

# Elk Falls Bi-Monthly



Elk Falls  
Property  
Owners'  
Association

December 2017

## Greeting From Elk Falls Property Owners' Association President –

President:  
Tom Duffy

### President's Corner-December Newsletter

Vice-  
President:  
David DiMeo

Treasurer:  
Renae Braun

Roads:  
John Nelson

Secretary:  
Christine  
Groves

Greetings. For my second newsletter entry, I would like to return to the theme of pets, or more specifically, dogs. From my perspective, problems with dogs are becoming a theme that I'm hearing about as President of our Property Owner's Association. This month's installment will be about barking dogs, loose/threatening dogs, and dog feces on our Elk Falls Ranch roads.



First, to barking dogs. I realize that some owners may be almost tone deaf when it comes to their dogs barking. Perhaps the television is loud enough that you can't hear them. Maybe you are in the shower or drying your hair. Unfortunately, many others in the neighborhood can hear your dog clearly as it barks and barks, especially at night. You may be okay with this, but the neighbors likely are not. Especially when you go out for the evening and leave Rover out back where he may bark for hours in your absence. Another challenge we have is that not everyone works a 9-5 work schedule, making their nights your mornings.

Here's what the covenants for the various blocks say about noise or nuisances:

Noise Restrictions: Any frequently recurring noise which can be heard by adjacent or nearby property owners shall be subject to abatement at the insistence or action by such adjacent or nearby property owners or by the Association.

Nuisances: No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on any Lot, nor shall anything be done which is or may become a nuisance, or cause unreasonable embarrassment, disturbance or annoyance to other Owners in the enjoyment of their Lots.

Leaving your dog out to bark for tens of minutes or hours on end is not acceptable. Please take actions now to prevent your dogs from barking and disturbing the neighborhood. It's just not okay. Period.

Concerning dogs that are aggressive and/or leaving your property to threaten people walking, biking, or driving on the road, or to wander. Here's what the covenants say about that:

Animals: Household pets must be kept at all times within the Owner's property lines unless accompanied by and under the Owner's control.

This strikes me as a fairly simple rule. Some dogs jump fences or push their way through the pain of invisible fences. We have had recent instances where dogs have threatened people walking or biking on the roads. Again, totally unacceptable. If you have a dog, then it must be under your control (leashed or voice controlled) at all times. You must take whatever effort required to keep your dog from threatening or harassing people walking or biking on the Ranch roads. I know dogs will be dogs, but the owners are the ones in charge. If your dog falls into this category, then please deal with it now. There's simply no excuse for dogs threatening people on our roads.

Lastly, I try to walk the Ranch roads daily. I've noticed that we are getting quite a "collection" of dog feces along the sides of many of our roads. I'm curious if the owners who walk their dogs in the neighborhood realize what's going on. Who is supposed to clean up your dog's feces if not you? I think it's fantastic that people and their dogs exercise in the neighborhood. If the dogs are properly controlled, I'm all for it. However, those same owners must plan ahead so they can clean up after their dogs. If dogs exercise, then they may well need to defecate. Also, leaving plastic bags full of dog feces along the way doesn't meet the standard either. Who is going to pick those up? Please, clean up after your dogs as you walk our neighborhood roads.



Barking dogs, loose/threatening dogs, and dog feces. These are three cut and dried topics. If anyone in the Ranch sees some "gray" in this discussion, then I welcome you to call me or write me, so we can begin a dialog about it. Otherwise, as was a theme in the last newsletter, we need to remember our neighbors when we go about our daily lives. This would include how we care for and manage our dogs each day.

I would like to thank each community member in advance for helping me deal with a recurring theme of dogs and dog problems.

## **Welcoming Committee -**

Did you know that Elk Falls Ranch has a Welcoming Committee? The committee consists of Christine Groves along with Ross and Nita Folkers. If you are interested in getting involved please contact them. As you can tell by the number of for sale signs, they aren't very busy.



If you see a neighbor moving in or out please let the committee and the new neighbor now about this valuable resource.

## Elk Falls Ranch Annual Traffic Jam -



Thanks to all that made Halloween a terrific experience!! We tried to count the kiddos, but they were a moving target. Somewhere around 50 kids got to experience Trick-or-Treat in such a unique way. We are seeing a lot more young families moving on to the Ranch. Parents joined in on this rolling party. A special thanks to Randi Boldra who so generously hosted these ghosts, gobblings and adults. She tirelessly decorated, cooked chili, hot dogs, hot cider, made a fire for enjoyment after the hayride. Her smile made everyone welcome. For those towing the trailers, it couldn't happen without you. Let's not forget those neighbors handing out candy. If you got

to check what these kids hauled it was a lot and good stuff. Thanks for your generosity. If awards were given out, Cedar Drive would have taken it home. Thanks to the Swanson Family that has just been here a few short months! The road was decorated with 30 pumpkins, countless skulls and a skeleton hanging by his feet. This year the Ranch had its own Dinosaur on the hayride, which was just a riot to watch. To everyone, great job on picking out your costumes! These are the experiences and memories that will last a life time!! Great neighbors, great friends, you are the ones that make Elk Falls Ranch the best place to live.



## Contractor Corner -



Have you had a contractor or someone doing a service for you that you would like to recommend or just get a shout out to? Do you yourself offer a service that is valuable to the community?

We can post anything from dog walking to those that perform services for a living. This would be the place to let your neighbors know about great people and good work.

## Fun Facts about Mountains for Kids –

### Fun Facts about Mountains for Kids

- Any land mass that rises 1,000 feet above the surrounding area is considered a mountain.
- Some mountains are caused by volcanoes spewing lava over and over again. The lava cools and hardens and builds up to form a mountain. The islands of Hawaii are actually volcanoes.
- Sometimes, a volcano doesn't erupt through the crust, but just sort of leaks lava underneath, pushing up a rounded area. This type of mountain is called a dome mountain. The Adirondacks in New York and the Black Hills in South Dakota are dome mountains.
- The summit or peak is the highest point on a mountain.
- A mountain range is a string of mountains near each other. The Rocky Mountain range is the second longest mountain range in the world. It stretches from Canada to Mexico.
- Plateau mountains look like tall squares. Plateaus form when tectonic plates collide with each other but don't buckle the surface.
- Fault block mountains occur when the tectonic plates collide with each other and form cracks in the earth's surface. Rocks are pushed upward when this happens. The Sierras in Nevada and the Tetons of Wyoming are fault block mountains.

- Source: *EasyScienceForKids.com*

## Mountain Living –

Living in the mountains may provide benefits beyond a picturesque view. The results of a new study indicate that mountain dwellers live longer than their lowland counterparts, perhaps because their hearts get a better work out on a day-to-day basis.

Greece has one of the lowest death rates from heart disease and other causes among industrialized nations. Nikos Baibas of the University of Athens Medical School and his colleagues tracked the health of 1,150 people living in three different villages within 200 kilometers of Athens--Arahova, Zevgolatio and Aidonia--over a 15-year period. The study participants all had similar daily activities because the predominant livelihoods for both men and women are the same in all three villages. But whereas Arahova is located 950 meters above sea level, Zevgolatio and Aidonia are located in the plains. The researchers collected information about general health and potential risk factors at the beginning of the study and subjects submitted blood samples as well. According to a report published in the April issue of the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, at the end of the study period the residents of the mountain village had lower overall death rates and lower cardiovascular death rates than the lowland residents did, despite initially testing higher for both circulating blood lipids and blood pressure. The beneficial effect of mountain-dwelling was more pronounced among men, the team reports.

- Source: *Scientific America*

## Road Report – Part 1

Most of the time, living on a country road feels almost like heaven, as John Denver sang. But when your darling dirt road becomes excessively bumpy, living on a country road can feel more like being stuck in purgatory.

Luckily the 7.5 miles of roads maintained by our association are composed of decomposed granite aggregate which generally holds up well compared to other road surfaces, however corrugation or “washboarding” may occur over time, which, as I’m sure you’ve noticed, is starting to develop on some of our roads.

So what causes washboarding and what can we do about it?

There are four primary causes:

1. The driving habits of people
2. Lack of moisture
3. Poor quality of gravel
4. Lack of crown on the surface

In this article (Part 1 of 3) I’ll be addressing causes #1 & #2. Future segments will address the other factors.



Driving habits are clearly evident when you observe washboarding at intersections, going up or down steep hills, going into or out of sharp curves and sometimes even near driveways. These are all places where drivers tend to accelerate hard or brake aggressively. **This is a major cause of washboarding.** In some situations washboarding can occur on the entire road section especially when traffic speed is high. Lack of moisture will encourage washboard formation and prolonged dry weather can aggravate the problem. This is because the crust that forms on the surface of a good gravel road will tend to loosen in dry weather. This allows the stone and sand-sized particles of gravel to loosen or “float” and the material can easily align itself into the washboard pattern under traffic.



The two causes just mentioned are completely out of the control of equipment operators and managers. We can’t control the amount of precipitation we receive but we can control our speed. **Posted speed limit on our roads is 15 MPH.** Needless to say, most drivers on our roads exceed this speed, some even doubling it. *You know who you are* – and we humbly petition you to slow down, not only to prevent the development of washboarding, but to ensure the safety of drivers, pedestrians, and most importantly children in our community. Slower vehicle speeds also produce less dust during dry conditions which everyone certainly appreciates.

The board is addressing vehicle speed with the various service and delivery drivers using our roads, i.e., UPS, FED EX, Trash Removal Companies, etc. in hopes they will slow down as well. We plan to install additional speed limit and safety signage around the Ranch and are consulting with our roads contractor regarding options to improve our road surfaces and smooth out the corrugation. *Grading roads costs a lot money – slowing down is free.*

I'd like to share an observation: Driving 15 mph from the top of Upper Ranch Drive to the mailboxes (.6 miles) takes 2 minutes, 24 seconds. Driving 25 mph takes 1 minute, 38 seconds. **That's 46 seconds or less than one minute difference.** May I suggest we all begin our drive just a few minutes earlier and do our part to slow down and slow down the development of road corrugation, something we'll all benefit from.

Thank you and I welcome your comments and suggestions: [Elkfallsroads@yahoo.com](mailto:Elkfallsroads@yahoo.com)

## Firewise –

Congratulations Elk Falls Ranch!! Our Firewise renewal certificate has been approved for 2018. Thanks to all that sent me their Firewise hours towards this renewal. We managed to report over 450 hours this year plus we already have some hours to report on the 2019 renewal. Great effort. Any hours you want to send me now will go on the 2019 renewal so "keep-em-coming".



One of the benefits of being a Firewise community is neighbors-helping-neighbors. If you need help with your fire mitigation efforts, contact me and I'll organize a group of neighbors to help out with that. We're all in this together.

Also, don't forget about the chipping program the Elk Creek Fire District offers. If you have some slash you want to have chipped, the Elk Creek Fire District has a new chipper and they will come to your property at no charge. Keep in mind they're not set up to haul your chippings away so it will all be blown back onto your property. Contact me if you want to utilize this service and I will coordinate with other neighbors so we can get the best usage of their service.

Bob Fletcher [Robertbfletcher68@gmail.com](mailto:Robertbfletcher68@gmail.com).

## Featured Mountain Animal Facts

*By: Your Name Here Kids*

Hey, do we have some kids that would like to write an article? Pick a mountain animal and let your neighbors know what you discovered. We are looking for six youngsters to help with 2018's newsletters. Just one article, newsletter will be published February, April, June, August, October and December, see your name in print! Your article could go something like this –



Did you know? Abert's squirrels can be characterized by the type of foods they eat. Ponderosa pines make up the main part of their diet. They feed on all the parts of ponderosa pines, including bark, seeds, buds and flowers, which is why they need to live amongst these trees. However, they're opportunistic feeders and will forage for fungi and other plant matter. They don't hibernate, so they don't store large amounts of food for winter, but they may bury the odd pinecone to feed on at a later date.

## **Quick Easy and Delicious - Shrimp Veracruz - Serves 2**

### **Ingredients:**

1 – 14.5 oz. can of Muir Glen Organic Diced Tomatoes, Fire Roasted with green chilies  
½ lb. of shrimp  
10 green olives  
1/3 C chopped onion  
1 t capers  
Garlic  
Cooked rice

### **Directions:**

Sauté onion and garlic in oil until tender but not browned. Stir in tomatoes, olives, capers. Heat to boiling. Add shrimp and continue cooking 10 to 12 minutes or until shrimp are done. Serve over rice. Ta-Da!

**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.**

***Do you have a column you want to write, something you want to share, a story you want to tell?***

***Send it to [cg@ChristineGroves.us](mailto:cg@ChristineGroves.us) by the 21<sup>st</sup> of odd numbered months and we will get it in the next newsletter. Newsletters are published the first day of even numbered months. Next publication - February 1<sup>st</sup>.***

*love to color –*

