bob Evans, President, Shanahan Ridge Four HOA  
Edward Sacks (Secretary); Don Middleton (Treasurer); Loren Morshead; Helen Petach