April 2025

Meadows Monthly

A monthly newsletter for residents of beautiful Elk Meadows in Ridgway, CO

Meadows Monthly- April Edition

(arriving in May!)

Hello Neighbors,

In the past few days, we've had overnight freezing, warm temps, cool temps, sun, rain, snow, graupel, lightning, and thunder. A sure sign that its springtime in the San Juans!

In this issue

- Community survey
- Quarterly BoD meeting
- Emergency address signs
- Wildfire mitigation initiatives
- Our extended neighborhood

Community Survey

As of April 30th, the Community Survey has concluded. Thank you to everyone who participated! We will be organizing and analyzing all the responses, which we will share via email prior to the annual meeting in July.

Quarterly BoD Meeting

Our quarterly Board of Directors meeting will take place remotely on Monday, May 19th at 6:30pm.

While this is generally a meeting for the Board, residents may also attend if there is anything on the agenda that is of interest, or that you would like to bring up with the Board.

Look for the agenda which will be mailed out in the next week.

911 Emergency Address Signs

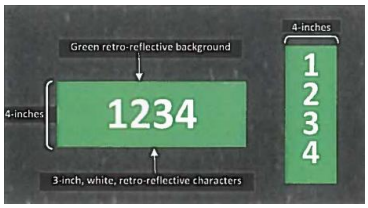
As part of our ongoing fire preparedness efforts, we've discovered that many residences in our neighborhood lack adequate address signage.

This is an important safety concern because in an emergency situation, properly marked addresses can literally make the difference between life and death.

We strongly encourage all homeowners to comply with the emergency address sign program endorsed by Ouray County EMS.

According to Ouray County Land Use Code, address signs must meet these specific requirements:

- Metal construction with retro-reflective material
- Green background with white characters
- Numbers/letters must be 3 inches tall, retro-reflective, and centered
- Signs must be securely mounted and visible from the County Road or driveway



For complete Ouray County regulations, please visit: the Ouray County website.

You have several options for obtaining compliant signs:

- Order online from American manufacturers like SafetySign.com
- Purchase DIY kits from Home Depot or Lowe's that can be customized with numerical decals

Let's all do our part to ensure first responders can quickly locate our homes when seconds count!

Wildfire Mitigation

As you may know, we have been working with the Western Region Wildfire Council (WRWC) to help guide our community wildfire preparedness strategy. As part of this effort, WRWC has dedicated specific dates to conduct property assessments in our neighborhood.

Property assessment opportunities with WRWC will be available in Elk Meadows from **July 21-25**.

During these 45–60-minute site visits, a WRWC wildfire mitigation specialist and/or forester will meet with you at your home or property to discuss site-specific wildfire risk and wildfire mitigation strategies including:

- Life safety concerns
- Home vulnerabilities
- Vegetation management

They will also provide targeted and specific recommendations for your property.

To schedule your assessment during the established **July 21-25** timeframe:

1. Visit www.cowildfire.org
2. Click on "Request a Site Visit"
3. Complete the form at the bottom of the page

Please note that while this service was previously offered at no cost, due to recent funding changes, a small fee may now apply.

We will also be conducting another chipping project and/or community clean up event this summer, but the dates have yet to be set. More details will follow soon.

Our Extended Neighborhood

Top of the Pines (TOP)
TOP is a county-owned open space managed by a non-profit organization and is located near the top of County Road 5.
As you may know, in this and previous years, they have been experiencing an increase in prairie dog activity.

With the park being used by the public for activities such as school field trips, public camping, recreational hiking trails, frisbee golf, and special events, county officials have safety concerns.

If this issue is important to you, you may share your input on prairie dog management by contacting TOP directly at info@topofthepines.com or the Ouray County Commissioners.

Also, if you are a frequent user of TOP and are not already a member, please consider becoming one to support this important asset and their mission.

Tranquility Lane Development
A Public Notice sign has recently appeared at the intersection of Tranquility Lane and CR5. Gold Mountain Ranch, the new owner of this property, has applied to Ouray County for a Special Use Permit to develop a guest ranch at this location.

For detailed information about this proposed development, please refer to the April 17-23 edition of the Plaindealer newspaper, which contains a good article on the subject.

If you wish to share your comments or concerns about this proposed Special Use Permit, please direct them to the Ouray County Commissioners.

Pasqueflowers are out at TOP!

Pasqueflowers are the first flowers to bloom in the spring and are a member of the buttercup family. They grow close to the ground and have a characteristic ‘anemone’ form when they go to seed.

Contact Us!

If you have anything you would like to see in upcoming newsletters, please contact us at emhoaSecretary@gmail.com.