

# SPRING VALLEY NEWS

## NEWS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

SPRING VALLEY PROPERTY OWNERS AND RECREATIONAL CORPORATION

Email: [info@myspringvalley.org](mailto:info@myspringvalley.org) website: [www.myspringvalley.org](http://www.myspringvalley.org) SVPORC PHONE NUMBER 719.686.1825

### 2010 Kids Fishing Derby

The Annual Kids Fishing Derby held July 17, 2010 was a huge success. A record number of kids were registered 100, yep that's right 100 kids and of course their families were there too. The weather was perfect; sunny and not much wind. Mother Nature even cooperated the week before the derby and since there wasn't much rain, the water at Potty Pond was clear and the fish were hungry. Early on the morning of the Derby, volunteers arrived to help with the set-up and man their assigned stations. We are so fortunate to have the volunteers to help, it makes the burden of Derby much lighter for the organizers, thank-you. For the third straight year Phantom Canyon Brewing Company supplied our lunch; please make an effort to support the restaurant (2 East Pikes Peak Ave, Colorado Springs, CO, 80903, 635-2800). A huge thank-you to Scott Coulter (King of the Grill) and Robin Hubbard (making it all happen girl) for all of your hard work, support of the Derby and making our bellies happy. Ramping up to the Derby, many donations were received for raffle prizes, monetary gifts to purchase items and hand crafted items for the raffle as well. Spring Valley neighbors beat the pavement and hit up area businesses for gift certificates and donations too. Between the registration dues collected and the raffle ticket sales, \$1500.00 was raised. All of that money goes back into the Derby fund to support next year's Derby. Thanks for supporting the Derby.

Derby winners:

Name:	Age:	Fish:
Kenton Kenley	4	1 lb, 12 oz, 16.75"
Emily Biberry	5	2 lb, 11 oz, 18.5"
Cody Bess	11	2 lb, 13 oz, 18.75"
Kayla Nocon	9	5 lb, 13 oz, 24"
Andrew Bybee	16	1 lb, 15 oz, 16.5"
Taylor Bybee	14	1 lb, 10 oz, 15.5"

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## Volunteers

Whether it is a neighborhood activity or work day this year, Spring Valley has been fortunate to have so many volunteers available to help. Big events like the Kids Fishing Derby can't happen unless we have folks willing to give of their time and skills to make it possible. Recently we installed 200 feet of split rail fence at the Pavilion. A mass email was sent out and sign posted at the entrance asking for help. The day of the event it was overwhelming with all the help that arrived and their willingness to jump right in and do their part. Had the pleasure of meeting some new neighbors and the enjoyment of socializing, laughing, telling stories and teasing each other. A HUGE thank-you to each and every one of you who have helped, you are truly appreciated. We can't do activities and workdays without volunteers, thank-you for making it happen.

**2010 Spring Valley Cook Book is currently in print. If you are interested in purchasing the new cook book, please contact Roni Gordon at [ronigordon@yahoo.com](mailto:ronigordon@yahoo.com) or call 687-6906**

## Living in the Woods

### Quick Facts...

- Wildfire will find the weakest links in the defense measures you have taken on your property.
- The primary determinants of a home's ability to survive wildfire are its roofing material and the quality of the "defensible space" surrounding it.
- Even small steps to protect your home and property will make them more able to withstand fire.
- Consider these measures for all areas of your property, not just the immediate vicinity of the house.

Fire is capricious. It can find the weak link in your home's fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand because of a small, overlooked or seemingly inconsequential factor. While you may not be able to accomplish all measures below (and there are no guarantees), each will increase your home's, and possibly your family's, safety and survival during a wildfire.

Start with the easiest and least expensive actions. Begin your work closest to your house and move outward. Keep working on the more difficult items until you have completed your entire project.

### Annual Fire Safety Checklist

- Thin trees and brush properly within the defensible space.
- Remove trash and debris from the defensible space.
- Remove any trees growing through the porch.
- Clear roof and gutters of leaves and debris.
- Remove branches overhanging chimney and roof.
- Stack firewood uphill or on a contour away from the home.
- Use noncombustible roof materials.
- Place shutters, fire curtains or heavy drapes on windows.
- Place screens on foundation and eave vents.
- Enclose sides of stilt foundations and decks.
- Use a chimney screen or spark arrester.
- Clear vegetation around fire hydrants, cisterns, propane tanks, etc.
- Make sure an outdoor water supply is available, with hose, nozzle and pump.
- Make sure fire tools, ladder and fire extinguishers are available.
- Post address signs that are clearly visible from the street or road.
- Make sure the driveway is wide enough for fire trucks and equipment.
- Post load limits on bridges.
- Install and test smoke detectors.
- Practice a family fire drill and evacuation plan.

## Dam Maintenance – Update

In 2002, the Dam Safety and Security Act was put in place to enhance the Nation's ability to assure that adequate dam safety programs and practices are in place throughout the United States. The Act of 2002 states that the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in cooperation with the National Dam Safety Review Board, shall carry out a program of technical and archival research to develop and support:

- *improved techniques, historical experience, and equipment for rapid and effective dam construction, rehabilitation, and inspection;*
- *devices for continued monitoring of the safety of dams;*
- *development and maintenance of information resources systems needed to support managing the safety of dams; and*
- *initiatives to guide the formulation of effective policy and advance improvements in dam safety engineering, security, and management.*

*Information taken from the National Dam Safety Program – Research Needs Workshop: Seepage through Embankment Dams.*

Due to the outcome of this research, our current dam monitoring techniques and requirements set forth by the State Dam Engineer require us to upgrade our current monitoring efforts. This recommendation has been in the inspection reports since 2002, however now; it has been made mandatory. Spring Valley is required to make the necessary upgrades as we are held liable for the safety of the dam and those downstream.

The responsibility for maintaining a safe dam rests with us. Safely maintaining the dam is a key element in preventing a failure and limiting the liability to our members. This involves in part, monthly monitoring and reporting the amount of seepage that comes through our earthen dam. All Earthen Dams have seepage. Currently, we have surface ditches along the lower part of the dam that attempt to capture the seepage. This directs the seepage through weirs allowing us to measure change in the amount of water and consistency that is coming through the dam. It has been found that this system is not capturing the seepage sufficiently. The Board hired JDS Hydro Engineering following a competitive proposal process to prepare the construction drawings and specifications. Our Engineer submitted the plans to the State nearly two months ago and we still have not received approval to move forward. The State has had some recent staffing changes and has not had the ability to review and approve the plans. So until that happens, the proposed improvements will be on hold. Once approved, the project will be competitively bid to Contractors for construction. We will obviously have a good reason for not meeting the demands of the State to complete the improvements since it is the State holding up the progress.

If you have questions or would like more detailed information about the process, please feel free to contact me via email at [shauncgordon@msn.com](mailto:shauncgordon@msn.com) or home phone 687-6906 (but keep in mind that I work full time – so I will try to respond as soon as possible).

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Voice Mail: 719.686.1825

The SVPORC sponsored Christmas party will be held Saturday, December 11 at 1:00 pm in the heated pavilion. We will be providing hot turkey and baked ham. Of course, all who attend are welcome to bring a pot luck side dish or dessert. If you have attended these parties before, you know that our neighbors always bring the best dishes. We will also be providing entertainment for kids of all ages. So, if you want to enjoy a good meal, make some new friends and have lots of fun, join us on December 11.



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*We're on the Web!*

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[www.myspringvalley.org](http://www.myspringvalley.org)

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P. O. Box 513, Divide, CO  
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