

INDIAN MOUNTAIN 2024 FALL NEWSLETTER

A Joint Publication of the Indian Mountain Property Owners Association (IMPOA) and the Indian Mountain Metropolitan District (IMMD)

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IMMD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, we had some of the most amazing fall colors this year! There were more reds, oranges and yellows than I have seen in years. In addition, over the past year we have been blessed with meteor showers, northern lights, a solar eclipse and a comet. The photographs taken by our residents and posted for our enjoyment have been truly spectacular.

The dump station was completed this year which was a major accomplishment for the district. Fencing will be installed around the electronics to protect them from cattle.

We began fire mitigation at Indian Mountain Park. The district has contracted with an independent forester to assist in the creation of a 10-year forestry plan for the park. There is an article in this newsletter with further information.

Inspecting and maintaining the District facilities is a huge undertaking and we are fortunate to have Pat Smith to stay on top of all the moving parts. Multiply the upkeep on your own property times 25 and you will have some idea of what it takes. During one of our big windstorms the community center marquee was blown out. This has now been replaced. A

group of volunteers worked at Breton Park to spread wood chips. A number of trees at the Golf Course were removed for safety.

We have had a few instances of vandalism. These are being addressed with the Sheriff's office and individuals.

The District Office continues to be a very busy place, and an additional resource has been added part time. Jeanne Wells is now assisting Jackie and Pat at the office. Jeanne previously served on the IMPOA board.

We also have a new board member. Glenn Haas begins another term on the IMMD Board after a 2-year hiatus, having served from 2008 – 2018 and from 2020 – 2022. Glenn was very active in the development of the Community Center, changing the former IM Park and Recreation District to a Metropolitan District, and the formation of the IM Water Service Program. Glenn and Marcella are IM part-timers with primary residence in Fort Collins where their family operates two Krazy Karls Pizzerias. He was formerly a professor in the College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University.

The Board has finalized the District's budget for 2025. The budget can be found on the district's web site, indianmountain.info

Carol Darland

President, Indian Mountain Metropolitan District (IMMD)

IMPOA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, Indian Mountain residents and property owners,

As we transition from summer to the crisp days of fall, I hope you are enjoying all that our beautiful community has to offer.

First, I'd like to share that I've stepped down as IMPOA board president, and **Shannon Graff** has taken on this role. Shannon is incredibly talented and dedicated to IMPOA, and I'm excited to support her in this role as I continue serving IMPOA as vice president.

Before officially passing the welcome article to Shannon, however, I wanted to address some common questions and misconceptions about **IMPOA** (Indian Mountain Property Owners Association) as compared to **IMMD** (Indian Mountain Metropolitan District) one more time.

- **IMPOA is a nonprofit organization funded solely by voluntary \$45 annual membership and donations.** We host and support events and programs important to our membership, such as Dumpster Day, chipping, and community fencing.
- **IMMD is tax-funded and serves all property owners within its jurisdiction.** It has paid staff, owns property and assets like the community center and comfort station, and has the capacity to create new programs to meet community needs, such as the Indian Mountain Water Service Program (IMWSP).

Both IMMD and IMPOA are committed to enhancing life in Indian Mountain, and work to amplify the voice of the community to governmental entities and provide support and resources to individuals in Indian Mountain. Despite our distinct roles, the boards collaborate on events like the annual picnic and projects like this newsletter.

Each board also has many independent activities, and questions or concerns about those can only be handled by that board. For example, IMMD owns and operates the Ski Lodge, so IMPOA cannot assist with questions related to that property or its short-term rental availability. Some issues, like vehicle speeds, UTV use on county roads, or enforcing covenants, are outside the legal authority of both boards and should be referred to the appropriate agencies or individuals.

In recent years, based on member feedback, **the IMPOA board has focused on the following**: clarifying the board's role as related to IM Covenants, supporting community wildfire mitigation efforts, reducing the impact of open-range cattle, and hosting several regular events, all of which have required significant funds and time.

In the past few months, some community members have expressed interest in attending more events. However, given the board's current obligations and as a volunteer-driven organization, **we need significant additional support to continue the current events, let alone add new ones.** If you would like to help, please consider organizing and hosting activities or joining the IMPOA board.

Thank you, and best wishes for a wonderful fall season!

Kathryn Abrahamson

President, Indian Mountain Property Owners Association (IMPOA)

2024 EVENTS

December 14th: Tamale making with Nick Rinaldi Noon to 3PM

Visit IMPOA.NET for more details and to sign up! There are only 8 spots remaining, so sign up soon!

Indian Mountain Photo Contest 2024 – WINNERS!

We have some very talented photographers here in Indian Mountain! There were over 100 photos submitted this year. Here are the 2024 winners:

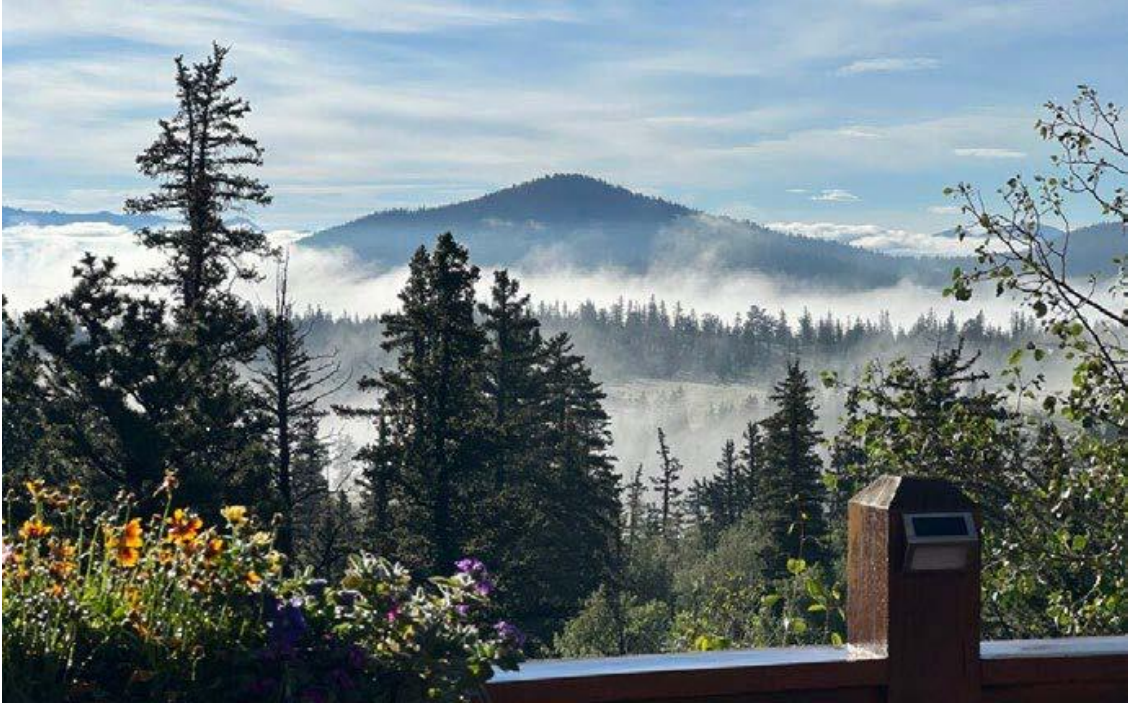
1 st Place	\$100.00	Susan Straughan
2 nd Place	\$ 50.00	Mary Bergen
3 rd Place	\$ 25.00	Kim Novitch

Remaining Winners Get a Free 2025 Indian Mountain Calendar:

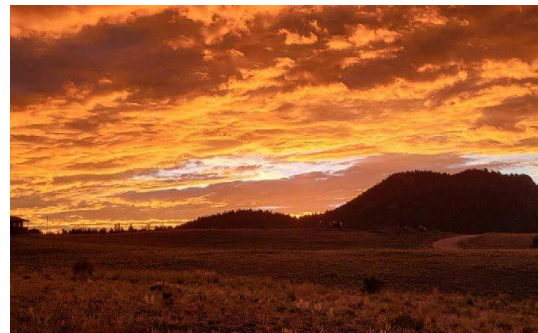
Laura Brown, Serena Kuoni, Bill Kremer, Joel Cooperstein,
Jackie Middelhoek, Kim Grosel, Cathe Steele, Will Graff, Joy Ariel, Ryan Blake

Congratulations to All the Winners!

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Winning Photos



Image



VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

On October 19th IMMD and IMPOA organized a lunch to thank all of our wonderful volunteers. Lunch consisted of hot dogs and hamburgers, chips, baked beans, macaroni and potato salads. Jeff and Nickie Mason brought amazing green chili and Jeanne Wells made her famous sloppy Joes.



For desert various cakes and cheesecakes were served. IMMD and IMPOA donated various prizes and Cindy Kremer donated some of her beautifully carved art pieces for the raffle. Overall, everyone had a great time, and we look forward to treating our volunteers again next year.

INDIAN MOUNTAIN CRAFT FAIR

The 2024 Craft Fair was a huge success! We had larger crowds than in past years, this may be due to the event being moved to an earlier date. We are considering moving this event even earlier to August/September in 2025.

The 2024 Craft Fair had 13 vendors with 18 tables full of homemade items, photographs, soaps, lotions, candles, crocheted items, jewelry, homemade jellies and relishes, etc. There was a really nice variety.

IMPOA provided a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks and dessert. We are looking forward to hosting the Craft Fair in 2025!







2025 EVENTS - TBD

The events for 2025 will be listed in the [Indian Mountain Winter Newsletter](#) coming out in January/February of 2025. IMPOA will need to see if our open board positions have been filled as well as identify how much support we will have to hold events. The more support we have, the more events we will be able to hold.

Help Shape the Future – Join Our Board of Directors!

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS - IMPOA

We are seeking dedicated and enthusiastic individuals to join our team and contribute to the Indian Mountain community. If you are interested in applying for one of the positions, please submit your resume along with a brief statement of your interest and what you hope to bring to IMPOA.

Please send an email indicating your interest to: IMPOA.bod@gmail.com by **December 31, 2024**

RV DUMP STATION

The new RV Dump Station was completed this summer. Since it has begun to freeze up here, the RV Dump Station has been closed for the winter to prevent damaging the pipes between the tanks.

IMMD contracted to build a fence around the leach field and the control panels to protect them from the cows. Unfortunately, cows can damage a leach field beyond repair with their weight, and we do not want the cows to be able to rub against the control panels.

The fencing has been completed thanks to Shawn Bassett and Derek Sheppard! Thanks so much for your hard work, guys!

Article provided by Jackie Middelhoek, IMMD District Manager and IMWSP Administrator

Indian Mountain Firewise Efforts



IMMD BURN PIT

The burn pit was a great success this year, thanks to our wonderful volunteers and hard-working wood haulers. The pit has 46 piles this year! We will burn the pit after getting permission from the

Fire Chief and the Sheriff when they determine conditions are safe, after we have sufficient snow on the ground.

Provided we get the opportunity to burn the pit this winter, we plan to open the pit again next June.

Article provided by Jackie Middelhoek, IMMD District Manager and IMWSP Administrator

2024 BURN PIT STATISTICS

Loads to the Pit:

535 Indian Mountain

173 Stagestop, Elkhorn, Buffalo, Lost Park

708 Total loads = 46 Piles of Slash to BURN this WINTER

Slash Monitors, Pit monitoring, Pit burning, etc. resulted in a total of **464 Community Volunteer Hours!**

Provided by Will Graff, Firewise Coordinator

IMPOA CHIPPING PROGRAM

The Indian Mountain Chipping Program was a huge success, as always. Mammoth Mitigation was hired again to do the chipping this past summer.

A total of **80** properties were chipped this year! This was an increase from last year's 60 properties. Great work everyone!





FIRE MITIGATION

Hiker – Golfer Safety Projects in Indian Mountain Park

Indian Mountain Park has a large number of dead and dying trees, mostly because of damage inflicted by the western spruce budworm. This can pose a danger to the community in case of fire and from trees falling on people when it is windy out.

This year, the Indian Mountain Metro District Board of Directors undertook some large projects to start mitigating these dangers in Indian Mountain Park. The park is 265 acres and is comprised of essentially 2 forest types: a north-facing dense spruce-fir (Engelman spruce, Douglas-fir) forest type, and a much less dense south facing mixed conifer (ponderosa pine, limber pine, bristlecone pine, Douglas-fir, etc.) forest type.

The dense spruce-fir forest type is the area getting hit year after year by the western spruce budworm.

The Metro District Board prioritized three things:

1. Hiker – Golfer safety on the hiking and disk golf trails from dead trees falling down
2. Emergency vehicle access on most of the hiking trails

3. Treating the dense spruce-fir forest with heavy equipment so as to maximize the area treated and minimize fire danger as quickly as possible.

In total, about 40 acres were treated.

- In June, Pine Brothers treated the hiking trails and 20 feet on either side of the hiking trails. They widened one of the trails that previously had been a single track to facilitate emergency vehicle access. Pine Brothers chipped and broadcast all the wood they took down to minimize vehicle traffic tearing up the hiking trails.
- In June, VM West built a logging road to provide access to the north side of the park for their impressive equipment to be able to start treating the area, and also again for emergency vehicle access. VM West treated about 10 acres, leaving all of the live and viable trees and taking down only the dead trees. Part of the deal was VM West taking all the usable logs and masticating the rest. Mastication is done by a machine that has a large roller on the front with massive teeth. The machine basically chews to pieces all the wood that is lying on the ground. Chipping and mastication leave the nutrients on the soil for the live and viable trees to be able to grow. It also holds on to moisture. Green grass is already sprouting up from the masticated areas. There is a lot more mitigation needed on the north side and the logging road will provide access for many years to come.
- In September, Tim Higgins, Pat Smith and Jackie Middelhoek took down about 50 hazard trees around the disk golf course to prevent these trees from falling on golfers.

The Indian Mountain Board looks forward to continuing to do fire mitigation in the Indian Mountain Park until all of the dead and dying areas have been treated. Toward that end, the Board has hired a Forester to provide them with a 10-year Forest Management Plan that will be completed in December. Based on that plan, the Board will know which areas to prioritize and how to put them out to bid.

Check out the before and after pictures and a picture of the massive equipment VM West brought in.



Article provided by Jackie Middelhoek, IMMD District Manager and IMWSP Administrator

WATER AUGMENTATION

Enrollment Period:

- The Indian Mountain Water Augmentation Program (IMWSP) will have an enrollment period for new enrollees from February 1 – March 29, 2025, for IMWSP membership starting on 1/1/2026.

Costs:

- For this tranche, the water purchase fee will be \$500 per well and the non-refundable application fee will be \$50.
- During the summer/fall of 2025, new enrollees will need to have a water meter installed and certified at a cost of approximately \$800.
- In the fall of 2025, new enrollees will have to file a new well permit application at a cost of approximately \$100.
- If enrollees have a decreed well, additional steps with potential costs will have to be taken.

Procedures:

- During the enrollment period, new enrollees will turn in their water purchase fee and application fee together with their application form which can be found under the Water > Forms tabs on <https://indianmountain.info>. This form needs to be signed and notarized. Everything can be dropped off at the Community Center office, the Community Center drop box or mailed to IMWSP, PO Box 25, Como, CO 80432 after February 1, 2025.
- In the summer/fall, IMWSP will organize the installation of meters and certifications. New enrollees can install their own meter or wait for IMWSP to organize the installations.
- In the fall, IMWSP will fill out new well permit applications for all new enrollees and forward them to enrollees, so that enrollees can pay and file them with the Colorado Division of Water Resources.
- The IMWSP expects to close on the new water purchase on 1/1/2026 after which the Headwater Authority of the South Platte will send out the Community Augmentation Certificate. In turn the IMWSP will send out individual certificates and water meter reporting instructions including the new enrollees' reporting IDs.

For existing IMWSP members, the Annual Administrative Fee will remain at \$75 for 2025 and will be billed during the first week of 2025. (New enrollees will not pay this fee until 2026).

For more information, please check out the Water tab at <https://indianmountain.info>.

Please direct questions to indianmountainmetrodist@gmail.com or call 719-836-9043 (Wed–Sat, 9am–1pm).

Article provided by Jackie Middelhoek, IMMD District Manager and IMWSP Administrator

ELKHORN ROAD TRASH PICKUP / LITTERBUG PATROL / DUMPSTER DAYS

28 Road Clean-Up Volunteers picked up trash on Elkhorn Road from 285 all the way to both of the Indian Mountain Gates back in September. Those volunteers picked up **43** large bags of trash along with **3** truckloads of large objects! Thanks to Jannene Sherrill for putting this effort together!

For information on the Litterbug Patrol and how you can get involved, please send an email to IMPOA.bod@gmail.com and we will connect you with Jannene Sherrill.

Dumpster Day was a SUCCESS as well! A total of **4** Dumpsters were filled!

HOW TO KEEP YOUR PROPERTY SAFE WITH APPS FOR YOUR SMART PHONE

- Mopeka: unless the house is winterized, it is very important not to run out of propane. There is a device that can be stuck under the tank and can connect to Wi-Fi via a Wi-Fi bridge so that levels can be monitored remotely. The device is made by Mopeka Products which has a smart phone app through which sensors and a Wi-Fi bridge can be purchased.
- Temp Stick: To make sure that temperatures in the Lodge, Comfort Station and Community Center don't dip below a certain level, IMMD has installed Temp Stick devices that connect to Wi-Fi in each of the buildings. If the temperatures dip below a certain level, an app on our phones warns us.
- X-Sense has a remote Water Leaks Detector which can come in handy in case your fridge or water heater starts leaking or in case of burst pipes. X-Sense also has a remote smoke and Carbon Monoxide detector.
- Engbird: Frozen septic tanks aren't fun for anyone. We had a lot of those around Indian Mountain last year. Engbird has an app that connects to a device that is put in the septic tank, so that the septic tank temperature can be remotely monitored. Unfortunately, Engbird only connects by Bluetooth and not Wi-Fi.

Article provided by Jackie Middelhoek, IMMD District Manager and IMWSP Administrator

FUN TREE FACTS

During our fire mitigation efforts this summer we learned a lot about trees.

Fir trees, such as the Douglas-fir, can be identified by their soft needles. They actually are really soft to the touch.

Limber pines (see picture) have branches that are bendy like gumby. It will be hard to resist bending the branches every time you walk past one now that you know this.

Spruce trees have sharp needles that poke and hurt.

Bristlecone (and Limber) Pines have sap on their needles. If you try to use them as Christmas trees and bring them inside, the wax melts and leaves a mess on your floor.

Ponderosa Pines are giant trees with reddish bark. When you are in a ponderosa forest, keep your eyes out for wild turkeys as they like to roost on the lower branches.

Walking around the woods is even more fun now!

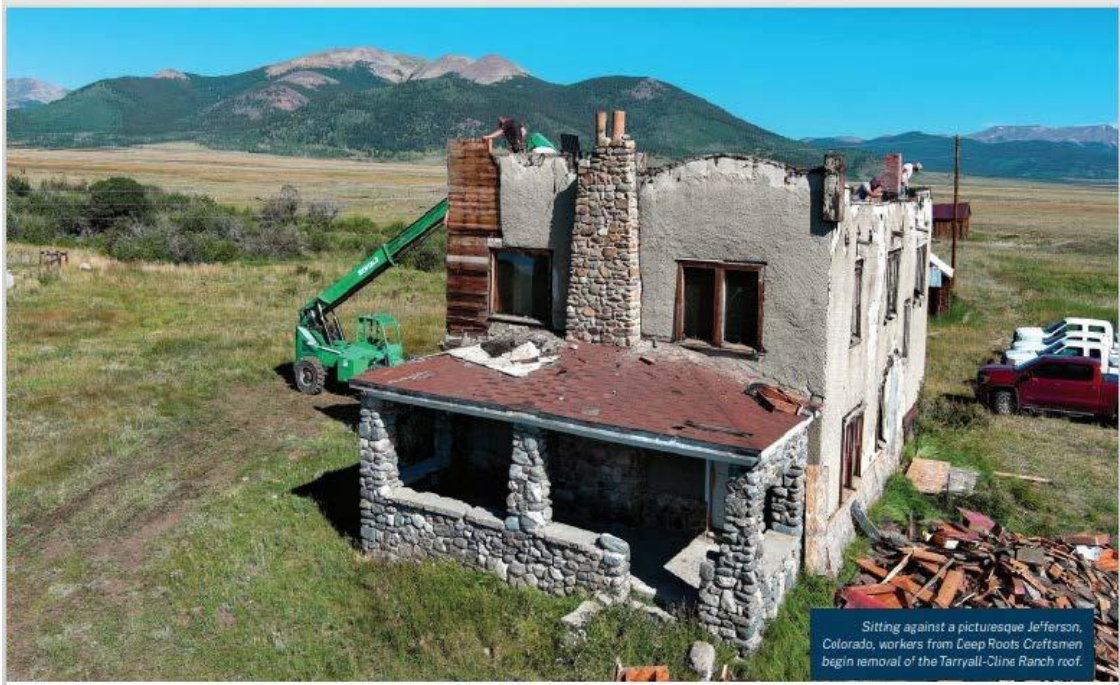
Article provided by Jackie Middelhoek, IMMD District Manager and IMWSP Administrator



Limber Pine

Tarryall-Cline Ranch Update

By Evan Lockhart Borman, Preservation & Project Manager



Exciting news from Tarryall-Cline Ranch! You may be asking yourself “Which ranch? Where is that?”

Tarryall-Cline is located off US HWY 285, between Como & Jefferson at Tarryall Creek. You may recognize it by its off-white stucco façade, and irregular roof. For those traveling across South Park, the main house has become a curiosity. Architecturally, the main ranch house is an example of the Pueblo Revival style with elements of the Spanish Eclectic style, which is very unusual and rare for a ranch house in Colorado from the first half of the 20th century.

The main ranch house, while of wood frame construction, and clad in stucco, is not actually made of adobe like the Pueblo Style buildings we may be accustomed to seeing in New Mexico. The Pueblo Revival style was part of the movement towards eclectic architectural styles popular in the early decades of the 20th century.

The main ranch house was built in 1928 by the ranch owner, Foster Cline, a prominent Denver attorney. He acquired the land after representing a client in a Park County case, and after he was not paid in full, Cline purchased the ranch in a Sheriff's Sale. Shortly thereafter, Cline commissioned the construction of the Main house, and a stone porch was added a year later. The ranch was owned by Cline and his family for about 80 years while the house was primarily used as a residence for the ranch managers, notably the Anderson Family.

SOUTH PARK.... A Community of Space

There are probably many times when we take the beauty and “special-ness” of South Park for granted. We have a stake in, and a responsibility for, this area. If you’re traveling south on HWY 285, what exactly does this sign on Kenosha Pass mean...SOUTH PARK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA???

The South Park region has long been revered as a nearly pristine example of well-protected natural resources and existing historic mining and ranching structures. After many years of work to achieve the designation, in March 2009 Congress approved and President Barack Obama signed a bill designating the South Park National Heritage Area – one of less than 50 such congressionally designated areas in the United States that represent the history of the country. The people of South Park believe strongly in the need to protect our abundant cultural and natural resources while encouraging others to enjoy them with us.

In the Winter/Spring 2024 issue of South Park Heritage, the official magazine from the South Park National Heritage Area, Director, Andrew Spencer writes about the world the technology gurus promote. Technologists expound the benefits of the digital world – we can see images of anywhere on the planet, talk with friends in distant continents, and see how anyone feels or thinks in any given moment. They say that physically being in a place is less important than being able to be virtually anywhere in an instant. Deep down we know something is wrong with spending so much time indoors tied to technology. Humans have evolved as social beings: finding purpose, connections, and fulfillment in the natural world. Actually, being in a place is necessary for our peace of mind.”

“When we step outside into the South Park National Heritage Area (SPNHA), the place we find ourselves is a cultural landscape filled with majestic mountain vistas, pristine Gold Medal streams and unique historical treasures. South Park...is as important as anything in our lives and conservation of place is key not only to our survival but to the survival of the entirety of this unique landscape.”

Check out the South Park National Heritage Area at <https://southparkheritage.org> Look at the tabs at the top of their website front page for information if you want to donate or find other volunteer opportunities.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION INFORMATION

To receive emergency alerts for Park County please use **CodeRED**. To receive **CodeRED** alerts, please use this information to sign up:

<https://www.parkcountyco.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7393/Text-to-Enroll>. For more information, please check: <https://www.parkcountyco.gov/97/CodeRED>

The smart phone app Watch Duty can send alerts to your phone in case of a nearby fire.

<https://www.watchduty.org>

Trafficalerts: <https://www.cotrip.org/home> They also have a smart phone app. You can access traffic cams through this site.

A shortcut to Hwy 285 cameras can be found at: <https://mymountaintown.com/weather-traffic> and <https://mymountaintown.com/weather-traffic/285-weather-traffic-cams-jefferson-to-south-park>

My Mountain Town is a great website for all kinds of information regarding our mountain communities: <https://mymountaintown.com/emergency-info> . They are on X as well.

Regarding conditions on Kenosha and Hoosier pass, these websites are helpful:

<https://iskenoshapassopen.com> and <https://ishoosierpassopen.com>

To see what the weather looks like in most of Colorado, please check out

<https://www.coloradowebcam.net>

Weather apps that are helpful are Weather Underground, AccuWeather, Windy.com and MyRadar.