



# The Kipling Villager

Newsletter of the Kipling Villas Homeowners' Association

December 2009

*Dedicated to Improving Our Community*

*Visit our web site at [kvha.net](http://kvha.net)*

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## **DAYS TO FLY YOUR FLAG**

Pearl Harbor Day	Dec. 7
Christmas Day	Dec. 25
New Year's Day	Jan. 1
MLK Birthday	Jan. 18
Washington Birthday	Feb. 15
Easter Sunday	April 4

# Happy Holidays

## **NEXT HOMEOWNERS MEETING**

Tuesday, February 2, 2009

7:30 pm

Lilley Gulch Recreation Center

*All residents of Kipling Villas are welcome  
and encouraged to attend!*



## Neighborhood Nature Notes

By Janet Shin

Some of our regular winter visitors arrived right along with our October snowstorms – dark-eyed juncos, also commonly known as snowbirds. The name, “snowbird”, comes from the junco’s plumage which in olden times was described as “leaden skies above, snow beneath.” The name also describes the weather when these small birds are most easily seen.

Ornithologists once thought there were four separate species of these sparrow-sized birds: white-winged, slate-colored, Oregon, and gray-headed. Now they are lumped into just one species, the dark-eyed junco, but the four types tend to breed in somewhat separate areas. The slate-colored breeds in the East and through much of Canada into Alaska, the Oregon along the West Coast and up into Canada, the Pink-sided form of the Oregon in the Northern Rockies, the White-winged in the Black Hills of Wyoming and South Dakota, and the Gray-headed in the Southern Rockies which includes the mountains of Colorado. There is some interbreeding of the various forms where their ranges overlap.



All five types occur in Colorado during the winter, but only the Gray-headed stays year round and breeds here. It’s fun to try to identify which types are coming to your feeder, but some type of bird guide is needed. All dark-eyed juncos do have white feathers on each side of their tail feathers which they flash when flying, light colored bills, and grey to black hoods. If you see a bird with these characteristics it’s definitely a junco.

Juncos are most comfortable feeding on the ground. The best place to observe them is at a low tray feeder or foraging for spilled seed under other feeders. They tend to show up in the greatest numbers during and after snowstorms. Those birds at our feeders are part of a larger flock that forages in a defined area of five to ten acres. Since not all members of the flock move around together, we see varying numbers of juncos through the winter. The flock has a straight line pecking order. Males dominate females, and adults dominate immature birds. Much of the behavior seen at the feeder stems from this social hierarchy, including pecking attacks and flight pursuits. The flashing white tail feathers may help the flock locate one another and keep the flock together.



During the day the birds follow a routine feeding circuit. At night the entire flock roosts together and often uses the same spot throughout much of the winter. This roosting spot is often in a dense conifer which provides shelter from the cold as well as predators. As spring approaches the males begin to sing and more flight pursuits occur until the birds migrate back north in March and April.

*Dark-eyed Junco Photographs Courtesy of Bill Schmoker*

For more information on these, and many other, birds of the Kipling Villas visit our website at [http://kvha.net/Documents/Community%20Resources/Birds%20of%20the%20KV/kv\\_birds.htm](http://kvha.net/Documents/Community%20Resources/Birds%20of%20the%20KV/kv_birds.htm)

## November Letter

*By Jerry Shin, President of KVHA*

Hello Everyone,

I have been investigating some of the proposed changes in our schools. There will need to be some significant facility decisions made in the near future. Jeffco schools is a very large district and therefore many possible options are being considered. As a former teacher in the district, I know that these decisions are very difficult and can effect neighborhoods. Please get involved. With the help of one of our board members who works at Colorow, I have taken some excerpts from the Jeffco Schools web site. To get the whole picture please go to <http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/>

Here are some excerpts:

Like many school districts, Jeffco Public Schools is facing tough budget challenges. One of the ways the district hopes to save money is through a more efficient use of all district facilities. The [Facilities Usage Committee](#) has been analyzing the use of school facilities [based on six criteria](#).

**No final decisions have been made yet regarding facilities.** The Committee has created [a list of options for consideration](#). Parents and community members have a chance to have their voice heard in a number of ways:

- Community forums (were held through September and November)
- E-mail: [facilities@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:facilities@jeffco.k12.co.us)
- Letters: addressed to Jeffco Public Schools, Communications Services, 1829 Denver West Drive, Golden, CO 80401
- Phone calls: 303-982-6837
- Submit comments via this [online feedback form](#). (available on Jeffco website or the KVHA website).

After public input is received, the recommended options will be presented to the Board of Education in January for consideration.

Please visit the Jeffco Public Schools website for the latest updates on Options Being Considered and other important updates.

Have a good fall and get involved,  
Jerry

## Hot Holiday Gifts for Kids

By Vincent Dunne

Wow time flies. The turkey is as good as cooked and I haven't even written my list to Santa yet. I decided to do some research on what the newest and hottest toys Santa was making this year so I knew what to ask for. Here is what I found and some of the things my friends want for Christmas too.

For boys: Lego's of all shapes and sizes. There's A LOT of Lego's like Star Wars, which is one of my favorites. Lego city, Mars mission, and much more. Race car tracks are a lot of fun for me and other boys and everyone in the family can join in. My Mom lets us put ours in the living room sometimes. Action figures from the latest movies keep us happy and busy too.



For girls: the Glow Dome which I heard is fun. Printies let you make your own stuffed animals right from your own computer! Zhu Zhu pets are these robot hamsters that are like the real thing but without the mess.



My neighbor, who happens to be a girl, has Jamie Oliver's Nintendo DS game What's Cooking on her wish list. I guess she wants to learn how to cook and help her Mom out in the kitchen.

For Tweens: I happen to almost be one, music is in! Anything musical you can plug in would be a great gift. MP3 plays, iPods and any of the Rock bands. Remember music makes kids smarter! Tweens also need cell phones.

My sister is looking for an I Tunes gift card under the Christmas tree. My friend is hoping to see a MP3 player under his.

Kids of all ages like to have copies of the most recent movies to watch at home. Wii, PS2 and PS3 make fun games and games you can exercise to. Other great things to get are board games like Monopoly, for the mathematicians in the family. Everyone loves a good puzzle!



If you are giving a kid a gift this Christmas, you can be sure any of these gifts will bring a smile to their face. So Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night !

*Contributed by Vincent Dunne, Junior Reporter for KV Newsletter*

**2010 MEMBERSHIP  
KIPLING VILLAS HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION  
only \$25 per year!**

All memberships to the Kipling Villas Homeowners Association are valid for one year from May 1, 2009 to May 1, 2010. Please invest in your neighborhood. Send in your \$25 dues and please attend the quarterly meetings. You can make a difference!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (for newsletter and updates): \_\_\_\_\_

Would you also like to receive the quarterly newsletter via email? YES NO

**Please make checks payable to:  
KVHA  
P.O. Box 620714  
Littleton, CO 80162**



## Preventing Identity Theft in 2010

By Sherriff Ted Mink

Identity theft is a fast-growing crime that changes quickly. Investigators still see cases involving "dumpster diving," and still recommend shredding sensitive documents. But criminals have added new tactics - some sophisticated and some unbelievably simple.

Here are some criminal tactics you may remember, and some you may not have seen.

### **Texts, e-mails and calls from credit unions, banks, etc.**

In recent months, many local residents have received text messages on their cell phones purportedly from their credit unions, saying something like, "Your account has been suspended." The texts then ask the recipient to take action: texting, calling or going online to provide their personal account information.

A similar tactic involves e-mails "from" banks or credit unions, using the bank's logo and looking very official. In another version, the scammer actually places a call to the victim, identifies himself as a bank representative, and then asks the victim to verify personal or financial information.

Do not fall prey to these scams. Your bank will not request personal information from you, even for "verification." Delete the text messages and e-mails, and do not respond. If you're unsure, call your bank directly using the number that you already have.

### **"Grandma, I need money"**

This incredibly simple and mean-spirited scam involves just a phone and Western Union. The criminal will target a senior citizen, and call her. When the victim answers, the criminal says, "Grandma?" The victim then usually says, "David?" providing the name of her grandchild to the criminal. He affirms that he's David, and then says he needs her to wire money to him because of a DUI. He pleads with her not to tell anyone. If she asks why he sounds different, he may say that he has a cold.

Jefferson County has seen several seniors fall victim to this scam. If you get any kind of call like this, hang up and call your grandchild directly on the number that you have, or call another relative to check the facts.

### **Job scam**

In this scam, victims find out about work-from-home jobs on Web sites like Craigslist, or via incoming e-mail from senders unknown to them. They sign on to "work from home" and then are instructed to cash fraudulent checks or send money to various places.

### **Jury duty scam**

In this scam, victims receive a phone call from someone telling them they failed to appear for jury duty and now there is a warrant out for their arrest. The caller then asks the victim to verify his name, date of birth, and other personal information. The caller will also ask for the victim's social security number and sometimes even for credit card numbers. The information is then used to commit identity theft.

*Continued on next page*

### Online purchases

Scammers who make fraudulent online purchases using your account information often make them in small amounts so you won't notice. Over time, they add up to big bucks. Check your online account purchases, your bank statements and your credit card statements regularly, and look for purchases you don't recognize.

### Reporting a crime

To report identity theft, call our non-emergency number: 303-277-0211. If the Sheriff's Office is not the proper authority to investigate this crime, we will give the information to the appropriate law enforcement agency, such as the FBI or U.S. Secret Service.

### Top three tips from our investigators

Here are some tips that are always relevant.

- ◆ Be proactive with your accounts. Check your various bank and credit card accounts regularly for fraudulent transactions. Request your free credit report annually. It only takes a day for your credit to be ruined, so take the time to stay on top of your account activity and contact your bank about any unusual activity right away.
- ◆ Never answer any inquiries that you didn't initiate. Your banks and lenders will not contact you via phone, e-mail or text, asking you for personal information. If you didn't initiate the contact, don't provide any info.
- ◆ Verify everything before you take action. Criminals are crafty. Some pose as your bank; others are so brazen as to pose as your grandson. Before sending any money or information anywhere, call the number you have on record to verify the recipient.

*For More Information, please visit the Identify Theft page of the Jefferson County Sherriff's Website.*

<http://jeffco.us/sheriff/index.htm>

## Contributors Wanted

The Kipling Villager would love to feature articles, photos, recipes, etc. of our residents. If you would like to contribute, email the editor at:

[kvnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:kvnewsletter@gmail.com)



## Community-Wide Garage Sale!! Spring 2010

**Kipling Villas will be announcing a date soon.**

**Be sure to check the next edition of the KVHA newsletter for all the details.**

