

Newsletter of the Eldora Civic Association

FALL 2025



The Feast!



Miles and John of New Family Dog



Billingsleys



Three Eldorables

Continued next page ...

ECA

Annual Picnic ... continued



Enjoying neighbors

TENTATIVE

2026 ECA Calendar

Friday, June 5 First Happy Valley Happy Hour

June TBD • History Night July TBD • History Night

Sunday, July 12 ◆ Town Picnic

Friday, August 7 Happy Valley Happy Hour

Saturday, August 22 Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 1 Membership Renewal Due

Friday, September 4 Happy Valley Happy Hour



Full plates!



Enjoying neighbors and shade

Aspens blaze bright among the pines



From the President's Porch

Welcome to the first President's Porch letter of my second term. My initial term was largely dedicated to understanding the ECA's history and future potential. For this term, my primary goals are to enhance the organization of our bylaws and to complete more action items that will visibly benefit Eldora. While organization may be my weakest leadership area, I am committed to making this a priority.

Achieving these goals requires an informed and active membership. Our recent meeting was a great success, with significant turnout and productive discussions. Several excellent ideas were presented, and there was a clear interest from the membership in exploring these further. We also discussed the vital need for committees to advance existing interests and introduce new events and programs to the ECA.

Currently, much of the groundwork is handled by board members, which is not the stated responsibility of board members. The ECA Board's role is to "provide overall mission, strategy and operations," whereas a committee "is a subordinate group that makes recommendations and oversees delegated tasks." Both are essential for an effective organization.

Although our bylaws categorize ECA committees, without proper organization and reporting to the Board, their effectiveness is limited. Here are some areas that currently have, or urgently need, dedicated committees:



Harvey and Liz

- * Eldora Land Preservation Fund
- * Communications/Newsletter
- * Website
- * Town Picnic
- * History Nights
- * Friday Bridge Gatherings (we're hoping to boost attendance this year!)
- * Transportation
- * Weed Control
- * Forest Service Liaison
- * County Liaison
- * Ski Area Liaison
- * Community Meeting Hall (Museum) Establishment
- * Road Clean Up
- * Town Clean Up
- * And other potential new initiatives

It is my goal to have the board prioritize establishing a system for committees to be formed and to thrive. By working together—the board, committees, and the membership—we can advance the ECA into a more organized and effective community body.

Sincerely, *Harvey*ECA President

Fall colors light the way



Big Smiles at the Barrier

By Marcy Welk

Meet Josh and Andrew, devoted ambassadors of the Hessie Trailhead shuttle.

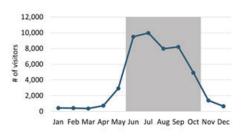


Josh (on the right) has been at our gateway for seven years. He works as manager of the ski patrol at Eldora Mountain Resort during the winter. Andrew (with heart glasses!) has been with us for three years, on summer breaks from his role as a professor of philosophy at CU. Both live in the area and are committed community members. Mark and I value a smile of recognition or a wave from Josh and Andrew as we pass by. Sometimes we have a cold drink to give, or something fresh from the market for them to enjoy and share with drivers. I wanted to know their story and they kindly agreed to let me hang out for a chat at the checkpoint to learn about their experiences there.

Josh and Andrew work for Green Ride, greenridecharterservices.com, a Boulder-based charter bus service that provides transportation to events such as weddings, reunions, concerts,

field trips, conferences and businessrelated travel. And of course hiking access. Boulder County contracts with Green Ride for the Hessie Trailhead shuttle, who also serves Eldorado State Park, Chautauqua, Mt. Sanitas, and more.

Sitting on our deck in Eldora, I am grateful for the vast reduction in traffic we can thank the shuttle for - literally tens of thousands of vehicles each season. Below are 2024 visitor numbers to Hessie:



Sitting under the tent was enlightening. As a local, it is easy to assume how simple it is for visitors to park and jump on the shuttle. As a visitor, that is simply not true. For example, the first thing people may see is an apparent road block - which is quite confusing to first-time visitors (MUCH of the traffic).



At this junction people are often confused and possibly aggravated because they think they can not go up for their hike. They don't know what to do and are anxious that their trip may be a bust. Josh and Andrew's intention is to *step right up* to have

a pleasant and informative interaction that lasts one or two minutes. I watched many exchanges, and that is exactly what they accomplished.

Hello! Where are you trying to go?

—Lost Lake? Great! Parking up ahead is full so you can pull into the lot here and grab the free shuttle. It runs up every 15 minutes and the last ride down is at 8:00 p.m.

—4th of July? Great! Get in the line marked by the cones you'll see down the lane to the left and we will clear you as spots open. (Relay with Rangers up top.)

They are truly ambassadors for the folks hoping to have a beautiful day in the mountains.

I asked about their best and the not-so-good experiences. Best is when Josh and Andrew can give expedited wait time to 4th of July so folks can escape the parking lot sooner than expected. Worst are agro (aggravated or hostile) people. For example, a male who claimed to be an off-duty police officer blew by the checkpoint and then harassed a female ranger at the trailhead. They had to call that one in.

One story I loved - and I expect others saw - is Andrew in a birthday cap shared by a group of women up for a celebratory hike. I'm not the only one who thought it was his birthday! Another is a car full of happy people literally cheering as they got clearance to 4th of July. Less visible is an annual gift of a bottle of bourbon from an Eldora man. Most heart warming? Each of them expressed with sincerity how good it feels to have 1-1 exchanges that help people visiting our beautiful mountains.

Be sure to thank them (by name!) when you pass through!

ECA Needs Volunteers!

Building Community Through Committee Involvement

By Beth Davis

The ECA is in dire need of volunteers to assist in committee development.

At the last Board meeting it was decided that we need to actively promote participation of the membership in these committees. I know everyone is busy but **your community needs you.** Committee membership does not have to be a time consuming affair. The more people that volunteer the more the work load can be divided!

For the last several years it has been a select few members who have been carrying the bulk of the volunteering load. They're tired and need help. Their efforts have resulted in improvements that benefit us all - the Hessie shuttle, improved road signage and painting, and positive relationships with the Forest Service, Parks and Open Space, Boulder County, the town of Nederland, Eldora Mountain Resort, and Indian Peaks Wilderness Association.



According to the bylaws, there are three standing (or permanent) committees - the Land Preservation Fund, the Brown Noxious Weed, and the Bolton Clean-Up Committees. There are also provisions for select committees - those that are activated by the Board as needed. These are all listed in Article 5 of the bylaws, which can be found on the website under <u>Member Log-In.</u> (if you don't know how to access the website, please email the ECA).

The Select Committees include:

- **Transportation** work with the County the shuttle and road issues including signage
- **Ski Area Liaison** foster cooperation on safety, traffic and parking issues
- **Communications** managing FaceBook, email and website
- **Newsletter** assisting the editor with obtaining content
- **Social Events** organizing annual picnic, happy hours and other social events
- **Forest Service Liaison** work with the FS so Eldorans' concerns are heard and we are kept informed of projects in the valley
- History coordinate history night presentations
- **Community Preservation** broaden ECA membership and community involvement

I frequently hear neighbors state that they love Eldora and don't want it to change. This requires effort by all of us to be aware of what is going on around us and be involved. So talk to your neighbors, get a group together to work on one of the listed committees, or make up a new committee for an area you identify that needs attention. Please respond to the Board via email stating your interest and we can assist with connecting you with others of like interests. Thank you for your support!

Meet Your Neighbor

JOHN "JB" BEYER

By Liz McGuffee



IB at work

Why Eldora?

I really value a strong connection to the landscapes I live and work with, as well as to the communities I'm a part of. Eldora gives me both.

Personally, I was raised to value communities that care for one another, and to spend my time outdoors. Most of my days include small adventures hiking, running, fishing, skiing (none of it very well or very fast). I wanted to be in a community where that time in the wilderness isn't "a weekend trip" but part of the fabric of my daily life – even if it's just watching the rain or clouds from the window or porch. I also volunteer as a patroller with the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance, helping people recreate responsibly in our backyard.

Professionally, I work with businesses in wildland fire, forest health, and other environmental solutions. Much of my time is spent on how to support better protection and preservation of communities just like Eldora and land-scapes like Indian Peaks Wilderness (IPW). I value living in a place where my personal life and professional mission overlap when it comes to supporting people, places, and values I care about.

What's best about the Happy Valley?

The mild winters!

I think the serious response is the intentionality of the community. Living here is an act of "opting in." It is a place where people aren't just visiting, they're part of the land-scape and make sacrifices and commitments to do so.

That means seeing how everyone appreciates and protects the small, subtle things: the change of seasons, neighbors coming and going in the summer, the wave from a passing car, a chat on the trail, and stewarding the land. Many families have been committed to and a part of Eldora for generations, and I feel lucky to be a (new) small part of that and look forward to hopefully becoming a property owner down the road.

I'm also a sucker for cold, snowy, and "breezy" places and genuinely love the unique beauty of the winter here.

What's worst?

You need the sun to enjoy the shade, so I appreciate the stuff that can be frustrating too. For me, living in the Hitchin Post, at the corner on Eldorado Ave and 6th, it's the speeders who blow through the stop signs. And thinking about the volume of people headed to Hessie, the folks who don't realize the impact their actions have on the forest, such as letting dogs chase wildlife or illegal fires during ban season.

That said, it's also an opportunity to educate. On the

Continued next page ...



JB and Kimberly connect at the picnic.

Meet Your Neighbor ... continued

trail, I really enjoy talking with campers about IPW, Eldora, and how their choices can directly threaten the community and the wilderness. Getting to contextualize that for folks is a really powerful tool to help educate and convert folks to responsible enjoyment of this place.

Tell us about your favorite places to travel

I still have an endless list of spots to explore in IPW, but beyond there, I tend to travel to places where I can explore wilderness in the West and Mountain West. Favorites include Canyonlands in Utah, the Sawtooths in Idaho, the Wind River Range in Wyoming, and the North Cascades in Washington.

Through work, I also spend time in spots such as Oregon, New Mexico, Montana and enjoy exploring places that aren't "destinations" – particularly if there is a good breakfast diner spot.

I don't do a lot of international travel, but I did ski a glacier in Norway in 2023–that was incredible!!

What are some of your favorite books?

I don't know that I have true favorites and will read anything from history to fiction to the back of a cereal box, but a few recent frequent recommendations:

- —The Golden Spruce by John Vaillant
- —The Big Burn by Timothy Egan
- —Coyote America by Dan Flores.

I also have a soft spot for polar expedition and mountain-



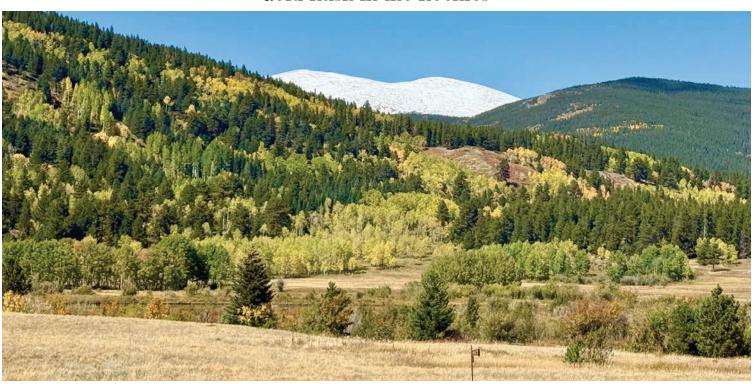
Hitching Post

eering books, and *The Last Viking* about Roald Amundsen was a great read. For fiction, *Blood Meridian* by Cormac Mc-Carthy and *Close Range* by Annie Proulx are pretty high on my list.

What kind of music do you enjoy?

I lean toward country, rock, folk type stuff: Colter Wall, Tyler Childers, Turnpike Troubadours, Whiskey Myers. I also go back to the music I grew up with in the Pacific Northwest in the 90s such as Nirvana and Foo Fighters (likely in my ears when I'm running).

Gold Rush in the Rockies



Conservation Corner

By Dave Hallock

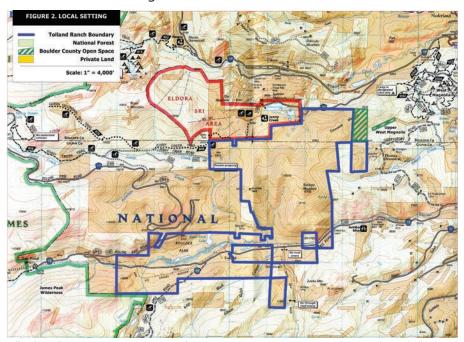
The latest local conservation news is that Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) intends to purchase the 3,334-acre Tolland Ranch. The ranch spans from the Eldora ski area south to the unincorporated community of Tolland. We can actually see and drive through a portion of it as the shelf road to the ski area goes through a corner of the ranch at "the horseshoe" in the road, a little before getting to Peterson Lake.

The Toll family has owned the ranch since 1883. In 2015 they placed the ranch under a conservation easement with the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program and Boulder County. They also sold 823 acres to the Forest Service to provide public access to the James Peak Wilderness and another 539 acres to Denver Water in the



Mammoth Gulch area (this was part of the mitigation for the expanded Gross Dam reservoir). The Toll family retained 3,334 acres, but have now decided that family management of the property is too difficult.

The heart of the ranch is 3.5 miles of South Boulder Creek and its surrounding ponds and wetlands. The ranch also provides transitional and calving range for about 100 elk (watch a National Park Service <u>video about elk here</u>). These elk spend winter near Winiger Ridge, the same place the Arapaho Ranch elk winter, so there is genetic mixing between the two herds. Tolland Ranch is a <u>montane</u> parkland that ecologically functions like Arapaho Ranch does for Middle Boulder Creek and Caribou Ranch for North Boulder Creek. These are glacially carved basins of flat land with abundant water, wetlands, grasslands and forests. All three of the Boulder Creek upper watershed montane parklands are



Tolland Ranch Conservation Easement Baseline Report. Base map source: National Geographic Trails Illustrated Topographic Map. Winter Park / Central City / Rollins Pass. 2006. Contour interval 50 feet.

protected from development (we can hope - in this day and age I am not sure that any conservation tool is permanent).

The property already has some recreational use. Much of the cross-country ski trails at the ski area are on Toll Ranch lands they lease. If summer recreation comes to the ski area it is likely that these same lands will be used. Additionally, the future ski lift and run planned to run down to Jenny Creek will also use a small portion of the ranch. A new public trail was built in 2023 by Boulder County that links West Magnolia with Jenny Creek, and crosses Toll Ranch.

Public use beyond what currently exists of Toll Ranch is yet to be decided. The feeling is that it will be more of a wildlife area and not a state park.

Remembering ...

Amy Ladd Hoffman: 1923-2025

Amy and her sister Mary spent their summers for many years in Eldora. At one time they knew just about everyone there, according to her son, Tom Hoffman. He shared that her greatest wish before dying was to visit Eldora one last time, and she was able to spend 2 weeks at the cabin this summer.

Amy Ladd Hoffman, 101, of Salina, Kansas, died August 22, 2025. She was born October 15, 1923, in Pomeroy, lowa. Her family subsequently lived in Sioux City, Iowa, and then Lincoln, Nebraska.

Upon graduating from the University of Nebraska, she volunteered for the U.S. Signal Corps in Washington, D.C., where she decoded intercepted Japanese communications during WWII.

After the war she returned to Lincoln to teach elementary school.

She married C.N. (Nick) Hoffman, Jr., on June 12, 1948, in Lincoln, where they lived for two years before moving with their son Chris to Salina, Kansas. Nick was born and raised in Salina, graduated from the University of Kansas, served on a destroyer in the Pacific during the war, got a job as a chemical engineer in Lincoln, and eventually joined the family business in Salina.

Amy began teaching ninth-grade English at Salina Roosevelt-Lincoln Junior High School in the fall of 1968, the same year her youngest son entered the seventh grade at the same school. Two years later, Salina South High School opened, and the 9th-grade students were moved to the two high school buildings. She was transferred to Salina Central High School, where she continued to teach ninth-grade English and serve as faculty sponsor for many student clubs. After retiring from public education, she taught for several years at St. John's Military Academy in Salina.



"I met this darling little girl, and I thought I'd like to see if I could help her."

Amy met first-grader Leslie Duenas when she volunteered through Big Brothers, Big Sisters as a mentor at Schilling Elementary School. They baked cookies in Amy's apartment, shared lunches and tea parties, visited museums and the zoo, and attended music and theater performances. Their relationship grew into a cherished friendship of 20 years.

Amy enjoyed travel and had many happy times with her sisters and others in England, continental Europe, and Japan. After she and her sister Mary retired from teaching high-school English, they spent lovely summers in a cabin in the Rockies. They invited family and friends to join them at the cabin and took pleasure in sharing with their guests the beauty of the mountains.

A few years after her husband's death, Amy moved to the Salina Presbyterian Manor, where she was known and loved for her genuine interest in visitors, residents, and staff. For Amy, every party offered the opportunity to know people better, and her "Pour-at-Four" pre-dinner wine gatherings with

friends in her apartment were a well-known staple at the Manor.

Amy served on the boards of several local charities. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority and the Salina Chapter BW of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. It was her wish that her obituary emphasize the deep gratitude she felt towards her P.E.O. sisters for including her in their activities even after mobility became an issue and she required help to attend meetings.

Surviving family members include two sons, Bill (Melinda) and Tom (Lee); three grandsons, Brad (Bridget) Hoffman, Ben Hoffman, and Mark (Desiree) Hoffman; one granddaughter, Marin (Nate) Reuter; seven great-grandchildren: Joey, Caroline, Tommy, and Matthew Hoffman, and Remy, Mira, and Keeley Reuter; three nieces and nephews; and six great-nieces and -nephews

Amy was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Nick; her eldest son, Chris; all three of her sisters; her brothers-in-law; a nephew; and many of her lifelong friends.

A love of life and a desire to help others. A never-tiring interest in and appreciation of the people in her life.

Memorial contributions in Amy's name may be made to either:

- Salina Presbyterian Manor's "Preserving Legacies, Enriching Lives Campaign" in support of the Manor's upcoming renovation and expansion project. Amy was on the steering committee for the Manor's fundraising campaign and had hoped to see these improvements come to fruition.
- Salina Symphony. Amy was proud that Salina has a fine symphony orchestra and loved attending performances.

All memorial contributions should be sent to Ryan Mortuary, 137 N. 8th Street, Salina, KS 67401.

Membership Corner

Come one, come all!

It is **time to renew** your membership! Joining the Eldora Civic Association is a way to have a voice in shaping the future of our community. Together, we protect the character of Eldora, preserve its natural beauty, and ensure it remains a welcoming place for residents, new and longstanding. Your membership helps strengthen local initiatives, foster meaningful connections with neighbors, and support efforts that keep Eldora thriving for generations to come.

Associate dues are for non-owning residents or extended family.

Full Voting Membership \$55 - printed & electronic newsletter

Full Voting Membership \$35 - electronic newsletter Non-voting Associate membership \$37 - printed & electronic newsletter

Non-voting Associate membership \$17

- electronic newsletter

Venmo @eca80466 or send a check to: ECA, P.O. Box 988, Nederland, CO 80466

<u>Please click here</u> to fill out the online membership form, or return the form included with the newsletter. Questions?

The ECA membership year runs from September 1 through August 31. To be eligible to vote at the annual membership meeting, you must be paid and in good standing no later than 45 days prior to the meeting. Please note that there is only one full/voting membership per property.

At the ECA Annual Meeting, held in August, the following changes were adopted into the bylaws:

REVISION OF "VOTING MEMBER" LANGUAGE TO ALLOW FOR VOTING BY RENTERS

(a) **Voting Member.** Each real property owner, renter, or joint or common owners of real property, irrespective of the number of properties

owned by such real property owner or joint or common owners within the area of the map attached hereto as Attachment 2.1(a), shall comprise a single membership and shall upon payment of the annual dues be a "Voting Member" of the ECA (e.g. if a person owns or rents 5 cabins or 5 properties, that person is entitled to one vote; each property, or set of properties owned by a voting member, shall be entitled to one vote only to be cast by the owner or a renter at the owner's discretion, but not both). Subject to the single membership and dues qualifications above, Voting Members immediately prior to the adoption of these Bylaws may continue as Voting Members, notwithstanding being without the area of the map attached hereto as Attachment 2.1(a). A Voting Member may vote by proxy executed in writing by the Voting Member or by that Voting Member's duly authorized attorney-in-fact, as provided in Section 2.9.

Our efforts as a board have focused on the last couple years in creating a clear message of inclusivity for everyone who is interested in our village and providing accurate, unbiased information.

If you would like a copy of the minutes from our Annual Board meeting (July 2025), please email <u>eldoracivicassociate@gmail.com</u>.

Join our Facebook Group!!

Eldora Civic Association
All members of the community are welcome!



Financial Position of the ECA 2025

During the annual meeting on August 23, 2025, Treasurer Beth Davis provided a financial report for the fiscal year which ended August 31, 2025. The complete report will be available on the website soon. Some of the highlights include:

- Dividend income: Two accounts previously thought to be CDs had expired into savings. Now reinvested into CDs, earning ~\$1,000 more annually.
- Dues account: Converted to a money market account, earning ~\$100 in dividends YTD.
- **Liability insurance:** \$1,989 (a substantial expense this year); covers a 3-year policy.
- Newsletter: Largest expense (~\$1,500 annually).
- **Website:** Current hosting ~\$400 annually; exploring lower-cost alternatives.
- Cash on hand: Maintained for small expenses.
- Balances:
- General ECA account: \$6,720.38
- Eldora Land Preservation Fund (ELPF): \$82,737.29 (combined accounts)
- **Membership:** 115 total (83 full, 32 associate)

At the annual meeting, a quorum was determined and the by-laws amendment was approved. The amendment alters voting rules to include **renters** as eligible voting members if homeowner and renter agree who casts the vote. One vote per property still stands as the ECA's op-

erating principal.

The question has come up about non-profit status, deductibility of donations and tax-exempt status.

The ECA is a non-profit, organized as a 501(c)(4). As a result, the ECA does not pay taxes on our income (nor on our expenses), but because it is considered a Civic Association (promoting social welfare of our community rather than "serving a greater public good") donations given to the ECA are not tax-deductible for the donor.

The definition of civic association is that we are both member oriented, and benefit only the members. A charitable organization must operate primarily to further the common good and general welfare of the people of the community (such as

by bringing about civic betterment and social improvements). A section 501(c)(4) social welfare organization may engage in some political activities, so long as that is not its primary activity.

In recent (and less recent) years, members of the ECA board have suggested we shift our status to become a charitable organization. Others have disagreed.

A careful reading of related IRS rules and related case law provides an understanding of how we could shift our status to 501(c)(3), allowing tax-deductible donations. The ELPF has created a vehicle for charitable donations by working through a Boulder County program. Should we reconsider our status? Let the board know your thoughts!

Autumn gold cascades to the stream below



ECA Board Members

HARVEY HINE

President

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STEVE TAFFET

Vice President

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BETH DAVIS

Treasurer

770 Klondyke Avenue khaymere@gmail.com

MOLLY STAUFFER

Secretary

755 Klondyke Avenue Molly@milehimodern.com

HENRY TIBERI

Member-at-Large

htiberi@outlook.com 490 4th of July Road



Eldora Land Preservation Fund Donors

Thank you, members, for your support of the ECA's efforts to conserve and protect undeveloped land in and near Eldora

Donations:

January 1, 2025 - September 1, 2025

- Diane Brown and Dave Hallock in memory of Willi Brocklehurst
- Gail Gitin in memory of Willi Brocklehurst
- Doug and Rita Dart in memory of Merlin Dart
- Sarah P. Goolsby in memory of Robert Goolsby

- Diane Brown and Dave Hallock in memory of Robert Goolsby
- Jeanne McCleery in memory of Robert Goolsby
- ◆ Jeanne McCleery in memory of Bruce Marron
- Philip and Louise Rouse in memory of Robert Goolsby
- Nancy Ann Goolsby in memory of Robert Goolsby
- Sarah P. Goolsby in memory of Kay and Kent Miller
- Diane Brown and Dave Hallock in memory of Amy Hoffman

Balance in ELPF Savings and CD \$75,837 as of August 2025 Boulder County Parks & Open Space Foundation - Eldora Land Preservation Fund

Donations:

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

- Michael and Patricia McCoy in memory of Abe & RuthAnna McCoy
- Jerry and Barbara Donahue
- Andersen Living Trust in memory of Marguerite "Ellen" Andersen
- Harold and Jan Schneider in memory of Robert Tillman

Balance in ELPF Parks and Open Space Foundation **\$6,900**

Eldora Land Preservation Fund

The Eldora Land Preservation Fund was established in June 1996 as a way to raise and aggregate funds to be used for purchasing and preserving land in its natural state in the Eldora area. ELPF is responsible for the identification and preservation of developable or otherwise significant parcels of land within the Eldora Valley. This committee works with Eldorans and the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation to identify and purchase land for the purpose of preservation. *Please note that donations to ELPF are not tax-deductible.* See below for the tax-deductible option.

For more information about ELPF, reach out to committee members including Dave Hallock (Chair), Diane Brown, Doug Dart, Jerry Donahue, Fran Sheets, and Payson Sheets

Make a donation to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund!
Enclosed is my check for \$ to support the preservation of natural areas in and around Eldora. Please send an acknowledgement of this donation to:
This donation is in memory (or)honor (check one) of:
Make your check payable to ECA and mail it to:
PO Box 988
Nederland, CO 80466
Please include this form with your check. Thank you!!
Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation
Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of \$ to support the purchase of open space in and around Eldora through the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation. This donation is to be applied to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund within the BCPOS Foundation.
Please send an acknowledgement for tax purposes to:
This donation is in memory (or)honor (check one) of:

Please include this form with your check. Thank you!!

Make your check payable to <u>BCPOS Foundation</u> and mail it to:

Boulder County Parks and Open Space Foundation
PO Box 227

Hygiene, CO 80533-0227