



## SPEED LIMIT & SAFETY in the NEIGHBORHOOD

When Mariana Cove was designed and built, starting in the late 1990s, the City of Loveland in its wisdom allowed it to have no sidewalks, which makes it unique within the city limits. We have been grateful that no one has yet been injured in our neighborhood because of speeding vehicles. We do know that there have been several near calls. We have walkers, dog walkers, strollers, wheelchairs, joggers, bike riders, and kids playing in the streets. And it isn't just our neighborhood, since residents of the Springs to our west and the Overlook to our north also use our neighborhood (as we do theirs) to get in a good daily walk.

Since the residents of Deer Meadow Court closed access to their short private road (across the ditch from the Overlook bridge), our triple neighborhood has no safe access to leave the immediate area. Some of the more adventurous walkers will walk the ditch and then clamber down the ditch bank near Deer Meadow bridge to gain access to Deer Meadow Drive and Rossum drive. Return, is either back up the bank or via First Street from Rossum Drive and a walk along the road. The wide berm is OK if it isn't wet, but essentially, walkers are forced on to the narrow bike lane at several points along the one-third of a mile that has no side walk. There is about 100 yards of sidewalk from Rossum Drive along the north side of First Street and a sidewalk bordering the Overlook neighborhood up to the ditch. In between is the hazardous one-third mile with traffic nearly always exceeding the 45 mph speed limit by 5-20 mph.

For nearly 6 years the HOA has been petitioning the city to help with traffic control, but to no avail. On August 15, several Mariana Cove residents attended and spoke to the City Council directly. The response from our councilors' was one of surprise at the lack of action by the city traffic manger. Board member Kim Schatz has been leading the charge to get some form of 'traffic-calming' implemented by the city. The mangers response was odd. He insisted that everything was OK, despite our pleas otherwise.

His response was to visit the neighborhood and remove the "Slow Down – Watch for Children" signs we had put up 15 months earlier as part of the boards efforts to slow traffic. He also removed the traffic cones with the attached speed limit sign. Apparently we cannot place anything on city property, which includes the islands, road berms and road, without city permission.



About five weeks ago the city installed the electronic speed monitor at the junction of Ferryboat Court, visible as you drive down Cove Drive. It seems to have made a difference at the top of the neighborhood, but traffic speeds up as it reaches the bottom of the hill. It is temporary for just six months. The residents asked the city council to consider two speed monitoring signs to be permanently installed, and speed bumps were also mentioned as solutions to the speed problem. Kim has also been requesting that the speed limit be reduced to 20mph for further safety.

	Thinking +	Stopping
Speed	Braking Distance	Distance
20mph	20ft + 20ft	40 feet
30mph	30ft + 45ft	75 feet
40mph	40ft + 80ft	120 feet

**The current speed limit within MC is 25 mph**, meaning an alert person would still take 57 feet to stop (the distance of nine people laid end-end). Most people are aware of traffic, but how alert are all the drivers? It's too easy to get distracted when speeding deliberately or inadvertently. Its only a matter of time before a

Vehicle hits someone, a dog, or one of the many deer, young-does and other wildlife that freely roam our beautiful neighborhood. **SO PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND SUPPORT OUR EFFORT TO BE SAFE** on neighborhood streets.

## COMMUNITY SOCIAL EVENTS

During the past two years we have had spasmodic gatherings in our community, where before we once had numerous reasons to get together and meet for all manner of celebration. We have several festivals yet to come this year like Octoberfest, Thanksgiving, and Christmas in which we have traditionally held regular get-togethers. **But we need volunteers to help organize such events.** Other events that have been held have been Ice-Cream Socials during Summer, the Shores Summer Regatta, the Community Garage Sale, as well as the Men's luncheon and the Women's book club.

If you would like to help restart or just to help organize one of these get togethers or any others, please send an email to [marianacovehoaloveland@gmail.com](mailto:marianacovehoaloveland@gmail.com)

## MAILBOX NOTICE BOXES

A question we often get is about the post with two notice holders by each of the MC Post Office mailboxes. Please note that the top box is for use with official HOA notices (even when empty), but the lower one is for residents to use anytime, for announcements of various kinds that may be of interest to others in the HOA.

## NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT FOCUS



Gary Schmidt

### Afterthoughts

In past issues of the clipper we included stories of some of our residents. This issue we introduce Concert Pianist extraordinaire, Gary Schmidt. Many have heard him play from his home while neighbors lounged by the lake, or at one of his many concerts along the Front Range. For those who support Gary, he is excited to report that he has a new full length album coming out under the Heartdance Record label called Afterthoughts. On Sept.22nd it will magically appear on all your favorite streaming services. He also have some physical CDs if you want to visit him personally. We think you will like it! The cover for his new album is as inspiring as his music.

## THE ROLE OF THE HOA BOARD

The role of the board is to enforce the covenants and the bylaws and to manage the upkeep of the neighborhood. The board also helps in mediating disputes and problems where it can, but it is NOT the neighborhood police. Any difficulties with neighbors should initially go to the Property Managers <https://www.fortcollinspropertymanagement.co/> While the HOA may have specific restrictions, the neighborhood is governed by the City of Loveland, and any County, State and/or, Federal legislation. For **barking dogs that have become a nuisance**, residents must contact the police department or animal control. There are specific City of Loveland rules pertaining to barking dogs and a whole range of other nuisance issues

## COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR – KEEPING YOU INFORMED

We have an email account to contact the editor and the Board: [marianacovehoaloveland@gmail.com](mailto:marianacovehoaloveland@gmail.com) and if you use Facebook, we have a private Facebook group for Mariana Cove (MC) that all MC residents can use to communicate on a real time basis. Just key 'mariana cove group' in the Facebook search bar. Or enter this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/marianacove/> Our website has most of the HOA information (updated regularly) <http://www.marianacove.org/> All our older HOA documents are archived on a single site <http://bit.ly/CoveDocs> For now there are three sites to find HOA information (pre 2021 Bitly.com, the HOA website, and Everest (only recent files).

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