



November 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
Dave Shaffer, Roads Chair - elkfallsroads@gmail.com or 303-816-5004
Dan Mueller, Secretary - elkfallsfirewise@gmail.com 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, January 12, 2021

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



2020 Annual Meeting - Save the Date!

Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020, 2PM via Cisco Webex

Agenda, proxies and log-in information
will be mailed soon.

Board Member Dave Shaffer

In an effort to help you get to know your Elk Falls Ranch Board Members, we are profiling Board Members in POA Newsletters.

We've introduced you to **Renae Braun** - President, **Dan Mueller** - Secretary, **Mike Long** - Architectural Chair and

Bev Long - Treasurer. This month we are profiling Roads Chair - **Dave Shaffer**.



My wife, Sheryl, and I moved to Elk Falls in the Spring of 2000. We moved here to escape the rapid growth and over-crowding of Boulder County. Back then 285 was two lanes, Elk Creek Road was gravel from 285 to EFR and there was no Staunton State Park. How things have changed!

I grew up in rural southern Indiana and studied electronics at Vincennes University. My first real job was in 1980 in El Segundo, CA as an Engineering Technician doing satellite environmental tests in the Space Simulation Laboratory for Hughes Aircraft Company, Space and Communications Group. My last position was Systems Engineering Manager working on satellite ground processing systems in Aurora, CO. I retired in 2015 from Raytheon Systems Company, which acquired Space and Com. in the 1990s, after 35 years in the aerospace industry.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with the grandkids, upland bird and elk hunting, fishing, skiing, motorcycling, traveling and beermaking. You might see me around the neighborhood with my Deutsch Drahthaar, Blitz. I trained for and handled Blitz through the JGHV (German versatile hunting dog testing organization) performance tests and the result was an invitation to be a JGHV performance judge. So now I have another pastime, supporting Drahthaar club training days and judging versatile hunting dog tests.

As the new Roads Chair of the EFPOA board, I am committed to maintaining and improving the roads in the most efficient, cost effective manner possible within our budget constraints.

Dave Shaffer

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 **Bob and Barbara Wallace!** The Wallace's live at: 35690 Upper Aspen Lane.

Bob and Barbara aren't new residents, typical of our profiles, but they contribute significantly to our POA as you will read below.



Bob and Barb Wallace have lived in Elk Falls Ranch as of June of 2005. The move to Elk Falls Ranch marked their retirement and return to Colorado, following a 20-year absence caused by career relocations.

Both Bob and Barb are Colorado natives. Bob graduated from the University of Colorado and Barbara attended the University of Northern Colorado. Bob retired after a career with

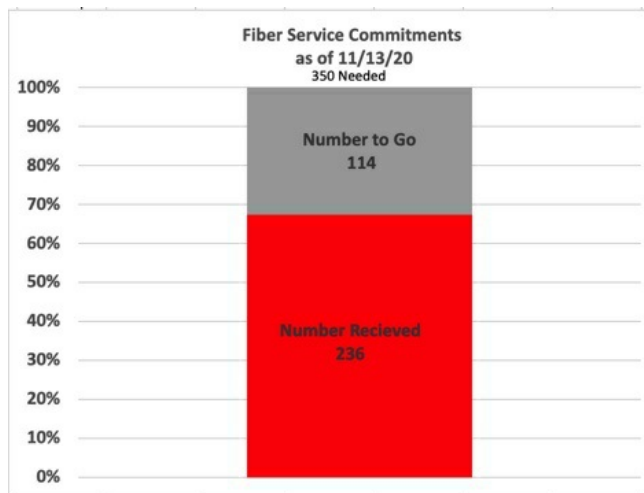
various Inspectors General in the federal government. His jobs involved audits and investigations related to the government's responsibilities and grantees' and contractors' activities. Barb retired after working as an accountant for a distributor of foul weather sailing gear.

Bob assists the Elk Falls Property Owners' Association by serving as the contact for lost key replacement requests and mailbox maintenance issues. Bob also gets most of the credit for rebuilding our community message board and the newspaper boxes. Barb is involved in many craft activities. Her handiwork can be seen at the cluster mailboxes. Assisted by Barb's neighbor Kristin Snowden, they decorate the mailbox area in a variety of seasonal themes.

Bob enjoys woodworking and stays busy completing a variety of home improvement projects. He also likes outdoor activities that include trout fishing. In addition to her crafts, Barb also loves growing flowers, and the couple enjoys exploring scenic and historic areas across Colorado and the West. They feel fortunate that their two daughters' families live in Littleton, because it provides them frequent access to their five grandchildren. It happens their daughters married men who are brothers.

Broadband News

As of 11/13/20 we have **236 commitments**, 67% towards our goal of 350!. Plus, a number of people have communicated that they have just sent in their commitment this week. It's looking promising!



As a reminder, the commitment fee was reduced to \$200. Thus it's significantly cheaper to sign on. **This is all you will be charged to bring fiber from the main route to your home!!**

Anyone who paid greater than \$200 should receive a refund sometime this month.

Here's the breakdown by

neighborhood:

- Douglass Ranch - 8
- Elk Falls Ranch - 63
- Mountain View - 17
- Preserve at Pine Meadows - 22
- S. Elk Creek Road - 9
- Woodside - 77
- Incomplete Commitment Forms - 2

I'm working with South Park Telephone to see if we can extend the commitment deadline to November 30th.

You can submit your commitment using this form: [Staunton Project Commitment Form](#) or on-line at: <https://www.southparktelephone.com/staunton-state-park-commitment-form/>. We are now encouraging residents to **use the mail in option since there are PayPal charges associated with the online option.**

Commitment Reminders:

- Commitments **will be fully refunded** if we do not get the grant or do not make our

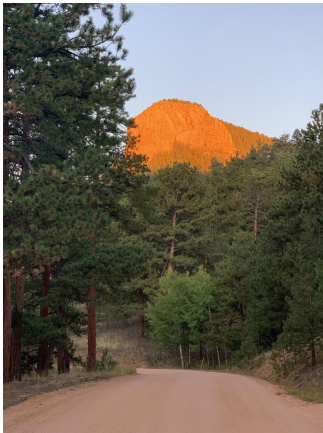
commitment goal.

- The \$200 is the cost of bringing fiber from the main route to your home - an incredible bargain.
- You will receive a discount for both internet and phone service if you sign up now. [Click here for pricing sheet.](#)

Bev Long
Broadband Committee Chair and Champion for Elk Falls Ranch
bevlong2555@gmail.com
303-838-4373

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

Our website is www.285broadband.com.



Roads Update

I'll start out by stating the obvious - the roads were in pretty rough shape by the end of the hot, dry summer. To remedy this, fall grading was completed in early November. This was done under less than ideal conditions. More moisture in the roads would have provided better conditions for grading which would have resulted in a smoother road surface. We did get a little bit of moisture prior to grading, unfortunately it was the white fluffy kind accompanied by freezing temperatures. The grading contractor did the best job he could, given the conditions.

Several road improvement projects are being considered by the EFPOA board. Details will be communicated as planning progresses.

Friendly Reminders:

To help reduce the rate of deterioration of the road surface, please adhere to the 15 mph speed limit on Ranch roads.

Please check your driveway culverts periodically and keep them clear. If assistance is needed, let me know.

For roads where road base has been applied, **please do not put decomposed granite from ditches, culverts etc on the road** as mixing decomposed granite with road base degrades the road surface over time.

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
303-816-5004

Snowplowing

Winter has arrived!

As a reminder, snow plowing of Elk Falls roadways is generally conducted when accumulation reaches 4 inches at the mailbox area. Snow packed roads are common at our

elevation during the winter months so please slow down for your own safety and the safety of others. Please prepare your vehicle and tires to follow Colorado laws and stay safe during winter driving conditions.

For more information see

<https://www.codot.gov/travel/winter-driving/tractionlaw/>

When weather conditions warrant, CDOT implements Passenger Vehicle Traction and Chain Laws. CDOT can implement the Traction and Chain Laws on all state highways.

During a Traction Law, all motorists are required to have EITHER:

1. 4WD or AWD vehicle and 3/16" tread depth
2. Tires with a mud and snow designation (M+S icon) and 3/16" tread depth
3. Winter tires (mountain-snowflake icon) and 3/16" tread depth
4. Tires with an all-weather rating by the manufacturer and 3/16" tread depth
5. Chains or an AutoSock®



Speaking of Snow Plowing.....

The Board has contracted with Total Mountain Services, this year, for snow removal on Elk Falls roadways.

Each homeowner is responsible for clearing their own driveway. Total Mountain Services offers driveway plowing. Please contact Tobias at 720-341-6581 or totalmountainservicesinc@gmail.com for more information.

Another option for having your driveway cleared is Tiny Tractor Services, LLC, owned and operated by Elk Falls Ranch resident, John Nelson. John can be reached at 808-285-2965 or tinytractorservices@gmail.com.



Conifer Virtual Town Hall Meeting

Presented By

Conifer Area Council

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Link to be sent Thursday, November 19, 2020 to view meeting

There will be updates from:

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Conifer Area Chamber
- RTD
- Jefferson County Commissioner, Lesley Dahlkemper
- Colorado Senator, Tammy Story
- Colorado Representative, Lisa Cutter

Discussion Topics:

Residential and commercial developments being planned for the Conifer Area

Senior Long-Range Planner, Heather Gutherless, Jefferson County Planning and Zoning

New findings regarding sustainability of our Conifer Area water resource

Conifer Area Council Water Resource Study/Action Team

What Jeffco is doing to help mitigate intense wildfires from happening here

Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper & Elk Creek Chief Jacob Ware, Jefferson County Wildfire Risk Reduction Task Force

Stay Informed at goconifer.com



Elk Falls Ranch POA Question & Answer re: Speed Bumps

Resident Question: Can I install a speed bump on the road in front of my driveway?

Answer: No, both Jefferson County and Park County regulate placement of speed bumps.

Jefferson County

The Jeffco speed bump policy can be found at: [https://www.jeffco.us/330/Streets-Roads/Section C. 2](https://www.jeffco.us/330/Streets-Roads/Section%20C.2). Speed bump(s) may be installed when all of the following criteria are met:
g. Speed bump(s) is located on a public street in the plains area as defined in the *Roadway Design and Construction Manual*. **Speed bump(s) shall not be placed on roads located in the mountain area.** The Transportation and Engineering Division may consider other traffic calming or safety measures if it determines an unusual safety problem exists as evidenced by accident history or other unusual factors. **Speed bump(s) shall not be placed on any un-paved street or road.**

Park County

Park County does not allow speed bumps anywhere in the county on either public or private roads.



Update from Zach Taylor, Staunton State Park Manager

The park is undergoing a facelift which will include a new parking area. We began construction in early October so I am sure you have seen some increased semi and truck traffic. We are doing everything we can to direct drivers into the main entrance of the Park, but many have missed the signs and driven into the neighborhood.

Please be patient as we work with the general contractor to put up additional signs.

As we have discussed in the past, if you see anything unusual regarding the Park please don't hesitate to contact us at 303-816-0912.

We are excited to move into the winter months and hope that you can enjoy the park on your own or with your family.

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



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RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Chipping Program Update

Although most slash piles in our neighborhood have now been chipped and removed, a few of us still have roadside piles waiting to be collected. Unfortunately, Elk Creek Fire resources were pulled from chipping duties to focus on their primary mission - fighting fires. With the wildfire season finally coming to a close, we anticipate the chipping crew will return to process all remaining piles that conform to acceptable guidelines.



This year we had 35 households participating in the Chipping Program - producing over 135 piles of slash! **Your efforts are appreciated and have helped lower the risk and severity of wildfire in our neighborhood.**

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

Wildfire Property Assessments

Now being conducted!

Wildfire Property Assessments

Elk Creek Fire is once again providing professional guidance on how to mitigate wildfire risk around your home by creating and maintaining defensible space! For more information and to sign up, visit the Elk Creek Fire website at: <http://elkcreekfire.org/wildfire-property-assessments/>

Submit Your Hours

Hours for 2020 are due now!

Thank you to everyone that submitted their hours of work and expenses incurred this year for slash collection, creation and maintenance of defensible space around your home and other wildfire mitigation efforts. To date I have been notified of 430 hours of work and several thousand dollars of expenses. **If there is anyone that has not yet reported to me their Firewise related efforts, please do so immediately as I have just a few more days to finalize our submission.**

These numbers are important as they measure our commitment to wildfire mitigation and ensure we maintain our certification as a Firewise certified community.

Dan Mueller
Elk Falls Ranch Firewise Committee Chair
630-240-9066
ElkFallsFirewise@gmail.com

Short Term Rental Update

Park County Planning and Zoning expects Short Term Rental regulations to be on the Board of County Commissioners agenda mid-November. The agenda for the November 19th and November 25th meetings are posted but do not list Short Term Rentals. Items can be added to the agenda up to 48 hours before the scheduled time. If this is an important topic to you please continue to check the meeting agendas for updates at <https://parkco.us/AgendaCenter>



**We Have a New Eagle Scout
Among Us!**



Conor Palmquist, a resident on Rock Creek Road, was able to use some of his freed up time in the Spring to complete the long and arduous journey towards Eagle, the highest rank achievable in the Boy Scouts of America Program.

He completed his Board of Review in the parking lot of West Jefferson Elementary, facing a masked council of adult leaders, on June 3rd, 2020. Currently a Junior at Conifer High School, Conor began his journey in

Scouting as a Tiger Cub back in 2010 in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He made his way through the Cub Scout Program, transitioning to Pack 396 upon relocating to Parker, CO in 2012, and then onto Boy Scout Troop 16, upon earning his Arrow of Light. Conor joined Troop 400, based in Conifer, when the family moved to the Ranch in 2017.

The Eagle requirements are multi-faceted, including that the scout must:

1. contribute to the Troop as a leader, holding various positions over their tenure that teaches them to be accountable for the well-being of the troop,
2. earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, thirteen of which are mandatory in order to provide for a solid foundation of citizenship and broad life skills, and
3. complete an Eagle Service Project. Conor's Eagle Service Project, completed in the Fall of 2019, was a collaborative effort with Conifer High School, ECI Site Construction Management Services, Moore Lumber, Troop 400 and the contributions of several other groups and individuals, to build a canopy over the front of the concession stand at the high school playing fields. The project was, in itself, a life lesson about how construction projects are completed in today's world and gave Conor the opportunity to coordinate and satisfy all of the stakeholders involved over the course of seven months.

Congratulations to Conor on his Eagle Rank achievement!!!

This is Conor as a Tiger Cub.

The picture is of a cake shaped like a hot dog and fries that Conor made for the cake contest.



Halloween

As you know, our annual Halloween Hayride was cancelled due to an abundance of caution around Covid-19. Thus, we have no photos to share of hayride fun. But residents on Northwest Court held a socially-distanced, Harry Potter themed scavenger hunt and we have a few photos to share of some residents that participated.



Witch (aka Carol Phelps)



Witch with Ron Weasley (aka Renae Braun)



Long Family



McNally Family



Carpenter Family



Moaning Myrtle (aka Rhiana Braun) and Witch (aka Nyx Arcos)



Julie and Bob Phelps



Dumbledore (aka Merle Lehmkuhl) and Minerva McGonagall (aka Jeri Lehmkuhl)



Hagrid (aka Peter Braun)

Who to Contact and When



Roads Issues

Please contact Dave Shaffer at 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 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

Email Address Changes/Additions

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.