

The ROCKSPIRIAN

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ROCKSPIRE'S HIGH SPEED INTERNET is up and running, thanks to Berryville Broadband, a new local internet service provider. The new Rockspire internet connection is made possible with the erection of a 50' tower at the MobbyMac Carriage House which receives a dedicated microwave signal from Berryville Broadband through a direct line of sight transmission from their tower in Berryville – 9 miles away. So far, we're experiencing 100 Mbps speeds which is far better than our previous satellite internet and with minor upgrades we can increase speeds up to 10 Gbps. With the recent installation of over 1 mile of underground conduit for fiber optic internet distribution, we will eventually have superior telecommunications throughout Rockspire.

In keeping with our mission of resilient and sustainable operations, we will also house all telecommunications infrastructure in a secure concrete vault built at the base of the tower. As the connection point to the electrical grid, the fireproof and weatherproof "power-comm" vault also serves as the base for grid tied and Rockspire generated power and communications distribution, battery backup, and radio frequency shielding.

THE ROCKSPIRE FORUM resumed monthly meetings at the MobbyMac Carriage House after a 13-month shutdown due to the pandemic. Continuing with CDC protocols, limited indoor/outdoor seating for 25-35 people, and a HEPA air filtration system helps ensure everyone's safety.

With full capacity attendance since restarting, each forum has generated good discussions on issues of importance towards creating a sustainable lifestyle.



Karen Gros speaking at the June Rockspire Forum
Photo by D. Myers 6.26.21

Recent **Rockspire Forum** topics:

May 15th

The New Normal

Discussion leader, George Myers

June 26th

Dining with Sustainable Foods

+

Plant Based Diet

Discussion leader, Karen Gros

July 17th

The Eureka Springs Sustainability Movement

Discussion leader, Mayor Butch Berry



The Power-Comm Vault and Communications Tower next to the MobbyMac Carriage House
Photo by G. Myers 6.23.21



The MobbyMac Carriage House
Photo by G. Myers 5.25.21



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HOME CONSTRUCTION is moving forward after delays caused by scarcity of contractors, laborers, supply chain issues, and construction materials cost volatility. Project managers at Rockspire made the decision early in the pandemic period to delay construction of the first two homes and concentrate on smaller projects like the front canopy at the MobbyMac Carriage House and the “Power-Comm” Vault and Communications Tower.

Now that some of these pandemic related problems are easing, home construction will proceed, *with caution*.

A two-car garage for the Johnson residence was one of the projects recently started. The final structure will double as a construction office and shop during the building of adjacent homes. In this photo, concrete footings for the garage were being poured.

Delays were not all bad, as the extra time enabled Rockspire’s architects to do more research and refine construction plans to take advantage of new and different construction methods and innovative new materials. When completed, the homes built at Rockspire are intended to be examples of state-of-the-art, resilient, sustainable, and innovative residential construction. Therefore, the long-term “life cycle” cost benefits outweigh the possible short-term cost savings from speed of construction.



Mike Johnson observing concrete pour at homesites
Photo by G. Myers 7.15.21

ONE OF TWO RV CAMPSITES at Rockspire is now occupied. Cliff and Carol Wright moved into their RV while their nearby house is being constructed. The second RV site accommodates a larger RV and both sites are equipped with 220 and 110 electrical hookups, water connections, and sanitary sewer connections. The RV campsites overlook the future orchards and gardens, known as the Rockspire Agricultural Center.



Cliff Wright with Boxley (dog)
at the Rockspire RV Campsites
Photo by C. Wright 6.6.21



Cliff Wright at the Rockspire RV Campsites
Photo by C. Wright 6.6.21