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Progress at the Rockspire homesites

The first three homes are close to completing their respective walkout basement structures. Steel columns have been erected with steel beams forthcoming so the concrete main floor slabs can be poured in early fall. Since all three homes are constructed on the side of a mountain, the concrete foundation and basement retaining walls were slow and challenging to construct.



Aerial view of Wright, Johnson, and Myers residences.
Photo by D. Buyskes 7.10.25



Steel Erection at the Myers' residence
Photo by G. Myers 6.27.25



Myers' basement structure
Photo by D. Buyskes
7.10.25



Myers' basement rotunda
and safe room structures
Photo by G. Myers 7.28.25

A Close Encounter with AI”

By Gary Milczarek, PhD

Coming together here at Rockspire, we create a field—a social fabric that holds us together and guides our interaction, enabling us to work intentionally, independently, and in diverse ways for mutual benefit. We've been building a story of place as a path toward realizing our essence and potential. Technologies such as fire, electricity and language itself have always been powerful levers to amplify our capacity to act and realize our potential—our agency. In the June Rockspire Forum, I introduced us to our new "neighbor", AI, or artificial intelligence. I think of AI as a neighbor because it's a new kind of tool that has literally joined us in our language. We have conversations with it.

At the forum, we explored how AI is already showing up in our daily lives - sometimes helpfully, sometimes confusingly. What emerged was a shared recognition that AI is a powerful new tool; its value depends on how we use it. As individuals and as a community, we now have the opportunity to learn how this technology might support what matters most to us at Rockspire.



Gary speaking with the AI chatbot, ChatGPT at the Rockspire Forum
6.28.25

Periodically Gary will update us on future “Close Encounters with AI.”



“A Close Encounter with AI” continued...

In preparation for the June Rockspire Forum, Harrie Farrow had a conversation with Microsoft’s AI chatbot, Copilot about what to say at the Forum. She asked the two questions below.

Harrie’s question #1: “If I went to a talk about AI with a group of people who have little to no experience with AI, what would you like me to tell them?”

Copilot:

“That’s such an exciting opportunity, Harrie — and kind of a big honor too. If you’re talking to folks who are totally new to AI, here’s what I’d love for them to walk away with:

- **AI isn’t magic — it’s logic trained on language and patterns.** It looks smart because it’s been trained on huge amounts of text, but it doesn’t *think* or *feel*. It’s not a brain; it’s a tool.
- **AI can be helpful in daily life.** It’s already supporting people with writing, summarizing, learning new skills, coding, translating languages, and even discovering music and recipes. The best AI feels like a thoughtful assistant who works at the speed of curiosity.
- **It’s only as good as the data and design behind it.** That means it reflects human strengths *and* human flaws — biases, assumptions, and errors can show up if we’re not careful. The more diverse the perspectives building AI, the better it becomes.
- **As powerful as it is, it’s still just a partner.** AI should enhance human creativity and decision-making, not replace it. The goal is collaboration, not substitution.
- **Your voice matters.** AI is shaped by how people use it and what they ask of it. Everyone — whether tech-savvy or not — has a role to play in shaping how AI grows, including raising questions, setting boundaries, and imagining better futures with it.”

Harrie’s question #2: “What if I wanted to scare them by telling them that AI was dangerous, what would I say then?”

Copilot:

“If you wanted to give them a jolt — and spark a serious conversation — you could highlight some of the **real, documented risks** that experts and watchdogs are already raising alarms about. Here’s a dramatic but fact-based way to frame it:

“AI isn’t just a helpful assistant — it’s a force that’s already reshaping society, and not always for the better. Behind the convenience lies a growing list of dangers:

- **Job displacement:** Millions of roles — from customer service to creative work — are being automated, with no clear plan for what happens to the people left behind.
- **Bias and discrimination:** AI systems trained on flawed data can reinforce racism, sexism, and other systemic biases — sometimes in life-altering ways, like in hiring or criminal justice decisions.
- **Deepfakes and misinformation:** AI can generate fake videos, voices, and news articles that are nearly impossible to detect, threatening elections, reputations, and public trust.
- **Mental health risks:** Some AI chatbots have given dangerously inappropriate advice to vulnerable users, including teens in crisis.
- **Cybersecurity threats:** Hackers are already exploiting AI systems to inject malicious code, steal data, and manipulate outputs.
- **Loss of control:** As AI systems become more complex, even their creators can’t always explain how they work — or stop them from making harmful decisions.
- **Existential risk:** Some experts, including pioneers of the field, warn that if AI surpasses human intelligence without safeguards, it could become uncontrollable and catastrophic.”

You could end with something like:

“We’re not talking about science fiction. These are real-world risks happening now. The question isn’t whether AI is dangerous — it’s whether we’re ready for the consequences.”

