

RVPOA VIEWSLETTER – MAY 2024

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING AND PICNIC

This year's annual Rainbow Valley POA meeting and picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 24th at the Pavilion in Memorial Park located at 200 N. Park Street in Woodland Park. Members are encouraged to sign in and enjoy coffee and pastries at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10:30, with lunch served immediately after. New Board members will be elected, and the 2024-2025 budget will be presented. Please do come along and meet your Board members and take an active part in the management of your Rainbow Valley POA.

If this meeting is postponed or canceled for any reason, notice will be posted on the rvpoa.com website and will be emailed to all members with current email addresses on file.

DUMPSTERS - MEMORIAL WEEKEND

Dumpsters will again be available only to those RVPOA owners who are current with dues for the disposal of slash



over the Memorial Day weekend. Two dumpsters will be located at the cul-de-sac by 52 Barite Lane and also just north of 2118 Pikes Peak Drive at the corner of Blue Spruce and Pikes Peak. Please fill the front container first,

stacking slash as compactly as possible starting at the end furthest from the door. Debris cannot extend beyond the dumpster tops, and please empty all bags of needles and pinecones.

Please note: These dumpsters are provided ONLY for forest slash and may not be used for the disposal of other household waste. Thank you.

COMMON COVENANT VIOLATIONS

Common violations include temporary carports, tents, cluttered property, barking dogs, ATVs being driven on County roads and properties (other than for utilitarian purposes such as snow removal and mitigation), and open fires. Contrary to what you may have heard, the Board does not patrol the neighborhood looking for violations; however, we have an obligation to respond to complaints received from fellow lot owners. Our primary goal is to maintain the beauty and tranquility of Rainbow Valley, and your cooperation is much appreciated.

WILDFIRE SEASON IS UPON US AGAIN

The '403' wildfire in neighboring Park County a little over a year ago, that burned over 1,500 acres close to and just into Teller County, reportedly started by the improper disposal of ashes from a household wood burner, should serve as a reminder that wildfires are an ever present threat, but particularly so during the spring through fall months ahead.

Our beautiful Rainbow Valley has been identified as being of particular concern to local fire departments as an area vulnerable to wildfires given both the terrain and the degree of forestation.

Just a friendly reminder again therefore that open fires outside the home are strictly prohibited in Rainbow Valley. That includes all wood-burning fire pits. In addition to fines imposed by the Association, Teller County also has strict regulations during its burn bans. Monitoring barbeque grills is important, and fireworks are completely banned. It only takes minutes for a small fire to spread, engulfing forested areas like ours.



REMINDER: Solid Fuel Fire Pits and/or Outdoor Barbeque Grills Are Not Permitted in Rainbow Valley (Gas Fire Pits Are Permitted)



RVPOA WEBSITE

We hope you are using and enjoying our website!

It is located at rvpoa.com, and is full of useful information. The tabs at the top of the home page include one for IMPORTANT INFORMATION, which highlights fire issues, Covid-19 and other current information relevant to members. You will also find the MEMBERS ONLY tab which is available exclusively to members. To access these private pages, please send your email address to Board@rvpoa.com and an invitation asking you to create an account will be emailed to you. Our governing documents, meeting minutes and Board information are listed on these pages. You can even ORDER WATER directly from that tab! If you send us pictures of our beautiful area, we will post them on the website, too. We value your input.

POLICIES, RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Association's Policies, Rules & Regulations which provide detail to the Covenants are kept current on our website, and all updated information will be discussed at the August annual meeting.

CALL BEFORE BUILDING

You're probably familiar with the Gas Company's saying "Call before you dig." RVPOA's slogan could be "Call before you build!" Our Covenants and Policies require lot owners to contact the Architectural Committee prior to starting construction of all exterior projects, including homes, sheds, decks, and fences. Plans may be emailed to Board@rvpoa.com or mailed to 111 Sportsmans Lane, Divide, CO 80814.

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PLEASE DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE

We know that people mean well when they give tidbits to wildlife. What they may not realize is that feeding wildlife is bad for the animals and dangerous for people. It is also against the law. According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, there are several reasons why Colorado passed a law in 1992 making it illegal to feed big game animals; one important reason is that deer are the primary prey of mountain lions. Concentrating deer by feeding is not only harmful to them, but may attract mountain lions. Although mountain lion sightings are infrequent, they are posted on our website, and the State requests that all sightings be reported to them at 719.227.5200. We encourage you to watch a video or view a downloadable brochure on "Living with Lions".

<https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeLion1.aspx>

THE BEARS HAVE STARTED TO STIR!



Bears are just now starting to rouse themselves from hibernation. With their very strong sense of smell and memory, they tend to make frequent visits to homes with bird feeders, unlocked trash containers and even out-buildings containing garbage. To deter bears, store garbage indoors or in locked or secured bear-resistant containers, keep pet food inside, clean barbecue grills, and bring in birdfeeders at night or consider not feeding birds from April to December when naturally provided food is available. We encourage you to read and download this brochure about deterrents that teach bears to stay away.

<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Education/LivingWithWildlife/BearDeterrents.pdf>

REMINDER: Trash cans should be placed at the roadside on collection days at 7:00 AM and removed from the roadside once emptied. Trash cans ARE NOT to be left at the roadside unsecured or chained to trees.

FUN BEAR FACTS

All bears seen in southern Colorado are Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*) but can physically be black, brown blonde or even white. Their eyes are generally brown (blue at birth) and they have light grey skin. Male Black Bears can reach 500 pounds in weight; females can grow to 300 pounds. They may exceed these weights when feeding conditions are favorable. Black Bears are omnivores; they prefer to eat nuts, acorns, fruit, insects and succulent greens.

Meat, fish and less succulent greens are eaten when preferred foods are scarce. A group of bears is called a sloth from the Middle English 'slowthe' meaning slow; in reality they are anything but slow, lean bears can run at speeds of up to 30 miles per hour!

OLD FRIENDS HAVE RETURNED!



Every year around this time we welcome the return of beautiful Hummingbirds to Rainbow Valley. Commonly we play host to Broad-tailed Hummingbirds (pictured), with frequent visits from Rufous Hummingbirds and the occasional Black-chinned Hummingbird. For those bird lovers in the community itching to break out the Hummingbird

feeders, here are a few hints to help our little friends feed safely during their time with us.

1. There is no need to buy commercially produced nectar or food for these little guys; a simple solution of 4-parts water to 1-part natural cane sugar, not refined or brown sugar which are harmful to them, made with boiling water and allowed to cool before putting out, is perfect for them. Please do not add honey or color additives as they are also harmful to the Hummingbirds.
2. Always, if you have the ability to do so, put out more than one feeder for them, spaced out at least 12-24 inches apart, and if possible at different heights.
3. Replace the mixture in the feeders regularly, every three to four days at most, thereby keeping it fresh; thoroughly clean the feeders each time that you renew the mixture.
4. Once feeding is over at dusk please take the feeders in and store inside your house, putting them out again in the morning; Hummingbird feeders are a favorite attractant of bears!
5. Enjoy watching these little miracles of nature!

STAY IN TOUCH WITH SOCIAL MEDIA



Please join us to share news, views, opinions, ideas, and photographs on the RVPOA Facebook group, at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1007962792714042> and Rainbow Valley in general (not affiliated with RVPOA) on Nextdoor! Just search Rainbow Valley on the Nextdoor app!

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STAY CONNECTED DURING EMERGENCIES

www.facebook.com/TellerSheriff

www.co.teller.co.us

PREPARING HOMES FOR WILDFIRE

Research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires point to embers and small flames as the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind and can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris, etc. Following are methods for homeowners to prepare their homes to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or structures. Experiments, models and post-fire studies have shown homes ignite due to the condition of the home and everything around it up to 200' from the foundation. This is called the Home Ignition Zone.

HOME IGNITION ZONE (1st Priority):

Simple Steps from Roof to Foundation to Make a Home Safer from Embers and Radiant Heat:

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles/roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Reduce embers that could pass thru vents in eaves by installing 1/8" metal mesh screening.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8" metal mesh screening.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and broken windows.
- Screen or box in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move flammable material away from wall exteriors (mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles, anything that burns).
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

INTERMEDIATE ZONE (2nd Priority):

Five to 30 feet from furthest exterior point of home:

- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios and decks.
- Keep native grasses mowed to height of 4".
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire can't reach tree crowns. Prune trees up to 6 to 10' from ground; for shorter trees, don't exceed 1/3 of overall height.
- Space trees to have minimum of 18' between crowns with distance increasing with slope %.
- Tree placement should be planned to ensure mature canopy is no closer than 10' to edge of structure.
- Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each.

EXTENDED ZONE (3rd Priority):

Thirty-100 feet out to 200 feet:

- Dispose of heavy ground litter/debris.
- Remove dead plant and tree material.
- Remove small conifers between mature trees.
- Remove vegetation adjacent to outbuildings.
- Trees 30-60' from home should have approximately 12' between canopy tops.
- Trees 60-100' from home should have approximately 6' between canopy tops.

EXCELLENT WILDFIRE RESOURCES

www.firewise.org

www.wildlandfirersg.org

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

We welcome all new lot owners who have invested in our beautiful community and look forward to meeting you soon. We greatly appreciate everyone's patience, support, and involvement in maintaining the beauty and peaceful nature of this community. The Board is fully committed to represent the best interests of Rainbow Valley and our members and will achieve that goal by working together.

We would warmly welcome any Rainbow Valley lot owners who might be willing to contribute to the community by volunteering to become Board Members. Duties are not onerous, primarily being participation in a Board meeting once monthly, currently held using Zoom so a physical presence is not required, and assistance with arranging the annual meeting and picnic and any other events that the Board may choose to organize; those that wish to contribute further may volunteer to be on a Committee or to undertake other tasks that fall under the Board's remit. Anyone interested should contact the Board at: Board@rvpoa.com

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting and picnic on Saturday, August 24th; please do be sure to introduce yourselves to the Board Members should we not get to you first, we none of us bite, and we would be very happy to meet new owners, see new faces and put names to them, as well as chatting with old friends and neighbors.

**Your Rainbow Valley POA Board:
Cori Freed, Jerry Paul, Eric Walker and Kirt Carpenter.**

www.rvpoa.com
Board@rvpoa.com

