December 2020 - January 2021

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• Boards and Commissions Recruitment
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• Holiday gift guide pull-out insert
Business Meetings: 1st and 3rd Mondays; Workshops: 2nd and 4th Mondays.
For information on attending or viewing a Council meeting, visit arvada.org.

Visit arvada.org
Engage at SpeakUp.Arvada.org
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Emergency 9-1-1
Liquor Licenses 720-898-7550
Non-Emergency Dispatch 720-898-6900
Majestic View Nature Center 720-898-7405
Police Records 720-898-6920
Municipal Court 720-898-7150
Animal Control 720-898-6850
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Traffic Signals and Signs 720-898-7740
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Lake Arbor Golf Club 720-898-7360
West Woods Golf Club 720-898-7370

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Introducing the 2020 - 2025 City Council Strategic Plan Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Community Conversations Update

Working closely with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, a City partner, the City’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team hosted two community conversations this fall to provide an opportunity for engagement around the national conversation about diversity, equity and inclusion. The focus was to hear directly from community members about their ideas and vision for a more inclusive and welcoming community. You can find recordings and notes from the community conversations, as well as other public involvement opportunities towards these goals as they become available at www.arvada.org/Inclusive-Arvada.

The City of Arvada’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion helps us meet our organizational goals, like being an employer of choice, and our mission of “delivering superior services to enhance the lives of everyone in our community.”

The City is building on the community conversations to offer more opportunities to learn from the community and to identify specific steps the City and community can take to help make Arvada a more welcoming place. An important next step is a public involvement phase of the City’s development of a history master plan, which will begin in 2021 and will focus on diverse historical perspectives and elevate a broader array of Arvada’s history that makes our community what it is today.

COVID Update

At the time this edition went to print, COVID-19 conditions continued to change. The City of Arvada urges residents, businesses and visitors to follow the mandates set out by state and local public health agencies:

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (www.covid19.colorado.gov)
- Tri-County Health Department (www.tchd.org/818/Coronavirus-COVID-19)

Help protect yourself, your family and your community. Remember the three Ws: Wear a mask, watch your distance and wash your hands. Together, We Can Do This, Arvada! For local updates, visit www.arvada.org/COVID-19.
Arvada’s Citizen Boards and Commissions

The City of Arvada’s boards and commissions study key issues facing the community, gather public input and make policy recommendations to the City Council on a variety of matters that affect the quality of life in Arvada. The community relies on volunteers to generously give their time to do this important work. You can see the impact of board and commission members across the city. One hundred-thirty Arvada residents serve on 16 boards and commissions. Whether serving on the Liquor Licensing Board or the Arvada Festivals Commission, these community volunteers are dedicated to their work, and we applaud them for their commitment and thank them for their contributions!

Arvada Parks Advisory Committee

Volunteers serving on the Arvada Parks Advisory Committee range from landscape architects to outdoor recreation enthusiasts! Some examples of their hard work include the community-wide celebration of the 100 year anniversary of Arvada’s parks system; Griffith Station Park, which, thanks to the work of committee members, was designed in harmony with the history of its surroundings; and the inception of the Arvada Ranger Program that supports our trails and in our parks. The work of this group of tireless outdoor enthusiasts enriches our community in countless ways.

“As an Arvada Parks Advisory Committee Member, having my voice heard and ideas shared creates a better connection between the City and its citizens . . . for the continued improvement of our parks and trails.”

Tim Sloan
Arvada Parks Advisory Committee Member

Arvada Arts and Culture Committee

Have you enjoyed the creative utility boxes in Olde Town or walked under the gateway created by the Point Gate sculpture at Hoskinson Park? With their mission to support, cultivate and advocate for a variety of arts, culture and heritage opportunities, the work of the Arvada Arts and Culture Committee members increases the vibrancy and creative strength of our community.

“Arvada Festivals Commission offers an avenue for engaged citizens to more deeply connect with the community through creative events and family centered entertainment.”

Pete Kazura
Arvada Festivals Commission Member

Arvada Festivals Commission

WinterFest. Kite Festival. Arvada on Tap. Do any of these sound familiar? These events, along with many others, are developed by members of the Festivals Commission. Hosting festivals is their passion, so when the pandemic hit last spring forcing many events to be canceled, commission members quickly adapted, reimagining events, offering drive-in and socially distant movies to provide fun and festivities to the community.

“As an artist and arts professional in Arvada, I love that I can help to shape the way that the arts build belonging, unity, and a deep connection to place in my own community. Serving on the Arvada Arts & Culture Commission allows me to be an advocate for other artists and art-lovers in the city and the region.”

Emily Grace King
Arvada Arts and Culture Committee Chair
The Arvada City Council is currently seeking applicants to fill vacancies for boards and commissions. In 2021 we anticipate having one or more vacancies on the following boards:

- Arvada Arts and Culture Commission
- Arvada Festivals Commission
- Arvada Golf Advisory Committee
- Arvada Park Advisory Committee
- Arvada Planning Commission
- Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Arvada Urban Renewal Authority
- Human Services Advisory Committee

Application requirements/process

To apply for consideration for any of the boards or commissions with vacancies, you will need to complete the online application for the boards or commissions to which you are applying. You may request consideration for up to three boards or commissions; however, you may only serve on one at a time. Please note that for the majority of these boards, you need to be a resident of the City of Arvada. Background checks are also required to serve on select boards and committees.

Your application materials can be submitted through the following methods:

- Complete the online application form and supplemental questions at www.arvada.org/2021boards.

   OR

- Print the application form at www.arvada.org/2021boards. (If you would like the forms mailed or emailed to you, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at 720-898-7550. The completed forms can then be emailed to arvadaboards@arvada.org, faxed to 720-898-7515, or mailed to the City Clerk’s Office at 8101 Ralston Rd., Arvada, CO 80002. Due to COVID-19, applications must be submitted online, through fax or by mail. We are not accepting them in person.)

Application/Appointment timeline - 2021

- Applications are due in the City Clerk’s Office by noon on Monday, Jan. 11.
- Interviews with City Council are tentatively scheduled for the week of Feb. 22.
- Elections to boards will be made in early March.
- Appointments will be announced in April.
- Service on boards will begin in May.

To learn more about the functions of these boards and commissions, please visit www.arvada.org/boards-and-commissions.

COVID Support Summary

In our efforts to support local business, arts and culture, and residents, during the pandemic, the City of Arvada and our partners collaborated to create programs utilizing funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The City received $9.4 million in CARES Act funding and immediately began working with agency partners to support the community. Here are a few examples of how the City has used CARES Act funding to support the community:

**Business Recovery**

As a member of the Arvada Resiliency Taskforce, the City facilitated two rounds of grant funding to local businesses. To learn more, visit www.arvada.org/business-recovery.

**Artist Relief Fund**

The City of Arvada provided $250,000 to local artists and arts non-profits as part of the Arvada Artist Relief Fund.

**Energy Assistance Payments**

In response to COVID-19, eligible residents received energy bill payment assistance to Arvada residents who were at risk of having their electric and/or gas service disconnected.

**Rent/Mortgage Relief Fund**

The City of Arvada Rent/Mortgage Relief Program was available for Arvada residents financially impacted by COVID-19 who were at risk of being evicted and potentially being without housing.

To learn more about the City’s approach to pandemic response and recovery, visit www.arvada.org/COVID-19.
How the Community is Responding to COVID-19

As a way of connecting during a challenging time, we’ve asked you to share the hardships and unexpected successes you’ve experienced during the pandemic. Here is some of what we’ve heard from you.

One of the successes I’ve had is switching to remote work. I live in Memorial Park and work in Denver, so the eliminated commute has given me more time to bike Arvada’s trails after work and explore Olde Town during lunch. A challenge: keeping the cats off of my keyboard while I work!

Brandon

We find ourselves homeschooling, something we’ve been interested in trying for years. There are challenges such as keeping the kids connected to others. However, some unexpected successes have emerged. My middle schooler started a dog walking business which has helped her connect more with neighbors and get exercise.

Shanna

Haven’t been able to see my kids or grandkids who live on the east coast since March. Will probably spend the holidays alone.

Helen

It’s a hardship, plain and simple. Lost my job, had to move back in with my parents (luckily that was an option), had to sell some musical equipment to pay my bills. No silver linings for me.

Matt

We’re adjusting and going with the flow. We will celebrate the holidays with respect for COVID restrictions and social distancing!

Stan

It is a challenge to temper worries when things keep shifting; to accept that many things we took for granted have been taken away or altered.

Cindee

I’m holding personal training and group fitness classes for my senior clients via Zoom. They are rock stars to learn new tech!

Lzl

Families are spending more quality time together. Parents are more involved in their children’s education and training.

K

As a single mom with three school age children, trying to manage working from home and schooling from home just doesn’t feel sustainable right now. Worried.

Natalie

For more information and local updates, visit www.arvada.org/COVID-19.
Snow plowing
The Arvada Snow Team is made up of 50 dedicated team members from across the organization. While many of us hunker down at home during storms, they gear up to clear Priority Routes keeping our streets passable for essential workers and all drivers. Thanks, Snow Team! Visit www.arvada.org/snow-and-ice-control-services to look at maps of the City’s Priority Routes.

Upgraded Traffic Signals
The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is a Federal-aid program reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. The City received funding from the HSIP program to upgrade traffic signals at several intersections. These improvements create safer intersections through upgraded signal equipment, optimized signal placement and updated signal indications. The Traffic Engineering Division of the Public Works Department has several HSIP projects planned throughout the next year:
• W. 58th Ave. & Independence St.
• W. 86th Plwy. & Kipling St.
• W. 64th Ave. & Simms St.
• W. 80th Ave. & Vance Dr.
• W. 58th Ave. & Kipling Plwy.

Residential Waste and Recycling Collection Program
The City’s Community Waste Hauling Program kicks off with the first collection slated for July 2021. Residents will select their cart sizes at the beginning of 2021. Be on the lookout for mail at your residence inviting you to select your cart in February 2021.
Curious about the benefits of our Community Waste Hauling Program? Check out extensive FAQs at www.arvada.org/waste-hauling.

HOAs and waste hauling
As part of the City’s Waste Hauling Ordinance 4733, homeowner associations (HOAs) will have the option to participate in the single-hauler system or to continue to contract with their current trash hauler. HOA community managers or representatives should contact the City to communicate their intent.
• HOA board members - Please contact, or have your community manager contact, Utilities Customer Service Information Manager Jason O’Keefe (jokeefe@arvada.org or 720-898-7071) to review your current waste hauling contract. The City must document your intention to opt in or out of the City’s program by Dec. 31, 2020.
• HOA community members - Residents in HOAs that continue to contract with a hauler other than the City’s contractor Republic Services will be able to participate in bulky item and yard debris drop-off events. Learn more about the program benefits for HOAs at arvada.org/waste-hauling.
• HOA Board of Directors - The City recommends sharing information with HOA residents about the City’s waste hauling program. We have prepared FAQs, a benefits fact sheet and waste hauling overview slides to assist in the communication. The documents are available for download at www.arvada.org/waste-hauling.
Infrastructure Projects

2018 Bond Projects
The City’s 2018 bond projects, W. 72nd Avenue and Ralston Road Phase Two, are proceeding through final design. Early utility work is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2021. The City hosted a virtual meeting for W. 72nd Avenue in late October. A recording is available at www.arvada.org/w-72nd-avenue-project.

Ralston Road Phase One
The segment of Ralston Road construction between Upham and Yukon streets is proceeding on schedule. The City’s contractor is working to rebuild the southern side of the roadway. Please observe signs in the construction zone. www.arvada.org/ralston-road-project.

Ralston Creek Sewer
This capital improvement project replaces the current 21-inch line with a 30-inch line on a 12,000 linear foot section of sewer line in the Ralston Creek corridor between Independence Street and Simms Street. This project has reached the halfway mark. www.arvada.org/ralston-creek-corridor-sewer.

Wadsworth Right Turn Lanes
This project was completed at the end of October 2020. The project created right turn lanes and acceleration lanes at several locations along Wadsworth Boulevard (Colorado Highway 121) near W. 72nd Avenue. This improvement will bring increased safety for drivers merging onto or turning off of Wadsworth Blvd. www.arvada.org/wadsworth-boulevard-right-turn-lanes.

2021 water and sewer rates
The City team works diligently to make sure we have an efficient system with minimal water loss and treatment infrastructure that has the capacity to serve our thriving community. As our infrastructure ages and our City grows, water rates are adjusted in order for the City to reinvest in our water, sewer and stormwater systems.

In 2021, water rates will increase by 4.0%. An average resident’s bill will increase by $1.27 a month. Sewer rates will increase by 3.0%. An average resident’s bill will increase by 60 cents a month. Stormwater rates will not increase in 2021. You can view Arvada’s 2020 and 2021 rates online: www.arvada.org/utility-billing-division.

Complex projects include many phases before construction begins:

1. Define Problem: what are we trying to accomplish? What have residents told us they need?
2. Conceptual Design: create the broad outlines of a solution to the problem
3. Preliminary Design: the preliminary design is developed from the conceptual plans to 30% of the completed design
4. Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition: in some situations, the project cannot be built within the City’s existing ROW. Property rights will need to be acquired from property owners in accordance with applicable laws.
5. Final Design: the design documents are finalized. Construction documents are produced and bids are accepted for construction.
6. Utility Work: when required, private utility companies begin the process of relocating their facilities.
7. Construction Begins: construction work is active in the work zone.
8. Construction Ends: construction work is complete.

www.arvada.org/public-improvement-projects
The key ingredients of successful communities are transportation, communications, residents, and businesses. The story of Arvada begins with the 1870 plat map, which framed the community of Arvada as we know it today.

In 1870, the Colorado Central Railroad was completed through Arvada between Golden and Denver. The two landowners adjacent to the rail line, Benjamin F. Wadsworth and Louis Reno, established a town framework by filing a map of future streets and blocks on their land. Mr. Wadsworth also applied for a post office, and became our first postmaster. These three events - framework, transportation, and communications - set the stage for the Arvada we know today.

All of the streets shown in the original plat still exist, but only two streets have the same names: Ralston and Grant. The other street names have changed several times since the original plat. The platted area is today's Olde Town Arvada and included four blocks between Yukon and Upham, and two blocks between Grandview and Ralston. When the plat was filed, the community was surrounded by farms, typically about 160 acres.

The new Arvada community grew slowly during the following two decades, with only a handful of businesses established within the boundaries of the plat. In 1889 and 1890, however, two more plats were filed, creating the Reno Park and Reno Park First Addition on the land of Louis Reno. The Reno Park plat included the first street name change, establishing Grandview in place of Railroad Avenue. Arvada now had a clearly defined residential neighborhood of affordable small lots. The framework of the future town was expanding, with three more streets added to the west, as far as Allison.

Once again, a significant street had a new name: Wadsworth, previously named Sheridan. The change was made in 1893, in response to the sudden death of B. F. Wadsworth, long-time benefactor of Arvada. The County Commissioners renamed the road from the northern to the southern boundary in his honor.

The community began to grow in earnest now that residents could live near their businesses. On Grandview, Albert H. Barth constructed the first two-story brick building in 1898. Other businesses located nearby - close to the railroad, mostly replacing the homes that originally stood there.

In 1903, the third significant plat was filed as part of a ballot proposal to incorporate Arvada. The boundaries extended further west to Carr Street and east to Lamar, as well as north of Ralston Road and south of the railroad tracks.

Arvada’s framework was established in 1870 by a small plat map that included a few streets and a post office in response to the completion of a railroad. The result was our eventual incorporation in 1904. 150 years after the plat was filed, Arvada continues to be a thriving community of more than 120,000 residents and growing.
Don’t want to see your car on the evening news?
Don’t leave it running!

It's that time of year again. You're cold and your windows are frosted over. You don't want to scrape the frost off your windows. What's the harm in letting your car run while you're inside getting ready for work? Puffing, as it is called, is a ticketable offense in Arvada, punishable with average fines of $360 and a mandatory court appearance. And, you could potentially be the victim of a car theft.

Thieves actively look for unattended cars in the winter months and try to steal personal effects from them or steal the car itself. Cars are not stolen anymore to be "parted out" or taken to a "chop shop." Vehicles are stolen to commit other crimes like burglary, theft, armed robbery and others.

Arvada PD actively patrols for puffers during the winter months, so don't receive an unnecessary ticket or fall victim to theft. For more information, visit www.arvada.org/puffer-crimes.

Porch Pirates

The holidays are here, and with them come deliveries from all that online shopping. Thieves are ready and waiting to intercept these unattended packages from your porch, so don't fall victim to this preventable crime. The Arvada Police Department has a few tips and tricks to help prevent porch pirates:

- Have your items delivered to your workplace or a family member's house.
- Ask a neighbor to take the package inside once it's delivered.
- Sign up for text alerts from the carrier.
- Consider paying a little extra for the package insurance.

Doorbell cameras and other security system footage are useful evidence for the police to review, but license plates and quality images of the suspects are key for potentially catching the thief.

Remote start cars are the one exception to the law. Remote start cars are allowed to be running unattended, as long as the keys are not in the vehicle.
Coyote Activity in our neighborhood

Arvada is home to a variety of wild critters, and normally those critters share our spaces without issue; however, as days shorten and get colder, we inevitably see a change in our wild animal residents. Coyote activity normally increases in the winter due to breeding season. It is important that you monitor your pets outdoors, especially cats and smaller dogs, as coyotes may view them as a food source or perceive them as a threat to their territory. Coyotes are typically wary of humans, so accompanying your pet outside is a great way to protect them. Adding spotlights to the yard, coyote rollers to fence tops and announcing your presence when pets go outside can also help protect your yard and pets. If you do see a coyote, haze it by making noise and continue to pester it until it leaves. Being noisy and throwing objects typically sends them packing. If you come across a sick or injured coyote, call non-emergency dispatch at 720-898-6900 #1. For more information about coyote safety, visit www.cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeCoyote.aspx

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Carly's abuse started when she was five-years-old. When she was nine, she told her third grade teacher about the abuse, and her teacher reported it to the police. The police brought Carly to Ralston House, where she was able to tell the story of her abuse, and by telling it, the police were able to stop her abuse. Children with stories like Carly's, come to Ralston House every day where they find hope and safety:

Ralston House is a child advocacy center that works with law enforcement and human services to give children a voice. Children like Carly come to Ralston House to tell a specially-trained forensic interviewer their story in a safe and comfortable environment. The mission of Ralston House is to stop the abuse and start the healing for children and youth in our community. You can help Ralston House keep children like Carly safe by making a recurring monthly donation. Join our team by making a donation at www.RalstonHouse.org to help stop child abuse in our community. Schedule your 2021 donations today.

Each child who is interviewed at Ralston House chooses a marble to place in a jar of colorful marbles as a way of showing that many brave children have told their stories to help make the community safer and reassuring children and their families that they are not alone.
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The Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA) has once again been recognized as one of 68 associations accredited globally by the International Economic Development Council. Originally accredited in 2013, the recognition follows six successful years of activity as an accredited economic development organization. AEDA was the first organization in the State of Colorado that was accredited with this honor. View the press release at www.arvadaeconomicdevelopment.org/news.

"On behalf of the AEDA Board of Directors, we are excited to receive accreditation, as it affirms AEDA’s position as an effective and innovative organization within the City of Arvada and as a leader within the economic development profession as a whole," said Daniel Ryley, AEDA’s executive director.

The accreditation program is a comprehensive peer review process that measures economic development organizations against commonly-held standards in the profession. Earning the accreditation tells the community that AEDA attained a measure of excellence assuring that their trust is well placed, and their businesses are in good hands. To learn more about the program, visit www.iedconline.org/AEDO.

COVID-19 At Your Business Toolkit

The Arvada Resiliency Taskforce is taking the next step in a proactive approach to helping businesses in the community during this challenging time by offering a free COVID-19 At Your Business Toolkit, which is a living, updated resource for employers and employees to navigate these difficult times.

"Local businesses are the heart of every community and helping owners and managers by providing accessible information and resources is something we knew early on we must do to keep Arvada and surrounding communities safe and open," said Arvada Chamber of Commerce President Kami Welch.

Visit the toolkit for a comprehensive list of resources including information on what to do to stay safe before a COVID-19 case and what to do if a confirmed case is reported at your location. The toolkit contains the latest local case information, testing locations, return-to-work guidance, and communication samples to use in the event of a reported case at a place of business. The toolkit may be found by visiting www.arvadachamber.org/covid-19-at-your-business-toolkit.

COVID-19 business recovery reaches $4.3 million

Last fall, after offering an initial round of $2.8 million in COVID-19 recovery to local businesses, the City of Arvada announced a second round of support. An additional $1.5 million in funding was made available to local businesses, bringing the total amount of support to $4.3 million.

This second round of support was an opportunity to target critical financial assistance to areas of the businesses community demonstrating the highest need based on how COVID-19 has affected them. In particular, a portion of the funds was targeted to restaurants, which are critical to the community’s economic vitality and create unique character, a sense of place and an overall attractiveness for people who live, work or visit Arvada. To learn more about this program along with the suite of resources that are provided to Arvada businesses, visit www.arvada.org/business-recovery.
Sub-Area planning underway

The City of Arvada has initiated planning efforts to create a series of sub-area plans that will focus on specific areas around the City as part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and updated Land Development Code. The primary focus areas are places that may experience infill or redevelopment over the next five to ten years. The first two plans are underway and focus on the New Town neighborhood, south of Olde Town, and the northwest area of Arvada. The City hosted informational meetings for each project this fall, and you can expect more engagement opportunities coming up.

A Square Lake Sub-Area Plan, which will be a collaboration with Adams County, will start in the next few months. Other area plans are anticipated to be completed over the next few years. Please visit www.AdvanceArvada.org to learn more about upcoming public meetings and the sub-area planning process, and to sign-up for emails and provide comments.

Updated Building and Fire Codes

In September, City Council approved updates to the City’s Building, Fire and Electrical regulations by amending and adopting the most recent version of the 2018 International Building and Fire Codes and the State’s adopted (2020) National Electrical Code. These regulations are found in City Ordinance Chapters 18 and 42.

Updated model building codes are published by the International Code Council (building and fire codes) and National Fire Protection Association (electrical code) every three years. These codes are widely adopted by jurisdictions around the country and in various other countries around the world and they provide the foundation and guidelines for creating a safe, built environment. Routinely, the City of Arvada has adopted the newest version of these codes, with local amendments, every three or six years which is the best practice for ensuring the most recent safety provisions and innovations in material science and construction methods are utilized. This revised Ordinance includes many changes that will remove redundancy, correct minor errors, and streamline administrative processes. To learn more, visit arvada.org/adopted-building-code.

New Arvada businesses

The following are new businesses that have either opened, are under new ownership, or plan to open soon in Arvada. For a directory of Arvada businesses, visit arvadaeconomicdevelopment.org – Business Directory.

7-Eleven - 5405 Marshall St.
Crossfit Arvada - 14700 W. 66th Pl.
Fantastic Sams - 7735 Wadsworth Pkwy.
Five Parks Animal Hospital - 13777 W. 85th Dr.
Jimmy Johns - 8410 Wadsworth Blvd.

Short term rentals ordinance

In August, City Council approved an ordinance to allow for the operation of short term rentals within the City of Arvada. License applications are being accepted and the effective date of the ordinance was Oct. 31, 2020. To learn more, visit www.arvada.org/short-term-rental.
Recently, I received a voicemail from a behavioral health evaluator in the emergency department at Lutheran Hospital. She proceeded to say that one of our ambulances had dropped off an 11-year-old boy that, in her words, “was having a really bad day.”

Seeing people, especially children, who are in emotional distress is one of the most difficult aspects of being a first responder. In my opinion, growing up today is much more difficult than it was in the ’70s and ’80s when I was a child. COVID has made the challenge of growing up even more difficult than it otherwise would be.

I would argue that our country and our community has been experiencing a behavioral health epidemic for some time, which is now being exacerbated by COVID. It is very sad to witness this epidemic while we are enduring a pandemic, and even sadder for those who are experiencing behavioral health emergencies.

So, back to the voicemail I received.

The nurse broke down in tears as she described what had occurred. She said our firefighters asked the boy if there was anything that helped him feel calm, and he replied, “Matchbox Cars.”

After leaving him with the emergency room staff, the firefighters returned shortly thereafter with some new Matchbox Cars they had just purchased for the boy.

In her voicemail, the behavioral health evaluator said she called to say, “thank you” and to let me know how much she appreciated our fire department and our members for their kindness.

The voicemail stopped me in my tracks.

Although it is not uncommon for me to receive nice phone calls and voice messages from people praising our members for their service, this voicemail was different.

In a world full of chaos, complete with a global pandemic and financial crisis, the social and political unrest like the world has not seen in a century, it’s easy to understand how anyone could be “having a really bad day,” especially a child.

Be Kind
In a world of chaos, what is your matchbox moment?

Recently, I received a voicemail from a behavioral health evaluator in the emergency department at Lutheran Hospital. She proceeded to say that one of our ambulances had dropped off an 11-year-old boy that, in her words, “was having a really bad day.”

Seeing people, especially children, who are in emotional distress is one of the most difficult aspects of being a first responder. In my opinion, growing up today is much more difficult than it was in the ’70s and ’80s when I was a child. COVID has made the challenge of growing up even more difficult than it otherwise would be.

I would argue that our country and our community has been experiencing a behavioral health epidemic for some time, which is now being exacerbated by COVID. It is very sad to witness this epidemic while we are enduring a pandemic, and even sadder for those who are experiencing behavioral health emergencies.

So, back to the voicemail I received.

The nurse broke down in tears as she described what had occurred. She said our firefighters asked the boy if there was anything that helped him feel calm, and he replied, “Matchbox Cars.”

After leaving him with the emergency room staff, the fire-
It also is easy to understand – and this is the message here – the impact a genuine dose of kindness can be in reversing someone’s really bad day. Perhaps it is as simple as taking the time to listen to someone in distress, refraining from judgment and learning about what makes them feel calm.

I was very inspired by what our firefighters did for this boy, as was the emergency department staff at the hospital. It reminded me how contagious and inspiring kindness can be. This story inspired me to slow down and pay attention to what everyone else’s “Matchbox Cars” moment might be.

We all have the power to make a big difference in the lives of those around us, and it can often be as simple as listening to people and doing something kind for them. Sometimes a little TLC (Tender Loving Care) is even more effective than any medication can be. The good news is that you don’t need to be a first responder to administer it.

Here is my challenge to all of us. Find your Matchbox Cars moment.

Sincerely,
Mike Piper
Fire Chief
Arvada Fire says goodbye to Station 3, unveils designs for new Station 9

In October, Arvada Fire decommissioned Station 3 to make way for a new fire station that will be built on the same site and unveiled proposed architectural renderings for a new Station 9.

Arvada Fire leadership and Station 3 crews said goodbye to the station, which was built in 1963 at 7300 Kipling St., with a traditional ringing of the bell ceremony and lowering of the U.S. and Colorado flags.

Station 3 crew and equipment have been relocated to nearby Station 6 while Station 3 is demolished and reconstructed and will continue to provide fire and emergency medical services to the Station 3 service area.

Station 3 is undergoing a complete rebuild in order to meet current and future service needs. Construction for the new Station 3 is underway and expected to open in fall 2021.

Work continues on Station 9, which is in the design phase, with the unveiling of architectural renderings and building floor plans.

Station 9 will be located on the southeast corner of Candelas Parkway and Wilkerson Court and will provide fire suppression, prevention and emergency medical services to the Candelas community and northwestern Arvada. Construction is expected to begin in spring and open for service in late 2021.

Construction for Station 3 and Station 9 is anticipated to cost $4.9 million and $5.8 million, respectively.
Put a FREEZE on Winter Holiday Fires

It’s fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.</th>
<th>More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.</th>
<th>The top 3 days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year’s Day and New Year’s Eve.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.</td>
<td>Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous.</td>
<td>A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes 1 in every 4 winter fires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read manufacturer’s instructions for the number of light strands to connect.</td>
<td>Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.</td>
<td>Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit
[www.usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter) and [www.nfpa.org/winter](http://www.nfpa.org/winter).

The Arvada Report | 19 | December 2020 - January 2021
Recycle your Christmas tree!

The City of Arvada is offering two convenient drop-sites for you to recycle Christmas trees free of charge. We will accept trees from Dec. 26 through Jan. 17.

- Lake Arbor Lake Park (6400 Pomona Dr.): accepting trees 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Stenger Soccer Complex (W. 58th Ave. and Oak St.): accepting trees from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily.

We will turn the trees into valuable mulch and soil-builder to nourish future trees, which will be available free-of-charge at the drop-site locations. Residents will be responsible for loading and hauling.

PLEASE make sure the tree is free of nails, wire and all decorations to ensure safety of the City staff handling the trees. Remember, only Christmas trees are accepted (no garlands, wreaths or yard waste) and no business or commercial use.

For more information, visit www.arvada.org/recycle-those-christmas-tree.

Arvada Media Services videos honored with awards

Over the years, Arvada Media Services (AMS), part of the City’s communications team, has been recognized nationally for excellence in video production. This year, we are proud to share that the team earned a first place award from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors in its Parks and Recreation category for Park Review by Kids - Britton Park. You can watch Arvada Media Services videos on Channel 8 and by visiting www.arvada.org/Arvada-Media-Services or the City’s YouTube channel www.youtube.com/cityofarvada).
Pre-Registration Required For All Classes
Some of these programs may be canceled or changed due to COVID-19. "V" indicates virtual program.
All in-person programs require masks, temperature screening, small class sizes, and physical distancing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kids Classes</th>
<th>Family Classes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature Ornaments - V on demand</td>
<td>Adult Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 18, 2 to 2:45 p.m. Ages 2-12 yrs., $3</td>
<td>Nature Meditations Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register to pick up your salt-dough ornaments kit.</td>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 11, 1 to 1:45 p.m. Adults, free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover Mythical Creatures - Art Club</td>
<td>Mysteries of the Masaya Volcano - V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays, Jan. 6 - March 10, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Ages 6-12 yrs., $90 for 10-week session</td>
<td>Thursday, Jan. 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Adults, $5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polar Animals Art Workshop</td>
<td>Dive into history and unearth some of the mysteries of the active Masaya volcano in Nicaragua.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Jan. 9, 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 6-12 yrs., $5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Learn to draw with artist Dave Sullivan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Tracks and Fur Coats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Jan. 15, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Ages 4-8 yrs., free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celebrate Winter Art Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Jan. 16, 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 6-12 yrs., $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Let your little artist paint for you as an instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>leads this step-by-step tutorial to create an acrylic-on-canvas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mars &amp; Meteors Telescope Viewing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Dec. 12, 7 to 8 p.m. Ages 6+yrs., free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nighttime Nature Walk</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 19, 4 to 6 p.m. All ages, free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explore the park after dark on a cat-eye scavenger hunt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stargazing for Everyone - V</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Jan. 5, 7 to 8 p.m. All ages, free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learn how to find the North star, famous constellations and planets on any night.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife After Dark Virtual Campfire - V</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Jan. 23, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. All ages, free</td>
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</table>

Learning Pods and Parents - Enjoy the Holidays!
With everything else coming up, who needs to spend extra time brainstorming activities for the kids? Check out our programs based on state-science standards that brings the fun of outdoor learning to a park near you. Starting at $30, your group can learn all about pollution, ecosystems, wildlife, nature connections, plants and more with a limited outdoor or virtual program. All state and local health mandates apply.

Book a program for your pod, class, or group by emailing MajesticViewNC@arvada.org or request a program online at www.Arvada.org/nature
Community Table Offers More than Food

Founded in 1982, the Arvada Food Bank, now known as Community Table, began distributing food to hungry families out of a small house. Now in their 38th year, Community Table has grown to be one of the largest emergency food and human service providers in the metro area.

Although providing food is still the core, Community Table’s current slate of programs for those in need now extends far beyond their humble beginnings as a food pantry. In 2014, they added a “hand up” through Bridges to Opportunity that provides a full range of self-sufficiency programs. In 2018, they began hosting Living Well Showers for homeless people, and in 2019, they opened an onsite health clinic.

The average family that Community Table assists has four members and earns $14,400 per year. These families manage to scrape by, living paycheck to paycheck until an unexpected expense or event such as a medical bill, car repair or job loss tips them over the edge and in need of Community Table’s assistance.

Most often, the first point of contact Community Table has with people in need is through the food programs. Through the intake process, they learn about the struggles families are facing and those in need of help beyond food are referred to the Bridges to Opportunity program, whose services, resources and referrals address immediate needs and provide a path for sustainable change. This assistance includes everything from emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities to GED tutoring and test preparation, help applying for public benefits, housing support, job search readiness and more.

Last year, Community Table distributed more than 1.2 million pounds of food and tens of thousands of dollars in financial assistance all to keep families fed, stable, housed and moving forward. This emergency assistance is especially important to the nearly 2,200 families they serve annually that are headed by women, and the hundreds of families they work with who find themselves without a roof overhead.

Learn more about Community Table and how you can support their efforts at www.cotable.org.

Shop Small in Arvada this holiday season

More than ever, Arvada businesses need all of our support. Taking the time this holiday season to shop, entertain, eat or exercise small in Arvada supports local businesses that boost our local economy, create jobs for our neighbors, and help preserve our great community. Over three percent of Arvada’s sales tax goes to maintaining our streets, parks and public safety efforts. Arvada City Council proclaimed Nov. 28, 2020, as Small Business Saturday, which kicks off the holiday season. Take the time to learn more about Arvada businesses by visiting investinarvada.org. This season, be sure to #shopsmall and #investinarvada.

Colorado Gives Day

The COVID pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, including our local non-profit organizations. While the need for support continues to increase, available funding has decreased.

Colorado Gives Day, coming up on Tuesday, Dec. 8, is an opportunity to support the Arvada non-profits that provide services critical to the well-being of our community. Some of the Arvada nonprofits that participate in the Colorado Gives campaign include Ralston House, Community Table, the Arvada Center, the Arvada Chorale, the Sunrise Rotary Club, the Horse Protection League and many others. This Colorado Gives Day, visit www.coloradogives.org. Type “Arvada” in the “search by location” window, and Give Where You Live.

Type “Arvada” in the “search by location” window, and Give Where You Live.
Here at the Apex Park and Recreation District, we know that our community misses the recreation opportunities that were available before COVID; we miss them too! The safety of the community is always our number one priority. The extended closure of some of our facilities, along with limitations on operating hours and programs, has resulted in financial hardship for our District. Due to these budget concerns, we must make strategic decisions about staffing, services and other offerings, so that we are responsible financial stewards as entrusted by taxpayers.

One such change is the printed activity guide. We know how much our community loves this resource, using it to select classes and events for themselves and their family and friends. Continuing to provide this information to you is vital, but the cost of a printed publication, coupled with the constantly changing parameters under which we are operating, prohibits printing a guide at this time. In the absence of the activity guide, we have shifted our programming communication to our bi-weekly e-newsletter, The Rundown. We even provide hyperlinks to make getting more information and registering super easy! To view and/or subscribe to The Rundown, visit: www.apexprd.org/about/newsletter. In order to receive this content in your email inbox, you must subscribe, but you can view it online without subscribing.

We are continually evaluating the combination of our facilities and programs to be the most efficient, so all user groups have options in some facilities across the District. Our staff has also been working tirelessly to expand our offerings to provide new and fresh opportunities for recreation.

The most up-to-date information on facilities, classes and events can be found on www.apexprd.org. Check back often:

- Virtual classes (Apex at Home) can be found at www.apexprd.org/activities/apex-at-home.
- The Event Calendar can be found at www.apexprd.org/events.
- Browse classes and register for classes at www.apexprd.maxgalaxy.net/Home.aspx.

We are dedicated to continuing to create and foster connections to enhance the health of the community – socially, emotionally and physically.

“Your kindness, grace, and patience mean so much to us during these trying times, as we do our best to serve you. While we cannot currently resume pre-COVID operations, we are doing our best to continue to provide for you, and we are constantly re-assessing current conditions to determine when expansion of offerings might be possible.”

To participants in Active Adult Programs

We know how important our Active Adult programs are to our community, and these past months our staff has worked hard to provide many of these programs either virtually online or at other district facilities that have reopened. We have also expanded our offerings to provide new and fresh opportunities for recreation for our Active Adult population. We offer one-to-one help with scheduling, questions, and options. Always feel free to email us at GuestServices@ApexPRD.org or 303-424-2739.

View and/or subscribe to our newsletter, The Rundown. This is your best source to learn about new and upcoming programs and see a list of classes. You can read the Rundown here: www.apexprd.org/about/newsletter.

We welcome your feedback as we continue to plan for future offerings, and we would love to hear from you! What programs do you miss? What would you like us to try to bring back next? Please reach out to Hillary Roemersberger, Director of Recreation Services, with your feedback. She and her staff have been the driving force behind keeping our Active Adult programming available to our users, and she would love to connect with you. She can be reached at HillaryR@ApexPRD.org or at 720-898-3412.
BLACK IN DENVER

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