



Mount Silverheels

2025 INDIAN MOUNTAIN SPRING NEWSLETTER

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

INDIAN MOUNTAIN METROPOLITAN DISTRICT (IMMD)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2025 Priorities

The board has established a number of project initiatives for 2025. These projects focus on large maintenance items, amenity improvements and fire mitigation.

Three of these projects have already been completed thanks to Jackie, Pat and Jeanie. The completed projects include painting and sealing of the comfort station floor. The new seal should significantly reduce wear and tear along with reduced maintenance. The community center main parking lot has been resurfaced with crushed asphalt and the overflow parking area repaired with new and repurposed road base from the main lot. The burn pit road has also been repaired and new road base applied.

Two projects at the community center that need to be completed are repair/replacement of grout and resealing of the floor and a path and stairs to the lower level.

Fire mitigation continues to be a high district priority. We are currently in discussions with the Jefferson-Como Fire Protection District on a cistern project at the District property on Chief Trail. There is a small cistern already on that property which requires the fire department to pump water in for storage and then pump it out as needed. The goal of the new project is to replace the existing cistern with two 3500-gallon cisterns that will be refilled automatically from the repurposed well located on that property. The repurposing of the well has already been approved by the Department of Water Resources. Costs for this project will be split between the Fire District and the Indian Mountain Metropolitan District.

The District has fewer funds available this year than last for mitigation at Indian Mountain Park but believe we can still make progress on this effort this year. IMPOA has authorized up to \$12,000 for this year to contribute to this effort. We are also working with Colorado State Forestry and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) to apply for grants that would be available for next year.

If you are looking to complete fire mitigation yourself or have someone else complete work on your private property, I highly encourage you to review the information included in the District's Forest Management Plan, <https://indianmountain.info/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-01-11-IM-Park-Forest-Management-Plan.pdf>. This information will give you a clear set of guidelines and expectations on what should be done with live and dead trees as well as slash depending on the type of trees on your property.

Carol Darland, President, IMMD

INDIAN MOUNTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (IMPOA) ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Spring is in the air! I've been lucky enough to spot (and hear!) Mountain Bluebirds around the community lately. Not only are they my favorite bird, but they're also a sure sign that spring and summer are just around the corner. I've been loving the warmer temperatures, longer days, and seeing more wildlife emerging as the snow melts away.

We're excited to welcome the new season and share a few updates in this quarterly message. First,

we're thrilled to announce **two new board members** joining the IMPOA team!

- **Kathy Chandler** will serve as our Membership Coordinator, and
- **Edgar Vidal** is stepping into the role of Secretary and Website Support

Both Kathy and Edgar bring a wealth of experience and a deep love for our mountain community. We're so grateful to have them on board and know they'll make wonderful contributions.

As you may know, IMPOA has moved to a quarterly meeting schedule, which means our next meeting in July will also be our **Annual Meeting**. Be sure to watch for ballot information—we'll be sharing updates via mail, email, our website, and on Nextdoor. We hope to see many of you there!

Fire Danger & Safety Reminder

While we're all enjoying the warming weather, please remember that the fire danger is very real this time of year. Currently, we are under a Stage 1 Fire Ban due to the ongoing dry conditions. Please be cautious and refrain from any outdoor burning or activities that could spark a fire. We're hoping for more rain or snow to help with the dryness, but for now, safety is our top priority.

We are very grateful that weather conditions improved so we were able to burn the slash piles in the Burn Pit recently! This means the pit can be opened this summer for residents to use.

For more fire safety tips and updates, make sure to check out the article by our Firewise Coordinator, Will Graff, in this newsletter. He always has great advice and insights on how we can all stay prepared and protect our homes.

Summer Fun Ahead

Spring also means we're looking forward to a packed summer of community fun, in partnership with the Indian Mountain Metropolitan District (IMMD). See the **EVENTS** section in this newsletter or visit our website for details on all the Indian Mountain Events being held this summer.

If you're the crafty type, now's the time to start prepping for the **Craft Fair** in September. We've moved the date up this year based on vendor feedback and expect a great turnout.

And don't forget to dust off those cameras! The **Indian Mountain Calendar Photo Contest** is returning this year. We saw some amazing shots last year, and this time, we ***promise*** to have the calendars

available by the **end of November**.

Note: The winning photos from 2024 are now being displayed on the IMPOA home page!

We'll need lots of volunteers to help make these events a success. If you'd like to lend a hand, keep an eye out for announcements and sign-up opportunities—we'd love to have you involved!

Thanks to all of you for helping make Indian Mountain such a wonderful place to call home. Here's to a beautiful, safe, and fun-filled season ahead!

Shannon Graff, President, IMPOA

KEEPING OUR EVENTS ALIVE: Volunteers Needed!

As spring blooms in Indian Mountain, so does the excitement for our community's favorite events— like Dumpster Day and the Annual Picnic. These traditions, brought to you by the IMPOA and IMMD boards, are more than just fun gatherings or practical services. They're a big part of what makes our neighborhood special. **But here's the catch: the boards can't do it alone.**

From planning and setup to hosting, teardown, and cleanup, events like Dumpster Day (our annual chance to clear out clutter) and the picnic (a summer highlight of food and neighborly vibes) rely on volunteer power. The boards organize and lead the charge, but they're not a one-stop crew for every task. If we want these events to keep happening, we need our community to step up.

How can you help? It's simple: lend a hand with planning logistics, setting up tables, organizing food, grilling, welcoming folks during the event, or pitching in for cleanup afterward. Every bit counts, whether it's an hour or a day.

***Without more volunteers, these cherished traditions could fade away ...
... and none of us want that***

Sign-up details for all events can be found below in the **Events** section of this newsletter and on the IMPOA Website www.IMPOA.net You can also reach out to the board at impoa.BOD@gmail.com to let us know you're in. Let's work together to keep Indian Mountain's community spirit thriving. See you at the next event—hopefully with a few extra hands-on deck!

Article by Kathryn Abrahamson, IMPOA

2025 INDIAN MOUNTAIN IMMD/IMPOA EVENTS

Jul 5	11:00am - 2:00pm	IMMD/IMPOA Annual Summer Picnic
Jul 12	10:30am - 12:00pm	IMPOA Annual Meeting
Jul 19	9:00am - 3:00pm	IMMD Community Garage Sale
Jul 26	9:00am - 4:00pm	IMPOA Dumpster Days
Jul / Aug	Dates to be finalized soon	IMPOA Community Chipping Days
Aug 9	11:00am - 2:00pm	IMMD/IMPOA Volunteer Luncheon
Sep 1	Thru September 30	IMPOA Photo Contest for the Calendars
Sep 20	10:00am - 4:00pm	IMPOA Craft Fair
Nov 15	4:00pm - 7:00pm	Community Thanksgiving Potluck IM, The Buffalo, Elkhorn, Stagestop, & Lost Park
Dec 6	12:00pm - 3:00pm	Tamale Making with Nick

Check the IMPOA website for more events as they are scheduled!

To **VOLUNTEER** for an Event, please fill out the form at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDkuP_PBOXMOP0yTikoKluc1TYcwY9E5pyAeO0YDBE6NOYeQ/viewform

INDIAN MOUNTAIN EVENT APPLICATION FORM

NEW in 2025! If a resident of Indian Mountain would like to hold an event, or if you have an idea for a community event, this form is available to fill out and submit to the IMPOA Board of Directors for

consideration. IMPOA may be helpful in finding a location or venue for your event, there may be funds available from IMPOA to assist with your event, and you can request support from the board such as advertising for your event.

You can get a copy of the form here: <http://impoa.net/wp-content/uploads/IM-Event-Application-Form.pdf>

CHECK OUT THE NEWLY UPDATED IMPOA WEBSITE!

Now that we have a Web Master on the IMPOA Board, the website is getting updated regularly and has several new features! On the homepage we have added links for the Sheriff's Weekly Activity Report, Hwy 285 CDOT Road Conditions, links to all the 2025 Indian Mountain Events, and many other updates!

A Huge Shout Out to Edgar!



IMMD TAXPAYER BENEFITS

Did you know that as an Indian Mountain Metropolitan District taxpayer; you, your family and your non-paying guests have access to some 450 acres of parklands, forests, open space, grasslands, wetlands, ponds, waterways, and wildlife habitat for the community including the District's facilities.

The District amenities include the Comfort Station, Ski Lodge, Indian Mountain Park including the Disc Golf Course, Picnic Pavilion, Play-ground, and hiking trails, the Community Center, Dump Station, RV Storage Lot, Pasture Golf Course, Archery Range, Burn Pit and Breton Park. For more information on taking advantage of these amenities, please visit the Facilities tab at www.indianmountain.info

Article submitted by Carol Darland, President, IMMD

INDIAN MOUNTAIN BURN PIT



The Burn Pit was successfully burned on Saturday April 19th thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and the fire department.



A handful of volunteers along with our Firemen!

The Burn Pit will be open from May 30th to August 30th (or until full) every Friday and Saturday, from 8:30am – 2:30pm, provided enough volunteers are available to monitor the pit. Without volunteers, we cannot open the

pit.

The volunteer shifts are three-hour shifts on Fridays and Saturdays, from 8:30am – 11:30am and 11:30am – 2:30pm. We need two volunteers per shift. Either Pat, Jackie or Jeanne will open the burn pit in the morning and close the pit in the afternoon and will give the volunteers instructions.

Please sign up here to volunteer as a burn pit monitor at the burn pit. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and to enjoy the great outdoors.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45ABAC28AAFBC07-56496144-burn>.

When volunteering, please bring water and snacks, and protective clothing from the sun and wind.

Indian Mountain property owners will be able to get a Burn Pit Permit (not to be confused with the *Burn Permit* that is available from the Fire Department) at the Community Center office at 31 Keneu Ct., Wednesday through Saturday from 9am – 1pm. The Burn Pit Permit Application will be available on the IMMD website: indianmountain.info, under Facilities > Burn Pit. [Burn Pit – Indian Mountain Metropolitan District](#).

The Indian Mountain Metropolitan District Board will decide at the May 10th Board Meeting whether the surrounding neighborhoods will be able to use the Burn Pit and for how much.

Article by Jackie Middelhoek



INDIAN MOUNTAIN FIREWISE PROGRAM

In the scenic Indian Mountain community, IMMD and IMPOA are leading a vital initiative to safeguard our homes and properties: the Firewise Program.

Wildfires present a serious threat to mountain communities, and the Firewise Program empowers property owners with the knowledge and tools needed to reduce fire risks. By participating in this program, community members can take proactive steps to protect their land and neighbors from potential wildfires.

In 2024 alone, the burn pit program removed 1,605 cubic yards of vegetation. IMPOA partnered with Mammoth Mitigation to chip wood at approximately 80 residences and properties—greatly reducing

wildfire fuel and enhancing community safety.

On April 19th, favorable weather allowed us to safely burn over 45 piles of slash at the burn pit. Each pile measures approximately 13 feet in diameter and is 10+ feet tall! This created plenty of space for new piles at the burn pit beginning May 30th for the 2025 season.

Indian Mountain is pleased to continue both the burn pit and chipping programs this year. I am currently working on finalizing dates for chipping, as I know many of you are actively working on fire mitigation on your properties.

Let's all do our part to keep Indian Mountain as safe as possible from wildfires.

Will Graff, Firewise Coordinator

LITTERBUG NOTICE - 2025

The Litterbug Volunteers keep the road/section(s) they choose, clean of trash and own those selected areas until they decide to stop. They do not pick up household trash and they do not include their household trash bags into the trash bags that the county so kindly provides to IM for this purpose. While they 'own' their road/section(s) all year, people normally check their chosen areas when they are at their property between May 1st and October 1st. How often they pick up depends on their travel to their property and whether they live here year round.

Hi everyone! It is almost that time of year to begin keeping our Indian Mountain roads beautiful. We have over 30 families who have 'adopted' a road or section of road anywhere from 3 tenths of a mile to over 2 miles.

Thank you for your volunteer work in this endeavor!

Article by Jannene Sherrill, Litterbug Coordinator

If you are interested in 'adopting' a section of road, please contact **Jannene Sherrill** via email: jsherrill263@gmail.com

If you are moving or are unable to continue monitoring your chosen road/section, please send an email to Jannene Sherrill: jsherrill263@gmail.com with a heading of "discontinue my Litterbug adoption" and provide

your name and any note you might need to provide me.

There is a Map of Indian Mountain in the Community Center (left side of the short hallway) which shows in RED which roads and/or sections of roads are already adopted.

EXPLORING OUR MOUNTAIN BACKYARD

Spring is here and our picturesque surroundings offer a wealth of opportunities that cater to all levels of outdoor enthusiasts. Whether you're seeking a leisurely stroll or a more challenging trek, the trails near Indian Mountain provide breathtaking landscapes and a chance to connect with nature. Here's a few great hiking options right at our doorstep.

Tarryall Falls Trail

Distance from Indian Mountain: ~10-15 miles via Tarryall Road

Length: 0.4 miles round trip

This easy, family-friendly hike leads to the picturesque Tarryall Falls. Along the way, enjoy stunning views of surrounding grasslands and snow-capped peaks. It's a perfect quick outing for all ages!

Learn more here: <https://dayhikesneardenver.com/tarryall-falls-hike/>

Brookside-McCurdy Trail (Pike National Forest)

Distance from Indian Mountain: ~15 miles

Length: 6-10 miles round trip (customizable)

Ideal for a half-day adventure, this trail offers pine forests, open meadows, and mountain views. May often brings early wildflowers and chances to spot deer or elk. Start at the Twin Eagles trailhead and hike as far as you like – but if you can make it to the ridgeline the payoff is worth it! Learn more here:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recarea/?recid=12909>

Kenosha

Pass

Trails

Distance	from	Indian	Mountain:	~20-25	miles	north
Length:	6	miles	round	trip	(to	Colorado Trail junction)

Kenosha Pass provides access to the Colorado Trail at 10,000 feet. Head east toward Lost Creek Wilderness

or west toward the Continental Divide—both paths boast expansive views and vibrant aspen groves greening up in May. It's an easy-to-moderate trek with big rewards. Learn more here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recarea/?recid=80868>

Hiking Safety Tips

To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience, consider these tips:

1. Plan Ahead: Tell someone your hiking plans, including your expected return time. Study trail maps and check conditions on the Forest Service sites linked above.
2. Stay Hydrated and Nourished: Bring enough water and snacks to keep your energy up.
3. Dress Appropriately: Wear layered, moisture-wicking clothing and sturdy shoes for changing weather and terrain.
4. Be Wildlife Aware: Spring awakens bears, moose, and mountain lions—keep a respectful distance, make noise, and store food securely.
5. Leave No Trace: Pack out all trash and stick to trails to preserve our natural beauty.

Let's embrace the natural wonders surrounding Indian Mountain and make the most of the beauty at our doorstep. Happy trails!

Article by Kathryn Abrahamson, IMPOA

IDENTIFY OUR MAJOR TREE SPECIES IN INDIAN MOUNTAIN

Here's a very helpful tree identifier link for the different types of pine and spruce that we have at our elevation in Indian Mountain.

When we spray our trees in the summer, we focus only on the **spruce** trees. **The pine trees are not affected by the spruce budworm.**

[Colorado's Major Tree Species - Colorado State Forest Service](#)

Article by Becca Wilhelm, IMPOA



NOXIOUS WEED – CANADIAN THISTLE

Colorado has several beautiful and harmless thistles, but the Canada Thistle is not one of them! It is considered one of the most troublesome weeds in the United States.

Unfortunately, the Canada Thistle has started to invade our Indian Mountain and Stagestop communities. If you take a moment to check out the infestation at the corner of Stagestop Road and CR 77, you will see what this invasive plant can do to destroy an ecosystem. It forms a monoculture in areas with moist soil, replacing the native plants that support native insects, birds and wildlife. The [Colorado Noxious Weed Act](#) requires that it be treated and eliminated on both public and private lands.

Canada Thistle can be differentiated from native thistles by the several small purple to white flowers that grow at the end of each stem. The plant grows 2-4 feet high and spreads mainly through its rhizomes or underground stems. These stems can increase the width of a patch 6-10 feet in a single season! To eliminate Canada Thistle, you must injure and exhaust its root system over several seasons through mowing/cutting above ground and/or herbicide application in the late spring and early fall. A combination is best. Digging up or chopping the roots will only result in the plant sending up more shoots and spreading even faster.

Teller-Park Conservation District recommends Whetstone or Milestone as the best herbicide to target this thistle. One quart will last most people several years. For more information contact the Conservation District at tellerparkcd@gmail.com or 719-472-3671. The internet also has many resources, three of which are listed here.

Article by Cyndra Dietz, Indian Mountain Resident

[Noxious Weeds - Teller-Park Conservation District](#)

[Canada thistle fact sheet.pdf](#)

[Managing Canada Thistle](#)



The MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: A JEWEL OF INDIAN MOUNTAIN

As spring unfolds across the Indian Mountain community, residents are greeted by the vibrant presence of the Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*). These striking birds, with their brilliant blue plumage, are among the first migratory species to return to Colorado each year, signaling the arrival of warmer days.

A Glimpse of Blue

Male Mountain Bluebirds are renowned for their dazzling turquoise-blue feathers, while females exhibit a more subdued gray-blue coloration. These birds are slightly larger than a Cassin's Finch but smaller than an American Robin, making them a distinctive sight in our open meadows and along fence lines.

Habitat and Behavior

Preferring open terrains, Mountain Bluebirds often forage by hovering low over grasses to catch insects, their primary food source during the warmer months. In winter, their diet shifts to include berries and small fruits. They are cavity nesters, often utilizing old woodpecker holes or nest boxes provided by conservation efforts.

Supporting Our Bluebird Population

The Colorado Bluebird Project, guided by Denver Audubon, aims to bolster bluebird populations through public education and the installation of nest boxes. These boxes provide essential nesting sites, especially as natural cavities become scarce due to development.

Observing and Protecting

Residents can support Mountain Bluebirds by maintaining open spaces, installing nest boxes, and minimizing pesticide use to ensure a healthy insect population. Observing these birds can be a delightful experience, but it's important to maintain a respectful distance to avoid disturbing their natural behaviors.

As we enjoy the beauty of the Mountain Bluebird, let's also commit to preserving the habitats that support their presence in our community.

Article by Shannon Graff, IMPOA



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### INDIAN MOUNTAIN ECHOES

*A new section in the newsletter for news, people, articles & events around Indian Mountain & Park County*

#### Did you know ... ?

A new, exciting Escape Room Adventure is being built in Bailey, Colorado! Whether you are a skeptic or a believer, the **Deep Woods Sasquatch Escape Adventure** is sure to be an incredible time! Perhaps a little scary to some, and definitely different from any other!

**Jim Myers**, owner of **The Sasquatch Outpost in Bailey, Colorado**, has been busy working all winter to finish the new Deep Woods Sasquatch Escape Adventure. This is the **FIRST** Escape Room type entertainment in Park County!

This escape adventure has been designed with details and information from recognized Sasquatch researchers and experts and what they have actually encountered in the field! You will be using codes, clues, and puzzles, along with your knowledge of Sasquatch, to move through this wild forest adventure!

**Deep Woods Sasquatch Escape Adventure** is scheduled to open in June of 2025; with a ribbon cutting ceremony on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June. (TBD)

**Note:** *This adventure is not suitable for children younger than 11 years old*

If you haven't already been, while you're there for the Deep Woods Sasquatch Escape Adventure, go check out the Sasquatch Museum! Prices are very reasonable at \$8 for adults, \$4.00 for Kids 5-18, and children under 5 are free!

**The Sasquatch Outpost and Deep Woods Sasquatch Escape Adventure are located at:**

141 Main Street, Bailey, CO

Telephone: (303) 816-9383

[info@sasquatchoutpost.com](mailto:info@sasquatchoutpost.com)

**Open 10AM-4PM, Closed Wednesdays**



*Article by Becca Wilhelm, IMPOA*

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