



Special points of interest:

- The poo chronicles
- Every Kid in a Park
- Madsen Accessibility
- Firewise

Inside this issue:

Doggie Doo Cleanup Crew	2
Every Kid in a Park	2
2nd Annual Madsen Accessibility Celebration	2
Firewise	3
Recipe of the Month	4

The Dog Poop Fairy does not visit EFR

It is hard to argue that we live in "dog paradise" - if reincarnation truly exists, than I want to return as a dog living in Elk Falls Ranch. Many of us that regularly walk the roads have noticed a recent accumulation of dog poop. I need to point out that dog poop is NOT bio degradable like horse, deer or cow manure - so this waste is not a healthy fertilizer to our ecosystem and takes months to dissolve.

In addition to keeping your dog on a leash and ensuring they stay within your property boundaries, I would ask all residents to pick up after their dogs when walking in EFR. You can buy dedicated plastic bags at pet stores or just use the plastic grocery bags from Safeway or King Soopers. According to multiple articles, there is an "epidemic" of plastic wrapped dog poop being left on Colorado hiking trails, so please don't just wrap and leave the bag on the side of the road. To mitigate the inconvenience of carrying the poop wrapped in plastic for your entire walk, I propose utilizing any residents trash receptacle that is positioned at the roadside end of an EFR residents' driveway. Please make sure the poop is securely wrapped within the plastic bag before depositing. If you don't want people dropping of the occasional plastic bag in your trash bin when left at the end of your driveway then just put a small "No Poop" sign on your bin. This neighborly accommodation is a small effort to help everyone keep Elk Falls Ranch looking and smelling like paradise - for people and dogs.



Respectfully,
David Crespo - President EFPOA

Next POA Meeting

The next POA board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21 at the home of Merle Lehmkuhl, 11894 Stallion Dr. at 7:00 PM.

Next Newsletter Deadline: March 28



*May your troubles be less
and your blessings be more
And nothing but happiness
come through your door*

...And Speaking of Doggie Doo...

Elk Falls resident Jasmine Eagle is organizing a monthly doggie-doo cleanup day. It is tentatively scheduled for the second Saturday of the month starting in April. If you're interested in participating, please contact Jasmine (lakergurl4u@hotmail.com).

Every Kid in a Park

Every Kid in a Park is an initiative to encourage children to visit National Parks and public lands and waters. Fourth graders receive free admission to National Parks:

- The pass is for U.S. fourth-grade (or home-school equivalent) students.
- The pass is for the 2016 to 2017 school year. It expires August 31, 2017.
- Students cannot transfer the pass to anyone.
- Electronic version of the pass will not be accepted.
- No refunds are given for previously purchased passes, or if the pass is forgotten on a visit.
- If the pass is lost, get a new one by visiting the website and signing up again.
- Educators can get one paper pass for each of their fourth-grade students.

How it works:

- Show your pass to a ranger when you enter. If there is no ranger, leave it on the dashboard of your car.
- If you visit a site that charges entrance fees per person, the pass admits all children under 16 and up to three adults for free.
- If your group visits a site that charges vehicle entrance fees, the pass admits all children under 16 and all adults in up to one passenger vehicle. Commercial vehicles can't use a pass to get in.
- If you arrive at a site on bicycle, the pass admits all children under 16 and up to three adults on bicycles.
- The pass doesn't cover things like parking fees, camping, boats, or special tours. Also, some sites are managed by private operators who may not honor the pass. Check with the site ahead of time to find out.
- The pass doesn't cover fees for local, city, or state parks and recreation areas unless they say that they accept this pass.

Visit <https://everykidinapark.gov> for more information.

Second Annual Madsen Accessibility Celebration Slated for August 12, 2017

The second annual Madsen Accessibility Celebration is slated for August 12, 2017 at Staunton State Park. More details will be posted as they become available. Mark your calendars!

This celebration is in memory of long-time Elk Falls resident Mark Madsen (pictured below on the left). So far fundraising has provided Staunton with two track chairs to enable mobility-challenged people to explore the park.



Firewise Reminder



WILDFIRE DOESN'T HAVE TO BURN EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH.

In fact, cleaning your property of debris and maintaining your landscaping are important first steps to helping minimize damage and loss. The work you do today can make a difference. Follow these simple action steps now and throughout the year to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire:

- » Clear needles, leaves and other debris from the roof, gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- » To prevent ember penetration, replace or repair loose or missing roof shingles or tiles, and caulk any gaps or openings on roof edges.
- » Cover exterior attic vents, and enclose under-eave and soffit vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent embers from entering the home.
- » Remove stored items and clear out any dead vegetation from under your deck or porch and within 10 feet of the house.
- » Replace mulch with hardscaping, including rock, gravel or stone. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- » Remove flammable materials including firewood stacks, portable propane tanks, and dry vegetation within 30 feet your home's foundation, garages and other buildings.
- » Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire so keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, trim it to reduce fire intensity, and don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- » Fire can spread to tree tops. If you have tall trees on your property, prune low hanging branches 6 to 10 feet from the ground and for smaller trees, prune low hanging branches no more than a third of the tree's height. Remove tall grasses, vines and shrubs from under trees.
- » Talk to your neighbors and create a plan for how to address your wildfire safety challenges together.

Learn more about how to keep your family safe and reduce your home's risk for wildfire damage at www.firewise.org.



**ELK FALLS RANCH
PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

President: David Crespo
Vice-President: Tom Duffy
Treasurer: Renae Braun
Roads: Merle Lehmkuhl
Secretary: Cyd Lantz

Next Board Meeting:
Tuesday, March 21
7:00 PM
11894 Stallion Dr.

**We're on the web!
Elkfallspoa.org**



Elk Falls Ranch Property Owners' Association

The Elk Falls Property Owners' Association is a non-profit corporation in good standing since 1965. The intent of the corporation is to preserve the integrity of the area and lifestyle.

The corporation was formed and incorporated for:

- 1. The promotion, improvement and protection of property values in the area represented by the Association by maintaining the area as a highly desirable single dwelling residential neighborhood possessing features of extraordinary value and improvement, maintenance and**
- 2. The repair of all roads and all ongoing maintenance within the area represented by Elk Falls Property Owners' Association.**

Recipe of the Month: Irish Soda Bread

Ingredients:

5 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
3 cups all-purpose flour, spooned into measuring cup and leveled-off
1-3/4 teaspoons salt
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 cup sugar
1-1/2 cups dried currants
1-3/4 cups buttermilk
2 large eggs, at room temperature
1 tablespoon caraway seeds



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and set the oven rack in the middle position.
2. Smear 1 tablespoon of the butter evenly over the bottom and sides of a 10-inch cast iron skillet. Line the bottom of the pan with a circle of wax or parchment paper (see note). Alternatively, you can use two 8-inch nonstick cake pans.
3. Whisk the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda and sugar together in a large bowl. Add the currants and toss well to coat.
4. Melt two tablespoons of the butter and let cool.
5. Combine the melted butter, buttermilk and eggs and whisk until well combined. Add this to the dry ingredients, along with the caraway seeds, and then fold with a rubber spatula until just combined. Do not overmix.
6. Transfer the batter to the prepared pan(s) and smooth the top gently with a rubber spatula. Dot the top with the remaining two tablespoons of butter.
7. Place the pan(s) in the oven and bake until the bread is puffed and golden brown, 40-50 minutes. Cool in the pan(s) and then cut into wedges and serve warm, or transfer the bread to a wire rack to continue cooling. This bread is best served fresh out of the oven, but keeps well if stored in an airtight container.

Note: My cast iron pan is well seasoned so I did not bother lining it with wax or parchment paper, and the bread did not stick at all. Lining the pans is not necessary if using nonstick cake pans.