



Working to Preserve a Reasonable Balance

Preserve Unique Magnolia

A S S O C I A T I O N

P. U. M. A. Newsletter • Box 536 • Nederland, Colorado 80466

CELEBRATE WINTER TRADITIONS at the PUMA HOLIDAY POTLUCK!



We invite neighbors and friends of all faiths to join us at our annual winter potluck. If you have a tradition to share with the

community, feel free to bring materials (song sheets, musical instruments, a special dish....)

WHEN: 4:00 p.m. Sunday Afternoon,
December 15th

WHERE: Rosalie and Jerry's
2440 Magnolia Drive
303.402.1194

WHAT: PUMA Potluck. Carols and other traditions begin after we eat.

WHAT TO DO: Bring a dish to share and your table service. Coffee, Tea and Hot Cider provided.

OPTIONAL: Bring a "white elephant" gift to exchange.



Winter Driving Tips



Here are some hints that have proved helpful over the years, saving money and time in the long run:

1) 4-wheel drive is not 4-wheel stop.

The same braking power exists whether you're driving an all-wheel traction tractor or a two-wheel mini. What matters is what you're sticking to, and what you're sticking with. Good snow tires are better than "all season" tires, and studs better still if the surface is packed snow or ice.

Ever see hockey skaters wear rubber skates? There's a reason. Poor tires won't stick to dry pavement, much less Mom Nature's icicles. In Colorado it's rare that the snow stays around on the road for more than a few days, but unless you have the will-power or luxury to stay home (or walk) when the snow flies, being prepared for those few days can save loads of time at the body shop, if not the ER.

2) Momentum carries big objects further.

SUVs seem to be universally regarded as safer. They are bigger and heavier, come with more powerful engines and advertising that promises to take you where Evil Knievel couldn't go. But consider this law of physics: inertia (or momentum) carries bigger things further in a straight line. If I threw a tennis ball at you, you'd likely bat it away or let it bounce off. But change that to a pitched bowling ball and plan on a mighty big dent in whatever it hits, especially if it's traveling at 30 or 40 mph. SUVs have more mass, more weight, and when they come to a corner they want to continue in a straight line, over the barricade and down the hill. A small light car is more likely to make a tight corner than an SUV.

3) Sun and shade change the road's surface — and safety.

When the sun is low and slanting long shadows across the road, the temperature difference from sun to shade can be as much as forty degrees or more. Dark asphalt, even tan dirt absorb sunshine and warm up to melting. The melt water runs into the shade where things never got above freezing anyway, adding to the slick layers. Those shady spots are predictable. Remember where they are and slow down well before you need to. And remember that snow conditions change drastically from early morning when the snow is cold and fluffy to evening commuter rush on compressed bobsled courses.

4) Pull over rather than speed up.

Don't feel rushed by the others on the road. Make choices based on your skill, tire condition, and knowledge. Leave a minute earlier, take a minute longer, arrive two minutes late and you'll avoid higher insurance premiums and possible stitches. Keep an eye on the rear-view mirror and if someone behind is impatient, let them by when possible. Even if they are driving unsafely, you can hope that Darwinian evolution will take over and grant them a lesson. Being courteous pays. Yielding pays dividends even in a down market.

5) Even dry pavement can be slippery.

Pavement usually is better than dirt/gravel when it comes to good traction, but Magnolia and its side roads are not superhighways. The speed limit is 30 mph and for most of the road that seems to be a safe speed. But if the pavement has recently been sanded, those silicon-dioxide ball bearings on the asphalt will slide you right off into the ditch just as fast as slick, wet dirt or snow. So, remember, snow and ice require a different attitude. Get a grip, slow down, and enjoy the scenery.

The Magnolia Road Mailbox Matter



by Bonnie Sundance and other contributors

In the midst of tensions about worldwide security, our community is being challenged by the need to address local mailbox security. At the October PUMA meeting, it was agreed that we would create time and space for a discussion and sharing of information about these issues. PUMA is not making any recommendations or declarations, merely disseminating information collected to date to the community.

Meeting with the Postmaster

A group of residents met with the Regional Postmaster, Norm Uriarte, to explore various options to address the security problem. While stacked apartment-style lockboxes were originally a consideration, based on discussions and a drive through the neighborhoods, the Postmaster felt these lockboxes are only an option for Magnolia Road if all neighbors agree unanimously to erect them and clear them daily of snow.

The Postmaster also said he would not allow both individual mailboxes and stacked lockboxes grouped together on Magnolia (e.g. Magnolia and 68) because he is concerned about the carrier's ability to deliver mail and packages. Individuals may purchase their own locking mailbox, however, and place it in the row.

As an option, the Post Office offered the following: if there are at least 2 homes per mile which want a change, the Post Office will consider extending the route from Magnolia. This was discussed at the PUMA meeting and there were many varied reactions among attendees. The following summarize the comments:

- Some people welcome having their mailbox near their own driveway and in sight of their own home so they can keep some watch on it

- Some want to buy an individual locked mailbox to keep their mail secure and replace the one on Magnolia Road (For one example, see: http://www.steelmailbox.com/html/self-locking_mailboxes.htm)

- Some were interested in locking stacked mailboxes provided by the post office

- Some felt dispersing the mailbox locations was not a real solution to the security issue, only delaying it until the new locations were discovered and boxes pilfered

- Some people have a need for quiet in their neighborhood. They do not want additional traffic, noise, road dust, litter and obstructions to their views or privacy from mail and newspaper

carriers, as well as stop-and-go traffic at a row of mailboxes

- Some people were concerned about clusters of mailboxes placed at already busy and dangerous intersections

- Some people expressed appreciation for having a choice about the mailbox location

-Some people didn't like the apartment style locked mailboxes and were happy to have other options

Action from Meeting

At the PUMA meeting, it was suggested that for the county roads running off Magnolia:

- 1) Those residents who want their mailboxes moved would circulate a request to create new routes and gather signatures on a petition provided by the Post Office. Time constraints may exist. As of this writing, this has been done for Lazy Z, Aspen Meadows, Pine Glade and CR 68 roads.
- 2) The Nederland Post Office would consider those additional routes for this area and negotiate them with the carrier.
- 3) Once the routes are approved by the Postmaster, a notice would be sent out to people on those roads to inform them.
- 4) Neighbors would then get together to discuss placement of clusters and agree on a location amenable to all.
- 5) Once cluster locations are decided, only people who want to move their mailboxes from the present location on Magnolia would be expected to do so **ALL AT ONCE** during an agreed-upon window of time. This is a request by the Post Office. This would probably be done in the spring when the approvals are in and the ground not frozen.
- 6) Newspapers contacted did not foresee a problem with delivery. However, residents should contact their respective papers to verify this, and then move their newspaper tubes with the mailboxes in one coordinated action. It is up to residents to make sure their carriers are aware of the new mailbox clusters when they happen.

Process with Neighbors is a Priority

We consider the process to be **IMPORTANT**. Neighbors in a given area, who want their mailboxes on their own road, will need to talk among themselves to determine an acceptable-to-all spot for putting a cluster of mailboxes. The roads currently being considered for route extensions are Lazy Z, Pine Glade, Aspen Meadows and County Road 68. The exact locations of mailbox clusters on these roads are up to residents.

Twin Sisters Road, Porter Ranch Road and Frontier Road are not able to be included as they are private roads, and therefore cannot have service down the roads by the Post Office.

When neighbors talk among themselves, please recognize that there will be disagreements and that underlying these are needs, which each individual is trying to meet. When one can identify and communicate those underlying needs to others, it is far easier to look for various options and strategies to meet those needs. It is often when we hold onto and defend one strategy without explaining the needs beneath them, that it is harder to negotiate a satisfactory solution. Keep a flexible and open mind to possibilities and to supporting one another when varying needs arise.

Community Mediation Available

If needed, there are knowledgeable community mediators who can help to mediate any conflicts or disputes, which arise between neighbors. One such group is Peak-to-Peak Mediation. It is a non-profit which offers free mediation services, with donations requested to help fund the trainings they offer. Call Antoinette Rose at 303-447-6500. This service extends to any kind of conflict between neighbors, covering many kinds of issues.

Next Steps with Post Office

If you live on a public road (not listed above) and are interested in a route extension, please contact the Nederland Post Office for a petition. Otherwise, the Post Office will be following up with residents to inform them when route extensions are approved and next steps to be taken.

If you have any questions, please contact the Nederland Post Office or the Regional Postmaster, Norm Uriarte, at 303.208.8795 (pager) or 303.263.2189 (cell). For additional or historic information on this issue, email puma@magnoliaroad.net.

Contacting Boulder County Sheriff



Use 911 for emergencies only:

- To save a life
- To report a fire
- To stop a crime

For all other issues use:

303-441-4444