



April 2022



Photo courtesy of Bev Long

## An update from your Elk Falls Ranch POA Board of Directors

### 2021/2022 Board of Directors

Dan Mueller, President - [elkfallspoapres@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallspoapres@gmail.com) or 630-240-9066  
Marta Nelson, VP & Architectural Chair - [elkfallspoavp@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallspoavp@gmail.com) or 952-212-1299  
Renaë Braun, Treasurer- [elkfallspoa@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallspoa@gmail.com) or 720-480-9328  
Wayne Gneiser, Secretary - [elkfallspoasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallspoasecretary@gmail.com) or 720-261-3155  
Dave Shaffer, Roads Chair - [elkfallsroads@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallsroads@gmail.com) or 303-816-5004

### Next Board Meeting:

May 3, 7pm

Virtual attendance by Webex

All POA members are invited to attend. If you are interested in attending, please email [elkfallspoa@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallspoa@gmail.com) to let us know you're coming.



## 2022 Elk Falls POA Dues

2022 Annual Assessment Invoices have been mailed and payment is due by May 1st. Please submit your payment on time.

Thank you!

## Annual Meeting Postponed

The Annual Meeting is normally to be conducted early in May. However, we are not quite ready for the short-term rental covenant change vote. Our intent is to have the proposed covenant change verbiage in your hands before the Annual Meeting so you can ask questions during the Meeting. We hope to conduct the Meeting (and vote) within the next couple of months.



## Broadband Update

**Fun fact: Many of us will have internet in a year or less!!** The first phase finishes 3/31/23. And you don't have to wait until your phase is completed to go live. The network is designed to activate customers shortly after

installing the mainline fiber in a certain area and at that time SPT contacts the residents in the area to schedule the install.

We encourage property owners that **have yet to sign up** complete the necessary information at [SPT Staunton State Park](#). (Commitment Form and Payment Online).

**Remember, the more people that sign up, the better our monthly pricing will be .** As of April 4th we've had **311 out of 796 property owners** in the project area commit.

We have to hit 400 commitments to get a 15% discount from SPTs current retail pricing. [For Pricing Click Here](#).

Refer to webpage <https://elkfallspoa.org/new-page-51> for background and information on the Broadband Project.

As always, contact me if you have questions.

Bev Long  
[bevlong2555@gmail.com](mailto:bevlong2555@gmail.com)  
303-838-4373

For the most up-to-date information, join the **Project Facebook page: Staunton Area Broadband Initiative** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2441495086101499>



**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

## 2022 Chipping Program

The Elk Creek/Intercanyon Fire Protection Districts opened up *early* sign-up for this year's Chipping Program to residents on February 14th, but then closed *early* sign-up within three days due to overwhelming response. They then opened up regular public sign-up on February 21st, but it was closed and full the same day. That means sign-up is now closed for the 2022 season and anyone that did not manage to get signed-up during that brief four-day window will not be visited by a fire district chipping crew this year.

Unfortunately, this all happened between Elk Falls POA newsletter cycles - so we did not have the opportunity to get the news out. If some of you were lucky enough to learn of the sign-up through other channels - congratulations on threading the needle!

Your Firewise Committee will be looking into possible alternative plans for those interested in chipping or slash removal from the neighborhood. More on that as we investigate options.

For those of you that have the capacity to haul slash to a county drop-off location, Jefferson county has announced the schedule for this year's slash drop-off locations. Please note there are four weekends right up at Shaffer's Crossing. Consult the following link for restrictions, fees, dates and locations:

<https://www.jeffco.us/2493/Slash-Collection>

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## Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) help communities assess local hazards and identify strategic investments to mitigate risk. In Spring of 2020, both Inter-Canyon and Elk Creek Fire Protection Districts (FPDs) recognized the need to update their CWPPs. At the same time, a potential consolidation of the districts (still in the process) and the creation of an Elk Creek and Inter-Canyon Wildfire Division was being discussed. In order to prioritize the limited resources of both districts, it was decided to move forward with the planning process together. This cross-boundary collaboration maximized limited resources while finding efficiencies within existing mitigation programs in both districts.

Please use the following link if you would like to review the draft plan for our area.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ec82ad4197bd43aea4e0b26e0951fe60/page/Planning/?views=View-18>

Note that this CWPP is shared for informational purposes only - it does not provide any specific recommendations for resident action, nor does it establish anything in the way of resident evacuation routes. Rather, this is information upon which our fire protection district and county authorities will formulate action plans and suggest programs in which our residents and the Firewise Committee may participate.

Dan Mueller  
Elk Falls Ranch Firewise Committee  
Phone: 630-240-9066  
Email: [ElkFallsFirewise@gmail.com](mailto:ElkFallsFirewise@gmail.com)



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## Update from Staunton State Park Manager

As the weather starts to turn from winter to spring and as we all prepare to enjoy the wonderful transition that comes with it, let us all remind each other of why we live and recreate where we do. The mountain environment calls to our souls, it tells us to explore, to experience the solitude and to take that moment to rest. Rest from our hectic every day grind and to revel in the grandiose atmosphere that is our backyard!

The Elk Falls Valley is a tremendous location and it's no surprise why you have all chosen to make this area your home. It's also no surprise why many people chose to venture to their State park. We anticipate another busy season at Staunton and want to assure everyone that we are gearing up and preparing for every soul that wants to experience the joys of wandering in nature!

While we certainly do everything in our power to highlight the main entrance to the park we understand that there are a few that just don't follow the "signs" and may end up lost in the maze of the neighborhood, or whom might wonder into the Park illegally. We will do

our best to monitor this, respond to calls and contact these folks providing them with proper etiquette training and insight! If someone does happen to park along your roadways and venture into the park, please feel free to give us a call. Park County and Jefferson County Sheriff departments are also very willing to make their way out for these calls.

With the increase in visitors to the Park we will certainly see more vehicle traffic on Elk Creek Road. Please respect the speed limit and keep an eye out for our furry friends. The elk have been very active in the meadow again this year and deer numbers are up in the park. Aberts squirrels, foxes, coyotes and bears do not follow traffic laws! Since we all drive past and know where the entrance to neighbors driveways are and the entrance to the Park is, slow down just a touch as you approach, just in case someone sneaks the front end out to turn. If we all do our part to help each other, we will all continue to enjoy this gem of a place we have

**Zach Taylor  
Park Manager**

Cell (303) 495-9563  
Office: (303) 816-5180



## Know Your Well

Mountain well water is some of the tastiest water around and owning a home with a well can be a breeze. However, sometimes we are faced with challenges that can leave us out of our comfort zone. [Click here](#) to read this very informative and helpful article written by Taylor Carpenter,

Elk Falls Resident and Mountain Realtor.

	<b>TAYLOR CARPENTER</b>		
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## Please Clean Up After Your Dog

Residents have reported a build-up of dog waste along our roads. PLEASE pick up after your pets and also properly dispose of bagged dog waste.

Thank you!



## Conifer Area Council Town Hall Meeting

In Person  
Wednesday, April 20th, 7pm  
Location: West Jefferson Middle School

Hear updates from Colorado Legislators, CORE, RTD, Planning and Zoning, Fire

Click [here](#) for video recording from the Feb 2022 meeting.

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## Garbage Kills Bears

(Since it's bear time of the year, we are repeating an article from the March 2021 Newsletter)



The bears are waking up now and are very hungry after winter hibernation.

Allowing bears to use trash and garbage as a food source creates serious problems for both people and bears. Because the food reward is so great, bears are willing to work hard to get at trash and garbage, and return often in hopes of finding more. These food-conditioned bears sometimes enter homes, garages or even vehicles in search of an easy meal.

Bears in pursuit of such a good source of calories can do a lot of property damage, and even become aggressive. Allowing bears to get into the garbage is one of the leading causes of human- bear conflicts. In addition to a big mess from tipped trash cans, bears that become aggressive in their pursuit of an easy meal must often be destroyed.

Being smart about how you handle and store your trash can protect your home and property, and help keep bears alive and wild.

Please use bear-resistant enclosures or keep your trash in the garage. Colorado Parks and Wildlife provides a brochure with tips on bear-proofing trash [Click here](#). Additional information on living with bears and being "Bear Aware" can be found [here](#).

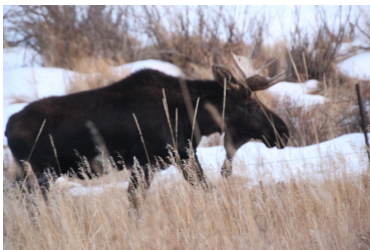
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With fire season approaching, we thought it would be helpful to remind residents to be sure to sign up for. CodeRED.

CodeRED emergency notifications allow the Sheriff's Office to warn citizens of danger. With CodeRED, the Sheriff's Office can call, text, or email, multiple individuals and businesses to warn of dangerous suspects, flood, fire, or chemical spills. Sign up for CodeRED via [this link](#).

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## Moose Sighting Feb. 2022

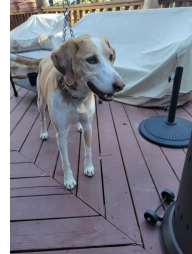
There were two, beautiful bull moose along Elk Creek Road on Super Bowl Day. One was a little camera shy and we didn't get his photo, but this one had no issue. A delight to see!

Photo courtesy of Mike Long

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## Owner was found!

In case anyone was wondering, the missing owners were found. This boy made it home.



### Roads Issues

Please contact Dave Shaffer at [elkfallsroads@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallsroads@gmail.com) or 303-816-5004 with any issues related to roads.

### Architectural Approvals

Any additions, fences, new construction, decks, additions, garages, sheds, etc. need Board approval. Please contact Marta Nelson at [elkfallspoavp@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallspoavp@gmail.com) or 952-212-1299.

### Mailbox Keys

For any mailbox issues or replacement keys, please contact Bob Wallace at 303-838-2297 or [bbwlinear@wispertel.net](mailto:bbwlinear@wispertel.net) or Wayne Gneiser at 720-261-3155 or [elkfallspoasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallspoasecretary@gmail.com).

### Email Address Changes/Additions

Please contact Bev Long at [bevlong2555@gmail.com](mailto:bevlong2555@gmail.com) with any email address changes or additions.

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Visit our  
Website

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Visit Elk Falls POA  
Directory

To Log In:  
Username: Last name  
Password: Numeric portion of the  
street address.