



Rustic Hills Improvement Association

# Newsletter

April 2021

RusticHillsAcres.com

## “From the Board...”



Dear Neighbors,

Spring is here! We can be thankful that most of the snow is over and most of the COVID-19 emergency is behind us. Please continue to take responsibility for your own safety and others as the situation continues to evolve, but it appears that vaccinations have been made available to the most vulnerable members of our community and will be widely available soon for anyone that wants one. There is light at the end of the tunnel, and that means we will soon have miller moths!

The RHIA Board of Directors extends its sincere thanks to all who found ways to help their neighbors and their community during the past year. Countless kindnesses undoubtedly occurred that will never be told, but will always be appreciated. Keep up the good work!

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## **ASSOCIATION DUES ARE DUE BY APRIL 30**

Several years ago, the RHIA membership voted to changed the Association’s fiscal year to start on May 1. This means that all annual memberships expire at the end of April, and now is the time to pay RHIA dues for the upcoming fiscal year.

Please mail your annual dues check for \$50 to:

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

The \$50 amount was set at the RHIA Annual Meeting that was held on May 22, 2019. As no meeting was held last year due to the COVID pandemic, the amount has not changed for the upcoming fiscal year.

## **NEW DISTRICT 5 CITY COUNCIL MEMBER** **NANCY HENJUM**

Rustic Hills Acres is located in Colorado Springs City Council District 5. Our previous Councilmember has been Ms. Jill Gaebler. Ms. Gaebler was initially elected in 2013 then re-elected in 2017. In 2021, she was not eligible to run again due to term limits.

The winner of a five-way race for the District 5 vacancy in the April 6 election was Ms. Nancy Henjum. The swearing-in ceremony for new council members typically occurs about two weeks after the election, so it may be on April 20.

### **COYOTE PET ATTACK - MARCH**

It was reported to the RHIA Board that on March 20, 2021, a pet dog was attacked by a coyote on Half Moon Drive. Also, a pack of five coyotes has been observed on a resident's security camera. Please see a Humane Society article on coyote hazing in this newsletter.

### **PROPERTY THEFT – FEBRUARY**

As we near the end of March, the only reported crime in Rustic Hills Acres so far this year was a property theft incident on Payton Circle in February. Stolen was a White Wells Cargo enclosed trailer, about 10 feet long, containing two dirt bikes inside and a lot of motorcycle equipment and tools.

This occurred at a very interior part of our neighborhood, so it appears to have been a calculated act, not a casual crime of opportunity. We are very fortunate to have minimal crime compared to surrounding neighborhoods, but do not be lulled into a false sense of security.

Motion-sensitive doorbells and video surveillance equipment has become quite affordable and easy to install. Those who have the Ring doorbell app, for example, can see that in surrounding neighborhoods, young criminals are out and about every night checking parked cars to see if they are unlocked.

All of us need to understand that crime has become quite rampant in our city, and our first line of defense is to lock up our property securely. The police department has extremely limited resources and cannot be considered your first line of defense.

### **RHIA ANNUAL MEETING - MAY**

After cancelling last year's Annual Meeting during the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, when the State of Colorado would not allow such a gathering, the RHIA Board has decided to

consider holding an annual meeting in May 2021 in accordance with the RHIA Bylaws. Expect the event to take place at Sunnyside Christian Church, as it has in the past. We will send out the date and time as soon as it is set.

### **THANKS TO RUSTIC HILLS!**

RHIA received a nice thank-you note in March from Christmas Unlimited after our holiday food and toy drive resulted in a contribution to that organization. Their note said:

*"Dear Rustic Hills Improvement Association, Thank you so much for your generous donation. It's wonderful people like you who make it possible for us to continue to serve our growing community. Have a great year! Your friends at Christmas Unlimited"*

For the record, the donation mentioned above came from voluntary gifts, and was not funded in any way by RHIA annual dues. The RHIA Board thanks all donors for their generosity.

### **FLAG THIEF - GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

Our December newsletter reported that the home of the neighborhood's juvenile flag thief was for sale and we might soon be rid of this scourge. We understand that the house did indeed sell and the family moved away on February 13th. There remain five active criminal cases against the juvenile, and his next scheduled court date is April 27.

Rustic Hills Acres is no longer a "No Fly Zone"!



Flag Day this year is Monday, June 14.

**CHIPPING DAY, 2021**

The City of Colorado Springs will once again include Rustic Hills Acres in its annual free chipping day program. They have scheduled us for **the week of August 23**. This is a great chance to reduce fire danger on your property by getting rid of dead tree limbs. You need to cut the limbs and stack them according to the city’s guidelines, which are available online. It is also necessary to register your address with the city so they will know where to look.

Here is their Internet website:  
<https://coloradosprings.gov/fire-department/page/neighborhood-chipping-program>

# TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

The speed limit on all Rustic Hills roadways, (except for Constitution Avenue) is what?

- A. 25 miles per hour
- B. 25 miles per hour
- C. 25 miles per hour
- D. 25 miles per hour

Congratulations! If you guessed any of the answers above, you are correct!!!



*Chipper in action, August 2020*

**NOMINATIONS WANTED FOR RHIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

It’s that time again! All members of the RHIA Board have served for one extra year because there was no Annual Meeting in 2020. As mandated in the Bylaws, a Nominating Committee is being formed in April to find candidates for election to the Board for the upcoming year. Eight of ten terms are expiring, including President, Vice President, Secretary,

Treasurer, and two at-large representatives in each of Filings #1 and #2.

Please send an e-mail to Nominating Committee Chair Stacy Sahlstrom if you would be willing to serve on the Board. Send your message to Stacy at the RHIA e-mail address of:

[Rusticboard2018@gmail.com](mailto:Rusticboard2018@gmail.com)

## Humane Society tips on coyote hazing: guidelines for discouraging neighborhood coyotes

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/coyote-hazing>

### How to effectively change coyote behavior

Generally, coyotes are reclusive animals who avoid human contact. Coyotes who have adapted to urban and suburban environments, however, may realize there are few real threats and may approach people or feel safe visiting yards even when people are present.

These coyotes have become habituated (lost their fear of humans), probably owing to the bounty of food that they have become accustomed to feeding upon in your neighborhood. These bold coyotes should not be tolerated or enticed but instead given the clear message that they should not be so brazen.

### Hazing

Hazing is a method that makes use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourage an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter it from backyards and play spaces.

### Methods of hazing

Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical so that coyotes don't get used to redundant or single stimulus devices, sounds, and actions.

- Yelling and waving your arms while approaching the coyote
- Noisemakers: Voice, whistles, air horns, bells, "shaker" cans full of marbles or pennies, pots, lid or pie pans banged together
- Projectiles: sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls or rubber balls

- Other: hoses, water guns with vinegar water, spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray or bear repellent

### "Go away, coyote!"

The simplest method of hazing a coyote involves being loud and large:

- Stand tall, wave your arms, and yell at the coyote, approaching them if necessary, until they run away.
- If a coyote has not been hazed before, it may not immediately run away when you yell at them. If this happens, you may need to walk towards the coyote and increase the intensity of your hazing.
- The coyote may run away, but then stop after a distance and look at you. It is important to continue to go after the coyote until it completely leaves the area. You may need to use different tactics, such as noisemakers, stomping your feet, or spraying the coyote with a hose, to get it to leave.

### Dog-walking tools

There are several tools that you can carry with you while walking your dog that can be used to repel coyotes. These include:

- Whistle or small air horn (you can purchase small air horn "necklaces")
- Squirt guns
- Pepper spray
- Sticks or other objects to throw towards (but not at) the coyote

### In your yard

Remember, keeping pets and pet food inside is the best way to keep coyotes out of your yard. If you do encounter coyotes, all of the above methods can be used in your yard at home. First, try the "Go away coyote!" method (yell and wave your arms as you approach the coyote). Here are some additional methods you can also use:

- Squirt the coyote with your garden hose
- Spray the coyote with vinegar water
- Bang pots and pans together

### Important things to remember

- Never run away from a coyote!
- The coyote may not leave at first, but if you approach it closer and/or increase the intensity of your hazing, it will run away.
- If the coyote runs away a short distance and then stops and looks at you, continue hazing until it leaves the area entirely.
- After you have successfully hazed a coyote, it may return. Continue to haze the coyote as you did before; it usually takes only one or two times to haze a coyote away for good.

### **PLEASE REPORT ROAD RUTS TO THE CITY!**

The recent winter weather has done some damage to our unpaved roads. Presumably, the city does not have enough staff to monitor road conditions, so it is up to residents to report problems.

YOU can make a difference in getting the City to fix these problems. The more calls they receive, the more likely it is that they will respond. For road questions or to report a maintenance problem, please call the City at 719-385-5934.

It works - in March, a Payton Circle resident called on a Sunday and left a message requesting road grading. The grader appeared less than 48 hours later to get the job done.

### **CITY CODE REGARDING HORSES**

Horse owners – do you know what rules apply to you? A whole section of Colorado Springs City Code applies to maintaining your property in sanitary condition. That can be found in Chapter 6, Article 9, Section 101. See at: [https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/coloradospringsco/latest/coloradosprings\\_co/0-0-0-7201](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/coloradospringsco/latest/coloradosprings_co/0-0-0-7201)

Additionally, here are two provisions of possible interest:

### 6.8.108: REGISTRATION OF HOOFED PETS

The owner or keeper of a hoofed pet must register the hoofed pet with the City's animal control services provider immediately after acquiring the animal. The fee for the required hoofed pet registration shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00). (Ord. 14-28; Ord. 20-71 1 )

### 9.9.301: ANIMAL DEFECATION

It is unlawful for any person to allow any animal over which the person has control to defecate upon any park land without the excrement being removed by the person in control of the animal from the park and dispose of properly. The Park Manager may designate areas of the parks where the rule does not apply. (Ord. 18-24)

It is our understanding that the Code Section 9.9.301 regarding park land also applies to the open space (detention pond area) located at the eastern edge of Rustic Hills Acres.

### **HOW HIGH IS THAT BLUFF, ANYWAY?**

Somebody in the neighborhood happened to look at a U.S. Geological Survey map, with the results seen below. The brown contour lines on the map denote 20-foot differences. The top of the bluff is a bit higher than 6,460 feet above mean sea level, but not as high as 6,480 feet (no line shown), so a good guess would be 6,470 feet.



**WELCOME, (RELATIVELY NEW) NEIGHBORS!**

El Paso County Assessor records (plus Zillow.com) indicate 14 changes of ownership in Rustic Hills Acres during 2020 and 2021. Here’s who’s “kinda” new:

Brady Road  
4520 – Clifford Crouch

Brady Place  
4705 – Betsy Haverkorn  
4721 – Daniel & Tiffany Stephens

Broken Circle Road  
2014 – David Pechacek

Constitution Avenue  
4807 – Jonathan & Jody Reynolds  
5003 – Daniel & Ashley Keller  
5103 – CASREP Properties, LLC  
5119 – Owen Marshall & Kim Dalton  
Half Moon Drive  
5117 – New owner (sold on Feb 5)

Lazy R Drive  
2304 – Kenneth & Susan Aron

Payton Circle  
1907 – Anthony & Juliette Seran  
1917 – Eliazar Rodriguez  
2008 – Joseph & Charity Gust

Rocking R Drive  
5112 – Steven & Julianne Cox

**TRY A LITTLE KINDNESS**

Hats off to the students and teachers of Madison Elementary School for their gentle message that “Kindness Counts” after we have all been through a challenging past year.



*Photo courtesy of Mr. Kris Sahlstrom*

**COVID VACCINATIONS IN COLORADO – NOW AVAILABLE TO ALL ADULTS**

As of April 2, 2021, Colorado is in Phase 2 of vaccine distribution. All Coloradans 16 and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine, and all Coloradans 18 and older are eligible to receive the Moderna or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine.

**YOUR RHIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED FOR 2019-2020  
ARE CONTINUING TO SERVE ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS  
UNTIL NEW ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD**

Contact us at [rusticboard2018@gmail.com](mailto:rusticboard2018@gmail.com)

Role/Term Expiration	Person	Street
<b>ELECTED POSITIONS</b>		
President (May 2020)*	Doug Eberhart	Payton Circle
Vice President (2020)*	Eric Younger	Rocking R Drive
Secretary (2020)*	Tamie Farris	Broken Circle
Treasurer (2020)*	<b>VACANT - SEEKING A REPLACEMENT</b>	
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 Steininger	Half Moon Drive
Filing 2 Representative (2022)	Miriamber Daigneault	Broken Circle Road
<b>APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS</b>		
Hospitality Committee	Bev Smith	Brady Road
Bridle Path Committee	John Dolve	Bent Bar
Architectural/Covenants Protection	Eric Younger (also VP)	Rocking R Drive
Rustic Hills Acres Trash Coalition	Jamie Wilson (also Filing 1)	Brady Road

\* Terms expired May 31, 2020 but continuing to serve on a provisional basis until elections are held.