



Newsletter | July 2020



An update from your Elk Falls Ranch POA Board of Directors

2019/2020 Board of Directors

Renae Braun, President - elkfallspoa@gmail.com or 720-480-9328

John Nelson, Roads Chair - elkfallsroads@gmail.com or 808-285-2965

Dan Mueller, Secretary - drm326@comcast.net or 630-240-9066

Bev Long, Treasurer - bevlong2555@gmail.com or 720-633-2454

Mike Long, VP & Architectural Chair - [mlongpine11817@gmail.com](mailto:molongpine11817@gmail.com) or 303-757-2222

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday July 7th at 7 pm via Zoom. All members are invited to attend via Zoom. If you are interested in attending, please email elkfallspoa@gmail.com to request the login details.



July 4th is Almost Here!! Here's what you need to know about Fireworks.

Park County
From May 28, 2020, Flume

No one in Park County can sell, use or possess fireworks between May 31 and July

5, 2020. A resolution was passed May 21 by the county commissioners that banned fireworks per Ordinance 19-01.

The ordinance passed last year regulates open fires, requires a burn permit to start an open fire and bans the sale of fireworks in Park County under dry weather conditions. It also authorizes the county Sheriff to issue a ban on open fires, including campfires, to reduce the danger of wildfires when evidence of a high to extreme wildfire danger exists.

- The county has been under a fire ban authorized by Sheriff Tom McGraw since May 1, according to the county website, www.parkco.us.
- The fire ban and fireworks ban apply to all private and public land.
- The resolution states that if weather conditions change, and competent evidence exists that wildfire danger will no longer exist between May 31 and July 5, the commissioners shall consider rescinding the ban on fireworks.
- Target practice, recreational shooting, model rockets, operating motorized vehicles off roads and blasting, welding and other hot works are also banned during a fire ban. Operating a chain saw is prohibited during a fire ban unless a fire extinguisher and large shovel are readily available.
- Any violation is a class two petty offense and carries a fine upon conviction ranging from \$500 for a first offense up to \$1,000 for additional offenses.

Jefferson County

From Jefferson County Website - <https://www.jeffco.us/945/Fireworks>

Jeffco Information Hotline

Citizens wishing to [obtain current fire restriction or fire ban information](#), firework regulations, burn permit information or to report a firework violation are able to dial the Fire Information Hotline at 303-271-8200.

It is Unlawful:

- For anyone to possess or discharge any fireworks, other than permissible fireworks, anywhere in the state
- For anyone to sell fireworks unless that person is licensed as a retailer, wholesaler or exporter
- For anyone to knowingly provide or sell any fireworks to anyone under 16
- For anyone under 16 to purchase any fireworks, including permissible fireworks
- For anyone under 16 to possess and discharge permissible fireworks, unless that person is under adult supervision

There are no permissible fireworks at this time due to the current fire restrictions.

Penalty

Any person who violates the laws pertaining to the sale, possession, and use of fireworks commits a class 3 misdemeanor and faces up to \$750 in fines, six months in prison, or both.

Board Member Profile

John Nelson

In an effort to help you get to know your Elk Falls Ranch Board Members, we plan to profile Board Members in upcoming Newsletters.

Last Newsletter, we told you a little bit about our newest Board Member, Dan Mueller. In this Newsletter, we'd like

you to meet John Nelson, Roads
Chair.



John was born in Memphis, Tennessee and spent his formative years helping on his grandparent's farm in Maury County, Tennessee. He graduated from the Marine Military Academy in May 1992. He received a B.S. degree in biology with a minor in Spanish in 1996 from Hillsdale College in Michigan.

Upon completion of college, John worked as a forestry aide for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and as a horticulturalist for an organic raspberry plantation. After a brief stint traveling through the American West, Mexico and Central America, he attended Graduate School at the University of Tennessee and was awarded a Master of Science degree in Entomology in December 2000.

John then served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps as a military entomologist and helped protect U.S. and NATO coalition forces from disease vector threats in Europe and the Balkans.

John returned to his alma mater in November 2003 to oversee the development and operation of a mass-rearing insect facility specializing in the production of hemlock woolly adelgid predators.

John moved to Hawaii in the spring of 2005 to serve as the staff entomologist for Tripler Army Medical Center, whereupon he conducted vector-borne disease surveillance and pest management operations for the U.S. Army Pacific Regional Medical Command.

He accepted a position with the U.S. Navy Facilities Engineering Command – Pacific (NAVFAC-PAC) as an Applied Biologist in 2013 performing a mixture of Wildlife Biology, Entomology, and Natural Resource Management duties throughout the U.S. Navy's area of responsibility in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

John moved to the island of Kauai to marry his wife Rachel in early 2015 and took a position as the Installation Environmental Program Director for Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Barking Sands, the world's largest instrumented multi-environmental range capable of supported surface, subsurface, air, and space operations simultaneously.

In November 2016 he said Aloha to Hawaii and accepted a position with the National Park Service, Intermountain Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado to serve as an Invasive Species Biologist and Integrated Pest Management Coordinator. He enjoys working with National Park units to develop environmentally responsible, science-based strategies to effectively manage pests impacting natural, cultural, and structural resources.

John, Rachel and Chio (their cat) have been EFR residents since December 2016. John joined the Board in August 2017 and has been Roads Chair ever since. John is owner of Tiny Tractor Services and has been responsible for maintenance of our neighborhood roads. (www.tinytractorservices.com) John enjoys hiking, biking, gardening, cooking and playing music in his free time.

As Roads Chair, John works to achieve Elk Falls Ranch Road Goals:

1. Strategically and incrementally improve and maintain community roads in a fiscally responsible manner.
2. Maintain year-round roads maintenance capacity to address and remedy roads issues as they occur.
3. Facilitate the installation of culverts for private driveways with a history of runoff and erosion issues.
4. Ensure prompt snow plowing and roads sanding services as needed.
5. Achieve 100% resident compliance with the posted 15 mph speed limit.

New 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. Our first resident profile is the Steve and Andrea Allen Family.



We know you'll enjoy getting to know the Allens!

We are Steven and Andrea Allen. We moved to the neighborhood six months ago. We have two young boys. Bowen turned three in February and Kannen turned one in April. We also have a 10 year old Pekinese (Tootsie) and a 9 month old German Shepard (Tazi). When not doing house projects, we spend most of our time doing various outdoor activities from hiking, fishing, camping, stand up paddle boarding, kayaking, hunting, skiing, attending country concerts, etc. Steven was born and raised in Lakewood and Andrea is originally from Texas, but has lived in Colorado since 2001 (most of that time spent in the Roaring Fork Valley). We look forward to raising our boys in this beautiful area and hope to get to know many of you soon, as we will be in the neighborhood for the long-term!

-Allen Family-

Broadband Update

We are waiting for a final reconciliation of commitments from South Park Telephone, which is expected July 6th. We'll send out an update as soon as we have that information.



News from Zach Taylor - Staunton State Park Manager

The Park has seen an unprecedented increase in visitors and we are doing our best to ensure that Park visitors are legally entering the park through our main entrance. We ask that if neighbors see suspicious vehicles or witness people jumping fences that they give us a call at 303-816-0912 x 0.

Jefferson County has offered to do more patrols along Elk Creek Road during the weekends. Park County has made more frequent visits to the neighborhood as well.

Neighbors can also call their respective sheriff's departments:

- Jefferson County non-emergent phone - 303-271-0211
- Park County non-emergent phone - 719-836-4121x 5

Of course, if it's an emergency, please dial 911.

During the busy weekends, you may see our patrol vehicles more frequently traveling around the neighborhood. We do this to check on this type of activity.

We ask that our neighbors respect our boundaries as well. We have come across a number of social trails that come from the neighborhood into the Park. The more that this occurs (from neighbors), the more likely it is that visitors will try to do the same.

We do allow visitors to walk, bike or skip! into the Park (parking is not allowed on Elk Creek Road or in the neighborhood). As neighbors, we encourage you to use the Park that is in your backyard. Please do so through the main entrance!

We hope that our community friends remain healthy and happy as we continue with a wonderful summer season!

Zach Taylor
Park Manager
Staunton State Park

P 303.816.0912 X 4 | C 303-495-9563
12102 S Elk Creek Rd Pine, CO 80470
zach.taylor@state.co.us | cpw.state.co.us

Roads Update

Moving into Summer, priority road maintenance items include culvert and ditch maintenance to improve our drainage infrastructure.

The application of road base to Circle Drive and portions of Juniper and Stallion Drive was completed in late April by our roads contractor resulting in significant improvements to these road surfaces. Adding road base is the most cost effective way to improve and maintain the quality and drivability of our roads. After decades of repeated grading and heavy use, much of our original road surface material has eroded away resulting in the exposure of underlying bedrock. If properly used and maintained, the addition of road base will provide our community a much improved road surface that will last for years.



For those residents regularly using Upper Ranch Drive, you have likely noticed the formation of corrugation (wash boarding) on the more heavily traveled section of road. This is a direct result of driving behavior, specifically excessive acceleration, breaking, and vehicle speed. Unfortunately many of our residents and most of the service vehicles utilizing our roads do not respect our 15 mph speed limit. I regularly observe vehicles going upwards of 30+ mph on our roads so it's no surprise this is occurring. The board has smoothed out the affected sections of road on many occasions only to have it last less than a week before becoming corrugated again. Until there's a substantial change in driving behavior, the repeated smoothing out of corrugation is a waste of limited association funds.

Kudos to our residents that have taken the initiative to ensure their driveway culverts are properly maintained to ensure proper runoff of storm water. As a reminder, it's the residents responsibility to maintain their driveway culverts. Non-existent, plugged, or damaged driveway culverts lead to localized flooding, eroding ditches, and roadway surface erosion. Please note that private driveway culvert maintenance may be enforced by the EFPOA.

Thanks for driving safely and responsibly on our roads.

As always, contact me with any questions or to report a problem.



Road improvements April 2020



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Chipping Update

As has already been communicated, this year's Chipping Program is being handled a bit differently than last year. Elk Creek Fire required residents to sign-up for a limited number of spots via their website. Although the sign-up period for this year's Chipping Program is now closed, those that did successfully sign-up should have received notification of when they are scheduled for a chipping visit. For example: many of us were notified late last month that we will be serviced in Group 3 with anticipated chipping in August.

If you received an email notification that you are on the schedule, please refer to guidelines posted on the Elk Creek Fire website as you prepare for the chipping visit.

<http://elkcreekfire.org/chipping-program/>

For those that were unable to sign-up before registration closed, you will unfortunately need to wait until next year's Chipping Program is announced.

Fire Mitigation Reminders

As always, be sure to keep track of hours spent and any expenditure incurred for slash collection, creation and maintenance of defensible space around your home and other wildfire mitigation efforts. These hours should be reported to the Elk Falls Ranch Firewise Committee in the fall to demonstrate our neighborhood commitment to the Program and ensure we maintain our certification as a Firewise certified community.

If you would like professional guidance on how to mitigate wildfire risk around your home by creating and maintaining defensible space, contact [Elk Creek Fire](#) to get on the list for a free inspection and assessment.



Short-Term Rental Vote Postponed Again

For a long time now, we've been talking about conducting a property owners' vote on whether or not to change our covenants to disallow short-term rentals. The vote has been delayed for one reason or another. The current delay has to do with information we received that Park County is going to be issuing regulations in this regard. We do not have a timeline for the new regulations, but they may guide how we decide to handle this in our neighborhood. We will send out notice to residents when public comments will be accepted. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

Annual Meeting Update

As you know, the Elk Falls Ranch POA Annual meeting was not conducted in May, as planned, due to Covid-19. We anticipate scheduling an outdoor Annual Meeting or other alternative that allows us to comply with Covid-19 safety recommendations. Stay tuned for the date and time.



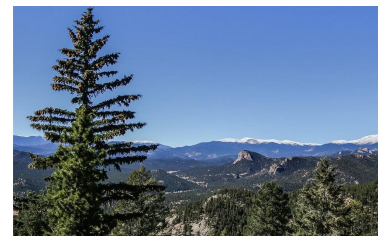
Thank You for the Masks!!

Thank you to the mystery person who has generously left free face masks on the Elk Falls Ranch community message board.

They have been very appreciated!

New Website

If you haven't already, check out the new Elk Falls Ranch website at www.elkfallspoa.org. It's still a work in progress, so expect ongoing changes. In the meanwhile, please let us know of any suggestions, typos, bad links, etc.



Our documents are current on the website, so if you want to see Board minutes, covenants, neighborhood maps, prior Newsletters, financial reports and more, you should be able to easily find them.

If you have neighborhood photos you'd like to share on the site, send them to Bev Long at bevlong2555@gmail.com

Paper Box Address Plate Missing?

If anyone is still missing an engraved address plate to designate their paper box, please email Mike Long at mlongpine11817@gmail.com



Parcel Lockers are Finally Keyed

You probably have noticed, we finally were able to get the Postal Service Maintenance Department to key our new parcel lockers.

We can now receive larger and more packages without having to make a trip to the Post Office with those little orange pick-up slips.



Have You Ever Wondered Why Lion's Head is Called Lion's Head?

This image put together by Ranger Dale should help.

Reminders



Roads Issues

Please contact John Nelson at elkfallsroads@gmail.com or or 808-285-2965 with any issues related to roads.

Architectural Approvals

Reminder that any additions, fences, new construction, garages, sheds, etc. need Board approval. Please contact Mike Long at mlongpine11817@gmail.com or call/text 303-757-2222.

Email Address Changed?

Please contact Bev Long at bevlong2555@gmail.com with any email address changes or additions.

Visit our
Website

Visit Elk Falls POA
Directory

To Log In:

Username: Last name

Password: Numeric portion of the
street address.