

December 15, 2024



BLACKHAWK NEWSLETTER

Important Links

[Blackhawk Website](#)

[Blackhawk Facebook](#)

[Covenants](#)

[Driveway and
Building Compliance
Forms](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[BOD Meeting
Minutes and
Monthly Financials](#)

Editor: [Amber Laugesen](#)

Reporters: Anne Ebie, Susanne

Bloomfield, Nancy Pasternak

Letter from Blackhawk Ranch POA President

by JP Angellilo

Dear Blackhawk Ranch Neighbors,

As we approach the end of 2024, I want to take a moment to reflect on the year we've shared as a community and extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your contributions to making our Ranch such a wonderful place to call home.

Also, we have several newcomers to the BHR, so please welcome them as they begin to integrate into our Ranch family.

This time of year is not only a time for celebration but also a time for gratitude. Together, we've faced challenges, celebrated milestones, and continued to make progress toward the common goal of maintaining a safe, beautiful, and welcoming environment for all. Whether it's through volunteering at events, supporting Ranch initiatives, or simply being a friendly face in the community, your involvement has made a difference.

As we enter the new year, we have more road improvements planned, as well as a couple new initiatives to enhance our Ranch communications. We also look forward to even more opportunities to connect, share, and grow together.

As we celebrate the holiday season, I encourage each of you to take time to relax, enjoy the company of friends and family, and reflect on the many blessings of the past year. Let's continue to support one another, not just during the holidays, but throughout the entire year.

On behalf of the entire Blackhawk Ranch Property Owners Association Board, I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and a joyful, prosperous New Year. Thank you for being an essential part of our community—your spirit of unity and care makes all the difference.

Warmest wishes,

JP Angellilo

President, Blackhawk Ranch Property Owners Association



BHR Storm Response Improvements

by Anne Ebie

It is vitally important for residents and visitors to Blackhawk ranch to be prepared for inclement weather, but in addition, the BHR board members and other committee chairs are in discussions as to how we can better prepare and respond. We understand there was a lot of frustration on the ranch as it took 5 days to completely get all properties plowed out. While we all recognize that this sort of inconvenience is unavoidable in such an epic storm, the worst since 2006, the BHR Board and EMC feels we can do better in the future.

One of the big issues was due entirely to the timing of the storm and we believe has already been resolved by Mike Ferrero. Our contractors last year refused to return this year, as plowing the roads is an extremely difficult, complex and thankless job. The Snow Captain (Kelly Alcorn) and the rest of the board had been looking for new vendors and had only one good lead but with no firm commitment.

Knowing we were out of options, Mike, who has plowed BHR in years past and has been providing road maintenance for some years, graciously offered to take the job.

Mike was not officially hired until October 21. He had just purchased the new blade he wanted to use two days before the snow began, on November 4th. In fact, he was expecting a road base delivery the day the snow began so still had his road grading equipment on the ranch. Because of the early timing of this snowstorm and the delay in finding anyone willing to plow, Mike was still getting his equipment set up when the storm hit. He



Mike Ferrero Author

Thanks everyone neighbors and friends for all the great comments the big truck haven't been started in 5 years but got it running in the snow storm on one afternoon had trouble with dirty fuel filters then slid off the road on 4 mile canyon just below wappittite don't know i could walk 4 and a half miles back to my place but I have a snow plow blade to mount on the track loader so instead of plowing 7 feet it will plow 9 feet wide mounting a smaller plow on a truck down at my shop in Trinidad also bringing out my 4 wheel drive backhoe for the rest of the winter also bought extra fuel filters for everything and more commercial tire chains for everything so we can be more efficient .the big storm in 06 was a great challenge also took 5 days to get to everyone but had 2 extra guys helping me also fought the storm in 96 it was 4 feet but there were only 2 family's living out there then . being raised out there must of my life I have seen 8 or 10 snows 3 feet or more in the area so hope were all better prepared for the next large snow

2w Like Reply

9 🙌 🙏 🙄

did manage to plow the Four Mile Canyon and Rugby Mines with his road grader on Monday the 4th, but then had to go back to his shop to finish setting up his plow. In later days, Mike experienced some equipment failures with the new system.

Fortunately, Mike is his own mechanic and operator, so was able to resolve the issues and complete the job. Now that he is fully set up, we all expect things to go smoother in the next snowstorm.

That being said, plowing deep snow will remain a tough, multiple day job, especially for just one person. There has been discussion of Mike training other residents on the usage of the plow equipment. This would require addressing potential roadblocks such as liability.

Another area that we feel needs improvement is the communications between the responders to the storm and the rest of the BHR community. This issue has several components, and we have put together a working group including members of the BHR board, Communications, Road, and Emergency Management committees to look at the communications gaps and resolutions. These measures will not help to clear the road faster but may both lessen the frustration of residents and lessen the load on the responders. Some of the issues we've discussed are:

Difficulty of communication among responders -

Kelly Alcorn, the Snow Captain, is responsible for working with the snow plower (Mike Ferrero) to initiate plowing, and reporting of the status of the plowing to the ranch members. The communication mechanism between the snow captain and plower was traditionally cell phone based (voice and text), but this proved to be inadequate for a multi-day event. Much of the ranch has no cell phone coverage at all and the severity of the storm only exacerbated this. As a result, Kelly often did not even know where Mike was, let alone when his equipment broke down. Kelly was also not able to warn Mike of hazards such as stalled cars, etc. To mitigate these communication problems, Kelly and the EMC are looking into dual band radios not only capable of voice comms, but also equipped with GPS such that they can send and receive their GPS location data on the ranch at the touch of a button.

Inadequacy of Facebook for Notifications -

Traditionally the BHR Facebook page was used for notification that plowing would be happening and other incident reporting. It became clear that this was not sufficient: Not all POA members are on Facebook or any other social media. POA members who are on Facebook may not have access if traveling. Some residents may lose access if the power goes out. Some people seldom check Facebook so may miss time sensitive alerts.

The working group is looking into devising an incident notification system based on the "lowest common denominator" access - email and text. These would link back to an incident page on the blackhawkkranch.org web site with more detailed real time updates.

Uncertainty as to Contacts/Responders Being Overwhelmed - Two related problems were that many POA members were unclear as to who to contact to ask for information or help. Some used Facebook, some called the EMC team members from the refrigerator magnets passed out at the annual meetings, some emailed the BHR president, some used a Signal group, one even emailed Shoebox, the BHR bookkeeping firm. On the flip side, Kelly the snow captain felt overwhelmed by having to deal with so many different communication channels while also responding.

The working group is looking at two initiatives to help resolve these issues. First, we are investigating the creation of email and text groups containing the people who could help or provide information in this or any other type of incident (i.e., Fire on the Ranch). These groups would be included in the incident notification texts or emails and the blackhawkkranch.org incident page. Second, in ongoing, complex events such as this snowstorm, the responder(s) would have the option of assigning communications coordinator(s) to help responding to questions, passing on needs, monitoring social media, etc.

We hope that with these changes we will improve the experiences of everyone on the ranch for our next major storm.

Visit the historic Rosemount Mansion in December!

by Nancy Pasternak



The Rosemount Mansion was built in 1893 in Pueblo, Colorado, and was the home of John and Margaret Thatcher. The 37-room mansion was named for Mrs. Thatcher's favorite flower, the rose. The structure was designed by noted New York architect, Henry Hudson Holly and took 2

years to construct. It was home to the Thatcher's and their descendants for 75 years.

Almost all of the furnishings, paintings, custom woodwork, wall and window treatments, and hand decorated frescos and ceilings, are all original to the home. The home has been featured on A & E's "America's Castles", and HGTV's "Christmas Castles". It is known as "Colorado's Crown Jewel"! The brick house is faced with cut rose lava stone and has a slate roof. The porches on the ground floor extend nearly completely around the structure. A separate building houses the stable otherwise known as the "carriage house", where special events are held. After the death of the youngest son in 1968, the home was given to the Pueblo Metropolitan Museum Association to be established as a historical museum for the preservation of early Pueblo and Southern Colorado history.



John Thatcher opened one of the first businesses in Pueblo, a general store. Later his younger brother, Mahlon joined the family business. Together their business empire included interests in mining, smelting, cattle with land holdings in Colorado and New Mexico, and agriculture, particularly the sugar beet industry. They founded the First National Bank of Pueblo, and maintained controlling interest in thirty-two Colorado banks. With their financial influence they were instrumental in bringing the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to Pueblo. At the time of his death in 1913 John was reportedly worth between \$25,000,000 and \$40,000,000.

The mansion is open for public tours Tuesday through Saturday from 10am until the last tour of the day beginning at 2:30pm. Tours usually begin every half hour. The home is beautifully decorated for Christmas and the last day of the



holiday season for tours is Saturday December 28th. Admission fees range from \$6.00 to \$8.00 for adults. The mansion is closed in January. Susanne Bloomfield, a full-time resident of Blackhawk Ranch, has been a volunteer docent at Rosemount for the past

6 years. The address is 419 West 14th Street. For more information call 719-545-5290.

Meet Your Neighbors

By Rayann Brunner



Charles and Ruth Anne Goza are long-term Blackhawk Ranch Residents with an interesting story. Charles is from Texas, and Ruth Anne is from New Mexico. Back in the mid-90s, while living in Ray, Colorado, the Gozas decided to start looking for property to purchase in Southern

Colorado. Their goal was to find land adjoining a National Forest, and when the realtor showed them Lot #57, they were assured it was adjacent to National Forest Land. Well, it wasn't, but the Gozas are still thrilled to be living on their property at BHR.

Although they purchased the land in 1995, they did not begin building until 2004. Prior to building on their property, the Gozas were living in Malayasia from 2000 to 2004, where they served with the International Mission Board helping to establish churches in Kuala Lumpur.

Mission work and helping others is important to the Gozas. Although Charles' first degree is in Chemistry, he also has two graduate degrees in Music and Education and a doctor's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling. Charles has been a Marriage and Family Counselor for 43 years, and he spent time working in several churches as the Minister of Music, Youth, Education, and as a Pastor. He also spent ten years as a Music Therapist for Sangre de Cristo Hospice. Ruth Anne has degrees in Biology and Chemistry, and she worked as a Medical Technologist. They both truly care about helping people, and it is evident in every interaction you have with them.

Charles and Ruth Anne have been married for 63 years. They have two daughters, five grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Charles is an Army veteran and served in the Army as a Nike Hercules Missile Instructor during the Vietnam War era.

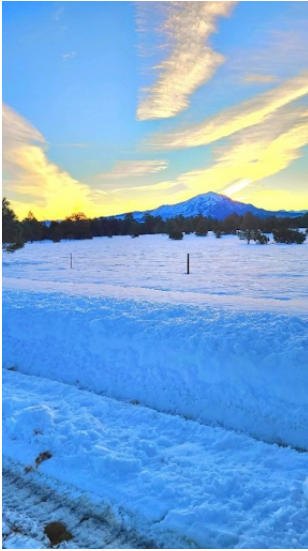
For hobbies, Charles enjoys rifle and bowhunting, backpacking, camping, hiking and fishing. He raised and trained Arabian horses for 10 years, and currently makes handcrafted Damascus hunting knives which are sold in several local stores. He is also a champion yodeler, winning a Yodeling Championship in 2012 through the Country Gospel Music Association. Ruth Anne loves to cook and read, and she is an active member of the Blackhawk Ranch Book Club.

The Goza's faith is very important to them, and they attend Fischer Peak Community Church in Trinidad. They invite all BRH residents to join them at their church. The Goza's passion for helping others continues, and they offer to talk or pray with anyone on the Ranch struggling with any crisis. This offer comes with full confidentiality and no cost, so if you are in need of support, you can contact Charles at 719-989-0975 or Ruth Anne at 719-989-7444.

BHR is so fortunate to have such compassionate and kind individuals as part of our ranch community.

How to Prepare for Being Snowed In

By Susanne Bloomfield



With a few POA spurs blocked for up to five to six days after our five-foot snowstorm in November, despite continuous snowplowing efforts, newer residents who moved in during the recent 20-year drought (since 2006) have not experienced a major storm like this, but historically they are the norm. This is just the beginning of snow season in our Colorado mountains, so here are some tips for the rest of the winter. Fortunately, the weather service, especially NOAA and all three television stations, predicted heavy snow, so most residents on the ranch were prepared.

1. Stay Informed

Listen to your NOAA weather radio for alerts and warnings to hazards. Check the forecast continually online or on your phone. Sign up for local emergency alerts and notifications. Know how to turn off your utilities, such as gas lines, in an emergency.

2. Stock Your Food Pantry

Stock up on non-perishable items, so if you lose power, they won't spoil, like crackers, granola bars, canned goods, soups, hot cocoa and instant coffee, peanut butter, honey, bread, rice, and oatmeal. Add fruits that don't need to be refrigerated — such as oranges, apples or bananas — as well as some fresh veggies. Don't forget food for your pets. Given the vagaries of our BHR weather and power outages, residents should be prepared to shelter in place with a minimum of two weeks of supplies.

3. Buy Bottled Water

Stockpile bottled water in case your pipes freeze or a power outage occurs. Fill the bathtub, jugs, and bottles with water ahead of the storm with a minimum of 5 gallons of drinking water for each person in your household — including pets.

4. Fill Your Prescriptions and Pick Up Hygiene Items

Make sure you have all your prescription medication prescriptions filled so that you have enough on hand for two weeks. Other hygiene items, such as Kleenex, toilet paper, toothpaste, and moist tolettes would also be handy.

5. Stock up on Ice Melt and Check Your Tools

Ice Melt tends to sell out at local stores before a storm, so stock up early. Have a good snow shovel nearby before the storm and keep a tool kit handy in case you need to turn off utilities in a hurry.

6. Prepare for a Power Blackout

Charge your cell phones ahead of the storm and make sure you have some portable cell phone battery backups on hand as well. Some backups are even solar powered. Keep flashlights or battery-powered lights handy throughout the house. Many full-time Blackhawk residents have generators; most automatically turn on when the power goes out and are run by natural gas. If you have a portable model, ALWAYS run it outside, NEVER in garages, crawl spaces, or basements!



7. Protect Your Water Pipes

If you do not have a generator and temperatures are expected to

drop to 28 degrees or below for 4 hours or more, protect your water pipes. Let cold water drip from faucets, even just a trickle, and open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate near plumbing. Add pipe insulation to any pipes that are particularly prone to freezing. Do your best to keep temperatures inside your home no lower than 55°F.

8. Seal Your Windows and Doors

Seal any windows and doors with insulation kits that you can pick up at any hardware store.

9. Check or Install New Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure they're still working.

10. Be Careful

Only travel if it is a real emergency. Make sure you have emergency contact numbers in your phone.

11. Enjoy

We all moved to the snow-capped Rocky Mountains for a reason. You will enjoy the beauty of the season even more if you have prepared to be self-reliant!

