

# NEWSLETTER

## Bringing Our Community Together via Communication



### Balanced Budget Adopted

The WBMD Board amended the 2021 Budget to reflect progress on removing deadfall from the Eagle's Nest Wilderness (ENW) adjacent to our western boundary. Previous newsletters have discussed what appears to be a new willingness on the part of the US Forest Service to work with us on removing deadfall. This work takes top priority on the Ranch, so the 2021 amended budget postpones non-essential projects to free up funding for the work in the ENW. Specifically, money set aside for additional monoliths at street corners and for postal boxes on the Ranch will be deferred, bringing the forecast spending into balance with forecast revenues. We are also pursuing \$79,000 in matching grants from Summit County to offset what are expected to be substantial expenditures related to our fire suppression system and the ENW project. For reference, our General Fund spending for 2021-22 is forecast to total \$330,000.

### Stars of the Chipping Program

And speaking of fire mitigation, the Fire Committee is building the strongest possible case for funding help in the ENW. Federal law mandates hand tools for removing the deadfall, which will likely drive the cost up a lot. The

### Editor's Note

The main purpose of this newsletter is to offer our Ruby Ranch neighbors a chance to influence the selection of the person to be hired as our full time Ranch Manager. The Willow Brook Metro District Board met in special session on Friday, March 17 and voted unanimously to hire a full time Ranch Manager. A selection committee has been chosen from people familiar with ranch work in general, Ruby Ranch in particular and the labor market in Summit County. Members include John Longhill, Kevin Boylan, John Rovick, EJ Olbright, Dave Wingate and Eric Kircher, the last of whom was our longtime manager for roads and water.

An ad has been prepared and is attached to the email forwarding this newsletter. The ad lists the primary tasks associated with the job, but finding the right personality fit will be just as important as finding the right job skills. You may know someone you think would be interested in this position and a really good fit for the job. If so, please feel free to encourage them to apply and advise Sue Blair at [sblair@crsofcolorado.com](mailto:sblair@crsofcolorado.com). The salary will be very competitive in this area's job market with good benefits. We want to do our best to get the right person, fit them into our community and keep the same person over time. Your input is welcome!

And a special shout-out to our neighbor, John Longhill, for the spectacular photos he provided for this newsletter. John has done this for past newsletters as well, but this time he really outdid himself. Note in particular the photo of Yosemite Sam, the chicken killer, who wiped out John's chicken coop before posing for this photo. Thank you John, for all your great photos over the years!

US Forest service will “own the project” but Ruby Ranch may be asked to pay all or a significant part of the costs; hence we are building the strongest case we can for government funding help; county, state and federal.

As part of this case, we asked Summit County for information on Ruby Ranch owner participation in the County’s free chipping program. The program has been in existence for seven years. During that time, about 3/4’s of Ruby Ranch parcels have participated with the average being 2.5 times, contributing about six piles per time. Even allowing for some inflation in the numbers, that is outstanding community-wide participation and helps us make the case that “Ruby Ranch is doing its part re: fire mitigation.”

We have pulled together a chart showing WBMD spending on various water and fire related projects and it is impressive: waterline upgrades, fire hydrants, interconnect valves, an emergency exit bridge and removal of deadfall from community property. David Radlauer and Lisa Lewis are working on a survey of Ranch owners re: what they have done privately to protect against fires. We are confident the “final package” will be very impressive!

**Ruby Ranch Website Update**

Our neighbor, Ashley Johnson, is taking a fresh look at our rubyranch.com website to bring it up to date and make it more useful and more frequently visited by the Ruby Ranch community. Ashley is exploring how we might add live video footage and weather information, especially for our non-resident owners. Also, a “work order” system directed to our new Ranch Manager to provide a better way to address owner needs. Ashley is exploring ways to make the site more useful for new owners as our population continues to turnover. As a final step, Ashley will make sure everyone has a password and information on what is available on the site so you can use it. If you have thoughts along these lines, please communicate them to Ashley at [a.gash.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:a.gash.johnson@gmail.com).



*Yosemite Sam*



*Chickens?*





*Did someone say chickens?*

