



BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

BOD Meeting Update

The BHR board met on September 18 via video conference. Treasurer Art Jackson discussed the delinquent dues and the liens placed on those properties. In May there were 27 delinquent accounts, and at the end of August there are now 15 delinquent accounts. Jim Nance, Road Chair, reported that a lot of work needs to be done on the roads because of the heavy rains this summer, and progress is being made on clearing the culverts. Brad Brooks, EMC, explained the work being completed on the ranch water tank and stated that Team Rubicon will not be able to help with our mitigation grant until next year. Susanne Bloomfield discussed the work that needs to be completed for the front gate and is going to look into signage for the other entrances. Nancy Pasternak, Compliance chair, stated that two driveways have been approved. Access the link on the left for the full Minutes as well as the Financials.

Important Links

- [Blackhawk Website](#)
- [Blackhawk Facebook](#)
- [Covenants](#)
- [Driveway and Building Compliance Forms](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [BOD Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financials](#)

Editor: [Susanne Bloomfield](#)
Reporters: Nancy Pasternak, Melissa Miller, & Judy Nance

Update on CSFS Mitigation Grant

by Brad Brooks

We have made slow but steady progress on our fire mitigation grant along Wapiti Drive. We have about 15% of the area completed and made our first request for matching money from the Colorado State Forest Service. We were reimbursed with a 50% match of \$7500.00 for the \$15000 we have paid our contractor during the period of 2020-2021. This money will further fuel our hard cash match on the grant.

We hope to have at least two more Community Mitigation days in October as our weather cools down, and we prepare for winter. Our contractor on this project, Chris Dotter, will be harvesting the trees and mulching the slash piles we created in our community workdays earlier this summer. Stop by and see the area as we begin making the final push into the snowy months.

Things You Need

To Know

*Home Ignition
Zone Tutorial &
Demonstration*

with Paul Branson

Lot # 169

September 22

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Dedicated Firefighting Water Tank

By Brad Brooks

A new front has been opened in our wildland fire-fighting and mitigation efforts on the Blackhawk Ranch. We now have set and fitted up a 3,000 gallon water tank dedicated to fighting wildland fires on the ranch. This project had languished for several years before being revived by the current POA. The result of a partnership between the Blackhawk POA and the Huerfano County Fire Protection District (HCFPD), the tank is strategically located at the intersection of 4-Mile Canyon Road and Rugby Mines Road. The design of the pad and the tank's connectivity with the HCFPD trucks has been an ongoing project. With the valving in place, we now have 1,000 gallons in the tank with another 2,000 coming in the next week. This will save the HCFPD hours of time going back into town to obtain additional firefighting water during an actual fire event. As we become more experienced with this new tool, we will likely be undertaking additional strategic locations across the ranch.



This milestone is actually part of a larger 3-pronged strategy to better prepare Blackhawk Ranch for wildland fire prevention and containment. Those three prongs are: 1) Land owner education and mitigation training; 2) Grant writing and execution for POA-Based Wildland Fire Mitigation Projects funded by either County, State or Federal Agencies (we have an active Colorado State Forest Service Grant now); and 3) Expansion of firefighting infrastructure on the Blackhawk Ranch that will amp up our on-ranch firefighting and suppression capacity while leveraging partnerships with local firefighting organizations.

This unifying project involved numerous residents across the ranch. Many thanks to Terry and Susanne Bloomfield, Roger Buttignol, Gary Hanks, Clay Pasternak, Jim Nance, JP Angelillo, Robert Burke, Brad and Marian Brooks and Art Jackson. Many thanks for the help of Chris Dotter on this project as well. Finally, thanks to the HCFPD for their participation in this project and others to come.

A Moment in Time

by Nancy Pasternak



Did you know that there is a contemporary art museum in downtown Walsenburg? It is the Museum of Friends and was opened in October of 2006 by Brendt Berger and Maria Cocchiarelli. Their shared vision for the new museum was to create a place where everyone feels welcomed and the art created by all people valued. The initial collection of 600 works given by their friends became the core of the collection. The intention of the museum was to give back to the community of Walsenburg and Huerfano County what was freely given in friendship – art by artists from around the world. The artists represent diverse backgrounds, interests, and styles. The art

work in this collection is representative of contemporary issues that explore the artist's role in society. Over the past 15 years, the collection has grown to over 1,600 works that include paintings, sculptures, fine art prints, drawings, photographs, and digital media.

There are two galleries devoted to the Pacific. These exhibits explore pre-Columbian, Mexican, Australian, Japanese, and Southeast Asian artifacts and focus on Aboriginal Polynesian. The works on display are greatly treasured by Brendt Berger as they have been passed down to him from his Native Hawaiian ancestors. They include a Kahuna bowl from a practicing ancestor in 1700s, a Kapa Moi ancestral bed and hand stitched quilts from early 1800s, calabashes, serving platters, and an ivory ankle bracelet, all pre-contact.

The Museum of Friends occupies 10,000 square feet of display space with classroom areas and a gift shop. MoF's inclusive and egalitarian open-door policy aims to uplift the community through engaging programs to develop creativity, inclusion, and educational opportunities. Many exhibits as well as public and educational programs explore cross cultural understanding and tolerance.



The museum is located at 109 East 6th Street, and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no admission fee. For further information, contact the museum at info@museumoffriends.org or 719-738-2858 to schedule a tour of the permanent collection. Or visit their website for an audio tour and browse the on-line shop for art pieces and photographs. Additionally, there is usually a traveling temporary exhibit to view on the main floor, as well as the gift shop located just to the right of the front doors. So, stop by and discover this diverse museum on Walsenburg's Main Street!

Waste and Recycling Options

By Susanne Bloomfield

For those who are looking for alternatives to renting a dumpster, several options to dispose of waste as well as to recycle are available for Blackhawk residents.

The Huerfano County Transfer Station in Walsenburg, located at 701 Industrial Boulevard on the south exit of I-25 and about 1/2 mile north, has free recycling bins at the entry for glass bottles, aluminum, tin cans, and paper (junk mail, office papers, and catalogs). Although they have to be separated, having special boxes in the garage or storage area makes this an easier task. The Station accepts cardboard, also, but it must be taken to the east entry of the large building where an attendant will take it for you. As for miscellaneous trash, anything that you can fit into a large Lawn and Leaf size bag costs \$3.00, and an attendant will help you unload it in the large building. I can usually stuff in about 4 –5 large kitchen-size trash bags. The transfer station also takes any type of large trash, and the charge is \$23.00 for a pickup load. They are open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. although they close for lunch from 11:30 — noon. All of the drives are paved. They do change their days and hours in the winter, so check the sign on the gate, call them at (719) 989-0148, or visit their website: [Trash and Recycling | City of Walsenburg](#).



Unfortunately, the Walsenburg site does not recycle plastic, but many people on the Ranch use Pueblo Recycle Works located at 1595 Stockyards Road. They will take all other recyclables, too. I usually fill up a couple of lawn and leaf bags every 2-3 months to make the trip worthwhile. They are open on Thursday and Friday from 1:00-6:00 and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00-2:00. For more information, check their website: [Pueblo RecycleWorks](#).

Trinidad offers the City Land Fill that will take any type of trash, in bags or as separate items. They charge \$27 a ton for solid waste with a minimum of \$10 and \$5.00 for trash bags no larger than 35 gallons. The down side is that you will have to drive to the landfill site on dirt drives and unload your trash yourself. They have no recycling program. They are located at 2401 N State St, Trinidad and are open on Monday - Friday: 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. [Official Website of the City of Trinidad Colorado Landfill](#)

Day Tripping

by Susanne Bloomfield

A tour of the 19th century Victorian mansion, [Rosemount](#), in Pueblo is a trip back in time to when elegance and craftsmanship flourished. Built in 1891-1892 by John and Margaret Thatcher, the home boasts of 24,000 square feet, 37 rooms, and ten fireplaces. The house contains three full, furnished floors as well as a full basement and full attic.



The only residents of the home for 75 years were the Thatchers before it was donated to the city of Pueblo. With 85% of the home original to the 1890s, it is one of the top five homes in the United States to showcase authentic, intact furnishings. Tours are given on the half hour Tuesday through Saturday between 10:00 and 3:30.

The centerpiece of the home is the grand stairway with its beautiful stained glass window that makes the golden oak woodwork glow. Each room features a different type of wood: golden oak, lacewood, curly birch, birdseye maple, tiger maple, hand-rubbed cherry, and oak painted ivory with gilt trim. Original paintings, pottery, sculptures, and ceramics grace every room.



On October 14-16 and 21-23, the museum will offer "[Night Terrors](#)," five hair-raising tales, each acted out in a separate room in the mansion by *Artists Anonymous*. Guests will move throughout the mansion to view the experimental theatrical productions. The productions will run from 6:00-9:00 p.m., with groups moving through every fifteen minutes and lasting approximately one hour.

Christmas decorations are also a MUST-SEE!

Meet Your Neighbors

by Melissa Miller

Raymond & Sherri McCune have owned lots 36 and 37 off of Lower Mine Road for about five years but have just recently built their forever home here in Blackhawk Ranch. They have only been full time residents for 5 months now but seem to be enjoying every minute of it. Originally from Walsenburg, Sherri has returned to her roots here after spending much of her life building a career and a family in the Pueblo area. Ray is just a hop, skip, and a jump from his hometown, Pueblo, as well. Don't let that fool you though. Ray calls Pueblo home, but he has spent a majority of his life on the road. Between oversized load hauling and pilot car driving, Ray has driven over 4 million miles all across the USA!



Conveniently enough, Sherri has driven quite a few miles herself. Sherri spent years growing M & S Trucking, only to meet fellow driver Ray about ten years ago. Together, they have spent years working side by side at the trucking company. They have passed a majority of the business down to Sherri's daughter, and it has transformed into 5150 Trucking, keeping the family business alive. Sherri and Ray couldn't quite give up work just yet, and they still have just a few trucks and trailers on the road. Although partially retired, Ray and Sherri keep quite busy clearing and perfecting their lots here in BHR, as well as helping wherever they can. Most recently, the duo lent a hand and a few pieces of equipment to complete the demolition of the old front entrance gate of the ranch, which made quick work of what could have been a time-consuming task. It was greatly appreciated by all.

With quite a large family, Sherri and Ray stay busy. Sherri has two daughters and a six-month-old grandson, Nathaniel. When Nathaniel comes to visit, so does his partner in crime, his pup. A crawling grandbaby and three dogs surely keeps them on their toes. Ray has his hands full as well, with two daughters, two sons and "about a dozen" grand and great-grand kids! Now that the pair is settled into their home, they hope to have visitors more frequently at the ranch. That won't stop them from traveling, though. Ray and Sherri recently purchased a new camper and plan to take a trip to Florida to visit family and sightsee along the way. That is, if Ray can tear himself away from tinkering on Sherri's late dad's El Camino, or the never ending project of clearing their beautiful lot!