

Arrowwood III Association Newsletter

April-June 2024



Upcoming Dates

- April 10, May 8, June 12- 7pm AIA III Homeowner & Board Meetings
- May 11- Easement Mitigation Day
- May 11- 10am NEPCO General Meeting, at Woodmoor Barn
- June 1 - Chipping Day

The AIA III newsletter is moving to a quarterly cadence.

Questions and suggestions welcome at heatherksharp@gmail.com.



Spring is here!

It's Spring... which means the snow keeps flying while we are starting to dream about the flowers and vegetable gardens to come. But Spring here on the Front Range can swiftly turn from cold and snow packed to dry and windy within just a day or so. And recent events like the Marshall Fire of December 2021 have shown us that there is no wildfire "off season" in the wildland-urban interface of Colorado's Front Range.

The AIA III Firewise Committee leads our community in wildfire risk reduction efforts through Easement Mitigation, Chipping Days, and Education. This issue of our newsletter is filled with information about these efforts and how you can participate. This is a joint effort. We're all in this together!

Easement Mitigation

The AIA III Firewise Committee has a 5-year plan to mitigate all road easements in our neighborhood, ensuring that if/when a fire happens homeowners can evacuate, and emergency vehicles will have smoke-free entrance and exit routes to save our homes.

EL Paso County easements stretch 30 ft from middle of the street. The mitigation volunteers focus on 8 ft from edge of the road, removing vegetation and small trees, as well as branching larger trees to a height of 15 ft above the ground.

Last year our easement mitigation addressed the streets bordering 56 lots! This Spring we will continue the effort, and we **NEED YOUR HELP!** It is hard work, but many hands make it both easier and achievable!

On May 11, please join us. We start at 8:00am but can use help throughout the day- even for just an hour, or so. To find us, follow the sounds of the chainsaws and branching tools. Lunch provided. Wear closed-toe shoes. Bring eye and ear protection. No children please. If you have questions or plan to volunteer please connect with Steve Merveldt at 719-440-8551 or smerveldt@colopropane.com.

Fire Adapted Homes

When adequately prepared, a home can more likely withstand a wildfire, while also remaining compatible with our area's ecosystem and encouraging local flora and fauna. AIA III is working towards becoming a Fire Adapted Community. This means we retain our wild and rural feeling, while ensuring our neighborhood can better withstand a wildfire incident.

If you aren't sure how or what should be addressed on your property, to increase your home's likelihood of survival, the AIA III Firewise Committee has qualified wildland fire assessors who can appraise your property for hazards and mitigation needs- such as defensible space, combustible vegetation, tree overcrowding, and emergency vehicle access.

If you are interested in a free, neighborly wildland fire program assessment that includes low-cost mitigation ideas, please contact Elizabeth Mayo at 808-348-4880 or tuumayo@hotmail.com for details and scheduling.



FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

<https://arrowwood3.org>

Chipping Day June 1

The AIA III slash chipping day events keep our neighborhood esthetically pleasing and are a requirement for our "Firewise" community certification- which can influence homeowner's insurance, as well as reduce the possibility of a devastating fire event in our neighborhood.

For participation in the AIA III Chipping Days, you can prepare a slash pile on your property (see guidelines list) and assist the chipping day crew when they are processing your pile. And/or, you can volunteer to help process slash - either all day, or for any period of time - throughout the neighborhood.

Any property owner who does not assist the volunteer crew with processing their slash pile will incur a fine. The fine's assessment is based upon the amount of slash and time it takes the volunteer crew to process it. Seniors and/or physically disabled homeowners can request an exemption PRIOR to the chipping day, by contacting Lonnie Wheeler (719-440-0954) or Steve Merveldt (719-440-8551).

To safely assist with your pile's chipping, and/or volunteer, please follow these basic safety guidelines:

- wear ear and eye protection
- wear long pants and closed-toe shoes
- follow Mnmt Fire Dept personnel and volunteer crew leader instructions at all times
- no children allowed

If safety guidelines are not followed, the property owner may be asked to not assist, and the fine will be assessed. Note: Chipping day crew will not process slash from any property where owner is not in 'Good Standing' (all association dues or other fees are paid in advance).

Did you know?

...there's grant money available for mitigating your property against wildfire devastation? You can **apply for the Colorado Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant** to help pay for higher cost mitigation efforts. This year's application - due 4/15/24 - can be found at sipa.tfaforms.net/321313. The application does require a Home Ignition Zone Defensible Space Survey. If you haven't had a survey done, or have questions about this program, please contact Andre Mouton at 719-694-8181 or ajmouton92@hotmail.com.

Slash Pile Guidelines

In preparing your slash piles you must follow these Monument Fire Department guidelines:

- Piles should be stacked neatly with cut-end towards the road, by 8am on Chipping Day.
- Stem/trunk diameter is limited to a max of 6 inches.
- Overall length of branches is limited to a max of 6 feet.
- No mechanically piled slash.
- Piles must be at edge of main roads and fully accessible by trucks/chippers without backing in.
- Piles must be limited to brush and tree limbs from the property itself.
- Do not combine piles with your neighbors.
- No construction or building materials, treated lumber, fence posts, etc..
- No pine needles, grass clippings, weeds, leaves, shrubs, roots, or stumps.

Piles not in compliance with these guidelines will not be chipped. Questions can be directed to Steve Merveldt at 719-440-8551 or smerveldt@colopropane.com.

Staying in Touch

Staying in touch with local "goings on" is easy. For those of you who have signed up for the AIA III texts, thank you! For those who want to get on the list to receive neighborhood-specific text messages from the AIA III Board, please contact Heather Sharp at heatherksharp@gmail.com or 719-649-4494.

And here are a few other places you can go for news about our wider community:

- townofmonument.org
- nextdoor.com
- citizenconnect.elpasoco.com
- publicworks.elpasoco.com
- coloradocommunitycoalition.org
- coloradocommunitymedia.com
- elpasocountyhealth.org
- epcsheriffsoffice.com



Road Repair Requests

If you identify a neighborhood road that is in need of repair, you can take action!

Note where the issue is at, snap a photo on your phone, and then go to the El Paso County Citizen Connect website to **submit a service request** (citizenconnect.elpasoco.com)!

Hwy 105 Updates

Here is a link to stay up to date on the Hwy 105 construction progress, including a sign up for monthly communications:

publicworks.elpasoco.com/road-bridge/construction-maintenance-projects