



RISTWATCH

RCVFD Quarterly Newsletter P. O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512 Issue No. 107 July 2023

Letter from the President

September

9th!

Mountain

Festival!!

I am excited for this year's festival. Our Friends of the Festival crew have been working hard to make it a great one. We have delicious food, spectacular singers and lots of books, plants and silent auction items. And free ice cream, what's not to like about that? We had a great turnout despite last year's cool and rainy weather. This year should be even better.

Speaking of weather, keep an eye on that weather, friends. We all know that this has been an extraordinarily wet year, the fourth wettest on record. As of this writing the grass is deep and lush leading to a low fire danger. But we all know that can change with a week of dry, hot and windy weather. Just remember, when all that lush growth dries out it turns into a potent fuel load. NOAA has announced that we have switched from La Nina and are now in El Nino and are likely to stay there until March 2024. For us in

Northern Colorado, the Colorado Climate Center states that while we could see a dry July and August, they also warn that fall could bring heavier than normal rains and snows. And this interesting factoid; some of the biggest flash floods in Colorado have been during El Nino summers. The ground is saturated, so a heavy downpour has nowhere to go but down the mountains.

So the weather could be dry, it could be wet. At the end of the day, **keep an eye on that weather** and be prepared to act accordingly.

And come out on September 9th to catch up with friends and neighbors, catch the great lineups and thank our first responders!

Neil Faber
President - 2023

SAVE THE DATE!

RIST CANYON MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL

BENEFITS THE RIST CANYON
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

10AM~4PM
RAIN OR SHINE!

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 SATURDAY



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Chief's Report

We are pleased to share some important updates from our volunteer fire department. The recent wildland field day saw an impressive turnout, highlighting the dedication of our firefighters. We extend our gratitude for making it a memorable event.



We are excited to announce the addition of a new ambulance, which expands our capacity to provide enhanced patient care. With ambulances now stationed on both sides of Ford Hill, we ensure swift medical assistance when needed. Furthermore, efforts are underway to station a fire engine at Buckhorn, improving our response time in that area. In our commitment to better serve the community, we are actively exploring a new firehouse location.



Collaborating with UCHealth, we provide comprehensive training to our EMTs, equipping them with the skills necessary for exceptional care during critical situations.

We extend a warm welcome to the new firefighters joining our department. Your enthusiasm and dedication are greatly appreciated.

For valuable tips on mitigating fire risks and creating a safe summer environment for your homes, please visit our website's [Wildfire Home](#) section.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we will work towards a safer community. Stay safe.

Sincerely,
Jeff Elsner, Chief
Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department
P.O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512
chief@rcvfd.org



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Letter From the Vice President

As part of the duties as Vice President of the RCVFD Board, I am the Coordinator of our Annual RCVFD Mountain Festival. This year it will be held Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 10 AM to 4 PM, rain or shine, across from Fire Station 1 at 11835 Rist Canyon Road. All Festival proceeds benefit our 100 percent volunteer-based, donation-funded RCVFD. Below is an overview of the upcoming Festival, based on material prepared by our Festival Publicity Chair Karen Salaz.

In addition to a full day of live music sponsored by the Bohemian Foundation, we will have demonstrations of firefighter and emergency medical services by the RCVFD volunteers.

Festival favorites include a gigantic used Book Sale; a large Silent Auction full of a great variety of bargains; a plethora of diverse Craft Booths and other Vendors; a delicious Bake Sale with cakes, pies and more made by the community; a Plant Sale packed with indoor and outdoor flora wanting to join your home; an old-fashioned Firefighter Dunk Tank; kids' activity area, including farm animals,

educational booths and demonstrations; Food Trucks for your dining pleasure and Free ice cream for dessert (or your main meal!). There will be a large, covered seating area for listening to the entertainment and enjoying food; and a commemorative Festival T-Shirt Booth with the new 2023 style, along with collector items.

Admission, parking and tractor-pulled hayride shuttle to/from the parking area (handicapped parking section available) is all complimentary.

Please mark your calendars to spend a fun day with family and friends at the RCVFD Mountain Festival. Find out how to participate as a vendor (profit or non-profit), volunteer, sponsor or donor of items for the Book Sale, Silent Auction, Bake Sale or Plant Sale by contacting me.

Thanks.
H. J. Siegel
RCVFD Board Vice President
Mountain Festival Coordinator
HJ@computer.org



Silent Auction



Farm Animals



Book Tent



Craft Booths

Photos from 2022 Festival by
Erica Michel, Juana Jackson,
Karen Salaz and H.J. Siegel.



Plant Sale

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Friends of the Festival



Once a month from January through August, the RCVFD Annual Mountain Festival leaders have a “Friends of the Festival” gathering. At each gathering, the leaders present updates on the Festival activities they chair, ask for feedback, get suggestions and questions and engage in lots of positive, constructive, supportive discussions for enhancing the Festival. These gatherings are social events among a group of Rist Canyon neighbors who, through their participation in the Festival leadership team, have become friends who respect and enjoy each other.

The photo above, taken by David Thomas, shows those leaders who attended the May 2023 gathering. From left to right they are:

1. James Clutter, Co-Chair of the Bake Sale and Co-Chair of the Grounds Layout;
2. Patti Clutter, Co-Chair of the Bake Sale;
3. Pam Thomas (front row), Co-Chair of the Silent Auction;
4. Diane McCarthy, Assistant Treasurer;
5. Karen Salaz, Publicity Chair;
6. Richard Lund, Treasurer and Mentor;
7. Molly McLean (front row), T-Shirts Co-Chair;
8. Debbie Benson, Crafts and Vendors Booths Chair;
9. H.J. Siegel, Coordinator;
10. Janet Siegel (front row), Silent Auction Co-Chair;
11. Bridget Tisthammer, Ice Cream Chair, Food Trucks Chair, Permit Chair;
12. Kimberley Carr, Plant Sale Chair;
13. Brett Carr; Graphic Designer;
14. Carolyn Stanley, Queen of the Book Bees (aka Book Sale Chair);
15. Tony Pavlantos, Sponsorships Chair;
16. Trisha Johnston, Kids’ Activities Chair, Non-Profit/Educational Booths Chair.

We welcome and encourage new folks to join our group. Please contact me for more information:
H.J. Siegel, HJ@computer.org




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Mountain Festival News

Silent Auction

What kind of items would you like to buy at our RCVFD Festival Silent Auction? Tickets to movies, museums, buffalo train rides (or a buffalo head)? Artwork from our own Sanderosa Gallery? Fine jewelry or a backyard turkey fryer? Camping gear, whitewater trips, lots of great tools, and lots of great gift cards and baskets? Last year we had all of those items and more, over 300 of them! This year we already have GREAT donations, including an autographed, authenticated photo of NBA Finals MVP Denver Nuggets' Nikola Jokic, solicited by Trisha Johnston.

Every dollar we make goes directly to the RCVFD. Thank you to all of our awesome donors and the people who contacted them. We need all of you to be among those kind, generous, resourceful people who find or donate these awesome items! Thank you if you can BE one of those donors! Most of our best-selling items have come from your donations, big and small. We

LOVE the unique items you have donated over the years! We are also making a few themed baskets this year. If you have a choice item to include in baskets for cuisine, barbecue, gardening, dogs, birds, fitness or a DIY project, or if you have an idea for a different basket, please call or text Janet at the number below.

We need your help finding donors as well. To be part of our continuing success, you can talk to prospective donors wherever we go. Your favorite restaurant, store, service provider, brewery, crafter or mad inventor might be happy to contribute to the fire department. There is a nice letter for donors, explaining what RCVFD is, what donors gain (good karma, tax deductions and free advertising on our website and social media) and how to donate. There is also a festival flyer and other information we will give you. Even those of us who cringe away from asking for things can do this: hand your prospective donor the letter and a flyer, tip your hat and leave. If you have items for donation or suggestions for donations, need forms or want to discuss possible donors, PLEASE call or text me at (970) 231-7877 or email me at the address below.



**Autographed Photo
Of
NBA Finals MVP
NIKOLA JOKIC**

THANK YOU!

Janet Siegel

Silent Auction Chair

equuphile@gmail.com

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Mountain Festival News, cont'd.

T-Shirt Tent

We will have a fantastic T-Shirt for sale at the Rist Canyon Mountain Festival! This design, by Brett Carr, features a five color, festival graphic on the front. It also celebrates RCVFD with a supporter logo on the back. The shirt will be available in both traditional and fitted styles for \$30. We will also be selling vinyl stickers featuring the RCVFD Supporter logo. The stickers will cost \$10 and provide a great way to show our appreciation for our volunteer firefighters! All proceeds will benefit RCVFD.

**Molly McLean
Shannon Phelps
T-shirt Chairs**



Molly and Shannon show off the new t-shirts.



Supporter stickers—a great addition to your car bumper, window or laptop!

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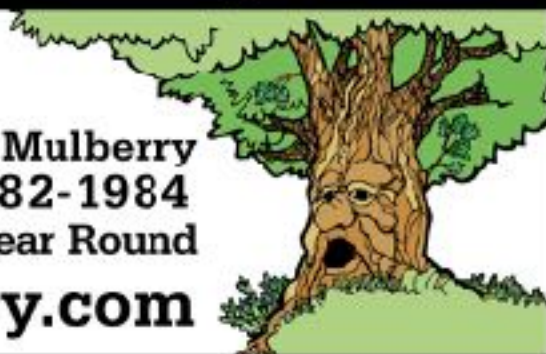


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Mountain Festival News, cont'd.

Bake Sale Tent **We Need Baked Goods** **for the Mountain Festival**

Please consider whipping up something yummy in your kitchen to donate! Last year we sold out by 3:pm and we're anticipating a bigger crowd this year. We would be happy to receive anything you can bring to support our RCVFD! PIES are the best-selling item, and we sell it by the slice or whole pie. Cookies, bars, brownies, cinnamon rolls, muffins, and breads are popular too. Items that do not require refrigeration are best for the sale. Please package items in sellable amounts (e.g., 2—4 cookies, ½ dozen cookies, 1 dozen cookies). Also list high allergen ingredients such as nuts or dairy. We will be at the tent by 7:AM on the day of the festival so you can drop off your items anytime that day. We would appreciate a few volunteers to help us staff the tent for an hour or two. If you have any suggestions or questions or would like to volunteer some time at the bake sale tent, please feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you for supporting our incredible RCVFD that keeps us safe!

Patti Clutter
Bake Sale Chair
858/248-6328 (cell),
clutterp28@gmail.com

Book Tent News

This year we are receiving a steady donation of books from Old Firehouse Books and the community. To donate books, you can place them in one of the book boxes at Station 1, Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, Laporte Pizza or Laporte Hardware.

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Spread the word about donating books and help fill those donation boxes! If you have a load of books that you would like to have picked up, please contact us.
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If you are looking for a morning of fun, come join the Book Bees. We usually meet at 9:30 on Fridays at Station 1 upstairs, but sometimes need to change the day we meet or add extra days. Please let us know if you would like to join us and we will add you to the e-mail list to get the latest news on when we sort.

We can always use help on Thursday and Friday before the festival (September 8th and 9th) setting up tables, hanging signs and setting up the cashier area at the festival grounds across from Fire Station 1.

The day of the festival, any extra help to cashier, assist customers, hand out shopping bags and move books is always welcome. We like to give people a break during the day and at lunch.

Sunday, after the festival, we move books not sold and appreciate any extra help as we are all tired after working the festival. Many hands make light work for everyone!

Thank you!

Carolyn Stanley (cloud9sewing@gmail.com)
970/221-2024

Kathy Cox (kathyc228@yahoo.com) 970/472-1972

Book Tent Co-Chairs



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RCVFD 2023 Mountain Festival

Entertainment Lineup



The entertainment lineup for the 2023 Mountain Festival will feature five local favorites.

Liz Barnez and her accompanying musicians bring an eclectic style of guitar playing and songwriting to the stage, which incorporates elements of folk, New Orleans R & B, jazz, country and a hint of pop. Liz was inducted into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame as a member of the Mother Folkers in 2019. Having grown up in the French Quarter, she mixed funk with gospel, soul and Dixieland music, which led to the

creation of her signature "acoustic swamp rock" style.

Also Known As (AKA) has been part of the Northern Colorado music scene since 1996 when they played as Prairie Dog Companion at New West Fest. They play an eclectic brand of Americana music they call "City and Western." Their music has influences from Bakersfield to Cajun Louisiana and from Nashville Newgrass to Memphis Rock-A-Billy.

The Choice City Trio features riveting vocals by Alan Anderson, a Rist Canyon Resident, along with an acoustic 12-string guitar, electric bass and percussionist. They feature original music along with a variety of traditional favorites. Their method of storytelling emphasizes the significance of connection and community.

Rusty 44 is a traditional Northern Colorado five-piece band with Americana roots. They have been playing bluegrass music across the Front Range for more than five years together. Their unique acoustic style incorporates the sounds of bass, fiddle, mandolin, guitar and banjo. This combination brings an energetic, joy-filled sound to the stage.

Sunflowers and Sawdust features two familiar locals, Ron and Julie Lynam, who were previously part of the Cowtown Band. Their acoustic music is a unique blend of bluegrass, country, folk, Cajun and swing. Ron and Julie bring many years of musical experience to the stage, having toured throughout the United States and Europe. They incorporate vocals and a variety of instruments into their high energy performance. You can expect to hear original tunes and those of iconic musicians.

Sandy Deraney-Reilly
Entertainment Chair



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Notes from Your Area Representatives



It's the official start of summer as I write this. Crazy. I finally turned the heat off on the 18th. This is something I have never experienced in my past. I'm not complaining. I read the other day that this has been the wettest spring in 40-50 years. This has brought on wildflowers that have been remarkable along with the bird watching. I am in awe of the snow-capped Front Range every day I commute to work. Enjoy it all while you can. We are all extremely fortunate to enjoy the mountains at their finest. The cool temperatures have been delightful. I can only hope the stretch continues and we have a calm fire season. Enjoy the summer and take in the splendor that is north central Colorado.



Take it Easy!
Tim Stratman
Stove Prairie Area Rep



Summer is here in the Upper Buckhorn! Wildflowers are showing off and the creek keeps us on our toes with rising waters. Persistent rain means we get plenty of flash flood warnings. Pay attention to the edges of the road in the canyon where water may be eroding away the sides. Keep your eyes out for bears and moose as there has been a lot of activity already!

Erica Michels
Upper Buckhorn Buckhorn Rep



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Notes from Your Area Representatives, cont'd.



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We are all appreciating the rain for low fire danger. The hummingbirds and robins are out but we have only seen one bear. We did have a mountain lion strolling in the Fire Route 2 area one afternoon.

At our annual road meeting I gave a short talk about contacting Leta 911, signing up for community alerts at [RCVFD.org](https://www.rcvfd.org), helicopter insurance, reflective house number signs and the upcoming festival.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Carolyn Stanley
Davis Ranch Area Rep.

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Stratton Park! What crazy weather we've had. So nice to get it, but those of us who garden and have yards are being hard pressed to keep up with the grasses and weeds. The other side is the gorgeous wildflowers we are seeing.

On the many properties I've seen are spotted coral orchids, pasque flowers (did you know pasque is the French word for Easter?) cactus, many varieties of mushrooms and so many others. We are so lucky to live where we do. Try out a Plant App—the easiest one I've found is Nature ID. Others are Picture This, Plant Snap and AI Plant Identifier, to name just a few. Why not try to see what your neighbors have that may be different from yours? Or share with your neighborhood Facebook friends. Most areas have a Facebook page. I always find it exciting to see a new plant and learn about it. Can't wait to see what comes next week! Oh, and did you know we have a Huge plant sale at the festival every year? A great place to pick up more. See you there.



Cheers!
Louise Creager
Stratton Park Area Rep.

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Lodgepole Pines: High Park Fire Phoenixes



An unthinned stand of lodgepole saplings



A thinned stand of lodgepole saplings

The 2012 High Park Fire wreaked havoc on our landscape. Now, as we approach the fire's ten year anniversary, the lodgepole pines are demonstrating first-hand their reputation for fortitude and tenacity. Already, some of the trees are pushing toward that four-foot mark. There are patches that are so dense, just navigating through them is difficult. Management now becomes important for future fire control, fire suppression, insect infestation and potential wood production.

"There is no better time than the present to think ahead in regard to how to manage your property in case of future fire events," says Rist Canyon Fire Department Chief Jeff Elsner. "Managing the location and densities of trees, particularly around your house and structures, is much easier and safer when the trees are saplings than when they reach upwards of 50 to 70 feet tall."

Colorado State University's publication, *Lodgepole Pine Management Guidelines for Land Management in the Wildland-Urban Interface*¹, is available for guidance. The following information are excerpts from this publication.

Lodgepole pine forests cover slightly more than 1.5 million acres in Colorado or approximately 7 percent of the state's forested lands. Lodgepole pine is a familiar species in the montane and subalpine forests of Colorado's northern Rocky Mountains between 8,000 and 10,000 feet in elevation. (*Ed. note: The ponderosa pine is native between 5,000 and 9,000 feet.*)

Most of Colorado's lodgepole pine forests developed following hot, stand-replacing crown fires (113°-140°F). Lodgepole pine is intolerant to shade and thrives in the aftermath of fire; many lodgepoles produce serotinous cones, which open in response to extreme heat and release an abundance of seeds. These long-lived cones may remain viable for decades waiting for a fire to release their seeds.

Thinning Lodgepole Pines

Older lodgepole pine stands generally do not respond well to selective thinning. Unlike other species, they tend not to make good use of the increased moisture, sunlight and soil nutrients available after thinning. To achieve such results, the stands must be heavily thinned. Unfortunately, selective thinning of lodgepole opens the stand to severe windthrow (trees uprooted by wind) and stem breakage. To ensure a positive response to thinning throughout the life of the stand, trees must be thinned early in their lives and no later than 20 to 30 years after germination. This investment must be maintained through periodic follow-up thinning.

Additional suggestions provided by Michael Hughes, Colorado State Forest Service, Fort Collins Field Office, NE Area, in a visit to our ranch are:

- When thinning, it is important to protect the diversity of the emerging saplings. Maintaining a good mix of species is healthy for the forest ecology and lifespan of the forest.
- When thinning, leave the saplings that appear to be the strongest, straightest and healthiest.
- Spacing the trees provides those remaining with room to establish good root and foliage systems.
- Always clip the saplings at or below ground level ensuring no green needles remain as they often will resprout.
- Aspens like full sunshine so it is best to thin out pine trees in emerging aspen groves.

Karen Salaz, Rist Canyon Resident

¹ The entire publication is available online through CSU at <https://csfs.colostate.edu/colorado-forests/forest-types/>

Two Easy Ways to Help the RCVFD

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:

<http://coloradogives.org/RistCanyonVolunteerFireDepartment>
to Facebook and ask them to donate! Your fire department thanks you!



Did You Know?

The RCVFD earns about \$1,800 every quarter, or \$7,600 per year from the King Soopers Rewards Card?

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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 see your contributions to the RCVFD through the King Soopers app!

RCVFD Monthly Meeting Schedule

Operations —1st Wednesdays (6-7 PM)

Fire Training—2nd Wednesdays (7-9:30 PM)

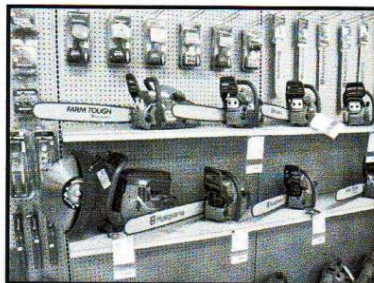
Board Meeting—3rd Wednesdays (6-8 PM)

Medical Training—4th Wednesdays (6-9:30 PM)

Ops, Fire and Medical Trainings are at Firehouse #1 at 11835 Rist Canyon Road. Board meetings are held at Firehouse #1, or on Zoom if necessary. All Rist Canyon area residents are welcome to attend. Around the first of each month, RCVFD sends out a Community Alert with the deadline to request a copy of the agenda. If you would like to receive the agenda, please email your name, email address and phone number to the RCVFD Board Secretary at secretary@rcvfd.org. Please note that the agenda will arrive one to two days before the scheduled meeting. To sign up for Community Alerts, visit RCVFD.org.



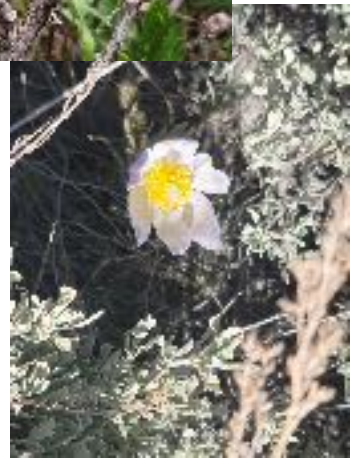
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Photos of spring and summer flora courtesy of Louise Creager. You can view these in color on our website, rcvfd.org

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2023 Annual Drive: Budget \$132,640 - Donations YTD \$30,898

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Arndt, Cynthia	Faber, Neil & Debra	Lynam, Ronald
Asche, Lyle & Janese	Fackler, Glen & Carol	Magruder, Andrew
Bainer, Helene & Kevin	Fagan, Laura	Mason, Cricket
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Daniels, Bruce	Johnson, Darrell & Douglas	Rist Ranch
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Dellenbach, Mary	Klein, Jerry & Kori	Rutt, Wes & Nicki
DeSuza, Frank & Fedosia	Knab, Tom & Lynda	Ryan, Marie-Laure

2023 Annual Drive, cont'd.

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Schneider, Robert & Joan
Scholz, Ernst & Sarah
Seneca, Martin
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Shenk-Brien, Tracey
Skelton, Joe & Deanna
Sloan, Cathy
Smethurst, John & Ruby
Smith, Marilyn
Snyder, Dale & Marilyn

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Stove Prairie Comm. Church
Stratman, Thomas & Charlene
Stratman, Tim & Jennifer
Swenson, Charles & Elizabeth
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Vickery, Harold
Weiler, Richard & Patricia
Weixelman, Gary
Wernsman, Robert & Kathy
Willauer, David & Diane
Wilson, T & H. Bartmann
Wilson, Thomas
Wing, Tom & Lynn
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Your support is so important to the health of our RCVFD! THANK YOU!

If we missed you, please call 970/419-0397.

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