

# Spring 2024 Newsletter



## A message from your HOA president:

**As we start to thaw from winter, Springtime is here** which marks a full year of publication of our quarterly community newsletters! As we saw in the annual homeowner survey, nearly 88% of folks in the community read the newsletters and value this form of communication from us to share community information.

Speaking of the **homeowner survey**, thank you to everyone that completed it. We are excited to share that we had over 56% response rates, which was a 12% increase compared to the prior year. Since we issued the survey earlier in the year, it allowed us to directly use community feedback in our 2024 planning, priorities, community enhancements and budget creation.

**Mark your calendars:** we are hosting our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 11**. Last year's AGM was filled with lots of enthusiasm, and we hope to keep that engagement going again this year. At the AGM, we will review accomplishments from the last year and, most importantly, look ahead at the projects and work planned for this year. We will also share highlights from the homeowner survey! As a reminder, if you haven't already done so please make sure to complete the Survey to indicate if you will be attending. **We hope to see you there!**

*Alexis Vince*

**Are you interested in joining the Bearspaw Country Estates Homeowners Association Board of Directors?** We are asking interested community members to let us know! On March 3, 2024 we emailed a short description of the roles & responsibilities to to provide context on requirements and commitments. Didn't receive that email? Let us know!

**Upcoming Community Events**

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Annual General Meeting  
April 11  
7:30pm

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**Volunteers needed!**

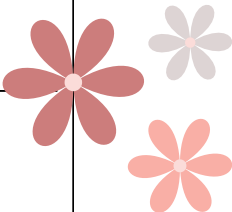
Community Spring Clean-up  
May 11

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**In this newsletter you can expect:**

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- Coyote awareness
- County Connection
- Spotlight on fire prevention



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# Coyote Awareness

Coyotes, along with a lot of other wildlife, have free access to roam through our community.

Coyotes seem to be one of the bigger concerns, especially during the spring. Mating season is late winter and early spring and they are much more vocal during this time as they search for a breeding partner. Pups are whelped 63 days after breeding and coyotes will become much more protective of their litter and den.

Coyotes will not hunt larger dogs because they won't risk unnecessary injury. However, if chased they will defend themselves and the rest of their pack. Keep smaller dogs very close to you and keep cats indoors.

All dogs must be kept on leash in common, community spaces to prevent unwanted interaction with wildlife. Sometimes coyotes will follow you (and your dog) to "escort" you away from their territory. They want to make sure you're leaving and no longer a threat.

Of course, coyotes don't just stick to the common spaces and you may find them exploring your property. They are likely hunting mice and rabbits, but will also search for any garbage they can scavenge. Minimize their interest in your space by picking up garbage and dog waste. Don't leave any dog food, chews or bones for coyotes to find.

If you have an aggressive encounter, stay indoors and **call Alberta Fish and Wildlife at 403-297-6423**.



## A Few Notes To Remember

- We are on social media! You can find us on Facebook and Instagram
- HOA bylaws can be found on the community webpage: <https://www.bearspawcountryestates.com>
- You can contact the HOA with comments and concerns by reaching out through email: [board@bearspawcountryestates.com](mailto:board@bearspawcountryestates.com)
- Remember, the HOA is made up of volunteers so please be kind!



## Winter Trivia Question Answer

According to the World Guinness Book of Records largest snowflake" is one that fell near Missoula, Montana in 1887. It reportedly was 15 inches in diameter and 8 inches thick.

## County Connection

In June 2023, Rocky View County launched the **County Connection** to provide residents more information on hot topics in the County.

The newsletter is sent out twice a month and includes Council decisions, events, and other timely news.

Sign up today at: <https://engage.rockyview.ca/improving-county-communication>

The latest newsletter included highlights on emergency preparedness and some interesting workshops being offered!



## Protecting Your Property And Community From Wildfires

Last summer saw drought conditions in much of Alberta with rivers and lakes having lower water levels than usual. Many municipalities in the province had water use restrictions in place and unfortunately, winter hasn't provided us with much of a snowpack to rely on. If we don't receive significant rainfall in the spring, we may see unprecedented wildfires in our province.

### **How can you protect your property in the event there are local fires?**

Obviously, follow any and all fire restrictions issued in our community. But there are also other actions you can take to minimize danger to your property and your neighbor's property.

- Keep your gutters, eaves, flower beds, porches and decks free of leaf litter and other combustible debris
- Remove any dead vegetation from the immediate vicinity of your home (at least 10 feet)
- Keep your lawn and shrubs well maintained. If they are dried and brown, cut it down to minimize fire spreading; dried vegetation is fuel for fires
- Dispose of any dried grass or other potential fuel sources lying around

You can find the most current fire ban information here: <https://albertafirebans.ca/>

Rocky View County has great information on this topic too! <https://www.rockyview.ca/fire-emergency>

- Do not store firewood or propane tanks within 30 feet of your house, garage or shed.
- If you live close to the tree line, maintain your trees and remove any dead ones. Prune the bottom branches so there isn't fuel for the fire to spread quickly.
- Use barriers such as screens or boxing in under decks and other structures so flammable material doesn't accumulate below.
- Cover any exterior vents or openings with small, wire mesh to prevent any embers from entering and igniting attic materials.
- Ensure shingles and roof materials are in good repair. Loose and missing shingles make it easier for your home to ignite.



**DID YOU KNOW?** 2023 was a record year... 2.2 million hectares were burned in Alberta wildfires!

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