## Only YOU Can





## RISTWATCH

**RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter** 

P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512

Issue No. 79 July, 2016

## A letter from the president:

Summer is here! So far it has been a relatively wet and cool start to our summer, and fortunately there have been no heavy rains so far. We are still at risk for flash flooding even four years after the High Park fire. The favorable weather has kept our fire danger in check, and with some luck we may avoid the worst of the fire season this year. It is always important to remain vigilant though, as it only takes a couple of weeks of dry, hot weather to have conditions that bring higher fire danger. With all of the moisture we have had this spring, longer grass and increasing undergrowth is especially concerning when fire dangers increase. It is important to keep tall grasses cut down near your home and structures on your property. Grass and brush fires can move very quickly, especially when it's windy. Maintaining good defensible spaces around structures can increase the chances that if a fire does start, it can be more easily contained and quickly extinguished before it spreads. A little work goes a long way to reduce your personal fire danger.

On Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, RCVFD will host our annual Mountain Festival and Fine Art Auction. I hope you all get a chance to come out and enjoy the event. This year after the festival, we will again be hosting a catered dinner for the community to show our appreciation for the

tremendous support we have received from residents. Our fire department relies on your support and the spirit of volunteerism, and is grateful! Come out and join us at the festival grounds to enjoy some food and to visit with your friends and neighbors who make this all possible!

While on the topic of the festival, we are always looking for extra hands to help out. If you can lend a hand, please contact <a href="mailto:festival.contact@rcvfd.org">festival.contact@rcvfd.org</a> for more information.

As always, I encourage you to find ways to get involved with your community and with your neighbors, to continue to make our area a wonderful, beautiful, and a safe place to live. It is through your volunteer efforts, with new people getting involved and contributing, that we continue to provide low cost, high quality services.

I wish you all the very best.

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson President, RCVFD



## Chief's Report

What a difference a few years make! I was driving up the canyon on the fourth anniversary of the start of the High Park fire (June 9<sup>th</sup>) and the wet weather this spring has left the canyon a spectacular emerald green. The canyon still has some scars from the event; frankly, many of our residents still carry scars as well. As time passes, it is great to see the healing and regrowth.

The weather has suppressed the fire danger for quite a while; however, as I write this the heat has settled in and right now county crews are fighting a lightning-sparked fire in Lory State Park. It is just a reminder that we cannot let our guard down. We need to practice good housekeeping around our homes. Help the RCVFD by doing your part to make your home as defensible as possible. Nothing is perfect—we learned that in 2012, but you can improve your odds. See the links below to get more information on being Firewise:

http://www.larimer.org/wildfire/
Residential handout.htm

https://www.larimer.org/wildfire/50things.pdf

Finally, I need to acknowledge and thank my fellow responders. We have been very busy this spring. Since the last Ristwatch, we have worked one structure fire and 17 medicals and MVAs (motor vehicle accidents). Since the last week of April we have had at least two responses per week. This is on top of training and equipment maintenance.



Will RCVFD find you when they need to? Consider purchasing a reflective sign. Just \$15! All we need is your address. Order today! Call Louise Creager at 970.217.6843.

An example of all this hard work and training paying off: Late on a Thursday afternoon a motorcycle went into a ravine on Stove Prairie Road. The injured civilian was a big guy, 15 or 20 feet below the road with multiple fractures and tangled up in the underbrush. It took nine RCVFD responders to splint and load him on a backboard and then into a litter, and then rig ropes and clear brush to pull him up to the road so he could be transported to the helicopter. The responders on scene worked well to make sure all the elements were in place to get the patient transferred safely. Just one example of why you should make sure to thank your friends and neighbors on the Department for all their effort.

Carol Dollard Chief, RCVFD

#### **RCVFD Monthly Meeting Schedule:**

Meetings at Firehouse #1 on Rist Canyon Rd.

Operations – 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM Fire Training – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM Board Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM Medical Training – 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. @ 7:00 PM

A man in a movie theater notices what looks like a bear sitting next to him.

"Are you a bear?" asks the man, surprised.

"Yes."

"What are you doing at the movies?"

The bear replied, "Well, I liked the book."

## Here's My Card . . .

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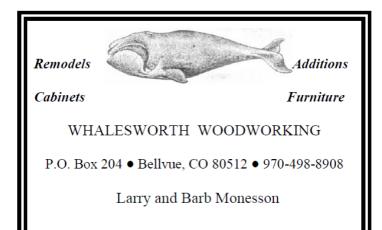


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### Ad size - Rates

Full Page - \$75

Half Page - \$50 Quarter Page - \$35

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#### **Mountain Festival News**



Have you decided yet? What will you be doing to make our festival a fun and profitable fundraiser for our Fire Department? Help Vicky organize children's activities! Volunteer with Shane to dish out ice cream for an hour! Help Karen gather donations for the gift baskets! Help Louise set up the artwork for the Fine Art Auction! Please contact the chairpeople listed below to help with an activity that interests you! Do you have any advertising experience? We could really use your expertise. Please get involved today—email someone right now!

### Chairpeople:

Advertising—TBD

Art Auction—Louise Creager louisecreager@gmail.com

Book Tent—Becky Lunt blunt143@gmail.com

Car Show—Brian Finley firebrian2000@yahoo.com

Children's Activities—Victoria Jordan vjordan678@gmail.com

Craft Booths—Shannon Shockley <a href="mailto:sshocklebellvue@gmail.com">sshocklebellvue@gmail.com</a>

Food Vendors—Bridget Tisthammer <a href="mailto:bridget@frii.com">bridget@frii.com</a>

Ice Cream Booth—Shane Downing <a href="mailto:shane@tracydowning.org">shane@tracydowning.org</a>

Offstage Entertainment— Victoria Jordan vjordan678@gmail.com

Entertainment—Jennifer Nolte jennifer.nolte@uchealth.org

Silent Auction—Karen Steadman houseofelk@yahoo.com

Tim Hollaman, Festival Coordinator thollaman1@gmail.com

■ I was at a miniature golf course on a brutally hot day when I saw a
■ father with three kids. "Who's winning?" I asked cheerfully. "I am!"
■ said one. "No, I am!" said another. "No," the father said "Their
■ mother is!"



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## Uh oh! Something's broken!

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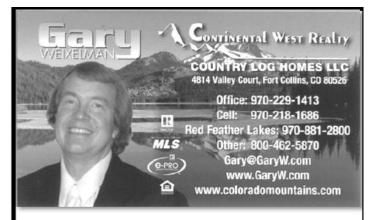
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Happy 4th of July!

## Mountain Festival News, cont'd.

#### **Plant Booth**

Please remember to start your plants for the Plant Booth at the Mountain Festival. You may bring your plants on Saturday before the Festival or Sunday morning. If you can volunteer to man the booth for an hour or more, please call Ann at 416-8494. I really need someone to take this over next year! It is a fun booth! Thanks, Ann Nichols



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#### Fun New Fundraiser for the Festival!

Hello Interested Festival Supporters! My name is Karen Steadman and I will be heading one of the committees at this summer's Mountain Festival. My husband, Chris, and I have just moved back to the Steadman Ranch in Stove Prairie after raising our kids in Estes. Although we really never left, we weren't a permanent fixture, now we are!! I wanted to get involved in the community and I thought the festival was a good place to start. At the last meeting I volunteered to take the Silent Auction tent because they didn't have a committee chair.

This year we will be doing something a little different—we will be featuring a selection of Gift Baskets that will be raffled off. The Baskets will each have a different theme, such as sports, bathtime, gardening, grilling, hand tools, toys, etc. The possibilities are endless. I have run this type of fundraiser for many groups, and it's always fun, easy and profitable!

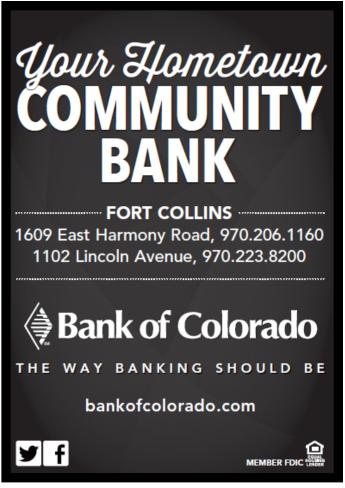
I have been involved in fundraising for many years and I am really excited about sharing some successful ideas that will generate cash for our Fire Department!

To make this successful, we need a couple of hours of your time. Please contact me to find out how easy it is to make this a successful fundraiser. You can reach me by email at Houseofelk@yahoo.com or call me at 970/691-0748. Thanks! Karen Steadman

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### We Need You!





RCVFD is a community asset for all of us. But it is only as valuable as the time and energy that people like you put into it—everyone needs to contribute to make it successful. Some carry pagers and answer calls, others help run the "business" of the RCVFD, while others donate to keep us financially solvent. We value all these efforts and are always asking you to support in whatever way works for you. With this in mind – I would like to start a regular column in the Ristwatch where we let you know about "little jobs" that we need done. Perhaps you cannot help in some of the other roles on the Department, but you could help us with one job.

Right now we are looking for someone who would like to rebuild our sign in the lower canyon at Whale Rock. The sign is in bad shape—the poles are actually quite solid (rebuilt in 2012), but the face of the sign is really worn. Would you be interested in rebuilding this sign for us? If so, please contact me at <a href="mailto:chief@rcvfd.org">chief@rcvfd.org</a>. Thanks!

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### **Notes from Stove Prairie School**

From Debra Randol

The birds and little creatures have fun when we leave for Summer Break!

#### **Summer Library Activities**

The Poudre River Library District will offer Story Express for local children and families at 10:00 am on Fridays, beginning June 3 and running weekly through August 5, at the Canyon Ridge Baptist Church in Bellvue.

#### **Important Dates for 2016-2017 School Year**

New K-5 Student Registration: Tuesday, August 9, 8:00-3:00 at the school, 3891 Stove Prairie Road. Stove Prairie's attendance area extends west from Davis Ranch Road in Rist Canyon; Buckhorn Canyon from mile marker 19 and west; and north to Poudre Canvon on Stove Prairie Road.

First day of school: Monday, August 22, for

K-5 students

First day for Preschool:

School hours:

Monday, August 29 8:10 a.m. -2:55 p.m.

BBQ & Back to School Night: Thursday, August 25,

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

#### **Preschool**

Children ages 3-5 may attend preschool here at Stove Prairie. BASE Camp, a Fort Collins non-profit agency, provides the big people. We count on Stove Prairie families to provide the little people. © Preschool will meet Monday-Thursday, 8:10 a.m. -11:10 a.m.

Families can bring their preschool children to visit and learn about our program by calling the Preschool Site Director at 488-6585, during school days. Call BASE Camp at 266-1734 for more information.

#### **Year-Round Fundraising in Partnership with Businesses**

Thank you to the community members who help the school every time you:

- Shop with a King Soopers Gift Card Program ~ an AWESOME fundraiser for Stove Prairie.
- Turn in General Mills Box Tops for Education ~ this sponsors volunteer celebrations.
- Recycle your cell phones and ink cartridges at Stove Prairie.

Have a Great Summer!



3891 Stove Prairie Road, Bellvue, CO Phone # (970) 488-6575

#### **Stove Prairie School Offers:**

- B.A.S.E. Camp Preschool for 3-5 Year Olds
- Free All-Day Kindergarten, 5 Days/Week
- K 5 Curriculum w/ Low Student-Teacher Ratios

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Community Potluck, September 1, 11:15am
- Rist Canyon Summer Festival, September 3. 10-4, across from the Rist Canyon Fire Station. Quilt raffle tickets on sale!!

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Why did the duck say bang? Because he was a firequacker.

What protest by a group of dogs occurred in 1772? The Boston Flea Party.

Why did Paul Revere ride his horse from Boston to Lexington? Because the horse was too heavy to carry.



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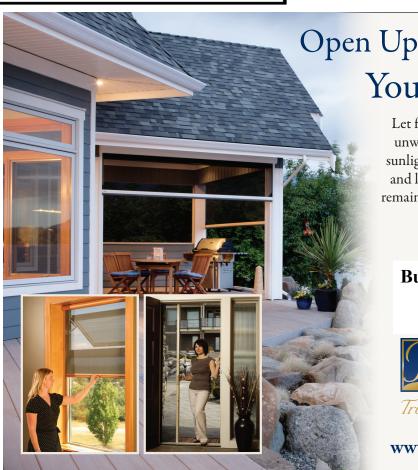
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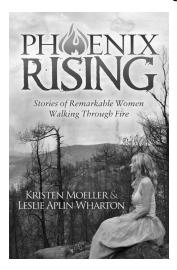
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#### Phoenix Rising: Stories of Remarkable Women Walking Through Fire



In 1996, Leslie Wharton built an off-grid home in Davis Ranch with her own hands. After it was destroyed in the High Park Fire she started writing the story of the fire. Knowing other women were writing, she partnered with Kristen Moeller, who lost her home in the North Fork Fire, to gather stories for Phoenix Rising: Stories of Remarkable Women Walking Through Fire. Four years ago, many of

us asked ourselves, "Where will I go now that I've lost everything? How can I help my neighbors who lost their homes?" In Phoenix Rising, Leslie Wharton and Kristen Moeller help twenty Colorado women, all too familiar with wildfire, write their stories. The writers, from ages 17 to 72, provide insight into their experiences in six different Colorado wildfires.

Rist Canyon residents may recognize the names of many of the writers: Bonnie Antich, Ann Marie Arbo, Astrid, Louise Creager, Amanda DeAngelis, Jackie Klausmeyer, Linda Masterson, Jenn Nolte and Leslie Wharton. Although hard to read at times. Leslie and Kristen felt that giving these women a chance to tell their stories to the world was important.

The book is available at Jax Outdoor Gear, Firehouse Books and Amazon. Leslie challenges everyone, "If you buy the book, when you're done, find someone who needs the book. Fires will happen this summer and communities will need resources to help fire survivors, and those who care about them. Find a place to send the book, or give it to a neighbor when you're done reading it.'

Leslie and her husband, Mark, moved to Bellingham, Washington after the fire. She's doing well, finally, and says hello to Rist Canyon—a canyon she dearly loves. Her memoir, titled Bring Me to Rivers, is in the final stages of publishing. If you wish, you may reach Leslie at www.lesliewharton.com/.



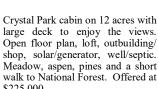
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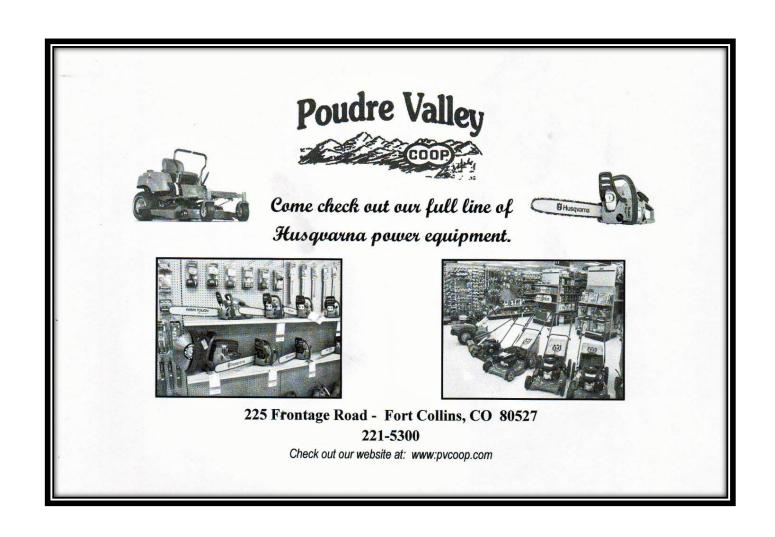
## **RCVFD Open House**



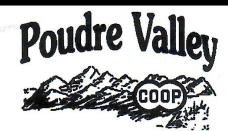
On May 7<sup>th</sup>, RCVFD hosted an Open House at Station 1 for National Wildfire
Community Preparedness Day. Mother
Nature did her part to reduce wildland fire danger by raining on us all day. However, despite the wet weather, we had a great turnout. We met lots of new neighbors, helped educate people about how the RCVFD works, and had a great time playing with the kids.

Laurie Franklin deserves all the credit for making this event a reality. She attended an NFPA conference where she got the idea, proposed it to the Operations staff, secured

a grant to cover expenses and organized everything. There were lots of responders and community members who pitched in, and businesses and agencies were there to support us, but without Laurie, it would never have happened. If you missed it, we are already having discussions about how we can make it better next year.



The Ristwatch reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any article or ad at any time. We base this decision on our responsibility to our readers. We will not knowingly print any article or ad that is misleading or untruthful. Articles submitted to the Ristwatch are a representation of the author and not necessarily an endorsement by the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department.



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Annual Festival Contact <a href="mailto:festivalcoordinators@rcvfd.org">festivalcoordinators@rcvfd.org</a>

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