



*Photo courtesy of Donna Mattson*

*INDIAN MOUNTAIN NEWS* Winter 2017

**A JOINT NEWSLETTER OF  
The Indian Mountain Property Owners Association (IMPOA)  
And the Indian Mountain Metropolitan District (IMMD)**

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## **ROAD FUND UPDATE – Important Information**

Please check out the new Road Fund website: [www.indianmountainroadfund.org](http://www.indianmountainroadfund.org). The Road Fund sponsors will continue to update the site with donor names and the dollar amounts that have been raised. The Road Fund sponsors are asking all owners to donate to the fund. Albino/Arrowhead will deteriorate over the winter and we will all be complaining about the terrible road conditions in the spring. The money must be raised by the end of May 2017. The time to donate is now or the project must be scrapped. More than 95 homeowners have donated \$43,000.00 so far. Thank you! We would hate to refund these donations and not chip seal the road, but we must decide by the end of May. This is our last chance as property owners to finally pave this road. Emergency vehicles need better access, service companies need better roads, and so do property owners. Home and land values will increase, and there will be very little dust. Please donate today. Any amount is ok, but we are suggesting \$500 per owner. Many property owners have donated \$1,000.00. Please visit the website for more information or call Maria at 719-836-4663. Please send donations to: Maria Benetti PO Box 193, Como, CO 80432 and make checks payable to Indian Mountain Road Fund. Please note that IMPOA cannot accept donations on behalf of the Road Fund since they are separate entities.

*Contributed by Maria Benetti and Kelly Halligan*

## **ACTIVITIES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Please keep these activities in mind as you schedule for spring and summer. Consult the websites and the Spring Newsletter for finalized dates.

- Community meeting Sunday May 28, 1-3 pm
- Parking Lot Sale, early June
- Fourth of July Picnic, Saturday July 1
- IMPOA Dumpster Day, Sunday July 2
- IMPOA Annual Meeting, Saturday August 12, 1-3 pm
- Chili Cook-Off, September or October
- Volunteer Luncheon, early November
- Craft Fair, November
- Christmas Event, December

## **WATER AUGMENTATION UPDATE**

The last four months of 2016 were rather quiet as far as Indian Mountain's water augmentation plan was concerned. The Colorado District Water Engineer assured the community in late 2016 that implementation of the plan currently complies with its requirements. That is good news.

Meanwhile, IMMD appealed its water case to the Colorado Supreme Court. The District's petition was filed in November, followed by an IMC response in early December and a final IMMD response in mid-December. The District awaits a decision by the Supreme Court as to whether it will hear the case. If the Court finds IMMD's case has merit, it could well take most of 2017 before there is a final ruling. The legal documents are posted on the IMMD and IMPOA websites.

While the legal process continues, the ad hoc Indian Mountain Water Committee has begun to investigate alternatives for people to secure water augmentation services, including but not limited to the services of Bar Star Water Company (aka IMC), which manages the Indian Mountain Water Augmentation Plan. The Committee hopes to identify other alternatives for people to consider later this Spring.

In its fiscal years 2016 and 2017, many IMPOA members donated money to offset the water litigation costs. The amounts were \$9,482.00 from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016 and \$8,690.00 since September 1, 2016. These donations total \$18,172.00 and have helped immensely to offset IMPOA's total contribution to the litigation costs, thus far, of \$61,930.00 which is roughly 40% of the total. Thank you. *Contributed by Glenn Haas and Roger Mattson*

### **STATUS OF COMMUNITY CENTER LOAN**

Ambrose Construction began building the Indian Mountain Community Center in 2010, and the completed structure was dedicated in June 2011. Fred Burdick was then president of the Indian Mountain Recreation and Parks District (IMRPD). The original cost of the building was about \$750,000, and that is what it is insured for. A loan was assumed in 2010 for \$400,000 as part of the payment for the Center. IMMD makes an annual payment of about \$45,000, usually in July, to pay back this loan. The term of the loan was 10 years, so it should be paid in total in 2020. There has been talk of a mortgage burning party.

Many owners appreciate having the Community Center, especially those who remember Board Meetings in the old Ski Lodge – quite a change! This facility has given property owners many opportunities to come together, including around a dozen events sponsored by IMMD and IMPOA each year, as well as weddings, private parties, and regular weekly meetings for an art group, quilting group, fitness class, billiards, book club, Broncos' games (maybe better luck next year?), and hopefully more new functions in the new year. *Contributed by Tom Odle*

### **VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON REPORT**

We had another successful year of volunteering, with 79 attendees being thanked for their service to the Indian Mountain community. The luncheon was held on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. Everyone enjoyed the Mexican Fiesta Buffet, which was planned and cooked by Bev and Pat Bushaw. The menu consisted of tacos and fajitas with a choice of steak, chicken, and ground beef with various toppings of cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, sautéed peppers and onions, guacamole and salsa, refried and black beans, rice, and, of course, dessert. Various beverages completed the menu.

Twenty-one wonderful raffle prizes were provided by IMMD, IMPOA, and the following individuals: Tim Higgins, Tim Mousley, Dennis Sheeran, Pat Sabados, Marcella Wells, and the Stagestop Store and Saloon. The community gave a special recognition award to Keith Crump for his time keeping an eye on the fencing and making the necessary repairs. Also, Chris Dunn was recognized for the many times he spent at the burn pit. As usual, he had a big smile for all of us.

The volunteer team had many new faces in 2016 to complement those who donate their time year after year. Thanks to everyone for joining the IMMD and IMPOA board members for this special event. We look forward to working with you throughout the coming years. *Contributed by Louise Mark and Bev Bushaw*

## **WILD FIRE MITIGATION: WHETHER TO CUT LIVE TREES IN THE FOREST**

This is a question of importance in forest management for prevention and mitigation of wildfires. In 2011, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan was adopted for Indian Mountain. A group of property owners developed the plan with expert fire and forestry assistance from the Jefferson Como Fire Protection District, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, and the Colorado State Forest Service. Several organizations formally reviewed and approved the plan, namely, IMMD, IMPOA, the Fire District, CSFS, and the Park County Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioners praised Indian Mountain's efforts to establish the first CWPP for a subdivision in the County. The plan is posted on the IMPOA website. It contains a chapter on "Prevention and Mitigation of Catastrophic Wildfires," which provides information on topics such as defensible space zones around homes and other structures, forest restoration, forest thinning, construction of fuel and fire breaks, prescribed burns, and the types of trees found in the Indian Mountain forest and their susceptibilities to drought, insects, disease and fire. That guidance includes recommendations for the cutting of live trees, as follows.

1. Thinning dense stands of trees reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfires and improves forest health. Mitigation treatments include removal of ladder fuels and reducing crown connectivity. Ladder fuels typically are small trees, including live evergreens, that provide a pathway from grasses on the forest floor to higher elevations in larger evergreens. Crown fire risk is reduced by providing spacing between the crowns of adjacent evergreens, sometimes requiring the removal of live trees between adjacent trees or between clusters of trees.
2. A firebreak is a complete gap in vegetation or other combustible material that is at least 30 feet wide and acts as a barrier to slow or stop the progress of a wildfire. A firebreak may occur naturally where there is a lack of vegetation or fuel, such as a waterway, lake, or rock outcrop, or be man-made. Creation of a firebreak is a forest management technique to improve the ability to suppress wildfires. Firebreaks can include roadways, hiking trails, or even disk golf fairways. A variety of fire breaks have been constructed at the periphery of homes in Indian Mountain, on hiking trails that owners construct on their properties, and on some borders, fairways, and trails in Indian Mountain Park.
3. A fuel break is a natural or manmade change in fuel characteristics, which affects fire behavior so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled. A man-made fuel break typically is 200-300 feet wide (or more on steeper terrain) and involves thinning, including the removal of live trees, to separate tree crowns, reduction of understory fuels, and removal of tree branches to a specified height, five feet or more above the ground, to keep fire from climbing into the tree tops. Fuel breaks sometimes cross multiple property lines to provide a measure of protection to areas larger than a single property. Several fuel and fire breaks have been created in and along the periphery of Indian Mountain Park in the past five years. More are needed.
4. Thinning of trees to improve forest health, including removal of live trees, can occur under several circumstances.
  - a. When trees in an area grow back following a disturbance, all the trees in the stand will be of roughly the same age. Since the trees compete for sunlight, water and nutrients, the most vigorous trees dominate the new stand. A dominant tree soon outgrows its siblings. The weak trees remain in the understory, stunted and overtopped. Thus, many small trees are not young trees, but merely trees with suppressed growth, which rob water and nutrients from the dominant tree and provide ladder fuel in the case of a grass fire. They should be removed. When a stand of trees is young, removal of all but the hardiest specimen will

enable that tree to grow faster and be healthier because it need not compete with its close-packed siblings.

- b. Aspen will not carry a fire in the tree crowns, so fires drop to the ground in aspen stands. Thus, aspen are desirable trees to retain in fuel breaks and survivable spaces around homes. However, years of fire suppression may result in conifers shading stands of aspen. Owners must make value judgments in deciding whether to eliminate the conifers, or cut back the aspen to give the conifers more room in such situations. Since wildfire mitigation practices require thinning, some landowners assume that aspen should be thinned as well, but they should not. Thinning aspen is rarely recommended since the falling trees invariably wound the remaining trees. The bark on aspen is so thin that any wound will expose the tree to fungal diseases that are eventually fatal. Aspen should also be removed from the drip line of desirable conifers where they compete for water and nutrients.
- c. Colorado blue spruce and Engelmann spruce, typical of the Indian Mountain forests, are similar and can be considered together for discussion of fire mitigation. The ability of spruce seedlings to survive in the shade of mature trees usually creates dense forests with a closed canopy above and thickets of ladder fuels below, so the typical fire regime in spruce is crown fire. However, spruce trees tend to be shallow rooted, and excessive thinning of the upper canopy can result in wind throw in the remaining trees. Thus, patch cutting to provide canopy separation between patches, including the removal of live trees, is preferred to thinning throughout a stand of spruce trees.
- d. Where Douglas-fir trees are intermixed with less wind-firm spruce, they can be favored to maintain forest cover. It is still important to prune the trees to remove ladder fuels.
- e. Fuel break thinning is most often accomplished by thinning the canopy to create openings wide enough to prevent the spread of crown fires and by removal of ladder fuels. Since the diameter of a tree is not a reliable indicator of its age, the co-dominant and overtopped trees, despite their smaller size, are often as old as or older than the dominant trees. If there are young trees in a stand, it is desirable to leave some to increase diversity even if the larger trees are cut. Thickets of young trees should be thinned to give adequate growing space and conserve water for healthy trees.
- f. Thinning in patches of spruce should be limited to removal of the overtopped trees and light thinning of the co-dominants to prevent wind throw. Spruce clumps that are lightly thinned will begin to anchor themselves more firmly as they are exposed to more wind. After ten years, the clumps may be lightly thinned again to prevent canopy closure. This light thinning can be repeated at ten year intervals.
- g. Aspen stands can be used to separate spruce clumps. It is important to preserve aspen patches. Many of them develop an understory of spruce that will eventually overtop and shade out the aspen. To prevent this, owners should remove most of the spruce regeneration from the aspen stands. Some spruce may remain, but they should be widely spaced. Most of the down wood should be removed from aspen stands to reduce ground fuels. It is important to maintain the health of aspen stands for effective wildfire mitigation, so owners should consider clear cutting sizeable patches of old, diseased aspen to regenerate healthy sprouts. In addition, the low sprouts will be a source of browse for deer and elk.

Interested property owners can go to [www.impoa.net](http://www.impoa.net) to read the CWPP and Forest Clearing Guidance, which contain more information on these topics, or go to the website of the CSFS, to learn more. *Contributed by Roger Mattson*

## **IMPOA MEMBERSHIP: JOIN FOR 2017!**

In fiscal year 2016, which ended August 31, 2016, the final IMPOA membership count was 782 property owners. While IMPOA is a voluntary membership organization, the dues and donations from property owners help support the property investments and quality of life for all of us in the community. So far in fiscal year 2017 (i.e., since September 1, 2016), nearly 600 property owners have paid their annual dues. What a wonderful start to the year!

In addition to the donations and dues money that have been contributed by IMPOA for the continuing water augmentation litigation, membership dues help support other activities, such as:

- Maintenance and fees for the IMPOA website;
- Wildfire mitigation projects;
- All street signs in Indian Mountain; and
- An annual dumpster day that helps keep the community clean and presentable.

IMPOA also collaborates with IMMD for community activities such as newsletters, picnics, and meetings. Additionally, IMPOA provides amenities in the community, such as the cattle fencing, the disk golf course and playground equipment at Indian Mountain Park. The IMPOA Board also maintains Indian Mountain's recognition as a *Firewise Community* by the National Forest Service and the National Fire Protection Association.

If you haven't joined your neighbors in IMPOA, please consider doing so. All the information you need is on the IMPOA website ([www.impoa.net](http://www.impoa.net)) under the Membership heading. *Contributed by Marcia Logan*

## **HANDY PHONE NUMBERS:**

- Indian Mountain Community Center – (719) 836-9043 (The Community Center is a WI-FI hot spot – no password needed)
- Park County Sheriff Dispatch Line – 719-836-4121, option 5
- Jefferson-Como Fire Protection District (JCFPD) – (719) 836-3244 ([www.jcfpd.org](http://www.jcfpd.org))
- Injured or problem wildlife – Salida Regional Office of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (719) 530-5520; in an afterhours emergency, call Colorado State Patrol (303) 239-4500

## **IMPOA's FISCAL YEAR AND ANNUAL DUES HAVE CHANGED**

At the Annual Meeting of IMPOA members held in August 2016, the fiscal year was changed to September 1 to August 31. In addition, the annual dues for IMPOA membership were raised from \$35 to \$45 per year. Any additional money that is sent over the \$45 dues amount will be credited to the water litigation expenses. *Contributed by Marcia Logan*

## **IMPOA NEEDS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Your membership information, with everything included (Email address, phone number, USPS mailing address), ensures that you receive IMPOA and IMMD communications. These communications are sent out only for very important reasons, such as updates to the 2015 court case that

determined our Water Augmentation rights and subsequent related events. Email addresses receive expedited communication and are a very cost-effective way to communicate.

If you have not checked the Park County Assessors Database ([www.parkco.org](http://www.parkco.org)) recently, it might be something to consider doing. Many property owners have a contact address as their Indian Mountain subdivision street address. Since there is no delivery of US Mail in Indian Mountain, anything sent to you would then either be returned to the sender or be classified as undeliverable. If you have not provided any valid contact information you not only do not receive information from Indian Mountain, you will not receive information from the county, such as property tax bills. This situation can create difficulties. Check it out to make sure you have provided the most current information. *Contributed by Marcia Logan*

### **RECORDING YOUR WATER WELL OWNERSHIP**

Another check everyone needs to make is to verify with the Colorado Division of Water Resources that your well is recorded under the proper name. A web site that helps you understand water augmentation is <http://water.state.co.us/DataMaps/RecordsResearch/Pages/default.aspx>.

A web site where your water well should be listed is <http://www.dwr.state.co.us/WellPermitSearch/default.aspx>.

At the second of these two sites, type Indian Mountain in the Subdivision tab and go from there to find your well listed for your filing and lot number. If you are the named owner, you have verified the information. If you are not listed there as the owner, you will need to contact the DWR to get it fixed. The normal assumption is that all the necessary information to update the name on the well permit is handled at closing when you purchased your property, but that is not always the case. A current example is a well drilled on a property with a house and a second closed-in well on an adjacent property, purchased later by the same owner. The well for the house was recorded in the correct name, but the second property still had the well listed under the name of a previous owner. Having your name correctly associated with your water well could come to have much more importance in the future as water augmentation questions for Indian Mountain properties are finally resolved. *Contributed by Marcia Logan*

### **NEW IMPOA BOARD MEMBER**

IMPOA is happy to welcome a new member to its board. Mike Benetti volunteered and was appointed to the board in December. Mike will be filling an open director's position with term expiring in August 2017. Mike has a background in public works and public service and has been a full-time resident of Indian Mountain for three years. Among other things, Mike has an interest in helping work with the county on our road and signage issues. *Contributed by Dennis McQuillan*

### **COMPLIANCE WITH COVENANTS AND LAND USE REGULATIONS**

The County's new Land Use Regulations adopted in May 2016 have come into full force recently. There was a six-month grace period for existing campers on vacant residential lots, but that has

now expired. The new regulations also apply to “accessory structures” (sheds, etc.) and the use of shipping containers on residential lots. We have heard from neighboring communities that the county is beginning to actively enforce the new LURs and has been issuing citations for non-conforming uses. You can find the full text of the current LURs on the Park County website at <http://www.parkco.us/189/Land-Use-Regulations>. Articles IV “Definitions” and V “Zoning and Use Regulations” provide the relevant information. *Contributed by Dennis McQuillan*

## **SHOOTING AND FIREARMS**

In Indian Mountain, we enjoy open spaces, forested areas, and much more. The beauty, quiet, and space around us are among the most popular features of our community. As more people come to Indian Mountain to camp, picnic, build cabins and establish permanent homes, many things change. One of the changes is that we have an increasingly dense community with many people, homes, campers, etc. That means we all have neighbors and often they are not far away.

According to the Park County sheriff, shooting firearms on private property is only allowed where it can be done safely and responsibly. Park County requires shooters to be certain that they have a solid backstop, that no projectiles leave their own property boundaries, that there is no shooting across roads, that no alcohol is involved, and that all shooting is done in a safe and responsible manner. Our growing population makes it nearly impossible to shoot safely anywhere within our community. Good judgment says it simply is a very bad idea to shoot within our community. The Indian Mountain Covenants that apply to all of us also prohibit any activity requiring the use of a “lethal or dangerous weapon.” Keep in mind that Indian Mountain is also surrounded by other cabin communities, including Stagestop, Elkhorn and The Buffalo. Therefore, shooting at the perimeter of our community is also risky.

We ask that people who enjoy shooting sports go to the nearby shooting range located just off County Road 15 (Elkhorn Road). This facility is managed by Park County with contact information posted at the entry kiosk. Even if shooting in a safe location in the National Forest, be aware that the National Forest Service has strict rules regarding safe shooting, distances from buildings, use of backstops, etc. Wherever you shoot, please follow safe practices and stay far away from homes, roads, and other folks who are enjoying the outdoors in other ways.

You can report any suspected unsafe shooting directly to the Park County Sheriff using 911 or by calling dispatch at 719-836-4121, option 5. They have told us that they respond to all calls of “shots fired.” *Contributed by Dennis McQuillan*

## **ATVs, DIRT BIKES, UNLICENSED VEHICLES**

Indian Mountain property owners have a lot of common interests, including a love of the outdoors. Knowing how to tread lightly with our vehicles while enjoying all our community offers is our obligation to our neighbors and our wildlife. ATVs, dirt bikes and other Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) are a great way to explore nature’s wonders if we use them responsibly. Signs are posted in Indian Mountain as a reminder that ATVs are not to be ridden on the public roads (the same restriction applies to other OHVs) to comply with Colorado State Law C.R.S. 33-14.5-108. OHVs may be used for recreation or land management on your own property; but remember, using an

OHV on someone else's lot without their permission is illegal trespassing. Also, remember that Nature Rules. *Contributed by Karen Goodman*

- Do not ride on public roads, including all roads in Indian Mountain.
- Stay on designated routes. Do not make new trails.
- Do not harass wildlife. Riding over plants destroys wildlife habitat.
- Avoid creating dust. Slow down.
- Keep out of closed areas. Do not trespass.
- Leave gates as you found them, whether opened or closed.
- Fences keep livestock confined. Do not cut fences.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Do not litter.
- Reduce the risk of fire. Make sure your vehicle's spark arrester is working.



### **COLD WEATHER CABIN ISSUES**

As winter approached last September, property owner Kevin Copeland wrote an informative article about preventing or limiting damage from cabin freeze-ups. His "Winter is Coming" article can be found on the Indian Mountain Nextdoor website under the "General" category, and it is good stuff. Kevin's article focused on prevention of freezing for folks who are either full time or keep heat on in their cabins all winter. As Kevin mentioned, there are a few of us, however, who heat with wood or just choose to let the cabin go cold when unattended, and therefore approach the issue from the other side of the thermometer.

Kevin recommended keeping the heat on at a low level when you are not there to prevent freezing pipes. He also noted that our occasional power outages may defeat your best intentions and shutting off your pump will at least limit a leak from a burst pipe to the amount of water in the pipe rather than the amount of water in your well – a huge difference! Those same power outages may cause some digital thermostats to "reset" and stop doing their job – especially if any internal batteries are not up to par. Backup electric heaters and heat tape on pipes can also save the day – if power is not out for too long.

For those of us who let the cabin go cold, the approach is different. Draining water supply pipes and putting antifreeze (the pink potable kind for RVs and boats) in the sink, shower, laundry and toilet drains is the core strategy. Most of us have plumbing installed by contractors who never considered freeze-up, so the pipe arrangement makes it almost impossible to fully drain all pipes and fixtures. Then blowing out the remaining water with an air compressor is about the only option. Our plumbing was installed with slopes and low point drains so we can successfully drain all water pipes – which we have done without issues for nearly 20 years. Even then, you do need to be aware of small low point “traps” in sink and shower faucets. We have had to thaw those a few times but without any damage. Do not forget to drain the water pressure tank! It’s usually easy to drain but it holds a lot of water so a drain hose can help. Be sure you are draining from a true low point – not all tanks are arranged to allow that. That pink antifreeze (remember the “potable” part?) can be pumped into the water pipes for extra protection, but it can be time consuming and a bit expensive at around \$5 per gallon so it is probably best as a seasonal approach rather than a periodic visit approach. Some folks drain the water heater or opt for small “point of use” water heaters. Our conventional tank LPG water heater has never been drained, and the pilot flame and “vacation” setting on the temperature dial have kept it from freezing.

Happily, not many of us have had the adventure of freezing up a septic tank, but it can and does happen. As Kevin pointed out, adding enzymes like Bio-Sure, Lenzyme or even Rid-X can help keep the heat generating biological activity going – to a point. Our tank froze one winter when left inactive for several weeks. A north slope and shade aided in the “big chill.” It only takes a thin film of ice on the water surface to stop flow into the tank and back it up into the house. This was learned the hard way. Our choices were to have the tank steam thawed or wait until spring. Steaming is a mess, and digging out the covers in frozen ground is a real challenge. Floating electric stock tank heaters and an extra cover of insulating straw have prevented any repeat of this excitement. Watch the wattage of tank heaters and don’t exceed the capacity of your receptacle or cord.

Do not let cold weather keep you from enjoying your home in Indian Mountain. Winter has its challenges, but that is just another part of the fun. *Contributed by Dennis McQuillan with permission of Kevin Copeland*

## **BURN PIT 2016 RECAP**

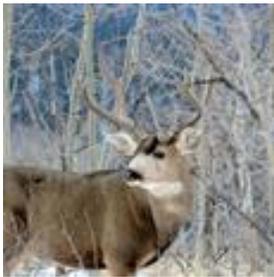
Yes! We had another successful year at the Indian Mountain Burn Pit. Statistics show that fire mitigation is at the top of our collective mind! The Burn Pit operated from June 4 through October 29 with 44 shifts being covered by volunteers and with no closures. June appears to be a good month for opening. By that time, we usually are through some of the spring storms. This year there were 1,087 loads accounted for, a significant increase from previous years. We experienced very few infractions of the rules due to the volunteer monitoring program that has been in place for the past four years. We appreciate all that the volunteers and the community have done to support this initiative. The 2017 schedules and information will be released in the Spring/Summer newsletter, but refer to the websites for the most current information. *Contributed by Bev Bushaw*

## WINTER WILDLIFE

We are blessed to share our community with magnificent winter wildlife that includes coyote, elk, fox, mule deer, bobcat, mountain lion, bear (mostly sleeping) and others. Although some species are more prevalent than others, wildlife sightings are frequent during the winter in Indian Mountain.

Coyotes and foxes are nocturnal, solitary creatures that are frequently seen in our community. During the winter, coyotes tend to become more social and join forces, creating hunting packs to find food more easily. Foxes also are social creatures that form packs, but they tend to hunt alone. Coyotes are not picky eaters; they eat small game such as rodents, rabbits, fish, and frogs, and occasionally larger game like deer. Foxes are more flexible than the coyote, eating fruits and vegetables and even worms. Need we say, keep a close eye on your pets?

Elk are also sighted in the winter months, although their migratory behavior is heavily dependent on weather. During the winter, when most of the vegetation is covered by snow, elk survive by feeding on exposed leaves and twig growth of shrubs, woody vines, or trees. Elk are tolerant of the cold, can traverse through deep snow, and use less energy than deer.



Like elk, deer herds are made up primarily of females and their offspring. Older males usually stay solitary or in small groups with other males. Larger herds form in the fall and stay together for protection throughout winter. Mule deer are commonly sighted in Indian Mountain and compete with elk for resources and vegetation. Since elk are larger and more aggressive, they often win these competitions. During the winter months, deer conserve their energy by limiting their movement and seeking shelter among evergreen trees and shrubs.

Property owners probably mean well when they provide feed or salt blocks for wildlife, especially in the winter when food is scarce. Similarly, putting out tidbits for animals like foxes and deer seems harmless. However, in all cases, artificial feeding disrupts natural habitat and prompts wildlife to crowd together in small areas where they are more likely to become the prey of others. Concentrating deer by feeding them can increase stress on the deer and hasten the spread of disease. **Please don't feed the wildlife!** In fact, it is illegal in Colorado to feed deer, elk, pronghorn, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, and bears. *Contributed by Karen Goodman; photo of an Indian Mountain deer courtesy of Carol Darland*

## MOUNTAIN LIONS AND OTHER LARGE WILDLIFE

Much of Colorado is prime mountain lion country, including here in Indian Mountain as shown by the photo provided below, which was taken in late 2016 from a cabin in the subdivision. Mountain lions are very elusive creatures and are seldom seen in the wild where their life span is around 12 years. These large powerful animals prey on deer, elk, porcupines, small mammals, livestock, and domesticated animals, including pets.

Lions prefer to take their prey by ambush rather than by long pursuit. As with any human encounter with a large animal, it is advisable to not run. It is better to make noise, maintain eye contact, back slowly away, and make yourself appear large by raising your arms in the air. Usually these animals are more afraid of us than we are of them, unless they have become habituated to being fed or they have young cubs, in which cases they can be very aggressive. People do not realize that when you set food out to attract any animal, be it birds, deer, elk, or porcupines, you are encouraging the larger predators that feed on these animals to visit your property. The last thing we



need here in Indian Mountain is to have another animal shot and killed either because they were a nuisance or a threat. In October one of two bear cubs was shot and killed here in Indian Mountain. If you are feeding the wildlife, or you are careless with your trash, you are part of the problem. As Karen noted above, in Colorado it is against the law to feed or set food or salt licks out to attract wildlife. For the most part, people and wildlife can coexist. The various wild creatures are an enjoyable part of living in the mountains. The key is to RESPECT the wildness of wildlife.

On 1/26/2016, the CPW (Colorado Parks and Wildlife) released a video of a moose tangled in a backyard swing to illustrate the dangers of feeding and attracting wildlife. I hope this video at the URL shown below will speak to us all. This moose lived through the ordeal, but more often the outcome is grim. Please do not feed the Wildlife!!! *Contributed by Susan Stoval*  
<http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/News-Release-Details.aspx?NewsID=5665>.

## **BRAIN TEASER**

It is early April. A hibernating bear leaves its den. It walks five miles South, five miles East, five miles North, and crawls back into its den. What color is the bear?

## IMPOA CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Position	Term	Phone	Email Address	Mailing Address
Dennis McQuillan	President	2018	303-881-5091	<a href="mailto:dmcqtech@gmail.com">dmcqtech@gmail.com</a>	12586 Sandstone Dr. Broomfield, CO 80021
Roger Mattson	Vice President & Interim Secretary	2019	303-278-1406	<a href="mailto:rdmattson@comcast.net">rdmattson@comcast.net</a>	2511 Fossil Trace Ct. Golden, CO 80401
Karen Goodman	Treasurer	2018	303-912-1063	<a href="mailto:kkmbgl@comcast.net">kkmbgl@comcast.net</a>	PO Box 203 Como, CO 80432
Vacant	Director	2019			
Marcia Logan	Membership Director	2017	970-586-9194	<a href="mailto:ep.mjlogan@yahoo.com">ep.mjlogan@yahoo.com</a>	1360-C Raven Circle Estes Park, CO 80517
Mike Benetti	Director	2017	719-839-1381	<a href="mailto:smbenetti@msn.com">smbenetti@msn.com</a>	P.O. Box 193 Como, Colorado 80432
Jim Scherrer	Director	2018	720-370-6203	<a href="mailto:eagle43470@gmail.com">eagle43470@gmail.com</a>	1394 S. Simms St. Lakewood, CO 80232
Samantha Bertin	Business Manager	---	719-836-9043	<a href="mailto:impoa01@hotmail.com">impoa01@hotmail.com</a>	---
IMPOA Contacts	<a href="http://www.impoa.net">www.impoa.net</a>	---	---	<a href="mailto:IMPOA01@hotmail.com">IMPOA01@hotmail.com</a>	PO Box 196 Jefferson, CO 80456

## IMMD CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Position	Phone	Email Address	Mailing Address
Bret Crouch	Vice President II	719-836-3431	<a href="mailto:bcrouchk@gmail.com">bcrouchk@gmail.com</a>	PO Box 171 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:ute380@gmail.com">ute380@gmail.com</a>	2855 Clairton Dr. Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
Susan Stoval	President	719-836-0138	<a href="mailto:sdstoval@gmail.com">sdstoval@gmail.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	---	<a href="http://indianmountain.info">indianmountain.info</a>	<a href="mailto:indianmtn@hotmail.com">indianmtn@hotmail.com</a>	PO Box 25 Como, CO 80432