



Rustic Hills Improvement Association

Newsletter

July 2020

precautions to lock your vehicles and homes to prevent thefts.

If you hold a garage sale, please observe all applicable recommended precautions to protect yourself and your customers from potential exposure to the Wuhan coronavirus. Consider not participating if you consider yourself to be at high risk for COVID-19. Your safety is the highest priority.

Dear Neighbors,

We hope you enjoyed a safe and happy Independence Day! Please note that we have two neighborhood events scheduled in the next two weeks. Here are the topics discussed in this edition:

- Neighborhood garage sale July 10-11
- Neighborhood Cleanup Day July 18
- Free chipping day – week of Aug. 10
- Food drive success
- Annual meeting postponement
- Annual picnic date to be determined
- Annual dues progress
- RHIA Board provisional extension
- RHIA 2020-2021 budget
- Attempted thefts from vehicles (9 since March)
- Flag thefts (13 since Memorial Day)
- Neighborhood watch efforts
- Neighborhood business/volunteering
- Hazardous waste form for Cleanup Day

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE – JULY 10-11

The RHIA Hospitality Committee plans to advertise a neighborhood garage sale on Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11, each day from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Please comply with these official times. The idea behind the coordinated effort is to have shoppers visit our neighborhood just once, and not drive through our neighborhood every weekend all summer long.

Please be aware that there will be strangers in our neighborhood on July 10 and 11 so take

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP DAY – SAT., JULY 18

One week after the garage sale, RHIA Neighborhood Clean-Up Day will give you a chance to dispose of junk you did not sell. Our thanks to the Rustic Hills Trash Coalition for sponsoring this free event. From 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, there will be a 40-cubic-yard dumpster at each of two locations. At both locations, please refrain from bringing tree limbs until after 1:00 PM.

At the Hartig residence, corner of Brady Road and Prong Horn Lane, you can bring Hazardous Household Wastes if you bring a completed El Paso County certification form with you.

At the Steinger residence (5125 Brady Road), we will have a trailer to accept metal recycling.

FREE CHIPPING DAY – WEEK OF AUGUST 10

For fire mitigation purposes, the Colorado Springs Fire Department will again send a portable chipping machine to our neighborhood during the week of August 10. They will be here sometime that week, but all participants are advised to have their material properly stacked at the roadside by the morning of Monday, August 10, in case the event might begin on that day.

To participate, it is necessary to register online with CSFD, and you must read and follow their instructions. This is another free program (funded with our city taxes). This is your chance to dispose of tree limbs from your property. The limbs need to be cut down to the size specified on the CSFD website.

To register for chipping and for more information, go online to:

<https://coloradosprings.gov/fire-department/page/neighborhood-chipping-program>

FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS!!

Hats off to all donors and to the RHIA Board members and other volunteers who helped make our May 30 Food Drive a big success. A total of 854 pounds of non-perishable food plus \$125 in cash was donated by our neighborhood residents to the Food Pantry of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Community needs



skyrocketed this year due to COVID-caused job losses and furloughs.

ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONEMENT

A letter was sent to all property owners in May to announce the postponement of the RHIA Annual Meeting. This was necessary because at the time, a Colorado Public Health Order did not allow meetings of more than ten people, to contain spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The RHIA Board is continuing to monitor the developing situation, and will announce a

meeting date in the future once it is determined. Thank you for your patience.

ANNUAL PICNIC DATE TO BE DETERMINED

For the same health and safety concerns noted above, The RHIA Board has not yet set a date for the traditional annual neighborhood BBQ picnic. Stay tuned.

ANNUAL DUES PROGRESS

Thanks to all who have paid their RHIA membership annual dues for the 2020-2021 fiscal year that began on May 1. To date, half of our 205 property owners in Rustic Hills Acres have paid the \$50 annual dues.

In the past, many have waited and done so at the Annual Meeting in May, which has been postponed this year.

For those who have not paid yet, please mail your check to RHIA at P.O. Box 75074, Colorado Springs, CO 80970. Thank you!

RHIA BOARD PROVISIONAL EXTENSION

RHIA Board elections were not held in May due to COVID-caused postponement of the Annual Meeting. All six Board members whose terms expired on May 30 agreed to continue to serve on a provisional basis until new elections are next held.

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.

Please see the list of Board members on the next page.

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

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 Steininger	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/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.

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

**The Audit Committee completed their review of the RHIA and Rustic Hills Trash Coalition financial accounts and found the books to be in good order. The Committee was then dissolved. A new Audit Committee will be appointed in 2021.

RHIA 2020-2021 BUDGET

Lacking input from the membership this year due to postponement of the Annual Meeting, the Board decided to adopt for 2020-2021 the same budget that the membership approved at the May 2019 Annual Meeting.

NEW NEIGHBOR?

If you have a new neighbor, please contact us so that the RHIA Hospitality Committee can pay a visit and officially welcome them. Please e-mail us at rusticboard2018@gmail.com.

ATTEMPTED THEFTS FROM VEHICLES

There is a new pandemic in Colorado Springs and it is not a virus, but it could be related. At the time of this writing, there have been at least eight successful or attempted thefts from motor vehicles in our neighborhood. These crimes have been mostly of the opportunistic variety, with the thieves hoping to find your vehicle door unlocked.

Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle, and do lock your vehicle and set its alarm system.

Also, do not leave a garage door opener in a car parked outdoors, or the thieves can may be able to use that to gain entry into your home.

THE FLAG THEFTS CONTINUE

Thirteen more flags have been stolen since Memorial Day. RHIA sent a letter to the Chief of Police to ensure that he was aware of the problem. He instructed staff from the Stetson Hills Division to meet with RHIA. When we met with the police on June 10, we were told that CSPD has sent ten cases to the District Attorney



Memorial Day flag theft in action, at the Rustic Hills Baptist Church on Murray Blvd.

and only the two strongest have been pursued against the 15 year-old suspect.

The bottom line is that our public legal system will not stop the kid from stealing our flags. Nevertheless, if victimized, you are encouraged to contact the police and press charges. Please report any such theft to CSPD at 444-7000.

You may wish to sue the thief’s family in small claims court. Your case will be much stronger if you have identification on your flag and flagpole that will help to prove it is your property.

As long feared, the suspect allegedly escalated his behavior to felony damage of a vehicle in early July.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH EFFORTS

Rustic Hills resident Chaim Goldman has set up several online virtual meetings recently to discuss improving readiness and coordination for crime prevention and emergency response in our neighborhood. If you are interested in learning about the next such meeting, please contact him at:
rhaneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com

DOING BUSINESS AND VOLUNTEERING IN THE NEGHBORHOOD

A recent RHIA e-mail reported that Mr. Goldman is also working to establish a neighborhood network of skills and services that Rustic Hills Acres can provide to each other, thus supporting the economic vitality of our neighborhood. If you are interested in this initiative, the internet address for the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6WFDS9M>

OUR WEBSITE:
rustichills.info

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP DAY

To turn in household hazardous waste, you must complete the Certification Liability Release form.

- Waste must be in original containers, securely sealed. **Unlabeled and / or non-secured leaking containers will not be accepted.**
- NEVER combine materials in a plastic trash bag or similar container. Some chemicals can cause a toxic or explosive chemical reaction when mixed together.
- Separate different types of wastes into product categories, as noted on the release form.
- Projects must be limited to a specific group, such as a Homeowners' Association or a group of employees at a business. **NO events are to be open to the public.**
- Items must be presented at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in a single layer to be visible at time of drop-off.
- Containers larger than five gallons will not be accepted. No containers will be returned.
- NO industrial or business waste will be accepted. Only items that can normally be purchased at a store like Home Depot, Lowe's, Walmart, etc. will be accepted. No commercial or laboratory-grade chemicals, cleaners, etc.
- **TVs and monitors must not exceed 19" diagonal screen size.** Addition items accepted also include CPU's, keyboards and mice **(It is your responsibility to wipe data from CPU's)**
- **The only batteries accepted are sealed lead acid batteries. That would be from a vehicle, motorcycle, etc.**
- **Items not accepted include automotive fluids including antifreeze, brake fluid, motor oil, transmission fluid, etc.; fluorescent lighting, tires, mattresses, medications, sharps, etc.; no appliances, no cords that are not attached.**
- Any items refused by the El Paso County Household Hazardous Waste Facility will remain with the individual bringing the items in, and becomes their responsibility to either return to the original customer or secure proper disposal at their own expense.
- El Paso County will provide Recycling Directories for alternative options.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CERTIFICATION LIABILITY RELEASE

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I hereby declare and affirm of my own personal knowledge that the items delivered to the El Paso County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility was, in fact, generated through household use and is not business or commercial subject to federal or state waste regulations. I understand that should I surrender any data containing device to the El Paso County Household Hazardous Waste Facility for recycling it is solely my responsibility to protect my personal information. I further agree to defend, indemnify, and hold El Paso County harmless from and against any and all liabilities, demands, claims, damages, suits, judgments and decrees, and court awards including costs, expenses and attorneys' fees, on account of injuries to or death of any person or persons or damage to any property or personal information arising out of or related to my willful misconduct or negligent acts, errors or omissions for the duration of my participation. I understand that the items will be accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility in reliance on the accuracy and truth of my foregoing declaration / affirmation.

Please follow instructions on page 1.

ITEMS	QUANTITIES				
	Pints	Quarts	Gallons	5-Gallons	Other
All-Purpose Cleaners					
Lead Acid Batteries					
Disinfectants					
Drain Cleaners					
Fuel(s)					
Lawn & Garden Chemicals					
Latex Paint / Stains					
Oil-based Paints / Solvents					
Electronic Equipment					