



## *INDIAN MOUNTAIN NEWS FALL 2014*

### A JOINT NEWSLETTER OF IMMD and IMPOA

#### **HOW TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT INDIAN MOUNTAIN and STAY INFORMED**

IMPOA and IMMD go to great lengths to provide easily accessible and up-to-date information to our community. Whether you live out of state, do not have access to the internet, only visit IM a couple times each year, prefer to read printed information, or just like the assurance of hearing a voice, we try to accommodate. In turn, we hope you will seek out information and be an engaged citizen in the affairs of our community starting with the day you close on your property. Below is a list of ways to get information on Indian Mountain and to stay Informed.

Go On-line: [www.indianmountain.info](http://www.indianmountain.info) for IMMD; and [www.impoa.net](http://www.impoa.net) for IMPOA. The IMPOA and IMMD websites contain extensive information and are the best means to get up-to-date information from board minutes, budgets, social events, newsletters, policies, plans, board names and contact information, and much more.

Join the Indian Mountain Email List: IMPOA and IMMD maintain a very “private and confidential” email list to communicate on occasion about important and timely topics and for early distribution of the IM Newsletters. Emails from Indian Mountain are occasional and viewed by the Boards as important requiring the attention of our community. The email list is strictly controlled and is not distributed to any unauthorized person. *You can send your email address and other contact information to [IMPOA01@hotmail.com](mailto:IMPOA01@hotmail.com).*

Google Indian Mountain Subdivision: If you misplace the IMPOA or IMMD website addresses, go to any search engine like Google and query something like “how can I find information about the Indian Mountain Subdivision in Park County” or “near Como or Jefferson, Colorado”. You will receive a number of websites that will get you to IMPOA or IMMD.

Go to the Indian Mountain Newsletter: IMPOA and IMMD publish three joint newsletters per year in January, May, and September. The newsletters are a great means of keeping you informed. We post the newsletters on the IMPOA and IMMD websites for easy access and storage. Those property owners who have provided us their current email address receive immediate distribution, often before they are even posted on the websites. Snail-mail hardcopies are available upon special request for those who contact Samantha Bertin, IM Business Manager, at 719-836-9043.

Attend IMPOA Board meetings: IMPOA hosts twelve regular business meetings with opportunity to meet, greet, and make public comments. The meetings are held regularly on the second Saturday of each month at the Community Center starting at 11am.

Attend IMMD Board meetings: IMMD hosts twelve regular business meetings with opportunity to meet, greet, and make public comments. The meetings are held regularly on the second Saturday of each month at the Community Center starting at 9am.

Attend Community Events: Each year there are several community-wide events to meet, greet, and gain information. These events will vary each year but often include a spring community-wide open house during the Memorial Day holiday week, the annual IM picnic held during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday week, the annual IMPOA members' meeting held in August, and special community events associated with Thanksgiving, Christmas cookie exchanges, Broncos watch parties, and Frisbee tournaments.

Pick-Up the Phone: There are 7 IMPOA Board members and 5 IMMD Board members. We are elected officials committed to assisting the Indian Mountain community. Feel free to call us if you have questions. Our phone numbers are listed at the bottom of this newsletter, on the websites and available from Samantha, IM Business Manager, at 719-836-9043.

Email Your Board Members: All of the 12 Board members (combined IMMD and IMPOA) are accessible by email. Our email addresses are listed at the bottom of this newsletter, on the websites and available from Samantha, IM Business Manager, at 719-836-9043.

Call Samantha: 24/7 you can call the Indian Mountain business manager's phone and leave a message for what information you need. Depending on the day of week, it may be a few days before we can respond but we will respond within the week. The telephone # is 719-836-9043.

Visit the Community Center Office: The Community Center has a business office staffed by Samantha Bertin. Office hours can vary during the year but generally Samantha is present on Thursday – Saturday mornings.

Browse our Information kiosks: The community maintains two information kiosks located at the Community Center on Keneu Court and at the Comfort Station at Indian Mountain Park.

Ask Nextdoor Indian Mountain: Nextdoor is a social media and networking provider that is free of charge. The Nextdoor Indian Mountain site has a number of engaged IM residents who will be happy to answer your questions, provide advice or direct you those who might be better able to assist you.

Meet Your IM Neighbor: We encourage property owners to meet their IM neighbors and exchange contact information. Information about Indian Mountain comes from many sources and checking with your neighbors is a good means.

Call Your Realtor or Check Your Closing Documents: You may have missed it, but when you purchased your property there were a number of sales brochures, closing documents, title search documents and other papers which provided names, contact information, covenants, websites and other means to reach us. Your realtor is well aware of IMPOA and IMMD and can help you.

## **INDIAN MOUNTAIN METROPOLITAN DISTRICT NEWS**

### **NEW IMMD BOARD MEMBER**

On June 14, 2014, IMMD welcomed Louise Mark to the Metropolitan District's Board of Directors. Louise took the position of first Vice President, and is a welcome addition to the group. Louise has been a full time resident here in Indian Mountain for the last ten years. Previously, Louise served as the Office Manager for IMR&P District from 2007-2009. She graduated from Regis University with a BS degree in management, and worked for thirty-five years in the telecom industry.

Louise spends her free time hiking, snowshoeing and reading. Her two dogs Angel and Jimmy keep her plenty busy the rest of the time. Louise will be a great asset to the Board. We welcome her and thank her for volunteering her time to serve the IM Community.

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**2014 JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> PICNIC**

The annual 4th of July picnic was held on Saturday, July 5th, at the Indian Mountain Park and Pavilion located at 1996 Chief Trail. It was attended by 285 people.

The picnic was jointly hosted by IMMD and IMPOA. The main dish of BBQ beef and pulled pork was provided by IMMD and prepared by Samantha Bertin, Office Manager. IMPOA provided desserts and drinks and attending community members brought a wide variety of delicious side dishes.

Many donated gifts were raffled which included a wood treasure chest crafted by Chuck Atkinson, IMPOA merchandise (mug, ball caps, t-shirts) and other items from local merchants. Adrienne Fischer volunteered to host the adult horse shoe tournament. Of note, we need a volunteer for next year's picnic to sponsor the program for kid games. Thanks to all for making the 2014 picnic a huge success.

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## **ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

The good news is that there's always some fun as well as educational events going on to better serve the community. All activities and events listed below are held at the Indian Mountain Community Center. These are just a few that are on the calendar for the remainder of 2014, however, if anyone has some ideas, please forward them onto Bev Bushaw at [bbushaw@comcast.net](mailto:bbushaw@comcast.net) for more information as to how you can host an event! All events and their status can be found on the Events Calendar at [www.indianmountain.info](http://www.indianmountain.info).

### **Special Events:**

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon – Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 3 pm. Sponsored by IMMD & IMPOA with lunch, beverages and raffle prizes. A special opportunity to thank all those volunteers who commit their time and efforts to the community.

Ask An Expert – Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 2 pm. Have you ever wondered how to winterize your cabin, have you ever had a frozen septic tank or a tank that needs to be pumped out, have you ever had frozen pipes? Do you know whom to call when you have these situations? We are looking to bring a variety of experts to the event that will be able to give advice as well provide future assistance in emergencies. If you have specific inquiries, please contact Bev Bushaw at [bbushaw@comcast.net](mailto:bbushaw@comcast.net) so that she can try to arrange to have an expert there for your needs!

Indian Mountain Community Center Craft Show – Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm. This has been brought back by popular demand! Park County crafters will provide you with gift selections for the holidays, for teachers, for a special friend and even for “yourself”. If you are a vendor that would like to exhibit, please contact Bev Bushaw at [bbushaw@comcast.net](mailto:bbushaw@comcast.net) or 303-990-0459.

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner – Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm to 6 pm. This is such a special time of the year to spend special time with family and friends in the community. Bring a side dish to compliment the Turkey that is provided by IMMD.

### **On-going Activities:**

Silver Sneaker Fitness Class Every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., Joy Hines, a certified Silver Sneaker instructor, has volunteered her time to keep us healthy. It's fun, it's free and it's another way to meet your neighbors. Exercise mat or towel is advised for floor work.

Art Class The class meets every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Instruction is provided by Jan Berglund, a known local artist and instructor throughout the country. Fee required. For more information, contact Jan at 719-836-0988.

Book Club It meets the third Tuesday of every month at 12 p.m., starting in September. Share some great books, discussion of books and catching up with friends with a potluck lunch to top it off. For more information, contact Jan Berglund at 719-836-0988.

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## PASTURE GOLPHING



One of the lesser-used recreational facilities in Indian Mountain is the pasture golf course, affectionately named “Golpher Holes” golf course. For those unfamiliar with the course, it is a 9-hole executive course located at the entrance to the burn pit & RV storage lot. The original intention of the developers of Indian Mountain was to make it a standard course with grassy fairways and neatly trimmed greens; there was even a small pond on the course, Papoose Lake, which is now the burn pit. However, because of the semi-arid weather in South Park Valley and insufficient funding to develop and manage a well-manicured course, it reverted to being a “pasture” golf course, which means that the fairways are native grasses, the tee boxes are the same location for all players, and the greens are sand.

Playing the course requires very little – of course, there are no fees, and there are even some golf clubs and balls at the start of the course that can be used if you don’t have equipment of your own. Because the course is in a natural state, it’s a good idea to use golf clubs that you are not afraid to scuff a bit. The natural grasses also make it so walking the course is more demanding than a stroll on your local country club links; good boots provide more comfortable walking than light tennis shoes. As you play the course, you’ll notice vestiges of the original plans for the course – you’ll find sprinklers scattered about, but of course they are not in service.

There are maps at the start of the course to help guide you around the holes. The fairways have black and white poles marking the center of the fairways, in case you can’t see the sand greens from the tee boxes. A good eye is required following your shots, since the golf balls will usually disappear behind some healthy wild grasses, though a puff of dust in the distance will give a clue as to the flight of your ball. It’s recommended that you use brightly colored golf balls to aid in finding them on the course. You won’t have to worry about hazards on this course, since there is no water. The only out-of-bounds is the outside border of the course, which is marked with barbed wire fencing. Retrieve lost balls at your own risk.

Even though this article paints a less than idyllic picture of a round of golf, it can be a lot of fun to hike the course with a friend or two, and the stories that you’ll have at the end will be as memorable as many you’ll have on other courses. The hike provides some great exercise in clean, fresh air. If you haven’t played Golpher Holes yet, consider challenging some friends to a unique experience. The course is in great shape this year. The sand greens were a bit greener last year, which is not helpful when trying to putt through foot-tall weeds. Dan Money and Charles Phillips spent a great deal of effort dressing the sand greens this spring, killing the weeds and dragging the greens three times to put them in the best shape they’ve been in for years. Give the course a try – there aren’t many pasture golf courses with sand greens any more (you can actually find out about other pasture golf courses at [pasturegolf.com](http://pasturegolf.com)), so come enjoy a bit of history!

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## **IMMD LODGE UPDATE**

The Lodge continues to be a very busy place this year as it is renting almost every weekend and still booking up for this fall. If you are interested in renting it for your family or guests you can call the office and reserve it or go online to the website: [indianmountain.info](http://indianmountain.info) to the events calendar under the Lodge Tab to check the availability of renting it. You will also find the reservation form needed on the website under "The Lodge" and can email it to the business office at [indianmtn@hotmail.com](mailto:indianmtn@hotmail.com). Please call Samantha with any questions 719-836-9043.

## **RV STORAGE INFORMATION**

Please get your registration in before November 1, 2014 to store your RV or trailer in the lot this winter. Remember that the deadline to remove trailers from IM lots is always the first day of November. The registration is \$25 per season and the required form can be found on the website under RV storage or you may stop by the office at the Community Center to complete the registration. All units stored must have current plates and registration to be accepted. If you have questions, please call the business office at 719-836-9043.

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## **BURN PIT UPDATE**

Burn Pit volunteers have graciously given their time to support the continued operation of this amenity. We have expanded the number of subdivisions involved in this effort through their monetary membership as well as volunteer efforts. We continue to have other subdivisions expressing an interest to participate in 2015. The Burn Pit, in conjunction, with Indian Mountain Fire Mitigation efforts further protect our community from the potential of devastation due to wildfires.

Surrounding communities have discontinued their slash site operations due to management and operational costs as well as abuse by some of the users with non-slash products. These communities sorely miss access to this type of facility. We are very fortunate that we have had a second successful year of a volunteer managed program.

The weather has proven to be a challenge throughout the season. Unfortunately, we can't control Mother Nature, but the moisture is always welcome. The 2013–2014 year-over-year usage is down, which can be attributed to weather closures in the height of the season. With that being said, there are many Saturdays available for the remainder of the season. The IMMD is also considering extending the Burn Pit season and/or additional days of usage based on volunteer availability. There is still a need for Burn Pit volunteers in October. In addition, anyone wishing to volunteer to monitor the pit for days and times outside of a Saturday are welcomed. Please check [www.indianmountain.info](http://www.indianmountain.info) for open/close status.

The volunteer contribution has been significant in many areas and not just limited to the Burn Pit. In a show of appreciation, IMMD and IMPOA will be hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Community Center. Lunch and beverages will be provided as well as an opportunity to win some exciting prizes. Fun should be had by all. If you, as a volunteer, have not received your electronic invitation or haven't RSVP'd, please contact Bev Bushaw at [bbushaw@comcast.net](mailto:bbushaw@comcast.net) or 303-990-0459.

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## **BEARS ARE ON THE MOVE**

Fall is quickly approaching and the bears are preparing themselves for winter. The average bear eats up to 20,000 calories a day to get ready for hibernation. Here in Indian Mountain we need to be very careful with our garbage and other sources of food (including toiletry items such as toothpaste) that attract bears. If they find food they can become aggressive and will act to defend it. It is important that we all take precautions to



prevent any conflicts with the bears. Keep garbage in a well secured location, and only put out garbage on the morning of pickup. A bear resistant trash receptacle is preferred.

Do not leave pet food outside. Humming bird feeders and bird feeders should be brought in at night and, even during the day, they should be hung high enough so they are inaccessible to bears.

Keep your barbecue grill clean. Leave your grill on for a couple of minutes after cooking to burn off the grease and eliminate odors. Do not keep food in your camper or in your car. Keep your doors and windows locked especially at night. If you see a bear in your neighborhood make it feel unwelcome by making loud noises or use a whistle to scare them away.

We can live in harmony with these awesome creatures. This will require an awareness and commitment on our part to be always mindful of their presence here and to do everything we can to ensure that they do not become a nuisance or a danger.

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## PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR PET

Hiking with your pet can be a fun and rewarding activity, but encounters with wildlife can be dangerous. Some quick and easy tips can help keep you and your pet safe.



Be sure your pet has identification tags on their collar. Micro-chipping has become another way to be sure your pet has identification. Attaching bells to your pet's collar, and talking while you are walking, can alert wildlife to your presence and they may run off. ALWAYS have your pet on a leash! The leash laws apply to the mountains and a leashed pet cannot run after wildlife.

Indian Mountain has a wide variety of wildlife, some of which can be very aggressive. **Mountain lions** are here, though seldom seen. If you encounter one STOP! Stay calm and do not run. Talk loudly and firmly in a low voice, making yourself look large, and back away slowly. **Coyotes** travel in packs, so if you see one, usually there are others nearby. Calmly and slowly back away, maintain eye contact and make yourself look large. Be aware that a solitary coyote will often lure your dog toward a coyote pack, which will then overpower the dog with their attack. If you come across a **bear** and they do not see you, detour quickly, but do not run. If the bear sees you, remain calm, talk in a normal voice, avoid sudden movements and back away slowly.

Sadly, every year several pets are lost here in Indian Mountain. Rarely does the story have a happy ending. The chances of any pet surviving in the wild are slim. Awareness and Prevention go a long way toward keeping your pet safe. For more information on how to keep you and your pet safe, go to: [www.gopetfriendly.com](http://www.gopetfriendly.com).

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## WATER UPDATE

There are now three legal documents pending before the Court which are posted on the IMPOA and IMMD websites: (1) the original complaint filed by Indian Mountain Corporation against the Indian Mountain Metropolitan District, (2) the IMMD counterclaims to the IMC complaint, (3) and the most recently posted document is the IMC reply to the IMMD counterclaims. The Court and the attorneys will set a schedule to resolve these competing claims, including a trial and deadlines for actions leading up to the trial. Both parties will have the opportunity to file motions, take depositions and proceed forward. If either party brings up issues to the judge prior to the trial, the judge can rule on them at that time, or defer until the trial.

Relatedly, on August 9, 2014, the quorum of the IMPOA members attending the annual members meeting developed and unanimously approved a resolution entitled "JUST SAY NO to Indian Mountain Corporation." It is a powerful statement which too is posted on the IMPOA and IMMD websites—we encourage you to read it and share with your IM neighbors. It is included in its entirety in the following IMPOA section of this newsletter. IMMD and IMPOA will continue to post new information on the websites as it becomes available.

## **INDIAN MOUNTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **“JUST SAY NO to IMC” RESOLUTION**

A quorum of the Indian Mountain Property Owners Association unanimously approved this resolution at the Association's Annual Meeting in the Indian Mountain Community Center on August 9, 2014.

#### **"JUST SAY NO to Indian Mountain Corp."**

Whereas,

1. Indian Mountain property owners have paid Indian Mountain Corp. (IMC) and its predecessors for the community's water augmentation plan as reflected in the price the property owners paid for the subdivision's 2,500 lots, which were marketed and valued with access to well water;
2. IMC implemented the community's water augmentation plan for 40 years at no cost to the property owners and never formally notified the property owners that a fee would be charged for future water augmentation;
3. IMC paid less than \$1,000 per year during those 40 years to implement the augmentation plan;
4. In July 2014, the new owners of IMC began seeking more than \$200,000 per year for the same task;
5. Well owners in other subdivisions in Park County typically pay an annual fee of \$40 a year or less for implementation of their water augmentation plans;
6. IMC has frightened the community's current and future property owners with its excessive and exorbitant charge that has no basis in real, actual and verifiable costs;
7. Curtailment of well privileges in Indian Mountain would endanger the health and safety of residents while undermining property values in the community;
8. The property owners remain willing and able to manage the community's water augmentation plan with no increase in IMPOA dues or Metropolitan District taxes; and
9. IMC has sued the Indian Mountain Metropolitan District (IMMD), which has responded by asking the State District Court to rule that IMC is not the rightful owner of the Indian Mountain water augmentation plan.

Therefore,

The members of IMPOA stand united and publically declare:

- Their opposition to the water augmentation fees attempting to be imposed by IMC;
- Their resistance to the threat by IMC to curtail Indian Mountain water augmentation if monies are not received by September 1, 2014; and
- Their resolve to support IMMD and pursue the ongoing litigation to conclusion.

The foregoing resolution was subsequently signed by Roger Mattson, IMPOA president, and distributed widely in the community.

Roger further queried the members to determine if the IMPOA Board had the members' approval to share legal costs evenly with IMMD. The members unanimously approved that action. *The Fairplay Flume* published the resolution in the “Letters to the Editor” section of its Friday, August 22, 2014 edition.

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**IMPOA MEMBERSHIP**

IMPOA Membership is on track to achieve the 700 member goal that was set for the year. Most of our memberships are confirmed early in the calendar year right after the annual membership drive, which occurs at the end of the previous calendar year. This trend occurred early in 2014 but Spring and Summer applications also continued at a brisk pace, driven by both the uptick in IM property sales, as new owners acted to become full-fledged members of the community, as well as by property owners' desire to help support the water issue resolution.

Regardless your intent, your membership and contributions are greatly appreciated as they not only provide the financial support for our work but also moral support for those of us who serve on the IMPOA Board of Directors. You "put your money where your mouth is" and we strive to serve your purpose. Please watch for the 2015 Membership communication and help us to plan the new year by ensuring that we receive your membership contributions as early as possible in 2015. THANK YOU!

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## **WOODSTOVE AND FIREPLACE SAFETY**

Woodstoves and fireplaces commonly provide cabin heat in the colder months. Fire precautions and regular maintenance are essential to keep your cabin safe when using them.

### **Safety Tips**

1. Use only seasoned wood, not green wood, for fuel.
2. Never burn trash, paper or artificial logs in them. Burning inappropriate material can cause heavy creosote buildup and create a fire hazard.
3. Inspect and clean chimneys and stovepipes regularly for creosote buildup, obstructions and cracks. Inspect legs, hinges and door seals on your wood stove or fireplace to ensure smooth (un-cracked) joints and seams.
4. Keep combustible objects at least three feet away from wood stoves.
5. Be sure the fireplace or wood stove damper is open before starting any fire.
6. Use a fireplace screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs, and big enough to cover the opening.
7. Be sure the fire is out before going to bed and when leaving your cabin.
8. Store cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container outside the cabin.

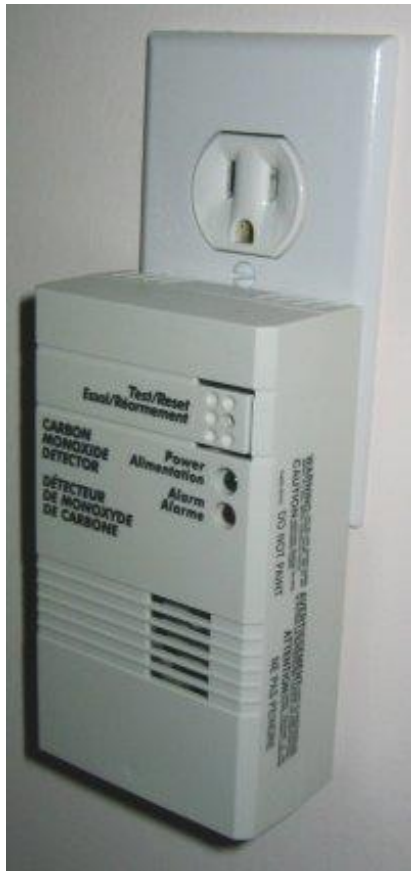
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## **CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING**

This summer, over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, two people died in Lost Park Ranch, just a few miles from Indian Mountain, due to carbon monoxide from a poorly ventilated propane refrigerator. Here are some tips to help others avoid a similar fate.

Fuel-powered devices can provide wonderful benefits if used properly. However, they also underscore an important necessity in the home: the need for a carbon monoxide alarm, such as the one in this photo. Carbon monoxide poisoning can result from faulty furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers or cars left running in garages. At its worst, carbon monoxide can cause severe side effects or even death.





Young children are especially vulnerable to the effects of carbon monoxide because of their smaller bodies. Children also process carbon monoxide differently than adults, may be more severely affected by it, and may show signs of poisoning sooner. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, nausea and drowsiness. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas that you cannot see, taste or smell. In 2009, poison control centers reported more than 3,500 cases of carbon monoxide exposure in children 19 and under.

### **Tips for Preventing CO Poisoning**

1. Make sure your cabin or RV has a carbon monoxide alarm. Install a carbon monoxide alarm on every level of your home, especially near sleeping areas, and keep them at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances.
2. Carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms, and vice versa. Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are available.
3. Don't use a grill, generator, propane-fueled refrigerator or camping stove inside your home, garage or near a window.
4. If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Don't leave a car, SUV or motorcycle engine running inside a garage.
5. See more at: [http://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field\\_risks/carbon-monoxide#sthash.AHtqI7lz.dpuf](http://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/carbon-monoxide#sthash.AHtqI7lz.dpuf).

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## **WILDFIRE PREVENTION HINTS FOR YOUR MOUNTAIN HOME – THANKS TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DAILY NEWS**

The new science of wildfire protection points to the importance of tiny embers, or firebrands. Carried by the wind, these bits of burning debris can spread a wildfire rapidly if they collect in flammable spots around a house: a gutter filled with pine needles, an unscreened vent leading into an attic, or a trash can left open against a wall. Open doggy doors and unscreened dryer vents can also be deadly. Firebrands can shower a house that's situated a quarter mile or more from a wildfire.

Firebrands have become a focus for homeowners who search for the chinks in their house's armor. Oftentimes, tiny modifications to a home can make a big difference. For instance, a metal cap can block embers from sneaking into the space between the roof and the fascia—the horizontal board ringing the roof's edge. Screens with gaps no bigger than one-eighth inch can stop embers from getting through vents leading to crawl spaces and attics. Other hints include stone pavers instead of a wooden deck, gutters designed to shed pine needles, a fire-resistant roof, and stone siding at the bottom part of a house's exterior.

We can't do it alone - it takes a community because your home's survival depends partly on what your neighbors do. If a single home catches fire, or a densely wooded vacant lot, it can fling embers onto nearby houses. In dense woods, the heat of a burning house can ignite the forest and spread to the house next door, setting off a chain reaction that overwhelms firefighters. Scientists report that it nearly always comes down to homes and neighborhoods that weren't built or maintained to weather a fire. "Basically, it's time to admit that there are going to be fires that we can't deal with, and ... we need to be compatible and not controlling. This is a home ignition problem, not (just) a wildfire problem." Go to this website to learn more about being "ember ware." <http://www.livingwithfire.info/be-ember-aware>.

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## **RADON GAS IS EVERYWHERE IN THE COLORADO HIGH COUNTRY**

As reported since the early 1980s, in this newsletter and elsewhere, studies by the Environmental Protection Agency have shown that almost 20,000 of the annual deaths due to lung cancer in the U.S. are connected to the airborne radioactive material known as radon. Radon is a gas resulting from the natural decay of uranium in the soil. Radon is invisible and odorless and is found all over the US, but it has especially high concentrations in Colorado. (See <http://co-radon.info>.) Park County homes have been found to have radon concentrations at or above the recommended limit of 4 pCi/L (pico-Curies per liter).

Radon is present in rocks and soil. It enters houses through cracks and other breaches in their foundations. It also comes into houses through water pumped from wells. The bad effects of radon are compounded in smokers. Ironically, radon in the water we drink has a negligible effect because we eliminate the water in a matter of hours. In contrast, radon in the air gets into our lungs where its decay products can reside for longer times and deliver a higher radiation dose to sensitive tissue.

All houses should be tested for radon gas, if not during their sale or purchase, then after taking occupancy. The only way to know if you have high levels of radon in your cabin is to test for it. If you have elevated radon, (>4 pCi/L) you should obtain an estimate to install a radon mitigation system. Such systems involve things like improved ventilation to dilute the concentration of radon, better ventilation of crawl spaces or slabs under floors and holdup tanks and aerators to give radon a chance to off-gas and decay after water is pumped from the ground and before it enters living spaces. Most importantly, have your house or cabin tested and then decide what to do based on the test results. Radon test kits are found at most hardware stores.

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## **WE CAN ELIMINATE LIGHT POLLUTION**

Property owners have been complaining to IMPOA directors that too many of our neighbors leave bright lights on outside their cabins all night long, some for months at a time. Excessive night lighting destroys the ambiance of the high country, and it is not an effective security measure.

Light pollution is largely the result of bad lighting design, which allows artificial light to shine outward and upward where it's not wanted, instead of focusing it downward, where it is wanted. Ill-designed lighting washes out the darkness of night and radically alters the light levels—and light rhythms—to which many forms of life, including us, have adapted. Wherever human light spills into the natural world, some aspect of life—migration, reproduction, feeding—is affected.

Security lighting can be counter-productive. Bright, unshielded floodlights often prevent people from noticing criminal activity and help criminals see what they are doing. While adequate lighting around a cabin can reduce the risk of an intrusion, it is critical that the lighting be designed carefully as poorly arranged lighting can create glare, which actually obstructs vision. Experts say that shielded lamp housings that conceal the bulb can be used, which should direct light onto the ground away from neighboring cabins. These lights should send no light above 80 degrees from the downward vertical direction. Lighting should be bright enough, not "as bright as possible."

An informal survey of IMMD and IMPOA board members indicates that none of them leave outdoor lights on overnight, whether they are at home in IM or not. Several of them employ motion detectors on downward-directed outdoor lighting. One board member reported a satisfying experience: after making a friendly contact with a neighbor that left a light on all night, the neighbor installed a motion sensor on the offending light.

As one concerned property owner recently put it, "Night lighting takes away from the night sky and one of the reasons we live up here—to get away from the city lights." Be considerate—never allow your lights to intrude

into a neighbor's property. Look from outside your property to see if you are being a considerate neighbor or not. Then drive some distance away—if you can see your light from there, you are adversely affecting the entire community. If you fail these two simple tests, fix your lighting design. Best yet, put on motion detectors if you must have night-lights. For a few bucks, you can create much good will.

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## **FIRE MITIGATION WORK CONTINUES**

Once again this summer, property owners have been hard at work creating defensible space around their cabins and firebreaks in their neighborhoods. This photo shows piles of dead and down forest slash on one Indian Mountain property as it was being prepared for chipping.



The IMMD burn pit has seen a lot of activity again this summer, despite being closed for several weeks during the monsoon season due to flooding.

Two chipper days were sponsored by IMPOA with the assistance of the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP). CUSP does a lot to protect the environment in the South Platte water shed and deserves your support.

CUSP also provided \$25,000 in grant funding this year that IM property owners are matching with cash and in-kind labor to perform wildfire mitigation work on a number of private properties and the Indian Mountain Park. IMPOA and IMMD are providing matching funds for the work on the IM Park land. The cash goes to pay expert forest contractors that do the heavy work.

IMPOA oversees wildfire mitigation efforts for the community, and it appears that Indian Mountain will, for the third straight year, qualify as a *Firewise Community* in 2015. The National Fire Protection Association provides such recognition to communities that go beyond the norm in their wildfire mitigation efforts. This year property owners have included several vacant properties in their wildfire mitigation efforts. How's that for good neighbors?

We hope that more and more people will get on the fire mitigation bandwagon each summer. Watch the newsletters this winter and spring for opportunities in 2015 to obtain grant money or other assistance in your mitigation efforts.

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## **IMPOA Board of Directors Contact Information**

Name	Position	Term	Phone	e-Mail Address	Mailing Address
Tina Bogani	Secretary	2014	719-836-9016	<a href="mailto:tina@dtcfp.com">tina@dtcfp.com</a>	PO Box 149 Jefferson, CO 80456
Karen Goodman	Treasurer	2015	303-912-1063	<a href="mailto:kkmbg1@comcast.net">kkmbg1@comcast.net</a>	PO Box 203 Como, CO 80432
Glenn Haas	Vice President	2015	970-498-9350	<a href="mailto:glennehaas@comcast.net">glennehaas@comcast.net</a>	3403 Green Wing Ct. Fort Collins, CO 80524
Gail Lane	Membership Director	2016	719-836-3154	<a href="mailto:rgflane@centurylink.net">rgflane@centurylink.net</a>	PO Box 32 Como, CO 80432
Roger Mattson	President	2016	303-278-1406	<a href="mailto:rdmattson@comcast.net">rdmattson@comcast.net</a>	2511 Fossil Trace Ct. Golden, CO 80401
Kim Novitch	Director	2017	303-941-6190	<a href="mailto:oufunchick@hotmail.com">oufunchick@hotmail.com</a>	17079 E. 106th Way Commerce City CO80022
Fred Whitaker	Director	2017	719-836-1702	<a href="mailto:whitakerfc@gmail.com">whitakerfc@gmail.com</a>	PO Box 255 Como, CO 80432
Samantha Bertin	Business Manager	---	719-836-9043	<a href="mailto:cloudnineranch@hughes.net">cloudnineranch@hughes.net</a>	---
IMPOA Contacts	---	---	IMPOA.net	<a href="mailto:IMPOA01@hotmail.com">IMPOA01@hotmail.com</a>	PO Box 196 Jefferson, CO 80456

## IMMD Board of Directors Contact Information

Name	Position	Phone	e-Mail Address	Mailing Address
Beverly Bushaw	Vice President II	303-990-0459	<a href="mailto:bbushaw@comcast.net">bbushaw@comcast.net</a>	PO Box 25 Como, CO 80432
Glenn Haas	Secretary	970-498-9350	<a href="mailto:glennehaas@comcast.net">glennehaas@comcast.net</a>	3403 Green Wing Ct Fort Collins, CO 80524
Louise Mark	Vice President	719-836-2481	<a href="mailto:lfmark43@gmail.com">lfmark43@gmail.com</a>	PO Box 28 Como, CO 80432
Tom Odle	Treasurer	303-683-9812	<a href="mailto:thodle99@q.com">thodle99@q.com</a>	2855 Clairton Dr. Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
Susan Stoval	President	719-836-0138	<a href="mailto:stoval@peoplepc.com">stoval@peoplepc.com</a>	PO Box 25 Como, CO 80432
Samantha Bertin	Business Manager	719-836-9043	<a href="mailto:indianmtn@hotmail.com">indianmtn@hotmail.com</a>	---
IMMD Contacts	---	indianmountain.info	<a href="mailto:indianmtn@hotmail.com">indianmtn@hotmail.com</a>	PO Box 25 Como, CO 80432

### TRANSPARENCY NOTICE

Pursuant to State Law, IMMD needs to post a transparency notice, which lists the time and places for meetings and other information. The 2014 Transparency Notice may be viewed at <http://www.sdaco.org/transparency/>. Go to “search now” and look under the index at “I”. You may also view it on our website: [indianmountain.info](http://indianmountain.info) under “governance”. Any questions, call the IMMD business office: 719-836-9043 and talk to Samantha Bertin.