

## WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

The HOA Board of Directors extends a warm welcome to the following new residents of Gunbarrel Green:

Silvano and Elvira DeLuca

Mario Padilla

Barbara and Mark Stager

Niels and Tara van den Boogert

If you have any questions about our neighborhood or you would like a copy of the covenants, please contact us at [gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com) or 720-443-3471.

## NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Board has discussed possible 2019 Neighborhood Events which include a Paper Shred Day, Apple Share Day, Rollaway Rubbish Weekend, and Plant Exchange Day.... just to mention a few. If you have any suggestions for activities, please let me know! We are also looking to offer more community events based on your interests. Please complete our Neighborhood Participation Form (insert) and mail to the Gunbarrel Green HOA, PO Box 11217 or scan and send to [gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com) so we can better know your interests.

I look forward to meeting neighbors, adding vitality to the community, and coordinating neighborhood activities!

*Jenn Prohaska*  
Neighborhood Events  
Committee Chair  
[gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com)  
or 720-443-3471

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Perhaps, you would like to help the HOA improve our neighborhood with your ideas and assistance. Please contact the HOA Board at 720-443-3471 or [gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com).

## PUMPKIN WAGON PARADE

Gunbarrel Green children and adults joined the October Pumpkin Wagon Parade by delivering organic pumpkins to all residents in the community. Weather was wonderful, laughter from participants echoed from street to street, and neighbors receiving the pumpkins were so appreciative! After the pumpkins were delivered, a pumpkin carving contest proceeded on our facebook page ([www.facebook.com/groups/gunbarrelgreen/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gunbarrelgreen/)). Next year, the HOA invites all the children to wear their Halloween costumes with faces painted while joining the parade and riding on the pumpkin wagon! Thank you to Red Wagon Organic Farm, Sarah & Jonathan Mills, and Joe & Alicia DiRago for facilitating this delightful community event!



## HOA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this note finds everyone healthy and in good spirits. I am excited to begin our new fiscal Board year (Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>) as your new HOA President. I look forward to continuing the great work started by Janet Reutcke, our Past President, who keenly served our community for seven years. I also want to thank the past and current Board members plus the volunteers (all are our neighbors) who are inspired to give their precious time and energy to improve and add value to our neighborhood!

If you feel inspired to help your community, I welcome your support. We are including a Neighborhood Participation Form to make your volunteering easy. Please note on this form that we have several new committees and ALL new activities to expand your interests while connecting with your neighbors. Simply know we appreciate your initiative to join us. It could be as simple as attending one of our quarterly Board meetings to see what the Board has in store for our community. Being involved, participating, and contributing are key factors in keeping this neighborhood vital.

Our top priority this year is to create new social events, continue to beautify the archway area, honor our covenant considerations with ease—which adds to the value of your property, maintain our fiscal responsibilities, continue to support safety in the neighborhood, generate a new 2019 community directory, and complete the revision process for our governing documents.

I hope to meet you at one of our social events, at our quarterly Board meetings, or at our special workshops focusing on our revision process for our governing documents. Your voice, your presence, and/or your involvement will be appreciated. The Board invites you to share your ideas via email ([gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com)) and to keep an eye on our community website ([www.gunbarrelgreen.com](http://www.gunbarrelgreen.com)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/groups/gunbarrelgreen/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gunbarrelgreen/)) for recent or future events.

*Cynthia Arey*

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The Gunbarrel Green Annual Meeting was held at the Hampton Inn on Oct. 2, 2018 (Bylaws specify first Tuesday in October). Approximately a total of 40 members/residents attended. The meeting followed Grounds Rules which enabled an easy flow in following the agenda as well as providing all members timelines to participate/share their voice.

Twelve (12) committees reported on the happenings in Gunbarrel Green. The reports were informative and some of these reports are in this newsletter.

Three door prizes were given which included \$50 gift certificate for the Element Bistro, free overnight stay at the Hampton Inn, and coffee from Ampersand.

Board of Directors were elected: Cynthia Arey (one-year term), Jennifer Prohaska and David Smith (two-year term), and Gina Hyatt and Sandi Misura (three-year term).

Our new law firm, Altitude Community Law (prior name was HindmanSanchez), was discussed. Their specialty is community HOA law since 1988. You may visit their website, [www.altitude.law](http://www.altitude.law), to view an abundant amount of resources. They also offer free classes to HOA boards on community issues.



## GUNBARREL GREEN HOA

To contact a Board member or a Committee Chairperson, please email [gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com) or leave a voice message at 720-443-3471.

### HOA Board of Directors

President ..... Cynthia Arey (Oct. 2018-Oct. 2019)  
Vice President..... Jenn Prohaska (Oct. 2018-Oct. 2020)  
Secretary ..... Sandi Misura (Oct. 2018-Oct. 2021)  
Treasurer ..... Gina Hyatt (Oct. 2018-Oct. 2021)  
Director ..... David Smith (Oct. 2018-Oct. 2020)

### Committees

Architectural Committee Chair – Sandi Misura  
Archway & Grounds Committee Chair – Cynthia Arey  
Articles & Bylaws Committee Chair – Mike Dorsey  
Block Party Committee (*needs a chair*)  
Budget/Fiscal/Audit Committee (*needs a chair*)  
City and County Liaison Committee (*needs a chair*)  
Communication Committee Chair – Jonathan Mills  
Covenant Committee Chair – Gina Hyatt  
Directory Committee Chair – Gina Hyatt  
Garage Sale Committee Chair – Cynthia Arey  
Group Events – Jenn Prohaska  
Legal Committee (*needs a chair*)  
Life-Cycle Events Committee Chair – Jenn Prohaska  
Neighborhood Care Committee (*needs a chair*)  
Neighborhood Events Committee Chair – Jenn Prohaska  
Newsletter Committee Chair – Gina Hyatt  
Nominating Committee Chair – Gina Hyatt  
Social/Welcome Committee Chairs – Sarah Mills,  
Alicia & Joe DiRago  
Website Coordinator – Marc Rochkind



Committee Chairs are needed for the: Block Party Committee, Budget/Fiscal/Audit Committee, City & County Liaison Committee, Legal Committee, and

Neighborhood Care Committee. If you want to volunteer, please contact the HOA Board at [gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com) or leave a voice message at 720-443-3471. Thank you!

## WWW.GUNBARRELGREEN.COM

We are looking to improve the content on our HOA website. If you have any information you would feel would be appropriate to share with your Gunbarrel Green neighbors, please email it to [gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

### BOULDER COUNTY EVENTS

#### ➤ Mollie McGee Craft Market

November 17, 9:00am to 5:00pm and November 18, 10:00am to 4:00pm  
Venue Exhibit Building Boulder County Fairgrounds  
[www.molliemcgee.com](http://www.molliemcgee.com)  
[www.bouldercounty.org/events/mollie-mcgee-craft-market](http://www.bouldercounty.org/events/mollie-mcgee-craft-market)  
303-772-0649 • [molliemcgee6@gmail.com](mailto:molliemcgee6@gmail.com)

### CITY OF BOULDER EVENTS

#### ➤ Walk With a Doc

Join Boulder Community Health and the City of Boulder to walk with a doctor and take a step toward better health. This is a FREE community program to see how easy it is to get healthy and prevent disease.  
All walks are from 8:00 to 9:00am

#### Upcoming Walks

Nov. 10 “Walking and Brain Health”  
Dr. Alan Zacharias with Associated Neurologist  
Location: Harlow Platts Park

Dec. 8 “Walking, Mood and Food – Exploring the Connection”  
Dr. Nelson Trujillo with Boulder Heart  
Location: Tom Watson Park/Coot Lake

## DID YOU KNOW?

If you have Western Disposal Service and you put fallen leaves in a Home Depot Lawn & Refuse Bag or any COMPOSTABLE and BIODEGRADABLE bag and set them out on COMPOST PICK UP DAY, Western will pick them up at no charge – FREE!

Twigs and small branches that fit in your compostable/biodegradable bag will also be picked up. Bundled branches not in a bag will be picked-up but you will be charged a fee.

You can check this at [www.westerndisposal.com/residential/extra-trash/](http://www.westerndisposal.com/residential/extra-trash/) or phone 303-444-2037.

IMPORTANT – This free service is only available on COMPOST PICK UP DAY!



## TRASH BINS

The most prevalent complaint is trash bins left in view of the street or neighbors' homes. Please take a look at where you are storing your trash bins and if you can see them from the street or the side of your home. Storing your bins so they are out of sight shows you care about your neighbors and your neighborhood. If you should have any questions on what or how the covenants apply, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gina Hyatt, Gunbarrel Green Covenant Committee Chair  
[gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com) or 720-443-3471

The HOA Board of Directors wants to thank all of the hard-working HOA volunteers whose dedication makes our neighborhood a great place to live. If we missed your name, please let us know!

# THANK YOU

Dirk Arnold	Mike Dorsey	Michael Kennedy	Don McLean	Marc Rochkind
Ken Brin	John Fischer	Peter Kirmeier	Chick Misura	Jennifer Rodehaver
Maggie Brin	Tessa Reist-Hathorn	Kathy Krol	Jonathan Mills	David Smith
Jeff Deis	Bev Hellwig	David Laundry	Sarah Mills	Lynne Trumble
Alicia DiRago	Roy Hyatt	Tom Leahy	Ron Podhajsky	
Joe DiRago	Tim Johnson	Ed Madison	Janet Reutcke	



## HOA COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ARCHWAY AND GROUNDS REPORT

The archway flowers boxes, archway, and lawn are maintained by the HOA, not owned by the HOA. We only agreed to maintain it with Boulder County's approval. The water in the sprinkler system is provided by the City of Boulder.

#### Improvements:

- Two new trees, called Spring Snow, were planted in June (the cost was \$850). There was no sprinkler system watering the trees so they were hand watered during the summer.
- The flower boxes were planted with 70% perennials (boxwoods, ivy, roses, daisies, and coral bells) and annuals (total cost was \$700). Total amount budgeted for new trees and plants was \$2,900. The amount spent was \$1,550 – a savings of \$1,350.
- The sprinkler system was extremely old and compromised (installed in 1990s). Significant water leaks began happening in 2017. A monthly bill should run about \$65. One month the water bill was over \$1,200 but we negotiated with the City to reduce it. Further, the water drip system in the flower boxes was not working properly and the flower bins were hand watered during the summer.
- We met with several sprinkler companies to have the sprinkler totally replaced or significantly repaired. The Board voted for a significant repair/replacement of all parts almost a total overhaul.
- We chose Colorado GreenCare for this work because of several recommendations from residents and their warranty on labor and parts. They gave us a three-year warranty for all labor and parts. The total repair/replacement cost was \$4,300. (Total replacement cost was \$7,000 and when originally installed in the 1990s the cost was \$8,000).

Next project is to add stone crushed red stone around the walking paths. This landscaping upgrade should happen in late fall.

### Children Climbing on the Top of the Archway

Unfortunately, children are climbing on top of the archway. The Board is concerned about their safety plus damage to the wall sconces lights (estimate \$400). When cars are driving under the arch—the young people were throwing apples and such down on the cars. The Board has been working with the Sheriff's Office to deter this activity. PLEASE do not confront these children. If you see anyone climbing on the archway, immediately call the Sheriff's Office at their non-emergency number, 303-441-4444.

### COVENANT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Covenant Committee focuses on correcting covenant issues to improve safety and sustain the value of your property as specified in the recorded covenants. To see a copy of the covenants, please go to our community website [www.gunbarrelgreen.com](http://www.gunbarrelgreen.com).

Please know that approaching residents about covenant issues is certainly the least favorite part of the HOA. We are guided by our recorded covenants/declarations, and sometimes, Boulder County regulations.

The volunteer Board members are guided by the Articles of Incorporation to see that our covenants are honored. Many times people driving or walking through our neighborhood will contact the Board and ask them to check on a covenant issue or a member of the Board will see something that needs to be addressed. Please do not assume your neighbors have complained.

### GARAGE SALE REPORT

The 8th Annual Gunbarrel Green Garage Sale was held on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16 homeowners participated. The advertising for the community event was extensive: *Times Call*, *Daily Camera*, *Broomfield Enterprise*, *Superior News*, *Erie News*, *Lafayette News*, *Louisville News*, *Colorado Daily*, Craigslist, Nextdoor, and Facebook. Visitors were directed to individual properties via 40+ signs plus a color flyer with a map indicating the locations for all resident participating.

A total of \$350 in donations was received from participants. Expenses were \$317.95 giving \$32.05 as a donation to the Gunbarrel Green HOA.

The food drive was held for Community Food Share, now located in Louisville, a leader in our community's effort to end hunger in Boulder and Broomfield Counties. **84 pounds** of donated food was gathered. As a community, we have averaged 70lbs/year for eight years which totals 560 pounds!

Next year's community garage sale is scheduled for **September 14, 2019**. For details, go to [www.GunbarrelGreenGarageSale.com](http://www.GunbarrelGreenGarageSale.com).

### **NEW!** NEW LIFE CYCLE EVENTS COMMITTEE

This new committee gathers information on neighbor's life-cycle events for the newsletter. Examples are: celebrating a milestone birthday, welcoming a new child or grandchild, school graduations, outstanding achievements by adults or children, marriage, a loss.

### **NEW!** NEIGHBORHOOD CARE COMMITTEE

This new committee helps out with dinners and errands when neighbors need a hand, and/or host an emergency preparedness night in which you get organized and learn about your neighbors' special skills (CPR training, etc.).

### **NEW!** NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE REPORT

Our newsletters can be one of the most useful voices of the Board and Gunbarrel Green residents. Our goal for 2019 is to create newsletters that enhance a sense of community and spark interest in our community events. When we are all aware of difficulties and concerns, there is a better chance everyone will work together to improve these issues.

Gunbarrel Green has vibrant and interesting newsletters that bring us together as a community. Want to help? I need volunteers who will help us expand the content and heighten the keen information of our newsletter. If you want to volunteer, please contact me.

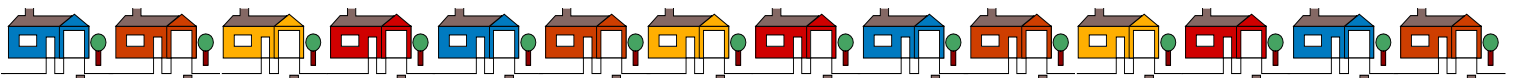
Perhaps you would like to report about City and County issues. Perhaps you would like to write articles on home decorating, cooking, sports, movie and restaurant reviews, neighborhood classifieds, interviews with local public figures, and so on. I want to hear your ideas!

I want to thank Gunbarrel Green resident Kathy Krol for the outstanding garden columns that she has provided for our newsletters.

*Gina Hyatt, Newsletter Committee Chair*  
[gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com) or 720-443-3471

*continued*





## HOA COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

I wish to thank Chick Misura and Peter Kirmeier for volunteering to serve on the Nominating Committee.

This year, Jenn Prohaska and David Smith were elected by the Board to fill vacancies. Both David and Jenn were retained by majority vote at the Annual Meeting.

My thanks also to the residents the Committee contacted. Their positive feedback about the HOA and their willingness to serve at another time is much appreciated. The best part of being on the Nominating Committee is getting to meet and speak to our neighbors and hear their thoughts on our HOA.

*Gina Hyatt, Nominating Committee Chair*

### SAFETY/TRAFFIC REPORT

#### Traffic Light at Lookout Road and Idylwild Trail

City traffic engineer, Michelle Melonakis, says they are monitoring the number of cars and that the threshold for action (number of cars counted) has not been reached. Infrastructure for a traffic light is present via lines/piping under the road. We will continue to connect with the City of Boulder for updates. Please watch for more information in our community newsletter.

#### Traffic Auto Counters on Idylwild Trail

Perhaps you saw the traffic auto counters on Idylwild Trail a few months ago. Mike Thomas, Director of Transportation, said the results are not compiled yet. Please watch for the results in a future newsletter.

#### Idylwild Safety

The HOA Board has received several comments that speeding on Idylwild has slowed. I attribute this to:

1. The modified digital traffic sign that flashes SLOW DOWN or TOO FAST when reaching a speed of 23 mph or more.
2. *20 is Plenty* Signs – thank you for placing these signs in your yard Tuesday through Thursday.
3. You and your neighbors driving slowly so the cars following will keep that slower pace.

The speed bumps idea has been shelved though speed dips are still under consideration.

I have *20 is Plenty* signs available as well as safety vests for walking or biking in the neighborhood. Contact me at 303-581-0606 or cynarey@gmail.com.

*Cynthia Arey, Safety/Traffic Committee Chair*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

2018 HOA BUDGET		2018 ACTUAL INCOME & EXPENSES	
<b>PROJECTED 2018 DUES INCOME</b>		<b>HOA OPERATING SAVINGS</b>	<b>\$ 53,460.88</b>
Dues @ \$100	\$ 28,500.00		
Past Dues	\$ 700.00	<b>HOA CHECKING ACCOUNT</b>	
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		Beginning Balance Jan. 1 2018	\$ 2,416.97
Garage Sale	\$ 200.00	Income from Dues	\$ 29,410.00
Directory Ads	\$ 145.00	Transferred from Operating Savings	
		<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	
<b>TRANSFER FROM OPERATING</b>		Garage Sale	\$ 325.00
<b>SAVINGS</b>	\$ 6,649.00		
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 36,194.00</b>	<b>TOTAL ACTUAL 2018 INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 32,151.97</b>
<b>PROJECTED 2018 EXPENSES</b>		<b>ACTUAL 2018 EXPENSES</b>	
		Transferred from Checking to Savings	
Legal Fees	\$ 7,500.00	Legal Fees	\$ 5,356.00
Speed Mitigation/Safety	\$ 5,000.00	Speed Mitigation/Safety	\$ 148.75
Groundskeeping	\$ 6,600.00	Groundskeeping	\$ 3,395.10
Printing	\$ 1,500.00	Printing	\$ 1,237.38
Article/Bylaws Print/Post	\$ 2,000.00	Articles/Bylaws Printing & Postage	\$ 1,059.38
Directory	\$ 800.00	Directory Printing & Postage (\$1.72 each)	
Insurance	\$ 3,200.00	Insurance	\$ 1,576.00
Arch \$1,572 D&O \$1,600		Arch \$1,572 D&O \$1,549	
Social Committee	\$ 3,000.00	Social Committee	
Website	\$ 900.00	Board Meetings	\$ 457.47
Website Maintenance	\$ 600.00	Website Maintenance	\$ 93.96
Postal	\$ 850.00	Postal	\$ 1,212.33
Holiday Lights	\$ 800.00	Holiday Lights	
Holiday Decorations	\$ 200.00	Holiday Decorations	
Repair & Maintenance	\$ 650.00	Repair & Maintenance	\$ 4,395.00
Water (credit with City)		Water	\$ 564.03
Xcel Energy	\$ 500.00	Xcel Energy	\$ 296.93
Annual Meeting	\$ 750.00	Annual Meeting	
Miscellaneous	\$ 300.00	Miscellaneous	\$ 93.37
PayLease	\$ 300.00	PayLease	\$ 76.35
Office Supplies	\$ 400.00	Office Supplies (\$97 QuickBooks)	\$ 403.55
Garage Sale	\$ 200.00	Garage Sale	\$ 317.95
Fees	\$ 120.00	Fees	\$ 80.00
Bank Charges	\$ 24.00	Bank Service Charge	\$ 16.00
		Church (removal of junipers)	\$ 400.00
		Dues Return	\$ 800.00
<b>PROJECTED 2017 EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 36,194.00</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2017 EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 21,979.55</b>
<b>BALANCE IN CHECKBOOK AS OF OCTOBER 2 2018 = \$10,172.42</b>			
<b>TOTAL ASSETS AS OF OCTOBER 2, 2018 = \$63,633.30</b>			

## GUNBARREL GREEN HOA EMAIL POLICY

The Gunbarrel Green HOA Board of Directors wants you to know its policy regarding your personal email address and why it is important that you share your email address with the HOA. Also, if the email address you originally sent to the HOA has changed, please send your new address to us at gunbarrelgreen@gmail.com. Thank you!

The HOA will use residents' email addresses to inform them about:

- Safety Issues / Sheriff / County / City Safety Alerts
- Community Events
- HOA Board Announcements and Communications
- Boulder County and City of Boulder Issues that Affect Gunbarrel Green

The HOA respects your privacy; therefore, the Gunbarrel Green email database will not be automatically used for announcements by individual residents. Email is also a cost effective way for the Board to keep residents informed of the status of issues the Board is working on. A resident may email the Board with a request to send an announcement, and the Board will take it under consideration, assuming it first meets the above criteria.



## GARDEN COLUMN

*Our garden columnist, Kathy Krol, will be back soon!*

*The information below is from the Colorado State University Extension Service. We look forward to Kathy's next column.*

### GETTING YOUR GARDEN READY FOR WINTER

(From the Colorado State University Extension Service written by D. Waltman, J.E. Klett and R.A. Cox (12/09))

Watering during the winter is very important, depending on weather conditions. Colorado winters characteristically have dry air and low soil moisture. These conditions, along with little or no snow cover from October through February, can damage plants, especially new plantings. Water only when temperatures are above freezing, during the early part of the day. Some perennials prefer well drained dryer soil in winter to survive.

#### Quick Facts...

- Water trees, shrubs, lawns, and perennials during prolonged dry fall and winter periods to prevent root damage that affects the health of the entire plant.
- Water only when air and soil temperatures are above 40 degrees F. with no snow cover.
- Established large trees have a root spread equal to or greater than the height of the tree. Apply water to the most critical part of the root zone within the dripline.

Dry air, low precipitation, little soil moisture, and fluctuating temperatures are characteristics of fall and winter in many areas of Colorado. Often there is little or no snow cover to provide soil moisture from October through March. Trees, shrubs, perennials, and lawns under these conditions may be damaged if they do not receive supplemental water.

The result of long, dry periods during fall and winter is injury or death to parts of plant root systems. Affected plants may appear perfectly normal and resume growth in the spring using stored food energy. Plants may be weakened and all or parts may die in late spring or summer when temperatures rise. Weakened plants also may be subject to insect and disease problems.

Lawns also are prone to winter damage. Newly established lawns, whether seeded or sodded, are especially susceptible. Susceptibility increases for lawns with south or west exposures.

#### Watering Guidelines

Water only when air temperatures are above 40 degrees F. Water at mid-day so it will have time to soak in before possible freezing at night. A solid layer (persisting for more than a month) of ice on lawns can cause suffocation or result in matting of the grass.

Plants receiving reflected heat from buildings, walls, and fences are more subject to damage. The low angle of winter sun makes this more likely on south or west exposures. Windy sites result in faster drying of sod and plants and require additional water. Lawns in warm exposures are prone to late winter mite damage.

Monitor weather conditions and water during extended dry periods without snow cover – one to two times per month.

#### Newly Planted vs. Established Plants

Newly planted trees are most susceptible to winter drought injury. Trees generally take one year to establish for each inch of trunk diameter. For example, a two inch diameter (caliper) tree takes a minimum of two years to establish under normal conditions.

Trees obtain water best when it is allowed to soak into the soil slowly to a depth of 12 inches. Methods of watering trees include: sprinklers, deep-root fork or needle, soaker hose or soft spray wand. Apply water to many locations under the dripline and beyond if possible. If using a deep-root fork or needle, insert no deeper than 8 inches into the soil. As a general survival rule, apply 10 gallons of water for each diameter inch of the tree. For example, a two-inch diameter tree needs 20 gallons per watering. Use a ruler to measure your tree's diameter at 6" above ground level.

Newly planted shrubs require more water than established shrubs that have been planted for at least one year. The following recommendations assume shrubs are mulched to retain moisture. In dry winters, all shrubs benefit from winter watering October through March. Apply five gallons two times per month for a newly planted shrub. Small established shrubs (less than three feet tall) should receive five gallons monthly. Large established shrubs (more than six feet) require 18 gallons monthly. Decrease amounts to account for precipitation. Water within the dripline of the shrub and around the base.

*For more information, go to Yard & Garden – Colorado State University Extension, <http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/>*

## SAFETY ON OUR STREETS



Please watch for children waiting for the school buses in the morning and leaving buses in the afternoon. Please observe the 20-mph speed limit, i.e., set the pace in our community. Ask vendors, contractors, construction workers, and guests to park as far off the street as possible, park in your driveway, and/or to park on the same side of the street to allow safe passage for cars, emergency vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. Check your outdoor lighting/lamppost to ensure it is working properly. Lampposts are required per covenants though some properties have expanded lighting from their front stoop area which is acceptable for safety issues.

In an effort to make our streets safer, the HOA contacted Western Disposal and asked if it would be acceptable for residents to place their trash bins in their driveways a few feet from the cement aprons or on the grass/gravel portion of their yards rather than on the cement apron between their driveway and the street or in the street. Western Disposal said their trucks have a four foot arm that can reach trash bins a few feet from the street. Pedestrians, cyclists, and cars have to go around bins that are on the aprons or in the street. The aprons are a safe place for children to walk but they must go into the street to get around trash bins.

If you use a service other than Western Disposal, please ask them if you can place your bins at the end of your driveway a few feet from the cement apron. Thank you!

## THE EXCEL HOME ENERGY SQUAD

As recent purchasers of a house in Gunbarrel Green, my wife Susie and I have been busy adding various touches to the house to make it a home. As fall approaches, we have noticed an increase in emails from Xcel offering various energy saving programs and incentives to save money...or even better to save the planet!

After setting the date for a visit from the Xcel Home Energy Squad, the day came. The promise was to get "\$200 worth of energy-saving help, for just \$75". The Excel team member asked a few questions about what our goals were to save energy and what sort of work we had done so far regarding replacing light bulbs and insulating doors.

A plan was developed. In short, our visitor proceeded to look at every light bulb in the house and replaced 90% of them (the ones that we had not already replaced with LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes). With each set of lights replaced in a bathroom, overhead light, three-way living room light, and other fixtures, he quoted the savings we could expect from his efforts. At the end of the process, he had replaced over 80 light bulbs. He said we could save up to \$300-350 a year for the many years that the new bulbs would last! He even left us a few spares. It was an eye-opening process.

Another part of the program provided for the insulation of one outside door which we also had done. There were several other areas that Xcel focuses on that did not apply to our house but he explained them to us.

At the end of the 1.5 – 2 hour process, Xcel's technical visitor had saved us at least \$200 as promised for the \$75 that we paid upon making the reservation. And we feel smarter and better about using less energy every day!

The obvious question is: why does Xcel do this for customers so that they use less energy? Answer: As the population increases in our beautiful part of the country, Xcel is under increasing pressure to serve a larger market with existing resources. So, the less energy existing customers use, the more new customers can be served with existing resources. Both sides...maybe all three sides...come out winners. And so does the environment.



We highly recommend inviting Xcel into your home to do a light bulb audit. We were pleasantly surprised. Tomorrow, another Xcel team arrives to audit the air leaks around the doors and windows to see how we can become more efficient in that area also. Stay tuned for the result in the next newsletter.

You may sign up for this service online at Xcel Energy – Home Energy Squad Customer Information Form [https://www.xcelenergy.com/programs\\_and\\_rebates/residential\\_programs\\_and\\_rebates/home\\_energy\\_efficiency/home\\_energy\\_squad/home\\_energy\\_squad\\_customer\\_information\\_form](https://www.xcelenergy.com/programs_and_rebates/residential_programs_and_rebates/home_energy_efficiency/home_energy_squad/home_energy_squad_customer_information_form) - 54k or call Xcel at 303-446-7910.

*Don McLean, a Gunbarrel Green Resident*