May 2025

Meadows Monthly

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

Meadows Monthly- May Edition

Hello Neighbors,

With Memorial Day weekend marking the 'official' start of summer, our neighborhood is about to get busy!

If you are traveling this summer, please be safe!

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Mountain Lion Sighting

Late in the week of May 18th, we received notice of a mountain lion sighting in the 1300 area of Aspen Drive.

Keep an eye on those pets!

Summer Traffic

With kids out of school, people walking dogs and biking on the road, increased visitor traffic, and soon-to-be newborn wildlife active in our area, please use extra caution when driving through the neighborhood. The most effective way to ensure everyone's safety is simple: **SLOW DOWN!**

Excessive speed also creates dust that particularly affects residents living along our main roads, but poor air quality impacts our entire community. If you have renters, summer guests, construction crews, or delivery services coming to your property, please remind them that our neighborhood is a "no dust zone." The key to keeping our neighborhood dust-free is reduced speed—it makes all the difference. Thank you!

Water Conservation

As you may know, it was an extremely dry winter here in SW Colorado. While we always encourage conservation of our most valuable resource, this year requires everyone's heightened attention to water usage.

Over the past year, you may have noticed inconsistencies in water usage reports. Our meter reading equipment had reached the end of its useful life, resulting in inaccurate readings.

This winter, the board approved funding for new equipment and software that will provide us with accurate usage data.

With our improved monitoring system coming online, please pay close attention to your monthly water usage and stay within your allotment. Every drop counts this season!

Summer Visitors

Whether you host family, friends, or rental guests, please help them understand our community guidelines—especially during this exceptionally dry year.

While Elk Meadows follows county fire restrictions, some residents believe these aren't stringent enough given our current conditions. Please emphasize fire safety with all guests, regardless of official county restriction levels.

For Property Owners with Renters:

Long-term renters: Share this newsletter to keep them informed about neighborhood updates and seasonal concerns.

Short-term renters: Include water conservation guidelines in your rental instructions.

Many vacation guests don't realize the fire dangers in mountain communities like ours, and campfires that seem perfect for roasting marshmallows can pose serious risks.

Key Reminders for All Visitors:

- Current fire restrictions and regulations
- Water conservation practices and usage limits
- Dust control through reduced driving speeds
- Road safety awareness
- Turn off outside lighting at night to preserve our community's dark skies

Your help in educating visitors about these critical safety and conservation measures protects our entire community, thank you!

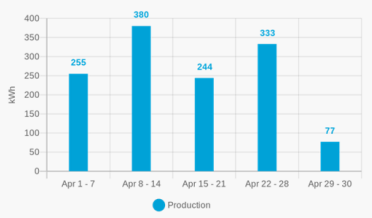
Our Solar Powered Utilities

Did you know that Elk Meadows' utilities run on solar power? In 2016, homeowner David Mullings chaired a special committee that developed this initiative with strong community support.

As a result, today, both our water and wastewater treatment plants are partially powered by solar energy!

David recently shared our energy generation report for April, and we thought that some of you in the community might find the information interesting.

While this chart will be nearly impossible to see, it shows that in April we generated 1.3 MWh of clean energy, resulting in a CO2 reduction of 2.065 lbs. That is equivalent to planting 15 trees—and that's just in one month!



So far this year, we have produced 4 MWh of solar power.

These numbers demonstrate the real environmental impact of our community's investment in renewable energy. Solar for the win, indeed!

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on July 10th at 6:30pm.

IMPORTANT CHANGE:
The meeting format has been updated from hybrid to remote-only due to technical difficulties at the 4-H Center.

Our governing documents require that meeting packets be mailed as hard copies one month in advance. These will be sent out today (6/2) so please watch your mailbox and contact us if you don't receive your packet.

Additionally, the Zoom link will be emailed to all residents one week prior to the meeting. Please check your email and add the meeting to your calendar.

We look forward to seeing you all then.

Contact Us

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