

ELDORA HIGH COUNTRY©

Newsletter of the Eldora Civic Association

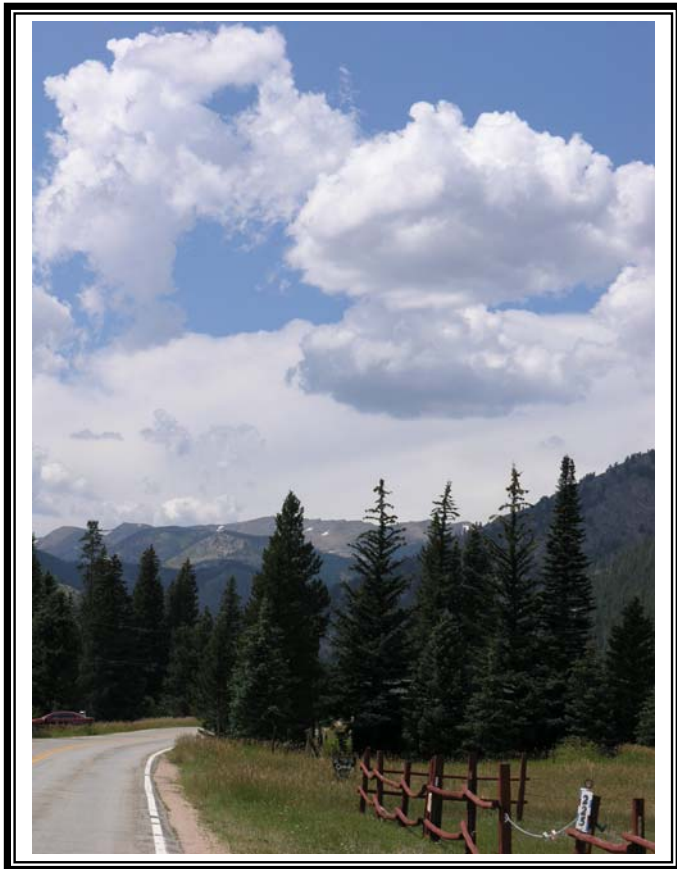
April 2009



The ECA Mission is to improve civic conditions, to promote a feeling of good fellowship and sociability, to maintain the historic fabric, and to establish a reasonable balance between preservation and the use of the natural environment in the Eldora area.

A Trip to Cloudland

Photo by Diane J. Brown



2008 – 2009 Board Members:

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Calendar of Events:

Friday, May 1, 2009 at 5:00 PM – Eldora Night at the Pioneer Inn (Call Ted at 303-258-7273)
Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 6:00 PM – ECA Board Meeting – Brown (2478 Eldora Road)
Friday, June 5, 2009 at 5:00 PM – Eldora Night at the Pioneer Inn (Call Ted at 303-258-7273)
Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 9:00 AM – Eldora Road Cleanup – Bolton (502 Eldorado Avenue)
Wednesday, July 1, 2009 – Deadline for submissions to July newsletter
Thursday, July 9, 2009 – Last day to join ECA for August voting privileges
Saturday, July 11, 2009 at 2:00 PM – Annual ECA Business Meeting at Eldora Fire Station
Saturday, July 25, 2009 from 9:00 to 3:00 – Eldora Community Yard Sale at Eldora Fire Station
Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM – Eldora History Night at Eldora Fire Station
Saturday, August 15, 2009 from 12:00 to 2:00 – Eldora Town Picnic – Bolton (502 Eldorado)
Saturday, August 22, 2009 at 2:00 PM – Annual ECA Members Meeting – Donahue (1075 Eldorado)



April 2009 President's Letter

At the end of the mining boom in the early 1900s, Eldora transitioned into the rustic tourist era. Many of the families that began coming to Eldora in the early 1900s still own cabins in Happy Valley. Some of these families are in their fifth or sixth generation of calling Eldora a haven of tranquility away from the tumultuous sea of the outside world. Eldora is a safe and comfortable place to recharge the spirit.

In today's unstable economic environment, Eldora stands stalwart and relatively still in time. Most of the cabins in town were built in a modest, affordable style. Those that have been owned for generations have long since been paid off. As some families grew in size, they gradually purchased adjacent cabins as they came on the market. Others enjoyed being together in one cozy cabin. The value in having a cabin in Eldora has not been for speculating on how much money it will bring when it sells, but rather for the joy it brings to the people who come here to gather with friends and family. Older generations of Eldorans come back and get together with childhood playmates, summer after summer.

There has been a friendly rivalry between the summer and year round residents over the years. Year round residents view the summer folks as not having the mettle to survive the Winds of Eldora and the deep snow that piles up over the winter months. Summer residents may come up to Eldora for a few days to see what it's like in the winter, but then they leave for warmer, gentler climes. A comparison might be made with the birds that overwinter in Eldora versus those that migrate away. Is one group better, tougher or smarter than the other?

When my husband and I first came to Eldora 30 years ago, our neighbor Russell Rouse told his wife Ethel that we probably wouldn't last long. We lasted 18 winters before starting what have been 12 years as summer residents. So we have some understanding of both year round and seasonal lifestyles.

Eldora is not just the typical generic suburban subdivision. It is a rich and colorful collection of family memories, historic structures and outstanding environmental surroundings. Eldorans are connected by the common thread of truly caring about this community and its surrounding natural areas and wanting to keep them from becoming like everywhere else.

Diane Brown
President, Eldora Civic Association





Eldora Study of the Platted Roads, Alleys and Rights-of-Way

Project Update – April 2009

By Garry Sanfaçon, Boulder County Land Use Department

County staff is preparing for a busy summer as part of our work on the Eldora Study. To help Eldorans understand how the process will unfold and provide plenty of notice about meeting dates, I have developed a detailed work plan and timeline (see below). The underlying goals of the work plan process include providing community members with multiple opportunities to participate and give input, striving to find community agreement on a plan for the appropriate use/nonuse of the platted roads, alleys and rights-of-way, and holding the majority of community meetings and public hearings during the summer when the largest number of community members are in the area.

If you will not be able to attend one or any of the meetings or hearings, then feel free to submit written comments addressed to me at Boulder County Land Use Dept., PO Box 471, Boulder, CO 80306. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me at 720-564-2642 or gsanfacon@bouldercounty.org. An additional way to stay informed is to visit the website at: http://www.bouldercounty.org/lu/townsite_planning/eldora.htm

All workshops and community meetings will be held at the Nederland Community Center

March

- SepticSmart Workshop #1 (March 9)
- County staff completes initial data collection and compilation (e.g., properties that have been vacated, unimproved platted roads, alleys and rights-of-way, permit status of onsite wastewater systems, structure encroachment and natural resources)



April-May

- Communicate work plan and timeline to Eldora community members (via letter, email, article in Eldora Civic Association quarterly newsletter, and website)
- Mail County mapping data to residents to check for accuracy. Property owners adjacent to unimproved platted roads, alleys and rights-of-way will be sent specific mapping data about their parcel as well as maps providing data for the entire townsite. Other property owners will receive maps providing data for the entire townsite.
- County staff review/correct property owner comments about the data

June

- Community Meeting #1 (June 3, 6:30 p.m.): solicit input about ideas regarding the appropriate use/nonuse of the platted roads, alleys and rights-of-way. This will provide staff with a head start in understanding what some community members feel are the issues and potential alternatives.

July

- SepticSmart Workshop #2 (July 1, 6:30 p.m.)
- Community Meeting #2 (July 8, 6:30 p.m.): solicit input about ideas regarding appropriate use/nonuse of the platted roads, alleys and rights-of-way
- Staff develops draft alternatives
- Community Meeting #3 (July 30, 6:30 p.m.): staff presents draft alternatives and obtains community input

August

- August 19 (time to be determined), Planning Commission public hearing to review staff recommendation (possible amendments to the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Code) and hear public testimony

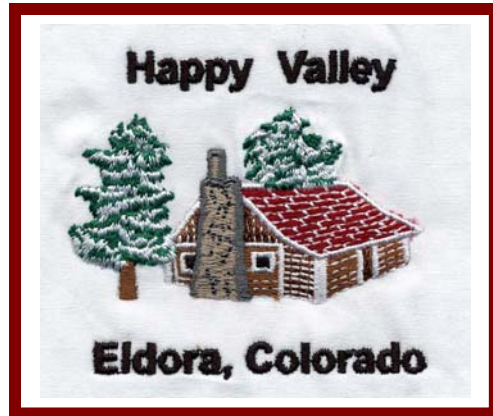
August-First week of September

- Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing (date & time to be determined) to review Planning Commission recommendation, staff recommendation and hear public testimony

ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes for Board Meeting
March 12, 2009

Diane Brown, president, called the teleconference meeting to order at 6:00 pm and read the mission statement. At that time there was a quorum of 3 Board members (Diane, Audrey, Everett). Due to conference call phone number misunderstanding, Mike joined at 6:30. Matt also joined later. Also present for part of the time were ECA members Jan Tafoya and Ann Burton.



Minutes for the 1/15/09 Board Meeting had been approved via email prior to the meeting. Financial Report for 3/12 (Audrey, Treasurer): ECA checking account balance is \$2944.89. Expenses since 1/15 amounted to \$754.95 for newsletter reimbursements to Diane Brown and Jeanne McCleery, \$15 transfer to the ELPF resulting from an overpayment of dues by one member, and \$36.76 to Boulder County for property taxes. Dues paid since January \$724.10. CD valued: 1 year \$2134.66, 6 month \$4122.47.

Formal Motions:

- 1) The Board will pursue exploring the merits and gathering membership opinion regarding updating the Eldora Environmental Preservation Plan (EEPP). This will involve putting an educational article in the newsletter, including a relevant question as part of the ECA summer survey, and pursuing funding if there is membership support. This motion was adopted with 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 member absent.
- 2) That the BOD have the opportunity to review community issue articles for the newsletter and be compelled to edit or approve them 3 weeks prior to the publishing deadline. This motion was adopted with 3 ayes, 1 nay, 1 abstained.
- 3) Board authorizes Audrey to look into filing a tax return for ECA and if necessary contracting with a tax accountant to get the taxes done. This motion was unanimously approved.
- 4) Secretary/Treasurer to gather important ECA documents per Diane's email and store them in ECA safe deposit box at Mutual of Omaha Bank in Nederland. This motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

- EEPP – Mike and Audrey will collaborate on article for April newsletter. If the summer survey supports updating the EEPP then a decision will have to be made as to which of the 8 elements should be updated.
- Eldora Land Preservation Fund – Diane reported that the ELPF to date has \$15,360.62. She will order more coverlets, and vests in new colors and sizes.
- Eldora High Country Newsletter – Diane reported that the deadline for July newsletter is July 1. Matt and Everett will collaborate on green building (BuildSmart) article for July newsletter, which will be ready for Board approval by June 7. April newsletter deadline is April 1. Printing and distribution will occur 1 week later. The Board needs to read, comment on and approve Diane's community issue article on house size, setbacks and TDRs by March 19. If any Board member does not send comments by then, their approval will be assumed.
- Social - Everett reported that in May he will send out his communication about the garage sale and history night. He is pursuing engaging Sylvia Pettem and Carol Taylor as history night consultants and possibly participants.
- Public Lands Committee: Matt reported on the SepticSmart meeting in Nederland. 15-20 people attended this meeting. The County wants everyone to be in compliance with the new regulations by 2023. At the time of property transfer there now needs to be proof of septic status. An Eldora sewer system was discussed, one negative aspect being the necessity of digging up the entire town. This may not be necessary as new septic technologies are emerging that necessitate a smaller footprint for onsite water treatment systems.

Unfinished Business:

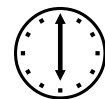
- Status of letter to ski area re: Carbaryl spraying – Audrey reported that there were two responses to the Board’s letter requesting that Eldora Mountain Resort limit spraying. The first Boulder County Public Health response offered help, but when Audrey followed up with a phone call they stated that they have no jurisdiction over this issue and that we should consult with the USFS. The USFS responded that as long as the ski resort is applying Carbaryl according to directions on the label, there is nothing wrong with what they are doing. John and Gunda plan to pursue the issue with the ski area. The Board has no plans to pursue the issue any further at this time. A Board discussion followed about possible impacts of magnesium chloride (MgCl), a chemical being used in the sand that is spread on roads in winter for ice control. Reported impacts include 1) death of trees adjacent to roads, 2) lowered birth weights of tree swallows being studied on Arapaho Ranch, and 3) fish and mosquito deaths in ponds on Arapaho Ranch. Diane will investigate whether the impacts of MgCl should be pursued as a newsletter article.
- Bylaw revision: Diane reported that Jeanne McCleery is interested in this and would like to make suggestions for changes. In the April newsletter there will be a solicitation for people who are interested in assisting Jeanne in this.
- County Update from Garry Sanfacon: Diane helped Garry rework his original schedule for Eldora community meetings regarding septic smart and road vacations. Now there will be 2 meetings, one in the spring and one in the summer. In addition, each property owner whose property lies adjacent to an unvacated road will be sent a packet of information relevant to that property only, making it easier for property owners to understand individual impacts of possible vacations.
- Survey of ECA membership – It was decided that a draft survey should be written by the end of May. After that the Board will involve an “outside” survey expert, and people to “test” taking the survey. The final survey will be ready before the July newsletter is published, and will be sent under separate cover. The first step will be for Board members to come up with questions on the topics they are interested in. They will then email these to the other Board members for vetting. The possibility of forming a separate survey committee to come up with questions to present to the Board was also discussed with no obvious conclusion.

New Business:

- IRS filing – All non-profits are now required to file a tax return. It is currently unclear what needs to be filed for the ECA. Audrey will contact Richard Rivers, past ECA president, for his input. Also will contact Will Murray, consultant for non-profits.
- The following items should be stored in ECA’s safe deposit box:
 - Any documents that establish ECA at its inception
 - Documents authorizing the non-profit status
 - Federal document assigning the EIN or TIN
 - Copies of all prior year tax filing documents (up to 7 years worth)
 - A listing of all bank accounts, CDs and other investments with institutions’ names, addresses and account numbers; include names of signers
 - Treasurer’s reports for current and previous years (up to 7 years) as well as detail documents that support the treasurer’s report
 - Any documents supporting ownership of any property (land, buildings, etc.)
- Audrey to see if ECA’s embosser for surveys and ballots is among things Jeanne passed on to her in August. If not found a new embosser will be purchased.
- Allenspark 747 Community Project: the ECA Board members have been invited to the meetings at the Allenspark firehouse the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Everett has been attending these. Matt will accompany Everett at these meetings in the future.
- The fine line between Board members acting as individuals versus as official ECA Board members was discussed at length. The conclusion was that it is absolutely necessary for a Board member to make this clear when s/he has involvement with a community organization and/or government official. No gray areas are allowed regarding this. A Board member acting in violation of this rule will have the potential of being removed from Board.



The next ECA board meeting is on May 14, 2009
At 6:00 PM at Diane’s house (2478 Eldora Road).



In a Nutshell

Eldora property owners need to give thoughtful consideration to how they want to shape Eldora's future look. Are we content with the current Boulder County regulations for house size and setbacks, or do we want to change them upwards or downwards? Do we want to keep Eldora looking much the same it has over the last 100+ years, or do we want it to change into a much more modern looking place? Boulder County wants us to communicate our wishes to them. However, it is obvious that the County wishes to maintain the rural character of Eldora. The City and County of Boulder are clear in their vision of this unique geographic area that encompasses the plains, foothills and mountains and how they want to preserve it. Nowhere is that more evident than when you cross the county line from any direction and see the difference in the way development and open space is shaped and balanced in Boulder County.

Building a large new home in Eldora will not be cheap or easy under Boulder County regulations. It will be necessary to purchase transferred development rights and to follow a course of regulations designed to insure that the home is built with sensitivity to the needs of neighbors and the environment.

On the other hand, for those who are satisfied with a cabin that is under the maximum square footage, it is quite possible for those property owners to actually sell transferable development rights for cash that could be used for upgrading their cabin or installing a septic system.

Community Issue: House Size, Setbacks and Transfer of Development Rights

House Size: Effective August 8, 2008 the Boulder County Commissioners approved a resolution establishing a structure size threshold for single-family residences in unincorporated Boulder County. The goals of this policy include:

- a. Preserving the rural character of unincorporated Boulder County, especially those areas with particular historic or contextual character;
- b. Promoting more sustainable development through incentives, education and regulation;
- c. Allowing for the impacts of larger scale home development to be offset through the preservation of vacant land and smaller scale residential development elsewhere in the County;
- d. Providing flexibility for property owners to build and keep smaller scale homes which will help provide a diversity of housing stock in unincorporated Boulder County; and
- e. Promoting and preserving vacant land by creating incentives for property owners to leave land undeveloped.

Eldora townsites falls within the geographic division of this resolution called the Mountain Area. For site plan review applications within the mapped historic townsites of Allenspark, ELDORA, Eldorado Springs, Gold Hill, Raymond and Riverside, the neighborhood or surrounding area is defined as the mapped townsites. The size of proposed development must be compatible with the general character of the defined neighborhood or surrounding area.

In determining size compatibility of residential structures within the defined neighborhood, it is presumed that a structure size within the total residential floor area for that defined neighborhood or area of either (1) 125% of the total median residential floor area for that defined neighborhood or (2) of a total residential floor area of 1,500 square feet in the mapped townsites of Allenspark, ELDORA, Eldorado Springs, Gold Hill, Raymond and Riverside.

The floor area of a building or structure, existing or new, includes basements and attached garages calculated without deduction for corridors, stairways, closets, the thickness of interior walls, columns, or other features as measured from the exterior face of the exterior walls. Floor area does not include the area of any covered porch. Residential floor area includes all attached and detached floor area on a parcel, including principal and accessory structures used or customarily used for residential purposes, such as garages, studios, pool houses, home offices and workshops.

Other factors to be considered in determining size compatibility are: the visibility of the proposed structure from other private parcels, public roads or open space, the distribution of home sizes within the defined neighborhood, significant adverse impacts, geologic hazards (expansive or subsiding soils, landslides, unstable slopes, rockfalls and avalanche corridors), historic drainage patterns, flash flood corridors, flood plains, etc. For development anywhere in the unincorporated areas of the county, mitigation of visual impact may include changing structure location, reducing or relocating windows and glazing to minimize visibility, reducing structure height, changing structure orientation, requiring exterior color and materials that blend into the natural environment, and/or lighting requirements to reduce visibility at night.

The Boulder County Assessor's records will be the source of data to determine both the median size within that defined neighborhood or area as well as the existing residential floor area on a given parcel.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs): Additional Development Credits must be obtained to offset the impacts of larger scale homes. The TDR Program provides for the transfer of Development Credits to maintain rural character through the preservation of vacant land. Development Credits may be conveyed either in a private market transaction or through the County Clearinghouse.

Development Credits may be severed from vacant building lots, and any future development potential removed from the subject lot provided it is a legal building lot and has legal access. The property owner may offer to grant a conservation easement, or other preservation instrument, on the property to either the County or another land preservation entity approved by the County, keeping the property vacant in perpetuity. Or the property owner may offer to sell the lot in fee to either the County or other land preservation entity approved by the County.

For developed Building Lots, only detached single-family residential floor area is eligible to sever Development Credits. The property owner must restrict residential floor area on the lot to the size measured in square feet of residential floor area, and receive the designated Development Credits as specified in this subsection:

- a. For development restricted to 2,000 sf of residential floor area, the owner may receive 2 Development Credits
- b. For development restricted to 1,500 sf of residential floor area, the owner may receive 3 Development Credits.
- c. For development restricted to 1,000 sf of residential floor area, the owner may receive 4 Development Credits.

Bonus Development Credits may be awarded to a particular lot based on a site-specific assessment of the parcel by Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department based on significant conservation values such as natural, cultural or ecological resources, agricultural water rights, urban shaping (buffer zones between communities) or other Open Space benefits (trail linkage, access to lakes and streams or other open space properties).

In order to acquire Development Credits for construction of residential floor area greater than the allowed size thresholds, note the following table:

Number of Square Feet	Number of Credits	Total Added Square Footage	Total Credits for Added SF
1 st 500	1	500	1
2 nd 500	1	1000	2
3 rd 500	2	1500	4
4 th 500	2	2000	6
5 th 500	3	2500	9
Each additional 500 sf	3		

Setbacks from property lines:

Eldora is currently under Boulder County Forestry Zoning regulations in regard to setbacks. Forestry Zoning requires side setbacks of 25 feet and front and back setbacks of 15 feet. How this regulation is viewed by the individual property owner is greatly influenced by the size of the parcel. Those who own tiny parcels would in most cases prefer smaller setbacks, which would allow them to use more of their parcel for building purposes. Those who own larger parcels are not particularly affected by setback regulations.

Over the years many variances have been granted based on the difficulty in having enough space for a leach field or an addition to a small cabin. This may be good for one property, yet have an adverse impact on an adjacent property. When homes are built in close proximity to one another, there is the potential for fire to easily spread from home to home. There is less buffer space between neighbors from normal activities that cause sound and light pollution.

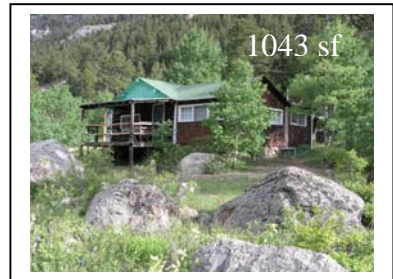
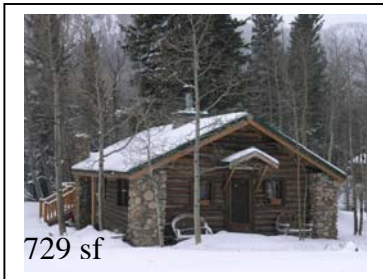
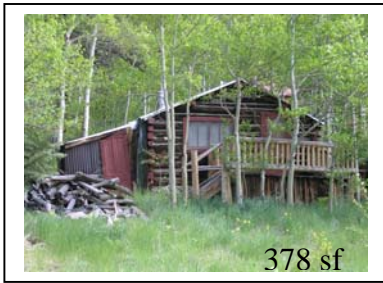
This article is a summary of approximately 20 pages of material from the Boulder County website. For more detailed information log into: www.bouldercounty.org/lu/lucode/amendments/2008/DC05002HResolution2008-72.pdf



A survey of ECA members is planned for summer 2009 to solicit your views on a number of community issues. Try to attend Boulder County Workshops over the course of the summer to become better informed on issues affecting Eldora.



VARIOUS HOUSE SIZES IN ELDORA (According to Boulder County Assessor)



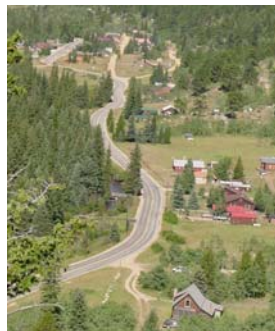
In Favor of Larger Cabins/Homes:

Old buildings are non-conforming.
 Large homes accommodate a large family.
 Allow a large house on a large property.
 Land size should determine house size.
 Stop limiting property rights.
 Vibrant, active homes with families & children
 Lifestyle and use of residences have changed.
 Limiting total construction on a lot will limit good investment in Eldora.
 1500 square feet includes sheds and garage.
 Build a home with a 1000 sf footprint; have 3 levels to increase size to 3000 sf. This disturbs less land than a one-story 1500 sf cabin.
 New homes and additions bring better sanitation, improved fire safety and new well permits.
 Concern for property value with limitations
 It's hard to build a 3-bdrm house with garage and basement at a 1500 square foot limit.
 Contractor licensing will increase the cost of building homes.
 New homes face an impossible approval process.
 New homes are under burdensome regulations.
 The site plan review process is painful.

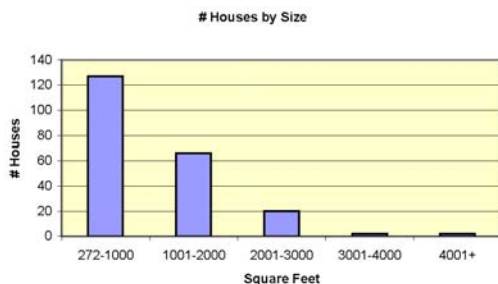
The collection of comments on this page was assembled from meetings and emails regarding the proposal of an Eldora Townsite Initiative last summer.

ELDORA	SQFT
Minimum	144
Maximum	6,010
Average	1,085
Median	893
Avg. Year	1945

SQFT	# Houses	% of Total
144-1000	127	58.5%
1001-2000	66	30.4%
2001-3000	20	9.2%
3001-4000	2	0.9%
4001+	2	0.9%
Total Houses	217	100%



Source: Boulder County 2007 Eldora, Colorado



In favor of Smaller Cabins/Homes:

A unique sense of place: rustic tourist cabins
 Small cabins compliment natural surroundings
 Simple pleasures, simple lifestyle with family and friends
 Property rights vs. "Is this the right thing to do?"
 Smaller cabins = larger amount of open space.
 Need more space? Buy several cabins!
 Preserve smaller cabins on smaller lots while allowing them to be legal; allow them to make necessary upgrades to their properties.
 Making allowances with square footage, height, regulations and viewsheds can change Eldora's ambiance.
 Retain our existing forestry zoning (height limits, setbacks, no new business + 1500 sf limit.
 Maintain historic character based on smaller cabins.
 Provide for separation and privacy between neighbors.
 Setbacks protect us from fires in adjacent homes.
 Allow native plants and animals to intermingle and be part of our community.
 Avoid huge domineering houses being constructed that destroy the sense of scale in our community of largely modest cabins in our spectacularly beautiful natural setting.
 Restrict buildings to two stories and that would include a basement.
 Tall buildings may block the viewshed of others.
 We need significant side and front setbacks.
 Keep current setbacks.
 Maintain openness and minimize structural footprints to retain vegetative cover and allow animal movement within the community.
 Larger homes would change the historic character of Eldora townsite.
 Larger homes require greater use of resources in the building process.
 Larger homes require more fuel for heating and more water use.
 1100 sq. ft. provides adequate space for a family: 3 bdrms, a large kitchen and a large living room.
 Old cabins can be remodeled, updated and rescued from rot and ruin without expanding the footprint.
 We must maintain smaller houses to preserve Eldora's charm and beauty.
 Eldora has always been a good investment.

The first table below illustrates the size of some larger recently constructed or expanded Eldora homes. The square footage includes all buildings on the property, including garages. (Source: Boulder County)

Address	Square Footage	Year Built/Improvements Made
535 Klondyke	1290	2008
551 Washington	1300	1905/2008-09
555 Eldorado	1620	2001
135 Eldorado	1683	2002
1063 Klondyke	1773	2009
210 Eldorado	1838	1915/2006
215 Bryan	1922	2007
1075 Eldorado	2085	1975/1999
975 Bryan	2200	1997
165 Bryan	2286	1964/data not found
895 Klondyke	2302	1909/2006
985 Bryan	2333	2007-08
1044 Bryan	2526	2001

The second table illustrates the size of some larger Eldora homes that were constructed before the current era. The square footage represents all buildings on the property, including garages. The median size of homes in Eldora is 893 square feet; the average size is 1085 square feet. (Source: Boulder County)

Address	Square Footage	Year Built/Improvements Made
370 Bryan	1220	1930/data not found
666 Eldorado	1224	1899/data not found
844 Klondyke	1244	1929/data not found
29 Marysville Road	1253	1963
1055 Klondyke	1295	1981
955 Klondyke	1317	1917/data not found
2572 Eldora Road	1328	1971
424 Eldorado	1352	1961
949 Klondyke	1372	1909/data not found
1001 Eldorado	1390	1914/data not found
834 Klondyke	1418	1937/data not found
1045 Eldorado	1482	1950
398 Bryan	1496	1910/2001
22 Marysville Road	1512	1892/data not found
945 Bryan	1536	1965
2478 Eldora Road	1656	1915/1955
856 Klondyke	1757	1932/data not found
965 Klondyke	1920	1899
83 Marysville Road	2016	1926/1990
951 Eldorado	2419	1919/data not found
560 Eldorado	2420	1900/1998
195 Eldorado	2460	1975
2291 Eldora Road	2544	1971/data not found
75 Marysville Road	2551	1935/data not found
1010 Eldorado	3072	1937/data not found
1195 Eldorado	6010	1920/1974



A Look at Nature: “Home Sweet Home”

By Dave Hallock

The animals that live around us are the originators of Boulder County’s BuildSmart program. Their homes are generally constructed of organic materials that are locally gathered and biodegradable. One exception is the pesky squirrels that sometimes use pink insulation gathered from our homes for their nests in the trees around town. And, for the most part, animals are the do-it-yourself types. Don’t even mention a building permit to them.

Of course, many animals don’t “construct” anything: where their head lies is called home. This goes for elk, deer, moose, lions, and bobcats, though all tend to favor sheltered sites for resting and giving birth. Others, including rabbits and hares, coyotes, foxes and raccoons take advantage of natural cover, including dense shrubs, rock crevices, natural cavities in trees and the space under fallen logs. They may enhance the cover with some additional excavation and/or the use of grass and fur to line the ground. Sixty percent of black bear winter hibernation dens have been found in rock cavities; other sites include excavations under fallen trees and shrubs. Weasels live in nests constructed of grass and fur located inside burrows abandoned by other species, under fallen logs and rocks. Voles have well-developed runways for travel and globular underground or surface nests of grass, generally 5 inches in diameter; these are most visible in the spring during snowmelt. Deer mice also have extensive trail systems that connect several different home or nest sites within their home range.

The ability to dig below ground provides homes for a lot of animals. Pocket gophers have complex burrow systems. Wyoming and golden-mantled ground squirrels and chipmunks also go below ground. Pikas and marmots often use boulder fields to locate their dens; the spaces between the boulders provide pathways and larger cavities for nesting.

Birds make the task of building a home an art form. Using grasses, twigs, mud and saliva, they can weave an intricate basket on the ground, in a shrub, in the crotch of a tree or on a limb, for laying and incubating eggs, hatching them, and then sheltering the young while they are being fed and growing larger. Hummingbird nests are some of the most delicate and beautiful. They are often placed on a horizontal tree limb. The exterior is made up of lichen, leaves, shredded bark and plant fibers and is lined with plant down or spider silk. They simply look like a small bump on the tree limb, perfectly camouflaged, and all you can see is the very top of the incubating adult’s head with its long bill extending outside the nest.



Photo by Diane J. Brown

Woodpeckers are the “general contractors” of the bird world. Many woodpeckers like to drill a new hole in a tree each year. For hairy woodpeckers, this takes between 7 and 25 days. The holes from the previous years are still there as long as the tree is standing. So a whole group of birds often referred to as “secondary cavity nesters,” take up residence in the abandoned holes. This group includes chickadees, nuthatches, bluebirds, wrens, swallows and small owls. Trees with several holes function as bird condos.

Beavers are the engineers of the animal world. They build dams, lodges and canals to regulate water levels that provide shelter and access to food. Their dams raise the water level and increase the size of wetlands, benefiting the many animal species that depend on them, such as waterfowl and shorebirds, aquatic insects and moose. Beaver lodges, constructed with sticks, rocks, mud and similar objects, may be totally surrounded by water or built partially on land. They typically have an underwater entrance three feet or less below the water surface, which leads into a feeding chamber and an elevated sleeping chamber. Winter temperatures in the lodge have been found to be relatively stable. The largest lodge ever recorded was over 6 feet high above the water and over 36 feet in diameter, about the size of a typical Eldora cabin!



Photo by Diane Brown

COMMUNITY ISSUE: Updating the Eldora Environmental Preservation Plan

Periodic surveys done by the ECA have consistently shown that most ECA members want to maintain the quality of life in the valley by limiting new construction, avoiding commercialization, protecting historic buildings and controlling the transportation corridor. The community wants to protect its rural/historic character and its natural ecological attributes.

Historically the Eldora Civic Association has worked with Boulder County, the U.S. Forest Service, the State of Colorado and other community interests to address growth, ground and surface water issues, traffic, development, public/private land ownership issues, ecological degradation, recreational use, wildlife corridors, etc. However, by the 1990s the Front Range population had increased substantially, putting pressure on mountain communities by raising the demand for more recreational access and increased home building activity. It became obvious that the informal relationships between ECA and government agencies would not be enough to influence the handling of outside issues affecting Eldora. Decisions were being made by these agencies that seemed to run counter to the wishes of the majority of Eldora residents.

ECA decided to develop an organized comprehensive planning project that would allow the ECA and its members full consideration by local, state and federal planning agencies controlling land use development on public and private lands within and around Eldora. To this end a study of Eldora and its environs was undertaken that would lead to a document highlighting recommendations about preserving Eldora's natural and cultural resources. The final 260-page document was entitled the Eldora Environmental Preservation Plan or EEPP. It was adopted by the ECA Board on January 31, 1994.

Soon after, the EEPP was formally adopted as part of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan and ever since has been recognized by Boulder County as the credible source of information when making decisions that would affect Eldora. This was accomplished in 1995 when the EEPP was officially included as part of Boulder County Comprehensive Plan.

Presently the EEPP has eight elements or chapters which include: 1) AN INTRODUCTION with a social and economic overview and geographic setting, 2) GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES, 3) HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY, 4) VEGETATION AND SOILS, 5) WILDLIFE RESOURCES, 6) CULTURAL RESOURCES, 7) RECREATIONAL RESOURCES, 8) LAND USE PLANNING. An additional chapter should be added entitled CLIMATE CHANGE, or CLIMATE CHANGE could be incorporated into the existing chapters where appropriate.

Each chapter includes recommendations, which follow the intent of the goals and objectives. Most of the considerations within the intent are in different phases of completion. Due to the hard work of ECA members like Deb Evans, Diane Brown and Dave Hallock, the community is well on the way to accomplishing the EEPP's original goals and objectives. Thanks to their hard work and leadership and the willingness of numerous community members to serve, donate time, resources and money, we have been able to keep the ambiance of the community much like it has been over the decades.

The potential is great for ECA to realize cooperation with other agencies, elected officials and the private sector to carry out recommendations within the EEPP document. The original EEPP document calls for regular updating every 5 years. **However, it has been 15 years since the EEPP has been updated.** Because of its importance to the community, the ECA Board of Directors has decided there is a need to revisit and update the EEPP document.

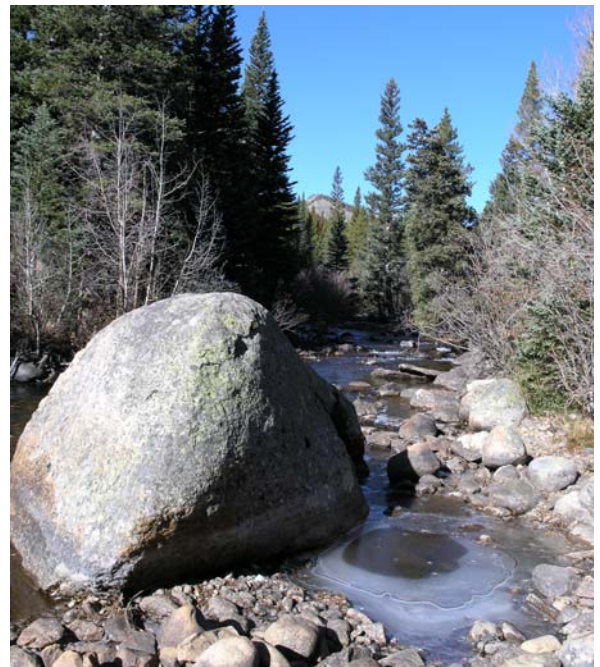
We would like to consider setting up a needs assessment and scope of work to begin the update. The ECA Board of Directors suggests the Eldora community support the update process. Your comments/suggestions about the EEPP are important to the ECA Board. Let us know what you think.

The idea for EEPP developed out of the ECA Board's experience dealing with the ski area's impact on the power supply in Eldora when they started using heavy-duty snowmaking equipment. The ECA had to challenge Public Service, via a complaint to the Public Utilities Commission, to ensure that residences in Eldora received adequate electricity when the ski area started up its generators every night. In the process we became aware that there wasn't really enough objective information about the environmental impacts that the ski area (and other uses) were having on the area. So we decided to commission a study to inventory the area's resources and potential impacts of various activities on those resources in order to have the data to respond to threats like the snow making and to build a community-generated plan for the future.

Deb Evans

The ski area (1963) and the Indian Peaks Wilderness designation (1978) put Eldora on the map. Up until that time planning, etc., was minimal, but with these additional situations, the planning process became essential to maintaining the ambiance of the valley and is more so now; hence the EEPP became more imperative.

Mike McCoy



North Fork with Ice Pool - Photo by Diane Brown

My view of the EEPP is that it has served two purposes: It is a baseline study of Eldora's cultural and natural assets and the recommendations give us a roadmap for what needs to be done. Audrey Godell

View the EEPP at www.eldoraweb.com



Calypso bulbosa – Fairy Slippers

The original EEPP cost \$5,000. Lee Evans donated half of the cost and the Eldora community generated the remainder.

Positive Effects of the Eldora Environmental Protection Plan

- Formation of the Eldora Land Preservation Fund
- Boulder County Parks and Open Space land acquisitions on Spencer Mountain
- Weed awareness program
- Recording of Eldora history in the ECA newsletter
- Boulder County historical survey of 50 more cabins in Eldora

A Tale of Two Communities

By Randall A. Wells

From "The Mountain Ear" of January 16, 1995

Reprinted with permission

Submitted by William Pierson, Sr.

The communities of Eldora and Nederland are only a few miles apart, but their differences are vast.

Eldora residents, concerned about growth issues in their community have banded together, raised money and produced the Eldora Environmental Preservation Plan (EEPP).

The substantial and impressive document will be presented soon to the Boulder County Commissioners. Residents hope their vision for the future is incorporated into the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan, the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest Resources Management Plan, and the acquisition program of the Boulder County Land Trust.

Those same residents are now negotiating with the owners of parcels of land they think are key to preserving their lifestyle and the environment of the Eldora area. They believe in proactive planning and management.

The Nederland response to development pressures is different. Basically, it's reactive. In this town, residents who oppose the development of a private parcel of land go to court and to the polls. They attempt to make the landowner feel guilty for his "greed." They forget that the only way to preserve a piece of land, to protect it from development, is to buy it. If you own it, you can do what you want with it.

If you don't own it, your alternatives for shaping its development are limited. You can make sure the government body follows its own rules and laws about development, and, if you don't like those laws, you can work to change them for future development. But realistically, there isn't much you can do after a piece of land is already zoned and ready for development.

We think Nederland could learn a lot from Eldora.



Spencer Mountain:
Elk Migration
Corridor



Ghost Towns

From "Fool's Gold" by Mrs. Clyde Robertson

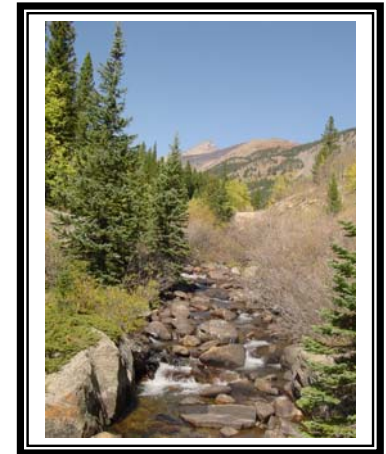
Near the storm-clawed
Great Divide
Ghost towns dot
The mountain side.

Huts of black logs,
Weather-pocked
Doby-chinked
And saddle-locked,

Lean like old men
Desolate,
Weary fighting
Against fate,

Longing to
Rest in the loam -
Old hulls waiting
To go home.

↑Cabins at
Hessie with
Chittenden
Mountain in
background;
↓North Fork



Mrs. Clyde Robertson once lived near Hessie, Colorado. She received the Banner Press Publication award for 1934 for her collection of poems in "Fool's Gold." Her poems are portrayals of Western mining and pioneers centering in many of the local mining towns.

⇔The view from
Spencer Mountain
over Arapaho Ranch,
Nederland and Barker
Reservoir

Eldora's Clubs
By William F. Gross



Back in the 1930s there was an active social club with members meeting for bridge, dinners and various social functions. They had contracted with Frank Anderson, owner of the Goldminer Hotel, for him to construct a meeting room attached to the east side of the hotel – at no cost to them. It was understood that whenever the club ceased to function, the room became an integral part of the hotel, as happened during World War II.

After the war some 30 years passed clubless in Eldora until the summer of 1973 when someone, unknown to me, suggested to Margaret Frazier, longtime summer resident, that Eldora needed a club. She should get in touch with me (why me I never learned) and establish one.

So I spent an afternoon with Margaret roughing out an outline of a club. She was interested primarily in the social aspects, while I was interested in the civic possibilities. For lack of a better name we called it “The Eldora Social and Civic Club.” It was a sad looking document, which I took to my lawyer friend Phil Rouse for an overhaul. He revised it into the proper legal form of laws and bylaws.

In the meantime Margaret distributed a letter proposing the establishment of this club, reviewing its possible activities and writing all Eldora property owners to join and become charter members. It wasn't long before the title was simplified to “the Eldora Civic Club,” followed by changing “Club” to the more appropriate “Association” – hence “The Eldora Civic Association” aka E.C.A.



Letter from Margaret E. Frazier

Eldora, Colorado, 80437
July 4, 1973



Dear Fellow Eldorans:

Forty years ago there was an organization called “The Eldora Civic and Social Club.” Matters of mutual interest and benefit were on its agenda. It is time to revive this sort of activity.

I, as an Eldora taxpayer of some forty years, would like to suggest that we reactivate this and here's why and how:

1. We need to elect a Board of Directors to manage for us in matters such as joining a fire district, interceding with the County Commissioners for an adequate bridge across the creek at 6th Street, getting help in speed control, animal control, street maintenance, etc., etc.
2. Each property, of the 212 in our community, would have one vote in electing the directors. Rules and Bylaws would be drawn up by them and presented to the membership for acceptance or revision and so on. I propose an organization similar to most homeowners' associations and neighborhood groups.
3. The only foreseeable expense of this type set-up would be of a clerical nature: stamps, mimeographing, a few long distance calls and the like. There would be NO town tax levy!!
4. Of equal importance would be the SOCIAL aspect. We need to get together, get to know each other and work for the mutual benefit of our beloved haven. What do you think of reviving the town picnics? We could have our annual membership and business meeting at a picnic. How many of you remember the annual picnics, the horseshoe pitching contests, the ladies' tea parties, etc.? They were fun!
5. Our young people need a place to gather and get to know each other. It is good to know folks from other places. Of such is Eldora love and loyalty born. I speak from experience. (Eldora has been my second home for over fifty years!) Let's pass that heritage on to our younger generation.

If you are in agreement with our needs and this method of achieving desirable solutions, will you please sign the enclosed membership form and mail it to me at your earliest convenience? We need to “get with it.” THE TIME IS NOW!

Thank you for your love and loyalty to Eldora.
Yours sincerely, Miss Margaret E. Frazier

First Constitution of the Eldora Civic Association

ARTICLE I

This association shall be known as the Eldora Civic Association and shall be located and conduct its business in the disincorporated town of Eldora, Boulder County, Colorado.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of the Association shall be to work for the improvement of civic conditions in Eldora, to promote a feeling of good fellowship and sociability among the members, and to provide a sounding board to residents of Eldora concerning conditions of Eldora.

ARTICLE III

The affairs of the Association shall be under the supervision and control of a Board of Directors consisting of seven members, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Association.

The Board of Directors shall be elected annually at the annual meeting of the membership of the Association. For the purpose of organizing this Association and until their successors shall be elected, the Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

Margaret Frazier
Norman R. Howe
G. N. Brasel
William F. Gross
Dr. George B. Nahrgang
Philip A. Rouse

ARTICLE IV

All property owners in the disincorporated town of Eldora and adjacent areas shall be eligible for membership upon the payment of dues and upon qualifying for membership as provided in the bylaws of the Association.

ARTICLE V

The Board of Directors shall have the power to adopt bylaws for the conduct of the business affairs of the Association and shall have the continuing right from time to time to amend such bylaws as it sees fit.

ARTICLE VI

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the membership by a majority vote of those present and voting.

First Bylaws of Eldora Civic Association

ARTICLE I

Section 1. Eligibility. All property owners in the disincorporated town of Eldora and adjacent areas shall, upon payment of the annual dues, be eligible for membership in the Association. Each group of persons shall have one vote; one voting membership shall include all family members or joint owners.

Section 2. Annual Dues. Annual dues are payable to the Secretary-Treasurer on or before the 31st day of July of each year. Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors, and until initial action is taken by the Board, the dues shall be \$10 for the first year.

Section 3. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held on the first Saturday in August of each year. Notice of such meeting shall be given in person, by letter, and/or by posting. Special meetings of the membership may be called by a majority of the directors.

ARTICLE II

Directors

Section 1. Election. The directors shall consist of seven persons who are members in good standing of the Association at the time of their election, and they shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association.

Section 2. Quorum. Four members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 3. Vacancies. In case a vacancy shall occur in the membership of the Board of Directors, the remaining Board shall have the authority to appoint a member to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term.

Section 4. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately following the annual meeting of the membership. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be held upon the call of the President or upon the call of any two directors. Notice in person, by mail, or by posting shall be given of each meeting.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1. Election. The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer. The officers shall be elected by the directors at their annual meeting, which officers shall serve for the ensuing year. The President shall be a member of the Board of Directors. Other officers are not required to be members of the Board.

Section 2. The President. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings and to perform all of the duties pertaining to his office. It shall also be his duty to call the business meetings and direct the Secretary to notify the members of such meetings.

Section 3. The Vice President. The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the office of the President in the absence of the President.

Section 4. The Secretary-Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to keep a complete and correct record of all transactions of the association, to keep a complete record of the names and addresses of all members and their standing, and to notify all members whenever dues shall be due and payable, and to collect such dues and receive all other monies paid into the club and to turn same over to the treasury. It is also the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to call meetings of the membership at the request of the President and at such other times as the Bylaws may provide. The Secretary-Treasurer shall deposit all monies received and belonging to the club in the bank which shall be designated by the membership at a regular meeting, and shall keep a complete record of all receipts and disbursements and submit a report whenever the President or the membership may require.

ARTICLE IV

Order of Business

The order of business for the meeting of the membership and for the meeting of the Board of Directors shall be as follows:

1. Calling of meeting.
2. Reading and approval of the minutes.
3. Reading of recommendations for membership.
4. Balloting on recommendations for membership.
5. Reading and allowance of bills.
6. Report of standing committees.
7. Report of special committees.
8. Unfinished business.
9. New business.
10. Election of officers or directors.
11. Adjournment.

ARTICLE V

Amendments

These Bylaws may be revised, amended or repealed at any regularly called meeting of the club, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the proposed revision, amendment or repeal shall have been presented in writing at a previous meeting of the club.

Note: These original bylaws have been replaced by a newer version.

Copies of the ECA Constitution, Bylaws and Letter from M. Frazier courtesy of the Bolton collection

Happy Valley Happenings



Time to Move Higher! Photo by Diane Brown

If you have hiked the high peaks and the tundra above Eldora, you have probably seen or at least heard a pika. The pika is a diminutive relative of the rabbit that sounds a high-pitched squeak as an alarm signal. It is found in boulder fields and rock slides near mountain peaks in the American West. The pika evolved in cold temperatures and can die from overheating if exposed to temperatures as low as 78° for just a few hours. Climate change is warming the lower zones of alpine habitat, causing the pika populations to either die off or be forced to move upslope. There used to be pikas in a rockslide below the Caribou Road a short ways up from Eldora. They were always found in the rocks at the beginning of the trail into Hessie, but no more. In the Great Basin mountains of Nevada and Oregon more than a third of known pika populations have disappeared. The American pika is one of the most warming-threatened mammals in the world and is now the first mammal in the lower 48 states to be considered for protection under the Endangered Species Act due to global warming. The pika is very much the polar bear of the Lower 48. It is the American West's canary in the coal mine. Will other alpine species such as rosy finches and ptarmigan also be impacted by warmer climate?



Ptarmigan

Photo by
John
Brocklehurst



Eldora High Country Goes High Tech

As an experiment the February 2009 issue of the newsletter was sent out for the first time via email to those members with an Internet connection. Everyone also received a hard copy of the newsletter. The response to the electronic newsletter was very positive, although some had difficulty because of the size of the file. Many are content to receive only an electronic version, whereas others prefer hard copy. We are in the process of developing a list of electronic-only members and need to know who is satisfied with receiving e-version, vs. those who prefer only the hard copy. Please email Audrey Godell to let her know your preference and she will make a notation in the ECA database. Her email address is: agodell@nednet.net.

The Eldora High Country is a concerted effort by several contributors. Diane Brown is editor-in-chief. She contacts people, collects articles and photos of interest, types and formats the newsletter. Her husband Dave Hallock is on hand for technical support in computer matters. Audrey Godell as ECA Secretary-Treasurer is crucial in making sure the database is up-to-date so the newsletter can be sent to the correct mailing or email address. All the wonderful writers who share their talent with the community complete the circle of volunteers who make our newsletter so special to readers.



Photo by Diane Brown

Pasqueflower, a lavender-colored member of the buttercup family, blooms in April in the Eldora area. One of the earliest flowers to dare to blossom, it is often covered by snow. Maybe that's why its foliage is densely covered with fuzzy hairs. It grows from the mesas and foothills to the higher altitudes and may be seen later in the season on Caribou Flats above Eldora. "Pasque" is associated with Easter.

Happy Valley Happenings



Eldora Endemics*

Penstemon (Beard Tongue)
 Figwort Family (Scrophulariaceae)



Scientists believe that the lovely flower known as Penstemon probably originated in the Rocky Mountains about 1.6 million years ago and later spread throughout the West continuing through eastern North America. Today it is a large genus of as many as 300 species found from Alaska to Guatemala, but mostly in the western U. S. with its greatest density in Utah.

Eldora is fortunate to have its own unique group of native penstemons:

- Mountain Beard-Tongue - *Penstemon glaber*
- One-sided Penstemon - *Penstemon secundiflorus*
- Blue Mist Penstemon - *Penstemon virens*
- Tall Penstemon - *Penstemon virgatus* (pictured)
- Whipple Penstemon - *Penstemon whippleanus*

Our penstemons tend to colonize meadow areas or tuck themselves into rock outcrops. They flower mostly in spring or early summer. Their colorful tubular corollas attract pollinators such as bees and flies, which are rewarded with nectar that is replenished by the plant within several hours.

Eighty per cent of penstemons come in shades of blue to pink. In southern Colorado, Arizona and Utah where there are red-flowered varieties of penstemon with longer floral tubes, the pollinators are hummingbirds. Our native subalpine Whipple's penstemon is unusual in that its flowers are either deep maroon or dull white.

*endemic – indigenous; prevalent in or restricted to a particular geographic area

A Farewell to Best Friends

“PIPER”

Piper, named for her family's favorite champagne “Piper Sonoma,” had the middle name “Dorothea” because she came from Kansas. She died of liver failure on February 10, 2009 at the sweet age of 16.



Piper was always the first in the car to go to Eldora and the last to leave early on Monday mornings at 4:30 am. She loved being up in Eldora and her ashes were scattered on Saturday, February 21 at 5:00 pm – toasted with Piper Sonoma champagne with two other couples. She leaves behind her 4-year old brother, a black Lab named Grigsby. Piper was very much loved by Nick and Mary Jane Newens.



ELDORA LAND PRESERVATION FUND

\$ DONATIONS \$

Steve and Suellen Bryan
 Margaret Martin (in memory of Virginia Menke)

Current balance for ELPF: \$15,360.62
 We are planning to have some new fundraising items ready for summer 2009 which will be for sale at all ECA events.



BOULDER COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN
 SPACE FOUNDATION

Eldora Land Preservation Fund Account

\$ DONATIONS \$

Jerome and Barbara Donahue
 Joan L. Brownell

Current Balance for the Foundation: \$6560.00

HELP WANTED IN ELDORA

Don an orange vest and help clean up the trash along Eldora's roads on Saturday, June 13. Meet at 9 AM at Earl & Barbara Bolton's cabin -502 Eldorado



Helping Hands Make the Job Easier.

Help out with sales of Eldora Land Preservation Fund items. Help carry boxes of T-shirts, vests, note cards, etc. Take a turn at the sales table.



Bring some home-baked cookies, coffee or lemonade for Eldora History Night and a story or artifact to share.



Help set up or clean up at the Eldora Town Picnic on Saturday, August 15 from noon to 2:00. Bring a generous-sized dish to share with everyone and lawn chairs to sit on. Help older members carry food and chairs. Set up volleyball or horseshoe games. Stay a few minutes after the picnic to make sure there's no trash left on the grounds.



Consider running for the Board of Directors of the Eldora Civic Association.

Lots of help is needed if we are going to have the Eldora Community Yard Sale on July 25. We need people to sort and price sale items, run the cash register, place signs in strategic locations, and clean up afterwards. Start thinking of items in good condition that you might like to donate to this fundraiser that benefits the Eldora Land Preservation Fund.



Volunteer to participate on a committee to review the ECA Bylaws and propose revisions.



Contribute stories, articles and photos of Eldora to the Eldora High Country newsletter. Help leave a recorded history of people and events that have shaped our valley's past and will affect our future.

♪ DO SOMETHING ♪

From The Eagles Album "Long Road Out of Eden"



Don't leave it up to someone else and don't feel sorry for yourself. Do something, do something.

On your honor, for your pride - You'll sleep better knowing you tried to do something, do something.

It's never too late to do something.

It's too late for saving face. Don't just stand there taking up space. Why don't you do something?

It's too easy not to care and you're not ready for the rocking chair. Get up and do something, do something.



Eldora Civic Association Was First Boulder County Adopt-a-Road Program

From "Boulder County News,"

A quarterly newsletter from the Boulder County Commissioners



Barbara and Earl Bolton

Meet the volunteer who brought Adopt-a-Road to Boulder County. Eighteen years ago Earl Bolton witnessed the success of Colorado's Adopt-a-Road program and thought, "Why can't we clean our local roads the same way?" Earl, a summer resident of Eldora, who was serving as President of the ECA at the time, approached Boulder County with the idea of starting a similar program for county roads. The County agreed. Under Earl's leadership, the ECA became the first organization to join Boulder County's Adopt-a-Road program in 1990 and has been committed to the program ever since.

As part of its commitment to Adopt-a-Road, the ECA picks up litter along a four-mile stretch of road from Highway 119 to Eldora. Earl and his wife Barbara open up their home every year as a place for volunteers to meet and organize before starting each cleanup.

Barbara serves breakfast to the volunteers who show up to help and the couple distributes the mandatory orange safety vests and trash bags to the group. Then Earl accompanies the volunteers to help clean the roads.

Each cleanup takes 3 to 4 hours. In addition to cleaning the roadsides, volunteers separate the recyclables from the trash. When the ECA first began the Adopt-a-Road program, Earl recalls collecting so much litter that his truck was full to the brim with trash. Volunteers would clear away anything from cigarette butts to discarded dirty diapers. "Those were the worst!" says Earl with a grimace.

Now, however, Earl notes that the volume of trash collected has significantly decreased. He attributes the reduction in garbage to citizens who have noticed the cleaner roads and become more conscientious about not littering.



↳ This photo of the Springer family arriving in Eldora in a touring car was shared with us by Pat Springer Overlees. This was the way they got to Eldora before driving private cars. The railroad in 1905, followed by the Stanley Steamers in about 1914, brought about the demise of the horse stages in transporting people and goods to Eldora. The roads up the canyon and into Eldora were unpaved at that time.



In Memory of Robert McCaffree



↑ Jimmie and Bob McCaffree are seated in the front. In the back is the Amaranto family: Andrew, Ernie, Daniel, Marian (McCaffree) and David. Circa 1998

Born on May 24, 1913, Bob McCaffree passed away on August 30, 2008, at the age of 95. He married Inez “Jimmie” on September 12, 1936 and they had almost 72 eventful years together. Bob served four years in the Army during WWII. He saw action in the European Theater of Operations.

Bob’s love affair with Eldora started when he was a boy and he accompanied his parents to the beautiful mountain community. He said he could remember going up the mountain and as the hills got too steep, they would all get out of the vehicle (except the driver) and walk to the top and then get back in and ride, until it got too steep again.

Bob passed his love of Eldora on to his family, first his wife, who loves Eldora as much as he did, and then on to his kids. In 1949 Bob and Jimmie took their daughters, Phyllis and Jane, on a vacation to Eldora, Colorado. At that time Bob and Jimmie took the family on a daylong hike over Spencer Mountain to Peterson Lake and then on back to the Lodge on Lake Eldora. They had lunch and then hiked back to Eldora.

They lived for one week in a cabin rented from the Sargent family. The cabin they rented is now the Newens cabin and was identical to the one they purchased years later. Somewhere Bob learned that a warehouse building had been cut into three parts. One part became Newens’ cabin, one part became the McCaffree cabin and the third part became a cabin that is located approximately where the McCaffree garage is. That cabin was destroyed by fire, but the fireplace still stands just west of the McCaffree cabin.

This picture, taken ⇒ August 1991, is a good example of the family gatherings at our cabin. Except for the baby, Bob McCaffree is the only one who has no hair! Jane and part of her family and one of Phyllis’ daughters and her family are in the picture.



In 1964 Bob and Jimmie bought the Kemp Gift Shop at 702 Klondyke across from the Kemp cabin, and for the next 35+ years spent as much time there as possible. Eldora was always close to his heart. They spent time up there in every season, whenever they could get there. When the cabin was

purchased, Jane and Phyllis were both married and had children. Marian was a college student. The cabin became an affordable vacation for Jane and Phyllis' families. Marian actually lived at the cabin for a few years when she was working in Denver. The cabin was a place where Bob and Jimmie, as grandparents, could take two or three of the grandchildren for a "grandparenting" weekend. It was also good for the cousins to spend time together. It was always amazing to realize how many people could be housed in the 20' x 20' cabin with virtually no room divisions and very primitive bathroom facilities. However, no one felt crowded and everyone thoroughly enjoyed each other's company. On occasion the boys had to sleep in the garage to make room for the rest of us. That, too, was an adventure! We will always refer to the cabin as the McCaffree Cabin and plans are to keep it in the family for many years.



⇐ Spencer Mountain looms large on the left as viewed from the east.
 ↓ A view from the top of Spencer onto the grassy expanse that was purchased by Eldora Land Preservation Fund and Boulder County for open space in 2005.



Spencer Mountain Named for B. F. Spencer
 By Gerald E. Mason, great grandson of B. F. Spencer
 Submitted by Earl Bolton

From the Central City Register Call dated December 28, 1892: "A new mining camp was opened last summer on Middle Boulder Creek. At a meeting of the prospectors the camp was named Eldorado and the mountain on which the claims are located, called Spencer Mountain."

From the 1960 book "Silver, Gold and Black Iron" by Donald C. Kemp: "The Village Belle was located in a small hollow a quarter of a mile east of the Enterprise. Both were on the same vein. The Belle was staked in May of 1892 by M. D. (Doc) Morrison and B. F. Spencer (for whom Spencer Mountain was named)."

Benjamin Franklin Spencer was born 10 April 1851 to Morgan Spencer and Sophia Franklin. Benjamin was named for his 3rd great grand uncle Benjamin Franklin. Mining was instilled in his upbringing, as his father was active in mining in Illinois and Montana before moving to Colorado in the early 1870s. The Spencer family settled in the San Luis Valley and they were active in prospecting in the San Juan Mountains.

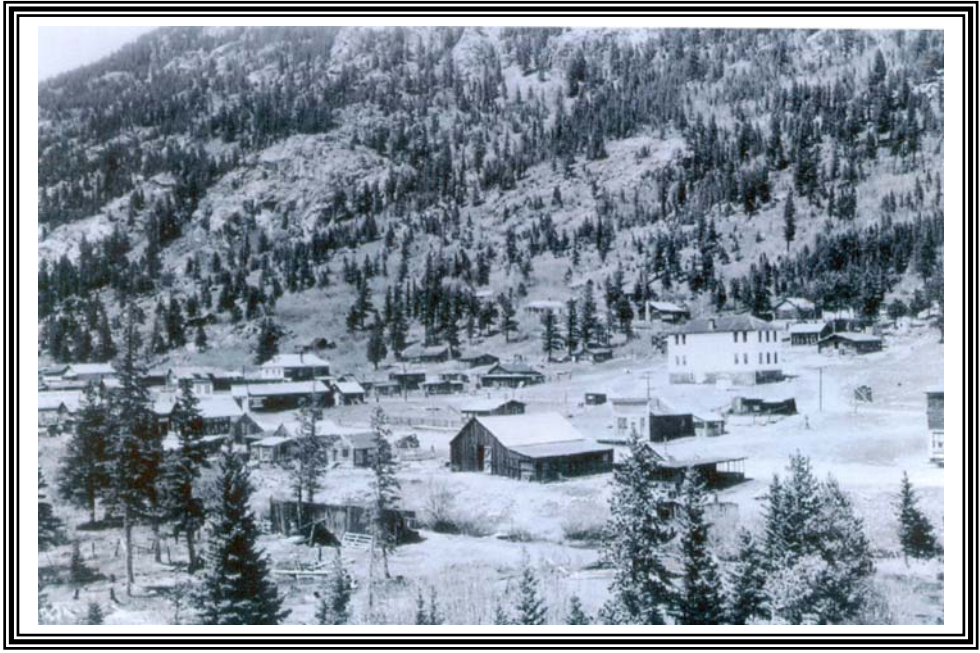
Two claims on Spencer Mountain are recorded. The Virginia Lode, survey #12686 May 2, 1892 and the Virginia Belle Lode, survey #12389 May 2, 1892. The Virginia Lode was sold to George F. Anderson, recorded November 15, 1892 and the Village Belle Lode was sold to John F. Tucker, recorded December 10, 1892. Benjamin appeared to be active on the mountain for a couple of years and then moved to Denver.



Lilly Stables By Barbara Lilly Bolton

The Lilly Stables are the large building in the center of this picture. Below the stable on the lower left closer to the creek is the horse corral. The large white building on the right is the old Eldora Schoolhouse.

Photo circa late 1890s
Courtesy of the Olsen Family Collection



Lilly Stables sat on the edge of Eldora's main street, 502 Eldorado Avenue, at the easterly edge of the business district. In 1895, operating as Talmage and Lilly, it ran from a stable at Fourteenth and Pearl Streets in Boulder up Boulder Canyon to Eldora and Caribou. (The Lilly Stable was the terminus of the stage line.)

John Lilly, with his wife Evalyn, came to Colorado in the late 1880s. In addition to the stage line, the Lillys owned a hotel located on the corner across the street from the stable and many cabins in Eldora. Little is known of Talmage except for the record of his ownership of property in the early town. The stage company, in addition to operating stagecoaches to transport passengers to the mountains, hauled freight to the various mines.

On a personal side, my grandfather drove a light rig from Marysville to Lake Eldora with passengers and their luggage. A hotel or two existed at Lake Eldora and private cabins were there, too. He also met the trains coming into town to transport the passengers to their destination or to town to eat. Of course, the automobile was the demise of the stagecoaches. Large cars transported folks up and down the canyon. The trip must have been so much more comfortable than jolting and swaying in a hard-wheeled vehicle up a rocky road in all kinds of weather, crossing Boulder Creek 30 times on probably rough bridges.* No comparison.

In late years the Lilly family operated the business as a Livery Stable, renting horses by the hour or day to tourists, mostly for pleasure rides. This closed at the beginning of WWII. In the 1920s, the stables owned string of donkeys (burros), which people rode. Pictures exist of riders on the burros. It is unknown for how long this went on, but my mother tells of trying to herd them. Much to her dismay, they scattered and went every direction.

EL DORA.

Altitude, 8,400.

El Dora is 22 miles from Boulder. The journey is made through the beautiful Boulder Canon, with its cyclopes peaks of solid granite rising to enormous heights, which is well calculated to excite surprise throughout the entire distance, until the canon spreads apart abruptly revealing El Dora with its serried walls of porphyry and granite, which contain beneath their hoary breasts untold wealth of rich fissure veins of sulphide ore which is the immediate continuation of the GILPIN GOLD BELT. The BLUE TOP STAGE LINE makes daily trips between Boulder City and this camp.

✻ CORRAL, ✻

Livery, Feed & Sale Stable.

Talmage & Lilly, Props.

15TH ST., BETWEEN PEARL AND SPRUCE, BOULDER.

Carriage and Stage Line to and from Nederland, El Dora and Caribou.

Best and Safest Teams for Mountain Travel.

Fare to El Dora, \$1.50.

Distance from Boulder		...TO...	
	miles.	alt.	
Boulder, pop. 8,000	0	5,400	
Boulder Springs	4	8,000	
Buhart	18	8,000	
Bear Canon	6	5,000	
Boulder Falls	12	6,200	
Copper Rock	16	6,000	
Cashfield	11	3,000	
Orisman	7	6,300	
Copper Rock	11	8,800	
Caribou	22	9,000	
Central	20	8,000	
Colorado Springs	100	5,000	
Denver	29	5,100	
Esche Rock	8	6,000	
Esche Park	10	6,000	
Esche	13	4,000	
P. Collins	40	3,000	
Golden	20	5,700	
Greenwood	50	4,112	
Greasley	49	4,779	
Gold Hill	12	3,815	
Gold Lake	5	5,000	
Idaho Springs	86	7,984	
Jameson	14	6,100	

Longmont	19	5,200
Lynn	30	5,500
Long's Peak	43	14,771
Magdalen	8	7,000
Middle Park	40	7,700
Nederland	14	6,200
Salmon	9	3,000
Springdale	10	4,200
Summit	7	7,000
Sugar Loaf	30	6,500
Summerville	19	7,400
Ward	10	6,800

Average elevation of foot hills	6,000
Boulder settled October 15	1858
First store in Denver, Nov. 4	1858
First overland mail, October 10	1854

Some of the Leading Mines of El Dora District.	
The First Trial	The Antileon
The Village Belle	The White Spar
The Enterprise	The Bob Tail
The Clara	The Norway Mia's Co.
The Delaware	The Ashcroft
The Henry B.	The Wals J.
The Apex Mining Co.	The Mary E.
The Edna C.	The H. & M.
The Bonanza	The St. Louis

Harold From, Boulder.



Barbara Lilly and June Lee at the back of the livery in 1938

During my high school years, 1937–1939, I ran the stables. In earlier years, with my father there, my job was to be the guide on rides with groups, but later on, my parents stayed in Boulder working and my younger sister, brother and I lived in Eldora. I did this for two or three summers, saddling and bridling horses each day. We did day trips and a few overnight trips also. The horses rented for 50¢ an hour or \$3.00 a day. The stable housed horses during the day until I turned them loose up the trail to Lake Eldora in the evening to graze. I would keep one horse during the night and then ride up to Lake Eldora and haze them home early each morning seven days a week.

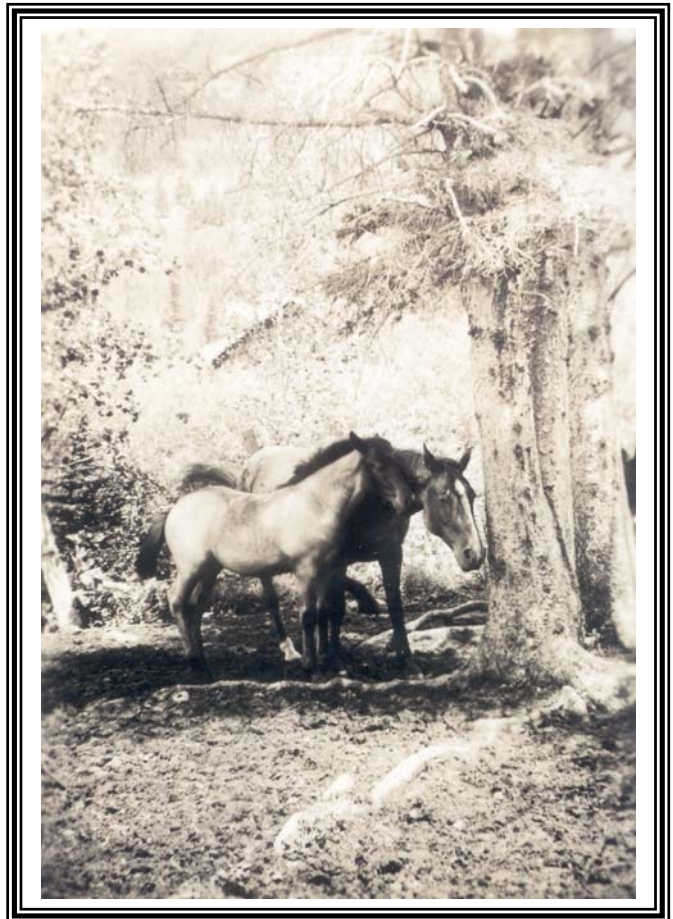
The stable itself sat approximately where the Pioneer and Mining Monument is today. Looking at the old rock foundations that are left, it was an imposing building, 40 feet by 60 feet, and high enough to have a loft at the top. The front Dutch doors opened onto the street. Three stalls for horses were located in the rear corner with

saddles and tack against the west wall. An office was in the northeast corner with a small wall desk and chairs at the northwest corner. The floors were of heavy plank. A small foundation is still visible where the office was. The corral where the horses were kept during the day was behind the stables along the creek where our cabin now sits.

During WWII the barn was broken into and everything was stolen except one broken down chair, which we repaired and is quite nice. We found a double tree that we think was used on the stagecoaches, but cannot confirm this. The building was demolished in 1966 and salvaged for barn wood. The repairs needed were many and maintenance was expensive. This decision was made with great sadness, as part of Eldora history was lost.

I have experienced so many, many happy summers in Eldora and I feel so very privileged to have had this in my life.

*John B. Schooland,
“Boulder Then and Now” Pruett Press 1967



Horses in the corral where the Bolton cabin now stands

Editor’s Note: Back in the 1960s there was no County program for helping property owners to preserve historic buildings. Today there is. If you would like help in preserving an historic structure contact: Denise Grimm, Boulder County Land Use, 303-441-3930, dgrimm@bouldercounty.org

The Eldora Weather Report for 2008-2009

By John B. Brocklehurst



Wishful thinking ↑
 Winter 2008-09 ⇒
 Mountain Bluebird ↓



Eldora – Eighth and Klondyke Photo by Audrey Godell

This is being typed on Friday, March 20, 2009 as a snowstorm slides toward the mountains around Eldora from Alaska. Six years have passed since we were marooned by six feet of snow and I believe that most of us would welcome the same dose again. Boulder County desperately needs the moisture.

From November 1, 2008 to March 19, 2009 there were 137 days when the overnight temperature fell to below freezing. The year's total moisture for 2008, which includes from snow and rain, was 18.5 inches, about normal for Colorado. Top wind speed was 95 mph on January 29, 2008 and the hottest temperature was 89° F on August 1, 2008.

Forty-seven inches of snow have fallen in Eldora since January 1, 2009. The coldest spell this winter was the last week of January when the wind chill was minus 46° F accompanied with a wind speed of 88 mph. January 17 the wind chill was minus 62° F with a top speed of 55 mph and January 29 wind speed reached 95 mph with a wind chill factor of minus 50° F. Wind speeds in January and February for 2009 exceeded more than 50 mph on fifty days and nights.


Thanks to faith, hope and promise, and despite man's foolish machinations, spring is still approaching. I have heard the redwing blackbirds in Nederland, the chickadees singing their two note mating call, the downy woodpecker sending out Morse code on the utility pole and I saw a mountain bluebird plus a robin on Arapaho Ranch, all within the past week. To confirm my own faith, I sowed spinach, arugula, radish, carrots, lettuce, nasturtiums and sweet peas this week.



Ice Formation by Audrey Godell

The mountain winds, like the dew and rain, sunshine and snow, are measured and bestowed with love on the forests to develop their strength and beauty. However restricted the scope of other forest influences, that of the winds is universal.

John Muir

Brock's
 Springtime in the Rockies
 Weather Report
 Friday, March 27, 2009
 Glorious sunshine,
 no wind and 2°F.
 A little more than a foot of
 snow in Eldora ☺;
 14 – 16 " in Boulder 
 Classic upslope!

Full Members 2008-09

Andersen, Tom & Ellen
Anderson, Bob & Pat
Anderson, Chris Alber & Heidi
Bailey, John
Baker, Charles & Lois
Barrett, Phillip
Bartelma, Robert & Janice
Baugh, Kim & Bill
Beal, Barry & Jane
Beckwith, Tom & Julie
Billingsley, Cleo
Billingsley John
Birkeland, Pete & Sue
Bolton, Dave & Sue
Bolton, Earl & Barbara
Brocklehurst, John and Willi
Brown, Dave Hallock & Diane
Brownell, Joan
Bryan, Steve & Suellen
Buchan, Jim & Sue
Buhse, Howard & Moira
Burns, Sheila Schroeder & Kate
Burton, Anne & Christopher
Burton, Tom & Mary
Busch, Ed & Eleanor
Callier, Douglas
Campbell, Doug & Carol
Carson, Edgar & Julie
Chapin, John & Micki
Cohagen, John & Mary
Cohen, Ken & Family
Colburn, Everett & Deborah
Collins, Brian & Lynne
Condron, Theodore & Deborah
Conklin, Nancy
Cunningham, James & Edwina & Ron
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Donahue, Jerry and Barbara
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Duvall, Mary McHenry & Jeffrey
Egaas, Korina Bersentes & Brian
Evans, Lee & Virginia
Eyster, Brad & Tamara
Fencl, Greg
Figgs, Norma
Fisher, Marc & Laura
Flowers, Clifton & Mary
Frazier, O. H. & Rachel
Freymuth, Peter & Karin
Geer, Richard & Nan
Gitin, Gene & Gail
Godell, Audrey
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Hale, Carolyn
Hansen, Harriet & Christian
Hartsell, Rich & Marilyn
Hawkins, James & Nancy
Hill, Jim & Sharon
Hoffman, Mary Commers & Amy
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Kladstrup, Barbara
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Kready, JoAnne
Leever, Virginia
Lopez, Todd Buchanan & Lisa
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McGuffee, Cris & Liz
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Merrill, Nancy
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Neu, Art & Naomi
Newens, Nick & Mary Jane
Phillips, Matt
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Ruhka, John & Sallie
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Shaw, Marilyn
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Simpson, Robert
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Snyder, Eliot & Melisa
Starkey, John Ooyen & Gunda
Stepperud, Rolf & Betty
Sturm, Ron & Judy
Swope, James & Beverly
Tafoya, Audrey Windolph & Jan
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Weissberg, Michael, Susan & Nico
Wheeler, Signe & Jeff
Whitworth, Sam
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Young, Russel & Marion
Zemanek, Phyllis

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Director, Boulder County Land Use

Please – only one full voting membership per property! All others are non-voting associates.

If you don't see your name on this page, then perhaps you haven't paid your dues!! Please fill out the form on the back of this page and mail to:

Eldora Civic Association
P.O. Box 988
Nederland, CO 80466



ELDORA CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM 2008-2009

ECA membership dues for fiscal year 2008-2009 are due on September 1, 2008. Dues are \$30.00 for Eldora area property owners and \$15.00 for non-property owners. Please note that there is only one \$30 voting membership per property. Extra copies of the newsletter for extended family members cost only \$15.00.

Name: _____

Eldora Address: _____

Eldora Telephone: _____

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E-Mail: _____

- Enclosed please find my \$30.00 full membership fee for 2008/2009
- Enclosed please find my \$15.00 associate membership fee for 2008/2009
- Enclosed please find \$15.00 per additional copy of the newsletter to be sent to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

If you are a summer-only resident of Eldora and would like your newsletter mailed to your Eldora address during the summer months, please indicate your approximate arrival and departure dates. Any other mailing instructions should also be included with this form.

Please send membership dues to: Eldora Civic Association
P. O. Box 988
Nederland, CO 80466-0988

If you would like to make an extra donation to the Eldora Land Preservation Fund, you may do so when you pay your dues. Please write a separate check to the ELPF. All donations are welcome and encouraged.



Help us catch new members!
Let us know if you have a new neighbor, friend or relative who would like to receive our newsletter.



Photo by Diane Brown

Purrry please –
We knead your email address!