



February 2021



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

**2019/2020 Board of Directors**

Renae Braun, President - [elkfallspoa@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallspoa@gmail.com) or 720-480-9328  
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**Next Board Meeting:  
Tuesday, March 9th, 7pm**

All members are invited to attend via Cisco Webex. If you are interested in attending, please email [elkfallspoa@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallspoa@gmail.com) to request login details.



**Save the Date!  
2021 EFR Virtual  
Annual Budget Meeting**

Mark you calendars for March 7th at 2:00 pm.  
Watch your mailbox for further information.

**Resident Profile**

In order for us, as the Elk Falls Ranch Community, to get to know each other a little better, we are profiling residents, especially newer residents.

We know you'll enjoy getting to know **Keely and Tyler Hayes!** The Hayes live at 11894 Stallion Drive



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Hello Neighbors of Elk Falls!

Our names are Keely & Tyler Hayes and we are so excited to be joining the community. From the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, then overseas to Kyrgyzstan, to Washington DC, to NYC, and to Denver, we've finally settled down in beautiful Pine. We plan to call this area home for a long time and are looking forward to welcoming our first baby in April.

We both love being outdoors to explore all that Colorado has to offer. Keely enjoys cooking all sorts of meals while Tyler enjoys eating those meals and talking & watching all things sports. Both of us work in public service with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and believe in helping others and serving the community.

We're very excited and fortunate to be a part of the community. Feel free to say hello and chat with us if you see us around!

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## Broadband News

I wanted to start this update by saying thanks to all that supported the project. I recognize that this is an extremely difficult time and people are worried about health, jobs and food. **I recognize you made a commitment based on faith and trust.** I recognize that you did this without guarantees. I recognize you had to put up money for an unknown. You had to fill out forms, send checks, letters and speed tests and now comments. You attended meetings. You had to tolerate seemingly endless updates. So again, thank you - helping make this a possibility is sincerely appreciated!



As you know, our grant was submitted January 15th, 2021. We are now in a 60 day comment period.

I want to make sure everyone has realistic expectations about our chances of being granted funds for fiber internet. This is not a slam-dunk. I thought I would let you know, **from my perspective**, the positives and negatives relative to the potential of our grant being funded.

1. Each grant cycle, some grants are not funded simply because they don't have enough money. They had \$7 million to spend in July 2020. Many grants meet the requirements, but there's only so much money available. What's different about this cycle, is there is expected to be a \$50 million infusion of State money into the Program. It still has to be approved by the Joint Budget Committee in February, but I am told, there's a good chance it will pass. This is really good news!
2. We lost the Preserve at Pine Meadows as a grant partner; thus losing 42 commitments. Century Link already has fiber underground in that neighborhood. South Park Telephone (SPT) had hoped to negotiate with Century Link to use that fiber. Negotiations were not successful, making it not a practical opportunity. We ended up with approximately 258 commitments (but they are still slowly coming in.)
3. SPT submitted two other grants for the Burland Neighborhood. Thus we are competing with two other SPT grants. And since Burland has submitted grants two

- other times, they may be given some preference.
4. Affiliation with Staunton State Park strengthens our grant as they provide significant community benefit.
  5. Our grant match is 25% (\$911,212, mostly from SPT). In the past, the Board has looked more favorably on grants that had a 40% or greater match. However, with the additional \$50 million available to the Program, this may not be a limiting factor.
  6. The grant was filed as a Jefferson County grant, which is a plus. There have been other Park County grants and the Board likes to spread grant funds throughout the State.
  7. The Broadband Board uses Office of Information Technology (OIT) maps that indicate which areas are unserved, underserved and served with 25/3 MB speeds. These maps are populated by self-reported data from internet providers. We know that what providers say they provide and what they actually provide is two different things. But these maps are all they have to analyze how well an area is served. Except for Mountain View Lakes, our neighborhoods look fairly well served. That will not help our grant. But to counter this, David used the speed tests you provided to create a map that illustrates the actual speeds. (Refer to Attachment G(a) of the grant. See link below.) **So thank you everyone for sending in speed tests. That was critically important.** Hopefully the Board will consider this new map.

Keep in mind, if we don't get the grant this cycle, **we can keep trying**. We can learn from the first go-round and improve our grant. Hopefully, you will be patient enough to let us keep your commitments active if this occurs.

### **Reminder: We need everyone to make an online comment on the Grant Application.**

As I stated in an earlier update, I know it seems redundant if you submitted a Letter of Support. But each Board member reviews grants differently. Some may be more inclined to review the public comments vs. the Support Letters. You can even attach your support letter to the comment if that's easiest. **You have until March 16th, 2021 to provide your comments.**

#### **The SPT Application Number is W-2021-17: South Park Telephone – Staunton State Park**

You will find all of the applications at the following link: <https://broadbandfund.colorado.gov/how-to-apply/broadband-fund-applications-received>

**Comments on each application can be submitted through the following link:**  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXMiMT\\_2pUNFo2q5j6fzACQvkBxCniBX1oNbWoYrpk5bSAMQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXMiMT_2pUNFo2q5j6fzACQvkBxCniBX1oNbWoYrpk5bSAMQ/viewform)

### **Save the date - Grant Review March 30th**

Grant applications will be reviewed by the Broadband Deployment Board **March 30th, starting at 9am**. It's usually an all day process. But if you're interested and have the time, you can listen to the Board discuss the merits (or lack of) each grant including ours. You can find the log-in information on the agenda (which will be published closer to the meeting date) on the Deployment Board web page. The meeting calendar is towards the bottom of the page. <https://broadbandfund.colorado.gov/broadband-deployment-board>

### **It's Not too Late! You Can Still Participate.**

We are still accepting commitments even though the grant is in.  
You don't want to miss out on this opportunity.

**The online Commitment Form** can be found at this [link](#) and the **Pricing Sheet** can be found at this [link](#).

Bev Long  
Broadband Committee Chair and Champion for Elk Falls Ranch

For real-time updates join our [Facebook Group](#). The site is called [Staunton Area Broadband Initiative](#).

Our website is [www.285broadband.com](http://www.285broadband.com).

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## The Staunton Cabin Restoration Project will Begin this Spring, 2021!

HistoriCorps is the company selected for the restoration project. They are looking for volunteers and will provide training and tools.

There are 4 one-week work sessions starting the week of April 12. The last session begins on May 3. The work session commitment is for one week Monday - Friday, 8:00 to 5:00pm.

If you are interested please follow the link [https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Volunteer-to-Save-History-in-Staunton-State-Park-This-Spring-.html?soid=1126433696590&aid=MwDwmZIX\\_68](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Volunteer-to-Save-History-in-Staunton-State-Park-This-Spring-.html?soid=1126433696590&aid=MwDwmZIX_68) for more details and signing up.

### Friends of Staunton State Park Thanks You!

Steve Sparer

Director

Friends of Staunton State Park

[SteveS@friendsofstaunton.org](mailto:SteveS@friendsofstaunton.org)

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## Roads Report

We are almost halfway through winter and still haven't had a significant snowfall that has met the criteria to employ the services our new snow plowing contractor. While this is good for our budget, I think we'd all like to see some significant snowfall to reduce fire danger and fill our lakes, ponds and streams.



The meager snowfall events we've experienced so far this winter create some challenges on the roads as the packed snow can become very slick. I've been spreading a sand/salt mixture on some of the more problematic areas to improve traction and facilitate thawing of the packed snow. As a reminder, there are several roadside sand barrels near historically problem areas in the neighborhood. Please utilize the sand/salt mixture in these barrels if traction problems occur.

## Winter Driving

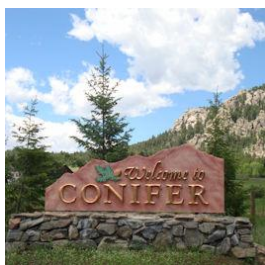
Winter often arrives early and stays late in Elk Falls Ranch so be prepared. **Please make sure your car is winter ready.** CDOT provides the following winter driving tips:

- Take a little extra time to clear your car of snow and ice before leaving for your destination.
- There are three actions you do most when you drive: accelerate, turn and brake. In winter weather, you should only do one of those actions at a time. Attempting more than one of these actions at once can cause slide-outs, spin-outs and other harmful scenarios.
- When traveling downhill, if possible, switch to a lower gear, and gently tap your brakes. This helps to avoid burning your brakes, and in winter weather, it helps keep traction.

- Keep momentum when traveling uphill to avoid getting stuck.
- When driving at night, keep your headlight beams low. High beams can amplify the appearance of snow and lead to decreased visibility.
- Slow down – driving too fast for conditions causes most crashes.
- If you encounter a multi-car collision, stay in your car. You're safer in your car than outside of it.
- Signage is your best friend – look ahead and plan ahead for abrupt turns or stops.
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Never drive impaired

Please let me know if you see a road problem or have a suggestion for improving the roads.

Dave Shaffer  
 EFPOA Roads Chair  
[elkfallsroads@gmail.com](mailto:elkfallsroads@gmail.com)  
 303-816-5004



## Conifer Area Council Library Survey

Conifer Area Council has sponsored a series of surveys since 2006 to inform our government officials, such as the Jeffco Commissioners and Jeffco Library Trustees about the needs and desires of our community. Now, we want your feedback about the Conifer Library!

We appreciate you taking about 5 minutes to [complete this short survey](#)! We will be accepting responses until 2/21/2021.

## February Virtual Town Hall Meeting February 17, 2021

The meeting will be not be held live due to technical issues. The meeting will be recorded for you to view the following day. The link will be posted to the website:  
<http://coniferareacouncil.org>

### Agenda includes updates from:

CDOT, RTD, Jeffco Planning and Zoning, Water Resource Study/Action Team, Conifer Library, State Legislature, Jeffco Open Space and County Commissioners

## Did you have a chance to watch the November Town Hall Meeting?

If not, you can watch [here](#).

### Clickable links from the presentation:

**Water Policies Update:** Final draft is online: <https://www.jeffco.us/2584/Plan-Updates>

**Water court resume for the**

**case:** <https://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Water/Resumes/Div1/September.pdf>

**Detailed Water Court**

**application:** [https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Court\\_Probation/Water\\_Courts/FINAL%20Non-Attorneys%20Guide%20to%20Colorado%20Water%20Courts.pdf](https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Court_Probation/Water_Courts/FINAL%20Non-Attorneys%20Guide%20to%20Colorado%20Water%20Courts.pdf)

**Forms for Water Rights case:** [https://www.courts.state.co.us/Forms/Forms\\_List.cfm?Form\\_Type\\_ID=10](https://www.courts.state.co.us/Forms/Forms_List.cfm?Form_Type_ID=10)

**CDPHE Water Quality Control Division:** <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd>

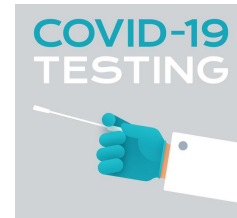
## Short Term Rental Update

Park County Board of Commissioners passed Ordinance

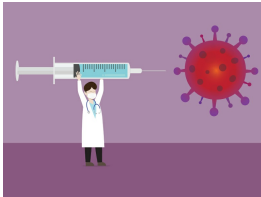
20-03 regulating short-term rentals in Park County. [Click here for Ordinance](#). The Ordinance goes into effect February 8, 2021. Owners of short-term rentals must submit an application for a license by April 1, 2021.



## Looking for Information on Covid-19 Testing or Vaccines?



Try these websites:



**Colorado Testing Sites:** <https://covidtest.colorado.gov/map>  
**Colorado Vaccination Sites:** <https://covid19.colorado.gov/for-coloradans/vaccine/where-can-i-get-vaccinated>  
**Park County Covid Site:** <https://parkco.us/755/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19>  
**Jeffco Covid Site:** <https://www.jeffco.us/3999/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19>

## Community Calendars

There are great online community calendars where you can find all kinds of local activities. While many group activities have been postponed or are now being held in a modified manner, you can be sure to find an activity that that you'll enjoy! Please check with the event organizer for any changes to the events due to COVID updates.



**Conifer Area Chamber of Commerce:** [CLICK HERE](#)

**My Mountain Town.com** [CLICK HERE](#)

**Pinecam.com** [CLICK HERE](#)

**Macaroni Kid: Evergreen, Conifer & Bailey:** [CLICK HERE](#)



### 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 Mike Long at [mllongpine11817@gmail.com](mailto:mllongpine11817@gmail.com) or 303-757-2222.

### Lost 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)

### Email Address Changes/Additions

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

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.