



Douglass Ranch News

September 2017
Vol. 54

Douglass Ranch Drive Mitigation By Tom Washburn

Douglass Ranch Drive Firewise mitigation has been completed for 2017.

The effort was worked in two separate stages: tree and shrub trimming and cutting on Saturday July 1st and chipping on Wednesday July 5th.

The trimming and cutting effort was performed by nine neighborhood volunteers. In addition a number of neighbors mitigated trees on their lot which added significantly to the success of the overall effort. The mitigation efforts on individual lots are an essential part of increasing home survivability. After the day's effort was completed, a lunch was hosted by **Mary Sosnowski**. Our thanks to Mary for the welcome hospitality.

The chipping effort was performed with the assistance of the Jefferson County Fire Management Team: **Arron Betcher, Brendon Jackson** and **Patrick Taggart**. There were eight neighborhood volunteers who assisted in feeding the chipper. **Joan Grawe** kindly supplied Subway sandwiches to the group. The sandwiches were unexpected and a welcome treat.

At a July 19th Firewise Committee meeting future mitigation plans were discussed as well as potential evacuation routes and submittal of a Firewise Community application.

Completion and submittal of a 2017 Firewise Community application for Douglass Ranch is now underway.

From the President

I want to welcome some of our newest neighbors in Douglass Ranch. They are: **Steve & Nancy Flynn** (Lot 1), **Barbara Kausch, Brandon Malone, & Karina Kausch** (Lot 15), **Mark McKnight & Tiffani Griffith** (Lot 2), and **Aaron & Amy Reilly** (Lot 42).

We are in the process of updating our neighborhood directory to include information for our new neighbors.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Firefighters Dinner on May 4. Our local firefighters always enjoy the annual meal that we provide to their staff and volunteers. Thanks again to **Mary Sosnowski** and **Colleen Jorgensen** for coordinating this year's efforts.

The DRPOA annual meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 26. Property owners will be receiving formal notification pursuant to our Bylaws and more details in late September or early October. We need to elect several new board members at this annual meeting. Please let me or any other board member know if you are interested in serving on the board.

Please see the article on the next page that details information about what is happening at the Douglass Ranch Pond, which plays a key role in firefighting efforts in Douglass Ranch.

Best Regards,

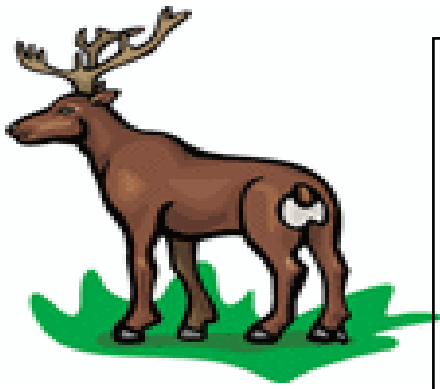
Susan Festag
President, DRPOA
303-816-1348

Quick Reference

Annual Meeting: Thursday, October 26
(Elk Creek Elementary School: 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.)

More information about Douglass Ranch can be found on our website:

<http://www.douglassranch.org/>



Douglass Ranch Pond

The Douglass Ranch Pond is a water augmentation pond that is located on Lot 7. A key function of this pond is for fire protection usage in Douglass Ranch. Pursuant to our Covenants, the Board of Directors is responsible for maintaining and managing the Pond. The Covenants go on to state that the Board is the sole judge of the appropriate maintenance and upkeep of this area.

Some of you may have noticed that the water level in the pond was visibly lower in the middle of July. This lower water level was due to a leak around the outlet tubes.

Gary & Cyndy Lenhart notified the Board about this problem and **Randy & Tricia Jensen** immediately went to the pond to try to help stem the leak. After some partially successful efforts, they determined that we needed more expert help.

We notified both the Elk Creek Fire Protection District and Mountain Mutual Reservoir Company, the company that is responsible for assisting us in the management of the Water Decree that granted authority to fill the pond. **Gary & Cyndy** and several board members met with these experts in late July. We were informed that the pond is crucial to firefighting efforts in Douglass Ranch and that it is imperative that we find a way to maintain the water in the pond.

While the rains in August temporarily raised the level of the water in the pond, they did not resolve the leakage problem. **Randy Jensen** made arrangements to have some experts examine the pond and make recommendations regarding the scope of work required to resolve this problem. This examination of the pond took place on September 6.

Once we receive specific recommendations about the scope of the work required, we will solicit bids to perform this work. While some temporary repairs have been made in the past, we believe that it is time to find a more permanent solution to problems with the pond.

We will keep you updated as we get more information about the scope of work needed and the results of the bid process. We do believe that it is critical that we do whatever is necessary to ensure the availability of this key firefighting resource in our neighborhood.

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