

The Ridge Rider



WIND TOPPLES TREES

Instead of leaving like the proverbial lamb, March 2023 left roaring like a lion and uprooting two mature Sunset Ridge trees. Fortunately, the trees did not fall on townhomes or cars. The Landscaping Committee will be looking at new trees to replace these.

Additional good news is our new fencing withstood the wind test once again!



Management Company

PMI Denver Metro

Phone (303) 745-2220

Fax (303) 745-3335

plaird@pmidenvermetro.com

Mobile – 303-419-6005

Please Update Your Email Address

at the above email. Instead of mailing the newsletter, we are emailing it to **save your money**.

HOA Board

Kathy Dann – President

Ken Whiteacre – Vice President

Rick White – Secretary

Bob Campbell – Treasurer

Pat Smith – Director at Large



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President's Notes –April, 2023

Here we are enjoying spring weather (at least some days) and looking forward to summertime activities with friends and families!

Please help keep our community an attractive and welcoming place for all – one way to do this is to be certain your trash is well secured each week when you put it out so wind, crows and raccoons are not able to spread it throughout the neighborhood. Remember the trash rules: containers cannot be put out prior to 8 PM on Tuesday evening and they must be back in your garages by 8 PM on Wednesday evening. Nothing can be stored between our garages or at the ends of buildings.

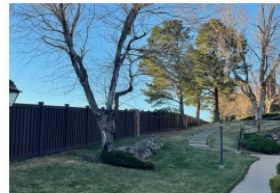
We also want our community to be safe for everyone. All our alleys are **FIRE LANES** and MUST be free of parked vehicles except when you are ACTIVELY loading or unloading or cleaning your vehicle. Fire trucks and other emergency vehicles need the alleys clear so they can respond safely to any emergencies – please be a considerate neighbor and keep your vehicle in your garage or in a marked parking space.

Kathy Dann

"A flower blossoms for its own joy."
Oscar Wilde

West-side Fence Completed Just in Time

Have you checked out the west side of Sunset Ridge? The wooden fence along the property has been replaced with a new one that matches the Schaffer Parkway fence. Integrity Fencing completed the project quickly and just in time for the March 31st wind storm. It held up nicely to the winds that took out two large trees in the neighborhood. As this fencing project finishes up, you may have noticed repairs to the split-rail fence are progressing. These repairs will be completed shortly. The board will not be making a decision on what to do about fencing on the north side of the community until it assesses the impact of the new development on the north. More about that on page 3.



Energy Saving Tips

Unprecedented Xcel Energy bills have left a lot of us asking, "What more can I do conserve electric and gas use to decrease this bill"?!

That's a great question, since it does not look like our utility bills will decrease any time soon. Check out the Xcel website and their [energy saving tips](#). Be aware of the Time of Use rates that started in March where smart-meters are installed.

According to the Xcel website, off-peak pricing occurs daily from 7pm until 1pm the next day. Electricity is cheapest during this period. Electricity will cost more on weekdays during mid-peak hours (1pm-3pm), and on-peak hours (3pm-7pm). Weekends and holidays are considered off-peak.

HOA COMMITTEES

Architectural – Ken Whiteacre –Board Liaison, Shirley Christensen and Theresa Knight

Landscape – Kathy Dann - Board Liaison, Peggy Pangersis, Chairman and Kathi LaVelle

Communications – Pat Smith – Board Liaison, Susan Peters, Chairman and Jen Vidal

Newsletter photography & formatting – Pat Smith

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Inspired to Spruce Up Around Your Unit?

Warmer temperatures and longer days may inspire you to refresh or redo the plantings in front or behind your property. Many Sunset Ridge residents take great pride in the beauty of the landscaping around their units which we all enjoy. Well-planned and well-maintained trees, shrubs and flowers add to the beauty of our community and to our property values.

If you are planning to remove and or replace existing landscaping, you need to prepare a specific plan and submit it to the Board of Directors using a Home Improvement Request Form (found at sunsetridgetownhouse.com or the December 2022 newsletter) prior to implementing your plan. Seasonal flower plantings do not need approval, but may not spread out over sidewalks.

While planning your landscape, please consider the water requirements and hardiness of your plants for our climate zone.

"The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world."

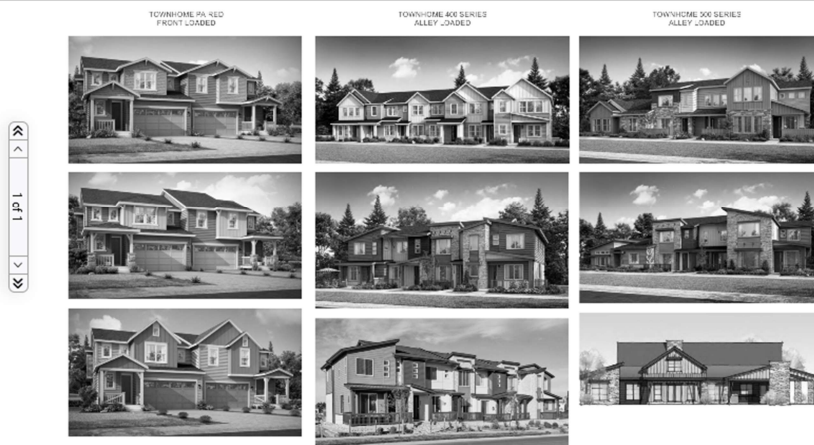
Charles Dudley Warner

Development North of Sunset Ridge

North American Development Group is developing 3 areas in Ken Caryl. Parcel B, just north of Sunset Ridge is approximately a 25 acre parcel with 199 townhouse units. Board Vice President, Ken Whiteacre, has been informed that development is scheduled to start in April, 2023. Below is a site plan and photos of proposed units.



Architecture PARCEL B



NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

KEN CARYL RANCH (PARCELS A, B & C) | JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO | PAGE 13

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Art in Sunset Ridge

-An ongoing feature series

ARTIST RECREATES CYCLING HISTORY

Wish you could have attended the Tour de France or another famous race and seen the extraordinary cyclists ride? Fortunately, you can now see exactly what it was like by viewing Marcel De Lorean's miniature dioramas of historic cycling races.

An avid cyclist, Marcel looks for quintessential bicycle shops wherever he travels. On a trip to London in 2017, he visited a shop where he spotted boxed miniature cyclists. He purchased two boxes, brought them home and kept thinking about how he might use them. A miniature Christmas tree sparked an idea reminding him of model train landscapes from his childhood, and he envisioned putting his miniature cyclists in a setting. He signed up for a "How to Make Realistic Rock Outcroppings Workshop" at the Rocky Mountain Model Railroad show and step by step his dioramas began to take shape.

Because of his keen interest in the history of professional cycling, he wanted his dioramas to be historically accurate and pay tribute to professional cyclists who transcended physical suffering, disappointments, injuries and natural obstacles while delivering heroic performances in three week-long Grand Tours such as the Tour de France, Giro d'Italia and Vuelta España. He calls his dioramas commemorating the heroic endeavors of professional cycling *VeloVignettes*.



Using the Internet and cycling history books, Marcel spends countless hours (even days) painstakingly researching every detail of the race he is going to depict. He looks for races that were memorialized by writers and/or cycling commentators and "burned into cycling fans' memories because of fierce rivalries and epic performances by contenders at that time."



The cycling figures he uses are 1:32 scale. All are painted in their team jerseys exactly as they were worn in the race. The figures include the smallest details such as sponsor logos on their gloves, hats, helmets or socks. Just preparing the decals that go on the miniature cyclists takes 10 hours. Then, he begins the tedious process of painting, lacquering, airbrushing and enameling each figure as he carefully applies the decals using a magnifying glass, tweezers, toothpicks or any tiny tool that works. Each figure takes five to six hours to complete.

Marcel explains his favorite pieces are the larger pieces because the extra "real estate" allows him to include additional features such as rock outcroppings, forested meadows, trees, spectators, support cars and motorcycles. All of these features, he notes, make his piece more challenging.

Sometimes, he shares, it's difficult to find cars and support vehicles that match the scale of the cyclists and the period. Even so, he researches the stickers and insignias on the vehicles and they are authentic—even the badges that show the vehicle is part of the race.

The landscapes are constructed in amazing detail. Each piece of a cobblestone road is placed separately, and he applies a special pigment powder over the completed cobblestones to add a weathering effect and make them look real. To create the railings along the roads, he uses old bicycle derailleur cables treated to look like roadside cables going from post to post. The rock outcroppings which he paints with gesso, acrylic colors and washes are made from geodesic foam and take four to five hours to create—eight hours by the time each is finished and fit into the diorama. They look real. Most of the trees and landscaping come from Germany, but other pieces for his dioramas are sourced from Belgium, Poland, France, England, Canada, the Czech Republic, and the U.S. He tries not to use materials from China.

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The dioramas sit on beautiful wood bases. He purchases hardwood oak bases for the smaller dioramas and custom makes the larger bases as well as the wooden casings that rest on the bases. Each casing has a copper plaque that Marcel treats with ammonia to get the desired patina and on which Marcel engraves specific information about the races. Larger dioramas have a pull out “tablet” inserted in the front that is made of Finnish birch and lists the top 10 finishers of the race on one side and the story of what happened during the race on the other—all specially written and printed by Marcel. Each diorama is covered by an acrylic cover and has a serial number on the bottom depicting the edition.

To explore Marcel’s VeloVignettes further, go to his Etsy shop at: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/CyclingClassicMoment>. Several of his dioramas were featured in the Rapha store in Boulder. One of his pieces was selected for a juried art show (“Own an Original”) for the Littleton Art Museum. In 2017, he took First Prize at the Colorado Springs Bicycle Art Show and his VeloVignette was featured on the local Fox News television station.

Marcel is not the only artist in his family. His wife, Michele, is an accomplished painter (featured in a previous newsletter article) and is the artist Marcel most admires especially because she is self-taught. He also has good memories of watching both grandfathers paint or make drawings while they were moonlighting as artists.

Marcel moved to Sunset Ridge in 1992. Prior to living in Colorado, he lived in the Czech Republic (then known as Czechoslovakia) and Austria. When he isn’t spending long hours in front of a computer working in the tech industry or creating his VeloVignettes, Marcel enjoys cycling, skiing, Nordic skiing, hiking and mushroom hunting.



HOW TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF FRESHLY CUT FLOWERS

Freshly cut flowers bring beauty and nature indoors, but they are expensive. To prolong their lives, try this homemade preservative. According to The National Gardening Association (Garden.org), tests have found this recipe more effective than commercial preservatives.

- 1 cup regular 7-Up
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon household bleach

The sugar in the 7-Up provides energy for the flowers and the bleach controls bacteria. If you need more liquid, just increase the amounts proportionately.

Change water every couple of days and enjoy!

“Flowers always make people better, happier, more hopeful.”
Luther Burbank



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Restoration of Brickwork Comes to a Close

Three-and-a-half years ago, Bob Mayuric began the repair and restoration of Sunset Ridge brickwork by basically reconstructing a major pillar on the SE corner of our property that was damaged when wind toppled the fence connected to it. Since then, Bob has systematically examined every brick on every patio in Sunset Ridge and repaired or replaced each damaged brick.

Bob explains that this project has required “patience and endurance.” He has worked during cold, wind, sleet and baking heat. The repair is time consuming and labor intensive. The first step of the project is to identify and mark the bricks to be replaced. Then, he chisels out the grout holding the brick in place and sets the cleaned brick back in to mark its spot. Finally, he cements the brick back into position.



Bob is more than qualified for this project. He has 40 years of experience as a mason and is a Certified Historic Mason Restoration Specialist. In order to earn this certification, he had to display his expertise with proof of existing work. There are few masons today who have this type of qualification. He takes great pride in his work and says he “enjoys his work from the deepest part of his heart.”

The bricks used in Sunset Ridge are called “used brick.” They vary in age—some 85 years old and some 60. The bricks were probably made in Denver as Denver had several robust brick manufacturing plants. In fact, in 1900, there were more than 200 brick-making factories in Colorado, including Denver Brick Company which opened in 1889. (CBS News Colorado) Denver Brick Company moved to Acme Brick in Castle Rock in 1982 and closed permanently in 2018. Robinson Brick Company, another major Denver company, was sold to an Austrian company in 2006. (Denver Business Journal)



For the final phase of the project, Bob will repair brickwork on the pillars around the perimeter of our property. If you happen to see him while out walking, tell him “thank you” for all of his work to keep Sunset Ridge looking great.

When he finishes this project, Bob will have time to resume other projects he enjoys which include deck building and repair, kitchen and bathroom remodeling and other interior work. You can contact him at (303) 358-0636 or at rjmayuric@comcast.net.