



August 2018

From the President: Peter Kolts

If you are new to the valley, welcome! If anyone has questions or suggestions you will find my phone number and email on our website [placervalley.org](http://placervalley.org). Please feel free to contact me anytime. A calendar with the list of events is also on our website. Stay connected with Placer Valley Property Owners Association by joining our Facebook and Nextdoor pages.

Open position on the Board of Directors:

The board of Directors is looking for a secretary. The primary responsibility is to take notes at the meetings. If you were to attend all the Associations scheduled functions it will take up approx. 20 hours per year of your time. Please contact any Board member if interested.

We have a new treasurer:

Our previous treasurer, Annie Lindsey sold her house and moved to Montrose, Co. Please join me in welcoming our new Treasurer, Pam Hunt to the position.

### Are You Defensible or Defenseless?

With the number of wild fires that are burning in our Colorado mountains, it is a good time to review good habits to keep your property defensible by the hard working fire crews that are on the fire lines. Do you know what the wildfire defensible zones are? Do you have a 30 foot area around your home where the grasses are 6 inches or less. Have you moved your wood pile 30 feet from your home? Are there other fuels that need your attention? Two factors have emerged as primary factors in the ability of your property to survive a fire are defensible space and the property's ignitability. Have you ever had an audit by the forest service? There are multiple resources available if you have any questions on how to protect your piece of paradise. The Colorado State Forest Service ([csfs.colostate.edu](http://csfs.colostate.edu)) has excellent information on line that you can download or review on line.

## Nature in Our Back Yard

Foxes and Coyotes; (caution; violence and graphic content, reader discretion is advised)

Contributed by Pam and Randy Hunt

We were blessed with two fox dens on our property this year. We like foxes for several reasons, mostly because the newborn kits are fun to watch and they keep the squirrel population under control. Each fox den consisted of the mama and 3 kits. For some reason, the kits came out of the dens about 10 days later than has been typical of other years. The lower den was down below the rails at our driveway switchback, so we could not actually see the den access. Mama would bring them out to the driveway to exercise and burn off some energy – fun to watch from our deck every evening. However, after the kits had only been out for three days, disaster struck in the form of a hungry coyote. The villain's mugshot follows;



This picture was taken during the raid of the fox den. Mama was barking and crying up a storm, so we went out to the deck to investigate. Mama was pacing back and forth while barking at the coyote. She had to leave the den area or risk be killed by the coyote. What a mother's dilemma that the kits were being killed and eaten and she could do nothing about it. The coyote may have killed the kits for game competition reasons – or just as an easy meal that can't run or fight back. To top off the evening, there was a mule deer mama, with a buck and doe yearlings just below the deck. The mule deer mama charged the mama fox – for what reason we do not know.



The next morning as we were putting out the hummingbird feeder, mama fox was just below the deck with eyes that looked so mournful to us. We're hoping that she does not hold us responsible for the carnage. Now a week after, mama fox occasionally visits the play area in the driveway, perhaps hoping the kits will be there. Sad to see that mother nature has so little mercy on young ones who enjoyed only a few days out in the world.

Two days later, it appears the same thing happened at the upper den. Mama fox had moved the kits for some reason; maybe safety, but who really knows. We saw them one day, the next they were gone. Then, early one morning a day later, we heard the panicked barking once again. We haven't seen the kits since. We're assuming the coyote struck again.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Saturday August 4,2018: Placer Valley POA 2018 Annual Meeting and Picnic: Alma Town Hall, 2pm Board Meeting, 4 pm Happy Hour, 5 pm Pot Luck Dinner and Meeting.

July 18-22, 2018 Park County Fair, Fairplay, Colorado

July 20-22, 2018 Festival in the Clouds, Alma, Colorado

July 27-29, 2018 Burro Days, Fairplay Colorado

Please Make sure you have paid your annual PVPOA dues. Copy of the dues form available on the website.

## **Important Placer Valley Numbers**

### **Emergency Medical Help -911 or**

South Park Ambulance District 719-836-4150

Poison Control Center 800-332-3073

St. Anthony Summit Medical Center, Frisco 970-668-3300

### **Fire District/Sheriff/Search and Rescue -911 or**

Northwest Fire District (Sta. #2, Fairplay) 719-836-3150

Sheriff's Office 719-836-2494

Search & Rescue 719-836-4121

### **Medical & Dental**

All Smiles Dental 719-836-2664

### **Other Non Emergency Numbers**

Alma Town Hall 719-836-2712

Park County Offices 719-836-2771

Post Office, Alma 719-836-2265

The Flume (Newspaper) 303-838-4423

Local organizations:

The Alma Foundation: ([www.almafoundation.com](http://www.almafoundation.com)) the Alma Foundation raises money through various events and uses these funds to support local projects which would not otherwise be funded by tax dollars.

Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI): ([www.mrhi.org](http://www.mrhi.org)) MRHI was formed to conserve unique natural areas in the Mosquito Rang, to preserve historic and cultural sites and to promote recreation and community business opportunities

Please note: there will be no mailing of the newsletter unless requested by a property owner. If you have part-time neighbors please make them aware or be a great neighbor and print off a copy to share.