

Rustic Hills Improvement Association

Newsletter

April 2020

Dear Neighbors,

We hope this finds you well and safely hunkered down with adequate food and medicine to get through the statewide Stay at Home order(s). **On April 6, the Governor's original order has been extended until 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 26.** For latest updates, please check the State's COVID-19 website at:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/>

The original Public Health Order is 13 pages long – something to read if you are stuck at home in need of something to do! You will notice that it identifies the infrastructure construction industry as being essential, which enables the city to proceed now with its plans to pave Brady Road and the various entrances to our neighborhood.

ROAD PAVING STARTS MONDAY APRIL 6

They're baaaa-aaaack! After not completing their work in November, construction crews are returning to our roads for paving that is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 6 through Friday, April 17 (just before Easter), weather permitting. We were told about this schedule on April 1 (not kidding) after making an inquiry to the city. Actual paving may not occur on April 6 if there is still preparatory work to be done, which seems probable.

In any event, expect road closures and detours this month. On the bright side, with the Stay at Home order in place, the construction may be less of an inconvenience to all of us than it ordinarily would.

POSSIBLE DISRUPTION OF RHIA ACTIVITIES

Before the virus hit the fan, we reserved the Sunnyside Christian Church again as the location for our upcoming RHIA General Meeting, at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 20. The church address is 2025 North Murray Boulevard (northeast corner of Constitution and Murray). **HOWEVER**, it is too early at this point to know if such a meeting can legally be held (currently, there is a ban on gatherings of ten or more people), and even if it is legal to meet by then, it may still be a risky and dangerous thing to do. So stay tuned for clarification of an actual meeting date.

In the interest of your health and safety, the RHIA Board of Directors will be exploring options for an alternative way to conduct the Bylaws-mandated association business with the membership. Ideas might include postponing the meeting for several months, or possibly sending out the budget and election information for voting by mail.

The Board plans to meet by teleconference of some sort on May 5, if possible, to discuss options like this. If you have any suggestions on the matter, please let us know by e-mail at:

rusticboard2018@gmail.com

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

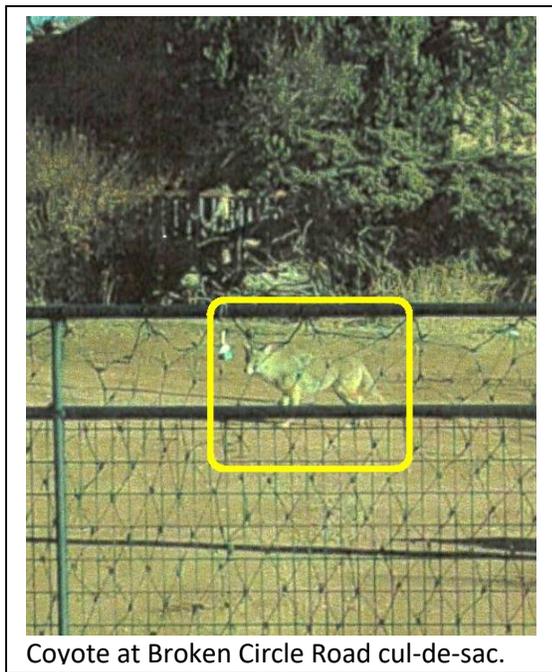
On March 18, RHIA sent out an e-mail announcing a Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative, whereby volunteers could pick up and deliver food and medicine to high-risk Rustic Hills neighbors who could not get out to obtain those items for themselves. As of April 5, we do have a number of volunteers and are happy to report that no neighbors in distress have needed to request such assistance yet.

In addition to our Rustic Hills Neighbors Helping Neighbors effort, the Governor of Colorado has established a similar, statewide program. For more information on that program, see:

helpcoloradonow.org

COYOTES IN THE AREA

In February and March, RHIA received reports of coyote sighting from several neighbors mostly around the perimeter of our neighborhood. Actually, several sightings involved two coyotes together, so there is some reason to expect there may be a den nearby. RHIA contacted Alpine Animal Control to discuss the issue, and learned that the mating season was underway and pups could be expected in late April or early May.



Coyote at Broken Circle Road cul-de-sac.

Please keep your pets safe and e-mail the RHIA Board if you have any coyote problems to report.

HOMELESS ALERT

There was discussion at the March meeting of the RHIA Board regarding an apparently homeless individual who has been hanging around in Rustic Hills Filing 2 (the one-acre lots)

for many months, generally near the Rock Island Trail. In March, we received photos of camping debris near the trail, on city property, near the southern bend of Payton Circle.

The RHIA Board contacted our neighborhood liaison at the Colorado Springs Police Department, who directed us to contact the CSPD Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). We then heard from the HOT Team representative that they do not respond to citizen concerns but only to matters referred to them by police officers: "If the person can be located and needs our team's assistance, the patrol officer will reach out to us."

Homeless camping on public property is not a crime. The HOT Team reaches out to let homeless people know what sorts of housing, food and other services are publicly available to them. Now that the winter weather is largely over for the year, there is potential to see more homeless in activity in our area.

In the absence of a crime occurring, CSPD advises that we should not call 9-1-1 over general feelings of concern. In case of actual suspicious or criminal activity, please contact Police Dispatch at 444-7000.



Camper's camouflaged sleeping bag near the Rock Island Trail

CRIME REPORT

Laura Servin on Rocking R Drive on April 3 reported the following: “Wanted to alert everyone in the neighborhood that someone has trespassed to our back yard and stole our fuel from one of our work vehicles along with gas cap yesterday night. Please let me know if anyone saw something or anyone suspicious. It’s so weird. Watch out and be safe.”



In March, Tom Golden on Payton Circle reported that persons unknown had gone through his vehicle one night after the car was left unlocked overnight in his driveway. Tom supposedly has now sold his home and will be leaving the neighborhood after his home was on the market for sale for probably well over a year - so the sale is **not** related to the crime. Tom reminds us all: please do not leave valuables in your vehicle, and always lock the doors to your vehicles and home.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a lot of people out of work, putting them in desperate financial straits, so **be alert to the possibility of increased thefts in the weeks ahead**, above and beyond missing flags.

THE FLAG BOY SAGA CONTINUES...

At least 30 flags and/or flagpoles have been stolen in our neighborhood over the past three years. Multiple criminal charges have been filed against the juvenile “suspect” who lives in our neighborhood, but he remains free (and flag thefts have continued). We know the suspect and where he lives, if you need to look for your missing property. Please report any such theft to CSPD at 444-7000 and press charges. They know him well.

At a February 11, 2020 pre-trial conference before El Paso County Magistrate Jeffrey Saufley, the suspect appeared in court but not much happened. The authorities are awaiting an official determination regarding whether or not the defendant is mentally competent to stand trial. This was discussed in open court and is a matter of public record. Whether or not the juvenile is mentally competent, he continues to drive the whole neighborhood crazy!

His next appearance in Juvenile Court is scheduled for May 12, 2020. Unfortunately, the Courts may or may not be open again in May, due to the pandemic. The courts are currently closed and there will be a big backlog of cases. To see if his court date gets postponed, we will be checking the El Paso County court docket schedule online. The website is:

<https://www.courts.state.co.us/dockets/>

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR RHIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you are interested in serving our neighborhood as a member of the Board of Directors, or if you know someone else who is interested, please contact us. We will get you in touch with the Chairman of our Nominating Committee, Jim Kelly. Six openings occur every spring. There are no term limits, so current incumbents can continue to serve in any position to which they may be elected. Please see the list of offices below for more detail

This is a volunteer board that receives zero compensation for its time and efforts. We meet at least six times per year, and more often if needed. Participation by neighborhood newcomers is encouraged to get fresh ideas and perspectives.

HELP WANTED, NOW! Any RHIA member can serve on the Nominating Committee. Please contact Chairman Jim Kelly directly to volunteer: sandiekelly@msn.com

YOUR RHIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2019-2020

Contact us at rusticboard2018@gmail.com

Role/Term Expiration	Person	Street
ELECTED POSITIONS		
President (May 2020)*	Doug Eberhart	Payton Circle
Vice President (2020)*	Eric Younger	Rocking R Drive
Secretary (2020)*	Tamie Farris	Broken Circle
Treasurer (2020)*	Tracy Dunson	Broken Circle
Filing 1 Representative (2020)*	Stacy Sahlstrom	Payton Circle
Filing 1 Representative (2021)	Jamie Wilson	Brady Road
Filing 1 Representative (2022)	Roy Thompson	Payton Circle
Filing 2 Representative (2020)*	Jim Kelly	Brady Road
Filing 2 Representative (2021)	Brad Steinger	Half Moon Drive
Filing 2 Representative (2022)	Miriamber Daigneault	Broken Circle Road
APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS		
Hospitality Committee	Bev Smith	Brady Road
Bridle Path Committee	John Dolve	Bent Bar
Architectural/Protective Covenants Protection	Eric Younger (also VP)	Rocking R Drive
Rustic Hills Acres Trash Coalition	Jamie Wilson (also Filing 1)	Brady Road

* Terms ending in 2020 expire on May 31.

APPOINTED AD HOC (temporary) COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS		
Audit Committee	Stacy Sahlstrom (also Filing 1)	Payton Circle
Nominating Committee	Jim Kelly (also Filing 2 rep)	Half Moon Drive

NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES ON TRAIL

From time, we hear and see motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes or All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) illegally using the Rock Island Trail. For the safety of all trail users, the City of Colorado Springs prohibits motorized vehicles on most of its trail system, definitely including the Rock Island Trail. Please see:

<https://coloradosprings.gov/ebike?mlid=34956>

This is the CITY CODE – it has nothing to do with the Rustic Hills Improvement Association. Any resident observing a violation of City Code is free to report it to the Colorado Springs Police Department by calling 444-7000, as this is NOT considered to be a 9-1-1 emergency.

We very much hope that no Rustic Hills residents are engaging in this activity, as this might suggest to others that they can do it.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD APP

The RHIA Board sends out e-mails to its membership regarding RHIA business, such as meetings, paving plans, RHIA activities, or important crime news, but not for everyday personal matters such as lost pets or yard help wanted. For non-RHIA business, we suggest use of a community bulletin board app.

Several members of the Board use one call NextDoor. The Colorado Springs Police Department issues reports on the website if there is criminal activity in the area, and that is very helpful. The Nextdoor Neighborhood app is free to download and use.

DUES ALERT – ALL CURRENT RHIA MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE ON APRIL 30

Several years ago, the RHIA fiscal year was changed to end on April 30, which means that all memberships expire on that date. The Board of Directors asks that you mail payment for your 2020-221 fiscal year association dues between April 15 and May 15. Only paid members of the Association can vote at the Annual Meeting in May. NOTE: See earlier article about COVID-19 potential RHIA activities disruption and the May annual meeting.

At the 2019 RHIA General Meeting, the membership voted to set the dues for this upcoming fiscal year at \$50. This is the annual amount, not monthly! To pay your annual membership dues, please mail your check for \$50 to:

RHIA
P.O. Box 75074
Colorado Springs, CO 80970

If you have any questions about 2020-21 dues , please e-mail us at rusticboard2018@gmail.com.

Thanks for your continuing support!

REMINDER FOR DOG OWNERS

A Rustic Hills resident has asked that we publish a reminder to all dog owners to please ALWAYS clean up after your pet when out walking. Perhaps most folks in our neighborhood do their “doo-ty” in this regard, but the resident spends far too much time and effort cleaning up his property because of the few who don’t.

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WEBSITE UPDATE – RUSTICHILLS.INFO

A long-overdue and much-needed update to our RHIA website was accomplished in early 2020 thanks to the efforts of a young man named Zachary Eberhart. Check out the site, and if you have any suggestions, let us know (rusticboard2018@gmail.com). Also, we would be happy to include more photos of our neighborhood, so if you have a favorite photo to contribute, send it in for consideration.

RUSTIC HILLS ACRES

- HOME
- HOSPITALITY
- NEWS
- COVENANTS
- ROADS
- MORE...



Welcome to Rustic Hills Acres, nestled in the hills with beautiful one and two acre lots. We are a hidden gem in town, with horse and walking trails, in a friendly country-western setting.