**All,**

**It has been a pleasure to work with many of you over the past year to hopefully make DVE a better place for us to call "home". It was a pleasure to serve out a vacated term due to a board member moving out of state. As a DVE director it is now time to "re-up" my intent to continue serving our community. Please find the following information helpful in making your choice for me to continue as a director for the next two years.**

**My Wife of 20 years Connie and me have been full time residents of DVE for three years now. We moved here from Texas after retirement from Texas Department of Public Safety after 31 years of State service and 8 years in the private sector (me) and 37 years in the Dental field from chair side assistance to entire dental office operations (her).**

**I first came to Colorado as a kid in the mid 1960's with the the Parental units and a pesky older sister. I fell in love with the mountains and every chance I could, found my way back here or to northern New Mexico around the "enchanted circle" area. As Boy Scouts we hiked, camped, hunted and did most every outdoor activity possible including hiking over 700 miles one summer alone to end with a 50 mile hike deep in the Lincoln National forest. Our goal was to watch the sunrise from the continental divide and throw a Frisbee off of the side of Jicarita peak. We did in fact do both. The mountains are in my blood and one of the first things I learned, was "you work your way through the mountains".**

**OK fast forward past the career to when I brought Connie up here for the first time in 2009 or so. We did the Taos, Red River, New Mexico thing and southeast area of Colorado around Canon City area for our Honeymoon in 2003. She loved those mountains there and thought they were beautiful..... and then I brought her to southwest Colorado!**

**We started coming up here almost every winter after her first visit here. Every time I asked her about vacation afterwards, she would say...."Colorado at Pine River Lodge". Yes, we did the Four Corners thing and Mesa Verde tour with the respective trips here but I shall never forget her reaction when we made our way to Ouray. However, while Connie's first trip to Ouray almost took place in the winter, we turned back at Silverton due to the snow.  When it finally took place one Fall when we came up to ride her train all the way to Silverton and then do the Ouray trip. After that trip, she agreed and we started looking for property. Eventually we arrived here at Deer Valley Estates.**

**So back to the Career... I ran projects for the State of Texas (DPS), The University of Texas, Texas Tech University Medical Center and various private enterprises for over 39 years. I worked in Lubbock, Dallas, Austin and grew up in the flat land around Plainview, Texas (Fantastic Pheasant Hunting and beautiful sunsets but not even a small hill in sight). Went to school at Texas Tech, Texas Tech Medical School and at UT with additional continuing education sources from Texas A & M. Well versed and trained by NFPA, AIA and ADA on facility issues but also went to the State of Texas Police Academy, Lubbock Texas Fire Academy as part of my job requirements. I am certified in advanced first aid and as a CPR instructor while at the Tech Medical School. But also worked on Emergency management operations for post inclement weather recovery along the gulf coast and Texas Panhandle. BUT, I am not looking for a "job" but to serve the community with that experience.**

**Hopefully, the recent DVE road project proved my abilities, after meeting that need for our group. I will be honest I was reluctant taking on the project, but our group was in need especially after the damage we suffered from the previous winter. And speaking of need, In the past year, I have had the pleasure to meet many of the younger and new residents here in Deer Valley. I see talent in each and every one of the folks we have met. If nothing else, I wish to continue as a DVE director to help organize, engage and utilize that talent for all of us to have a better place to call home.**

**I respectfully appreciate your consideration,**

**Michael Blankenship**

**DVE Director, (expires August 2023)**

**DVE Road Project Manager (I heard rumors about "for life")**