



RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512 Issue No. 94 April 2020

Letter from the President

Community. This word is brought to life by those of us who collectively live within the area protected by RCVFD. Whether it be by one person helping another with snow removal, the provision of firewood, the harvesting of hay or any of the many other things we do for one another here; we collectively demonstrate “community” every day. It’s a regular thing, to share a friendly wave with others as we travel to and from our homes.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19), and the direct and indirect effects of this pandemic event are, currently and collectively, significantly impacting our community, as well as the rest of our world. Now more now than ever, I encourage each member of our community to take care of themselves (remember the analogy from airline travel: in the event of an emergency, put your own oxygen mask on first!), as well as their families, and be aware of what’s going on with your neighbors and in our community. Working together, we will get through this together . . . and with as few complications as possible!

RCVFD responds to all disasters and emergencies affecting our community, and the COVID-19

pandemic is no exception. It does, however, present unique challenges for our responders. While they are fully prepared to safely respond to any event, our responders continue to use equipment immediately available to them. Refusing to be reactive, RCVFD continues to seek materials and equipment that will further enhance their abilities to continue to meet the needs of our community, while protecting both our community members as well as our responders.

Obtaining these vital items would not be possible without the financial support and generosity of our community and our supporters. You are always welcome, even encouraged, to make a direct donation via the RCVFD website (at <https://rcvfd.org>) or respond to our periodic fundraising mailers. You can also help by designating RCVFD as the recipient of a portion of your purchases on Amazon and at King Soopers, or through organizations like ColoradoGives.org.

Okay, here are my last few comments regarding the COVID-19 situation. A few of our RCVFD responders took it upon themselves and, working together, have created a very useful, straightforward

Continued on next page

Letter from the President, cont'd.

COVID-19 “dashboard” for timely, informational purposes. It is now available for anyone to access.

Check it out for yourself on the RCVFD website at <https://rcvfd.org/emergency-preparedness/covid-19-resources-and-information>. As I learned about this effort, I thought it appropriate to publicly thank these individuals. However, as is a common trait throughout our responder personnel, they did not want any public accolades. These folks would rather serve others than be served themselves. How typical! To reiterate in summary, what one of these responders said to me, “Prevention is a pound of cure. The (COVID-19) project we are starting might have the following three guideposts:

1. Stay healthy
2. Stay strong
3. Support others”

No argument from me . . . thank you anonymous responder for sharing from your heart!

Another change to note: Wildfire Community Preparedness Day was to be on Saturday, May 2nd. However, given current events, it has been cancelled. At the present time, under the existing orders for the Colorado Department of Health, we will not be able to hold the public gathering, as we have in the past. (Darn it! I was looking forward to eating at least one of Ruben’s grilled delights!) Should the situation change, updates will be made available via Community Alerts and most probably other media.

A very welcome change has recently occurred to your RCVFD Board of Directors. After several years, the vacant Lower Buckhorn Area Representative position has been filled by Raina Clingan. Raina is a welcome addition to our RCVFD Board, and is genuinely interested in serving and representing the Lower Buckhorn community. We are all looking forward to working with her.

That’s it from me for this edition of the Ristwatch. Be safe, stay well and help us take care of our community . . . starting with you!

*With Kind Regards,
Jeff Vanberry
RCVFD President*



**I would give my dad what
he really wants on Father's
Day, but I can't afford to
move out yet.**

RCVFD Monthly Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7 PM at Firehouse #1 on Rist Canyon Road

Operations —1st Wednesdays
Board Meeting—3rd Wednesdays

Fire Training—2nd Wednesdays
Medical Training—4th Wednesdays

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Chief's Report

With the spread of Coronavirus in our area, RCVFD is taking precautions to protect the health and safety of its community and first responders. We have been working with UCHHealth and closely following Covid 19 and its potential impact on our community and emergency services.

One of our top priorities is to ensure we take the right precautions to reduce the risk of spreading the virus to our patients. Additionally, we want to protect our first responders' health, so we can continue to respond and help those who need us. We don't want residents to panic or live in fear. However, we know that early containment—through social distancing, vigilant hygiene and isolating those infected by the virus—is the best way we as a community can protect ourselves and protect our most vulnerable populations. That's why we are taking extra steps to protect our community and to help prevent the rapid spread of the virus locally. 911 dispatchers will screen patients who call with an emergency. If Coronavirus is suspected, crews will limit exposure by wearing protective gear and restricting the patient exam to one responder. As I write this it's the end of March and information is evolving at a fast pace.

The following are guidelines from CDPHE and CDC:

Take everyday actions to protect yourself and those you love

There are effective ways to reduce the risk to yourself and the people you care about.

- Frequently and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash, or use your inner elbow or sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if you're sick and keep your children home if they are sick.
- Clean surfaces in your home and personal items such as cell phones using regular household products.
- Avoid large gatherings and crowded public places.
- Be calm and prepared.
- People who are not sick do not need face masks to protect themselves from respiratory viruses, including COVID-19. Ill people should wear a mask to protect family members or in any scenario where needed to prevent the spread of germs. *(Ed note: since this article was written, the CDC has now recommended that everyone should wear a homemade face mask when in public.)*
- Practice social distancing—avoid crowded public places (shopping centers, movie theaters, concerts, etc.), avoid large gatherings and maintain distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.



Sincerely,
Jeff Elsner
RCVFD Chief



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Letter from the Vice President

RCVFD Trained for Pandemic Situation

Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department (RCVFD) first responders are there 24/7 to take care of you and your family when 911 is called in our community because of

- medical emergencies,
- motor vehicle accidents,
- house fires and
- wildland fires.

RCVFD has been trained to deal with this pandemic situation when there is a medical emergency involving a household that may be infected. If there is immediate life threat, we have medical protective outfits we will wear so we can safely provide assistance until a medical team from town can arrive.

Please help RCVFD help you by financially supporting RCVFD. The funding for RCVFD comes only from community support. You have received a March 20, 2020 donation request letter with a return envelope for your check—please respond.

In addition, please see three more ways to support RCVFD explained elsewhere in the Ristwatch:

- a King Soopers rewards card, Colorado Gives and Amazon Smile.

Our firefighters and medical first-responders are there for you, please be there for them. Thank you!



Demonstration photo of part of medical protective gear



*H.J. Siegel
RCVFD Board Vice President,
RCVFD Firefighter and
Emergency Medical Responder*

Three Easy Ways to Help the RCVFD



Spread the Word!

One of our biggest fundraisers is the King Soopers Rewards Card. If everyone in the Rist Canyon area used this program, it could make a HUGE difference in our fundraising. This generous program gives the RCVFD 5% of all of your purchases at King Soopers. This includes groceries, toiletries, supplies, clothing, gas and even prescriptions.

- **The process only takes a few minutes.** If you don't already have a free King Soopers Rewards Card, request one from your cashier or the service desk. Once that's done, jump on your computer and go to www.kingsoopers.com/communityrewards. Click on the link to enroll.
- Set up an account, or sign in if you already have one. Then click on Community Rewards from the list on the left. Use the "Find an Organization" box to enter our NPO number, **YP687** and click Search. It will verify that you have selected the RCVFD. Click "Enroll" and you're done!
- **Always scan your Rewards Card when shopping.** As a Rewards member, you'll save money and earn points towards gas discounts; and the RCVFD will receive 5% of your purchases. If you have any questions about the King Soopers Rewards Program, contact them at 800/576-4377. **And thank you for telling your neighbors to sign up, too!**

You can donate through Colorado Gives any time of the year!
Please Spread the WORD to family and friends!



It's easy—just post this link:
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Covid 19 Tips for Rist Canyon Residents

We know you have probably been getting bombarded by COVID-19 emails by everyone from your friends/relatives to companies you didn't even know had your contact information. RCVFD doesn't want to add its voice to that crowd, but there are a few things we would like to suggest that may have a bit more relevance to our community.

- If you want general information about the virus, recommendations about staying safe and healthy, and what to do if you get sick, [check out our website](#). It has links to various other agencies as well as some great tips.
- Our local businesses need our help, especially in the Laporte area. Many of them are still open in limited ways such as take-out service, and don't forget how supportive they were to all of us during the High Park Fire. Now is our chance to reciprocate.
- Our neighbors may need our help, too. Do you know someone in a high-risk demographic? Perhaps they are older or have health issues that make the virus more dangerous for them. Chances are they are significantly more isolated than average in the hopes of avoiding infection. Offer to plow their driveway, split their wood, pick up some groceries for them or bring them a pizza.
- Some of our neighbors are also businesses. While you may not feel comfortable going to a barber, nail salon or massage therapist in town, perhaps one of your neighbors is one of these professions. Maybe they are out of work or have lost a large chunk of their customers because of the virus, and they could really use your business.
- Our internet options are limited up here, but many of us have land-line phones. If you haven't already, now is a good time to exchange contact information with your neighbors in case it is needed later.
- Speaking of phones, sign up for [Reverse 911](#) right away. Also known as LETA, this program lets the county's emergency services contact you if there is an urgent need to do so. Like it or not, we will be entering wildland fire season soon, and knowing as early as possible about a threat impacting your safety is vital.

RCVFD is still planning on responding as usual, but be aware that as the situation changes, our response protocols will also change—we may make a more guarded response than normal, for example. We have taken steps to continue training and operational meetings while avoiding doing so face-to-face, so that we can protect ourselves as well as maintain an adequate "responder pool" in case we are needed. Help us keep our community safe by doing your part!

*Jeff Elsner, Chief
Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department*

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RCVFD News

Meet Our Newest Area Representative!

Raina and Terry Clingan moved to the lower Buckhorn Canyon from Fort Collins in July 2016 to fulfill their dream of living on a ranch in the mountains, raising yaks and expanding their menagerie, which currently includes a horse, a mule, fainting goats, cats, dogs and chickens. They are parents to four adult children and one teenager, and were thrilled to become first-time grandparents in December. Raina is employed as an instructional designer and Terry is a real estate investor. Raina and Terry have enjoyed getting to know their neighbors and look forward to getting more involved in the community.

Personal Letter from H.J., the RCVFD Board Vice President

It is March 21, 2020.

Pandemic. Deaths. Illness. Self-isolation. Economic decline. Shortages.

Two Rabbis that I learn from teach that when there is darkness create light. I am sure this view, in some form, is shared by thoughtful people of all faiths and perspectives. I am certain we all can give examples of creating light in these current dark times. Here are a couple of recent simple examples I wish to share. I am sure you have your own.

When we made a trip into town for supplies, my wife Janet reminded me to call neighbors to see if we could pick up any supplies for them so they can remain isolated. We will continue to do that whenever we need to go for supplies. By the way, we have been careful to buy just what we need for a week to avoid hoarding that creates artificial shortages.

Our good friend and neighbor Laurie is helping an elderly neighbor who cannot leave his house by himself. She sorts his medications, reminds him to take them and brings him food he may need. When she could not get to him a couple of days ago, she asked my wife Janet to visit him, bring him food and to be sure he is taking his medications. Janet and I did this together, wearing face masks and keeping a physical distance separation from our elderly neighbor.

We are, in general, self-isolating. We are reaching out to friends and family by phone, email and text to reduce the mental impact of isolation, and to provide emotional support for one another.

Please continue to create light in our Rist Canyon neighborhood in ways that are meaningful to you. Thank you for letting me share my thoughts.



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The person who
invented
autocorrect
should burn in
hello.



RCVFD Community News

03-20-2020

Although the impending "mud season" may not be something many of us look forward to, especially with all the snow we've had this winter, the gorgeous spring that we are bound to have should be one for the record books! Hopefully this thought will help us persevere during the coming days of uncertainty. As my mother always said, "this too, shall pass".

For those of you who are on Facebook, I encourage you to join the Buckhorn Canyon and/or Upper Buckhorn pages to keep updated on happenings and announcements in your area. If you need assistance locating these pages, please feel free to reach out to me.

*Raina Clingan
Lower Buckhorn Rep*

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



The first full day of spring up here starts out with too many zeros, too many twos, 14 degrees Fahrenheit, and 14 inches of heavy, wet snow on my favorite stump. I can't tell the icicles in front of the window from the truck in the drive, from the trees out front, from the hill across the road, from the sky above . . . way too much white . . . but I'm not complaining.

I suppose I could fill in this space with my recipe for Buckhorn Biscuits, which is the same recipe as my pie crust, corn bread, cookies or dog treats but you will have to wait for the book. Maybe I could bore you with the lyrics to a new tune called "Should I Use My Fork?" . . . soon to be released on 8-track.

It is probably better to ask, while many of us are kind of stuck up here, that you consider volunteering your labor, skills or extra bucks to the Fire Department. We will have some big bills and projects this year and your help would be greatly appreciated.

For recipes, lyrics, or information on how to STEP UP AND DONATE to the RCVFD please visit Roscoe Moore's Homestead Cabin at Mile Marker 31 (maintaining 6' of personal space) or write to the email address listed on the website. Please don't call the cell phone, it only works when I am in Nebraska. Enjoy the mud, it's next on the agenda . . .

*Don, Briggs the dog, and the white cat
who is somewhere outside
Upper Buckhorn Area Rep*

As we are all hunkering down right now, I hope you are all well. Know that if you need anything, either shopping or picking up mail, please feel free to contact me at any time - 970.217.6843. This is also a good time to remind you that if RCVFD needs to come to your home for an emergency, please consider contacting me for a reflective sign so we are able to find you at your home.

*Louise Creager
Stratton Park Area Rep*



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Mountain Festival News

I am still searching for a Rist Canyon incarnation of Betty Crocker!

I do not believe the rumor that Lisa Diederich, the RCVFD Mountain Festival fundraiser Bake Sale Chair, is a direct descendant of Betty Crocker. I do believe that Lisa has been kind enough to chair the Bake Sale for about 15 years. She is looking for a co-chair to work with her. If you want to find out what this will involve, with no obligation for asking, please contact Lisa at diederich@toast.net. Thank you.



*H.J. Siegel
Mountain Festival Coordinator*

As I get older and I remember all the people I've lost along the way, I think to myself, maybe a career as a tour guide wasn't for me.

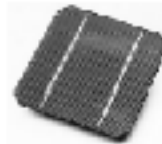


Book Bees

We have postponed sorting until the end of April. We feel our health and well being comes first. We are hoping the virus spread will slow down by then so we can start back up again. Until then or later, we are on hold.

*Carolyn Stanley
Book Tent Chair
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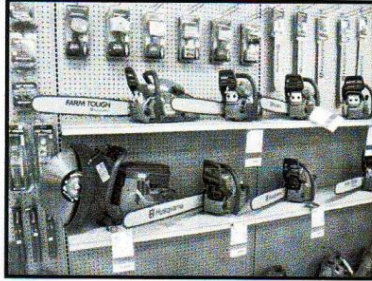
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Business ads, classified ads,
community news and photos can be
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ristwatch@rcvfd.org.

The deadline for the
July Ristwatch is
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2020 Annual Drive - Budget \$80,669 - Donations YTD \$17,144

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Willauer, David & Diane
Wilson, Thomas
Wolf, Jeff & Donna
Wolters, Bill & Phyllis
Yarberry, Jeff & Michele
Zipse, Joy

Thanks to everyone! Your support is very important to our fire fighters and medical personnel. This listing is as of April 5, 2020.

**Thanks to all of our donors!
If we missed you, please call
970/419-0397.**

I believe a lot of conflict in the Wild West could have been avoided if the cowboy architects had just made their towns big enough for everyone.



Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department
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