

NEWSLETTER

PARK MEADOWS ASSOCIATION

August 2006

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COME ONE, COME ALL! Rita Colbert, Jane Brown, and Paul Beck invite all PM residents (and visiting family and friends) to a potluck get-together in the space between 225PM and 215PM on Sunday, August 6th, from 5pm until 8pm. Bring a dish to share and a chair. This is a perfect opportunity to welcome our new neighbors.

Beware bathroom locks! Within the past month, two people have been locked out of bathrooms in Park Meadows. The culprits were door knobs that have a lock button on the inside and require a special tool for unlocking—a feature on most PM bathroom doors. In each instance, a tool was not available and much creativity was required to jimmy the locks open. One victim was Elaine Brown, who describes her ordeal: "I had to call Andy for help! I don't have the tool that comes with those locks, but I was able to cut a wire coat hanger and the piece did fit into the door knob, but I could not make it work. Andy did a little straightening of the tip of the wire and was able to use it successfully. I have the wire, and I am practicing (with the door open!)." The other PM residents, whose visiting relative was locked out, eventually arrived at a similar solution. Elaine later called Deaton's and learned that the tool, called a hex key, is available there. As a result of these two events, PM residents are advised to ascertain that they have a hex key, or a handy coat hanger, a measure that could be especially urgent in homes with only one bathroom.

Exterior stain matching. PM residents may need additional exterior stain for remodeling projects. King Painters, the PM painting contractor, cannot supply color information for matching purposes on specific units. The trustees suggest two methods for obtaining matching colors. The best option is to locate a can of stain provided by King Painters when they completed the staining project; the color number is displayed on the can lid. Residents are urged to check with neighbors in adjacent units, who might have extra stain. If this is not possible, another method is to carefully detach a small sliver of exterior wood, then take it to a paint or hardware store for color-matching. (Be sure to re-attach the sliver with carpenter glue.)

Most stores can make a close-enough or near-exact match.

Parking reminder. The "breakaway" fence at the west end of the front lane is for fire truck access and must always be kept clear. Vehicles parked in resident spaces can even present a problem if not parked carefully. Although the breakaway fence may never have been used, it must always be accessible in the event of an emergency.

Carbon monoxide detector alert. Carbon monoxide detectors can behave like smoke detectors when they need batteries or are worn out. The sound they produce can be startling, so residents should note if there is a warning chirp from a carbon monoxide detector.

Compost now available. Rich soil can now be obtained from the compost place in the northwest corner of Park Meadows. The area has been cleared of Canadian thistles that were making it inaccessible. The compost is ideal for working into beds to nourish plantings. It may contain a few sticks and branches that have not yet decomposed, but they can easily be removed. For most efficient utilization of the compost space, the current plan is to maintain two separate piles: mature compost and fresh yard waste. The mature compost will remain at the front of the area, for use this year. Fresh yard waste will be placed behind the compost for use next year, after decomposition has taken place. Residents are urged to observe this procedure.

New bookkeeper. The new PM bookkeeper, Ann Miles, has now replaced Sharon Hatfield, who retired July 1. Fee payments should be mailed to Ann at P.O. Box 734, Yellow Springs 45387.

THE RECIPE CORNER

Cheese soufflé

This recipe was a favorite of longtime PM neighbor Bill Preis, who passed away in May. Sincere thanks to Barb Preis for sharing the recipe, at our request, in memory of Bill.

1 10 ¾ ounce can mushroom soup
1 cup grated cheese
6 eggs, yolks and whites separated

Preheat oven to 350 F degrees. Pour mushroom soup into saucepan and place over medium heat; add grated cheese and stir until cheese is melted. Cool thoroughly, then stir in beaten egg yolks. In a bowl, beat egg whites until stiff and fold into soup-cheese mixture. Place in a medium casserole dish and bake for about 30 minutes; do not open oven door until soufflé is done. Yields approximately 6 servings.