April - May 2021

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COVID-19 update to the community

The details about COVID-19 vaccines are continually changing. As the City, we are working to direct residents to the most authoritative sources of information about vaccine distribution. You can learn about the vaccine distribution process through state and public health agencies, including the following:

**Colorado Department of Public Health (CDPHE)**

The CDPHE is the central resource for information about the COVID-19 vaccine from a statewide perspective. Their website is updated regularly with new information, including locations distributing vaccines and the current vaccine prioritization phases. Visit [covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine](https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine).

CDPHE also provides a call center for the public to ask questions specifically about the COVID-19 vaccine. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The toll-free number is 1-877-268-2926. Operators are available to answer calls and can provide information in multiple languages.

**Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH)**

Visit their COVID-19 vaccine webpage for the most up-to-date information for residents of Jefferson County: [jeffco.us/3999/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19](https://jeffco.us/3999/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19). You may also call 303-239-7000; press option 1 for general vaccine information, eligibility information, provider locations and more.

**Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) (for Arvadans who live east of Sheridan in Adams County)**

Visit their COVID-19 vaccine webpage for the most up-to-date information for Arvadans who live in Adams County (generally, east of Sheridan): [tchd.org/818/Coronavirus-COVID-19](https://tchd.org/818/Coronavirus-COVID-19).

The vaccination process requires all parts of our health and medical system, including public health, hospitals, primary care providers and more, to work together to help ensure those who are eligible to receive the vaccine are able to do so as quickly as possible. To anyone waiting for their chance to get vaccinated, please know your turn will come. Right now, your best protection from the virus is a combination of getting a COVID-19 vaccine, wearing a mask, staying at least six feet away from others, avoiding crowds and washing your hands often.

*We can do this, Arvada!*

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City’s Finance Department awarded Certificate of Achievement for Excellence

The City is committed to providing you with a well-managed, fiscally-responsible and transparent local government. Recently, the City was recognized for its financial transparency by the Government Finance Officers Association, which awarded the City with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR contains information summarizing the City’s financial position and is essentially the City’s public financial statement. It is judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a “strong spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The City’s Finance Department has received this award 37 consecutive times.

Jefferson County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

As an Arvada resident, you may be familiar with the natural hazards we face as a community. Floods, winter storms, wildfires and other hazards are part of life in the Front Range of Colorado. To fortify our resilience to these hazards, the City is a participating jurisdiction with the Jefferson County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan is a multi-jurisdictional effort to reduce the impacts of disaster events on citizens and property in our community. It is updated every five years. In 2021, a multi-departmental team is collaborating with other municipalities, special districts and the county on the update process.

Why update the plan? To help our community:

- Prepare for natural disasters
- Prepare for human-caused hazards
- Identify ways to reduce losses
- Protect our community from hazardous events

Protect our community from hazardous events

The planning team will share the full draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and seek ideas for action from the community. The second of two public meetings (the first was held in February) will take place in spring. Public meeting information will be posted on our Speak Up Arvada page for the project. Join us for the latest updates and share your feedback on emergency preparedness in our community at speakup.arvada.org/hazard-mitigation-plan-update.

City Charter Review

Every ten years, the Arvada Municipal Code requires a review of the City Charter, the legal document that describes the powers and essential functions of local government. The Charter review and subsequent updates ensure that it evolves to meet the needs of the community. As part of this process, in January, the Arvada City Council appointed a 20-member committee to perform the comprehensive Charter review. The committee held virtual public meetings in February and March and will present written recommendations to the City Council in April. Based on Council’s feedback, the City Attorney’s Office will draft a resolution containing Charter revisions. If City Council approves the resolution, the issues will be included on the ballot for voter consideration as part of the November 2021 election. Arvada residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback as part of the City Council public hearing, where councilmembers will discuss and potentially approve recommended amendments to the Charter. For additional information and updates regarding the City Charter Review process, visit arvada.org/city-charter-review.
Become an official Storm Spotter

Every year the National Weather Service (NWS) offers a series of Storm Spotter classes to members of communities interested in becoming official Storm Spotters. The spotter program is an essential part of the NWS warning process, training residents how to safely report severe weather and be "eyes on the sky." Upcoming Storm Spotter training most relevant to our community, and communities nearby, are available via live webinar on April 14 and April 20 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Learn more and register: [arvada.org/storm-spotter-training](http://arvada.org/storm-spotter-training). Additional trainings are listed at [weather.gov/bou/spot_training](http://weather.gov/bou/spot_training).

Water tower lighting schedule to honor our high school graduates

**Friday, May 7**

**Saturday, May 8**

**Friday, May 14**

**Saturday, May 15**

**Friday, May 21**

**Saturday, May 22**

**Friday, May 28**
Arvada’s Recycling and Waste Hauling begins July 5

It’s time to select your Service Level and Cart Size

The City of Arvada’s new waste and recycling service is here! All Arvada residents will benefit from the new service through reduced wear and tear on our roads and less traffic and noise from trash trucks. The City’s service will increase recycling and diversion of waste away from landfills and provide multiple bulky item and yard-debris drop-off events to help reduce clutter around our neighborhoods, yards and households.

Eligible households should have received a Service Level postcard in March. Please return it, or visit SelectMyCart.com/Arvada, by April 16. Use the verification code to select your service level. Please remember to:

- Choose a service level. If we do not hear from you, your household will receive a 95-gallon waste cart and a 95-gallon recycle cart in June (Level 3 service).
- Select “Minimum Service” if you wish to choose your own hauler. You can enter the City’s program at a higher level at any time after the program begins by calling 720-898-7575 and selecting a new service level.
- Make cart-size changes at no cost during the first six months of service.
- Remember that you may also make one cart size change at no cost per year afterward. A $15 per exchange fee will apply to cart exchanges made more than once per year.

For more information and FAQs, please visit waste.arvada.org or contact Customer Service at 720-898-7575.

Why is the City flushing hydrants?

Flushing fire hydrants helps to remove iron and other minerals that build up in the distribution system pipes, as well as to help ensure proper levels of disinfectant in the water in the pipes. The practice also helps to ensure proper operation and flow for firefighting or other needs.

Summer water bills: why they are higher

Rate tiers
In the summer months, residents can sometimes be surprised to receive a higher water bill. The City uses a tiered rate system for water rates. Tier 1 applies to the first 30,000 gallons of water you use in a billing cycle. This covers most people’s indoor water usage. When you add in outdoor water use, many families will see their usage move to Tier 2 or above. When you use more water, you pay more (current rates posted at arvada.org/utility-billing-division).

Timing
Remember, the City of Arvada water utility bills are on two month cycles, and when you receive a bill, it is for the two previous months. A bill received in June reflects usage in April and May (lower outdoor water usage). A bill received in August reflects water usage in June and July (peak outdoor usage).

Questions
If you ever have a question about your water usage or water utility bill, please contact the Utility Billing Division. Customer service team members are available to walk you through your account information. Call 720-898-7070 during regular business hours for assistance.
Got stinky drains?

Just like all the other routine maintenance you need to perform in your home, your plumbing needs regular maintenance too! Here are some tips to keep those fixtures and drains smelling fresh and lasting longer.

To learn the parts of your sinks or drains, check out these helpful diagrams.

**General tips:**
1. Regularly remove and clean screens and gaskets from faucet aerators. Run some water through the faucet with the aerator removed. Replace broken screens and gaskets as needed.
2. Use a clog remover for slow drains in your bathroom tub or sink. Enzyme-based or homemade products tend to be gentler on your pipes. You can use these regularly after a manual clog removal (described below) to help prevent major build-ups from reoccurring.

**Kitchen:**
Freshen up your garbage disposal with a good cleaning. You can find more details online, but there are a variety of household items like ice, vinegar, salt, lemon peel, baking soda, dish drops, or household bleach that can freshen your disposal. Remember to shut power off to the unit before sticking hands or tools into it! For a temporary but quick fix, there are a variety of garbage disposal cleaner pods available at your local grocer or online.

**Bathroom Tub/Shower:**
A clogged shower drain is also usually caused by hair build-up. To clear out a tub/shower drain you'll need to purchase a drain "snake" from your favorite local hardware store to manually remove the clog.

**Bathroom Sink:**
A stinky bathroom sink drain is likely caused from hair and other organic material build-up. If a clog remover or drain snake isn't helping the issue, you may need to disassemble the trap and manually remove the source of the clog. At this point, you may want to consult a licensed plumber. If you want to do it yourself, be sure to turn the water valves off first and remove the items under the sink as water and goop may spill out. This might be a messy job, but it will be worth it!
The year 2020 will be remembered for worldwide changes for many reasons. Not only was there a tragic pandemic, but also a deep dive into police practices around the world. The nation began to examine the complicated task of keeping a community safe. Before this new law enforcement focus, the Arvada Police Department (APD) worked diligently to develop a culture of community respect and anti-bias policing. APD continually reviewed policies, procedures, training and hiring practices to keep up with the changing times.

**Body Worn Cameras**

Several years ago, the APD undertook a study of Body Worn Cameras (BWCs). The APD assessed reasons why police agencies might choose to use BWCs, and reasons why BWCs might not make sense for specific agencies. As part of our assessment, we evaluated the front-end costs of purchasing the hardware and software necessary to implement a BWC program, the ongoing expenses of digital records storage and long-term personnel costs related to training and management and dissemination of BWC records.

More importantly, the APD analysis focused on the problems that BWCs might help prevent or solve and weighed this information against the real and potential costs of BWCs. In looking at the evidence available to us at that time, we learned BWCs are especially useful for police agencies that have a history of contentious police-citizen interactions, an extensive record of bias-based use of force or other bias-based police actions, or for police agencies that have community relations characterized by lack of confidence in the police or by high levels of distrust. For police agencies that face these sorts of problems, BWCs can enhance transparency and reduce the extraordinarily high costs of civil rights litigation or legal settlements based on discrimination. When it comes to APD and litigation against its officers, the City has not paid or settled an excessive force claim in nearly 11 years.

In the process of weighing the possible benefits of BWCs against the potential downsides of their use, we considered the fact that APD does not have a history of contentious relations with Arvada residents or other citizens, that we had very few use of force complaints involving allegations of bias of any kind, and that there was little to no evidence suggesting our residents lack confidence in or distrust the APD. It became clear that BWCs would not markedly improve the APD’s relationship with our citizens, would not have a meaningful impact on the use of force situations, and would not substantially increase the degree of confidence citizens have in the APD’s progressive policing strategies.
As a result, the APD concluded that BWCs were valuable tools for some, but not all, police agencies, and so we decided against the deployment of BWCs at that time. We pledged to informally reassess the need for BWCs over time.

In 2020, the Colorado State Legislature passed SB20-217. This law requires all police agencies in Colorado to implement BWCs starting in 2023. APD is in the process of following this unfunded mandate and will meet the guidelines on or before 2023. This program's original cost is estimated at $1.4 million and an annual estimated cost of $1 million every year after use begins. As a police department, this tool will be welcomed, and we are looking forward to sharing what our officers face on a daily basis.

**Anti-Biased Police Practices**

APD has conducted mandatory training about bias in policing for all sworn personnel for at least 20 years. Over the years, our officers have been trained on a wide variety of topics about bias and how it negatively impacts the work of police officers as well as the community.

**APD officers have been trained on topics including:**

- Overt discrimination (e.g., profiling) to more subtle forms of bias (e.g., implicit bias and micro-aggression).
- How certain cognitive biases may impact personal interactions with others.
- Specific forms of bias based on: gender, disability, race, religious, ethnic, and LGBTQIA.
- The negative social impacts of bias-based policing and the legal ramifications of unconstitutional police actions.

**Appropriate police conduct starts with recruiting**

The APD has, for decades, maintained exhaustive recruiting, background investigation and hiring systems. All of our incoming officers also hold a four-year college degree, which helps ensure our sworn employees have the maturity needed to implement the APD’s sophisticated community policing strategies. Our overall training programs are second to none. Our personnel are regularly trained in everything from the legal aspects of policing to ethical obligations surrounding the use of force to effective de-escalation techniques. We utilize a robust “early warning system” to alert us of questionable conduct by our officers, and we hold them accountable for behavior that does not meet our high standards.

The APD’s status as an exceptional law enforcement agency has been recognized nationally. The APD was one of the first Colorado police agencies to be accredited by CALEA, and we have maintained that accreditation since the 1980s. CALEA has designated the APD as a “flagship” agency, which means we serve as a model for other law enforcement agencies.

Defensive Tactics training at APD is continual throughout the year. Chokeholds are not included in the Defensive Tactics training. In the Defensive Tactics Training and many other training cycles, we address de-escalation techniques. Part of the de-escalation education involves mental health concerns. 70 percent of our officers receive Crisis-Intervention Training, and 100 percent receive “Mental Health First Aid,” so officers have one or the other, or both.

**Moving forward**

APD has been working on sharing more information as the members of our community have asked. While our policies and procedures have always been available upon request, APD has recently obtained a new vendor to assist in making these documents public-facing. Not all of the procedural documents will be open as some contain operational guidelines that would impact officer safety.

APD has collected data on many different demographics when it comes to community contacts and enforcement. This data was shared in documents related to our CALEA accreditations. Now, with the implementation of requirements of SB20-217, this data will be shared in a state database maintained by the Colorado Attorney General’s Office.

We pride ourselves on being progressive; however, the APD does not rest on our accolades. We are well aware that effective policing depends to a large degree on having the approval and respect of our citizens. This was a fact before BWCs and non-biased police training came into being, it is a fact now, and it always will be.

The APD has worked hard for decades to earn the public’s trust and respect, and we will continue to do so.

Want more insight into the APD’s work and commitment to community policing? Visit arvada.org/police-transparency.
Arvada welcomes LandMark:  
an outdoor environmental art exhibit  

Beginning in April, a diverse array of sculptures will be popping up in numerous parks around the city. The artworks are part of LandMark, an outdoor public art exhibit, funded by the council-appointed Arvada Arts & Culture Commission as part of the Cultural Master Plan goal for every resident to be within a 10-minute walk of something “artful.”

Curated by artists Anna Kaye and Kalliopi Monoyios, LandMark grew out of the stillness of the first Colorado lockdown in early 2020. As public life ground to a halt, Monoyios and Kaye anticipated the disruption of our cultural and artistic venues and began to look for a way to restore the connection between artists and the public. Creating an outdoor exhibit that celebrates and explores the one thing that has remained open and accessible — the environment — seemed a promising place to start.

The first sculptures will appear on Earth Day, April 22, 2021, with others opening on closely-related environmental days: World Environment Day (June 5), Nature Photography Day (June 15) and the Summer Solstice (June 20). Residents will have the pleasure of enjoying a diverse range of art - from murals to interactive soundscapes to an augmented reality app that will superimpose real and imagined creatures onto the landscape - for the next three years.

Fourteen regional and local artists will be featured (asterisks indicate artist that live and/or work in Arvada): Mindy Bray, Mark Bueno*, Nancy Lovendahl, Brandon Bullard, Corrina Espinosa*, Judy Gardner*, Nathan Hall, Emily Grace King*, Patrick Marold, Jesse Mathes*, Patrick Maxcy*, Collin Parson*, Nikki Pike and Yoshitomo Saito.

For more information, visit the LandMark exhibit website: landmarkexhibit.org, follow LandMark on Instagram: instagram.com/landmarkexhibit or check out other projects by the Arvada Arts and Culture Commission at arvada.org/arts-and-culture.
Forward tees: growing the game of golf

It’s that time of year when the West Woods golf team is busy aerating, fertilizing, planting, mowing and charging the irrigation system to get the courses in top-notch condition. But this year, their preparations include a broader goal. They’re not just preparing for play; they’re preparing to grow the game. How? By adding “forward tees.”

Forward tees involve the placement of an additional tee (anywhere from five to 50 yards depending on the hole) in front of the existing forward-most tees. Forward tees reduce the distance to the hole and therefore the number of strokes it takes to get the ball into the hole, helping golfers have more fun by playing from a set of tees best suited to their abilities. And having more fun results in more new golfers joining the sport.

To ensure the City’s public courses keep pace with the sport and the needs of the community, the Parks, Golf and Hospitality division commissioned the USGA Green Section to conduct a study. One conclusion of the study was that the majority of holes on the Indian and Cottonwood courses were 40 to 50 yards too long for the beginner golfer. Adding forward tees to improve the pace of play and player enjoyment, and ultimately, the course’s economic sustainability was recommended.

For the West Woods team, following the USGA recommendation was a no-brainer. “We want to grow the game of golf here at West Woods by increasing the fun factor for new players, while also providing a benefit to experienced golfers,” said course manager Joe Kunze. “Forward tees help maintain the pace of the game by moving everyone along regardless of skill level.” Kunze added, “The forward tee project moves us away from the standard mold of golf course architecture and puts us in the trend-setting category.” The West Woods team began the project in late winter. Players can expect to see some sod cuts and bare dirt in places, with project completion anticipated in May.

Managing thirsty parks & golf courses

Currently, all future projections from global climate models indicate continued warming in Colorado over the next several decades, regardless of greenhouse gas emissions scenarios. The resurgence of drought in 2020 marks the fourth time since 2000 that the state has become hazardously dry (the first major drought occurred in 2002, then 2012-2013, 2018 and again in 2020). During these dry spells, folks often wonder how the City manages parks and golf courses.

We realize that during times of drought or water shortage, the availability of public spaces, including parks and golf courses, becomes even more essential to our community. During a water shortage, it is essential for our Parks and Golf teams to minimize drought impacts while providing as much access to public spaces as possible.

Last year, these teams proactively developed a drought management plan designed to improve the resilience of Arvada’s parks system and golf courses by preparing for future water shortages. Future drought response decisions will ultimately be made on a case by case basis and are dependent upon:

- standards for new and retrofitted parks;
- utilizing new technologies, such as irrigation networks that assess current conditions to find balance between expense and efficiency improvements;
- maximizing the use of non-potable water; and
- defining our water management procedures and operations within parks and golf.

For information about how you can help conserve water, and why everyone should do their part to mitigate drought effects, visit Arvada.org/city-water-conservation.
As of Oct. 1, 2020, most of Colorado is in some level of drought. Many Arvada residents are interested in conserving water but don’t know where to start. What are some strategies residents can use to conserve water outside?

The time to make landscape changes is now! Small steps over time can help create big savings in money and water usage outside.

Some strategies to consider:

• Change your turf to a lower water demand variety that fits your use, soil, sun/shade requirements, and maintenance level needs such as Buffalo Grass, Blue Grama Grass, DogTuff Grass, Turf-Type Tall Fescue, Fine-Bladed Fescue Grasses, or drought tolerant hybrid mixes.

• Water when the lawn is dry, not necessarily on a set schedule. Check the amount of moisture in the soil by digging down about 3” below the surface with a garden trowel or screwdriver. If the soil is damp, there is no need to water.

• Update your irrigation system and watering schedule. Make sure there are no leaks and you aren’t watering concrete. Water during the late evening or early morning hours.

• Remove turf in small, overlooked areas and replace with low water demand plantings. You can do this bit by bit over time.

• Hire a landscape professional to help you design the look and feel of your low water landscape. There are amazing low water native plants that look beautiful! Low water doesn’t mean just rock!

• Look for plants that have low water needs when adding to your landscape. Plant Select (plantselect.org) and Resource Central (resourcecentral.org) have resources for finding plants and planning a low water landscape.

For additional watering guidelines visit arvada.org/watering

What are the benefits of using low water plants in a home landscape?

There are so many benefits! Beyond saving money and conserving water, low water plants that are native to our area attract wildlife including pollinators. They create attractive and colorful landscapes and reduce pests and diseases in our gardens. Elimination of turf grass also eliminates mowing, aeration, herbicides and fertilizers that turf needs to survive. Finally, if we have watering restrictions due to drought, established low water plants will still thrive!

What advice do you have for other Arvada residents?

Don’t wait to change your landscape. Plants only appreciate over time and help the value of your home increase!

Plan to keep watering your low water landscape. Although plants are low water or native, they will still need to be watered to get established.

Look at demonstration gardens across the region. Check out plant names and types at different gardens including Denver Botanic Gardens, Chatfield Gardens, Hudson Gardens, Majestic View Nature Center and Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

There are many garden clubs in our area. Don’t be afraid to join and get involved!

Let’s get a Plant Select Demonstration Garden in Arvada!

Sarah had so many resources and recommendations we couldn’t fit them all into the Arvada Report! For the rest of Sarah’s resources and recommendations, visit arvada.org/low-water-landscape.

Low water landscapes: advice from an Arvada expert

Sarah Williams, PLA, CPSI
Landscape Architect and Jefferson County CSU Extension Advisory Council Member
4 year Arvada resident of the Lamar Heights Neighborhood

What are some of your favorite low water plants?

There are so many to choose from so this is definitely a difficult question. A few top choices that I love:

**Chieftain or Panchito Manzanita:** A broadleaf evergreen with small pink flowers in the spring. Pollinators love them and they are low maintenance.

**Blonde Ambition Grass:** This native grass looks really great in a mass of plantings or as a stand alone plant. The beautiful blonde seed heads last long into the winter. It really stands out when planted with Little Bluestem or Big Bluestem grass, Indian Grass, Purple Coneflower, Hyssops or Russian Sage.

**Chocolate Flower:** Ever blooming native wildflower from the Southwest that produces yellow daisy like flowers that have a strong scent of Chocolate in the morning. Who can beat that? They need minimal water once established and are really great draping over walls.

**Catmint:** Long season of lavender blooms that have an aromatic mint smell. This plant thrives under low water to xeric conditions.

**Woodward Juniper:** This plant is the Rocky Mountain equivalent of a Cypress Tree. It has an elegant upright manner with dark green foliage which turns grey blue in winter. It is a great living privacy fence or tall statement in the garden.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kids Classes</th>
<th>Family Classes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trekking Forests By Brush-Art Club</strong></td>
<td><strong>Build A (Native)Beehouse Workshop</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays, April 7-May 26, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Ages 6-12 yrs., $72</td>
<td>Saturday, April 3 &amp; 10, 10:30am - Noon. Ages 6+ yrs., $15 (all materials included)</td>
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<td><strong>Build-A-Kite Remote Workshop - V on demand</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stargazing for Everyone - V</strong></td>
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<td>Friday, April 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All ages, $5 (All materials included)</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 6 &amp; May 4, 7 to 8 p.m. All ages, free. Different topic(s) each month.</td>
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<td>Scheduled time is for kit-pick ups, but you can watch the video anytime to complete your kite.</td>
<td><strong>Sixty Minute Celestial</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Paint Mom A Nature Masterpiece</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, April 17 &amp; May 22 various times. Ages 6+ yrs., free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 8, 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 6-12 yrs., $15 (materials included)</td>
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<td><strong>Fossils to Flesh</strong></td>
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<td>Saturday, May 15, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Ages 8-12 years, $12 Build your own dinosaur by using a skeleton model.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nature Discoveries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Tuesday of each month, 10 to 11:30 a.m. All ages, free. Different topics each month, outdoor location varies within Park so check the website calendar.</td>
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<td><strong>Turning it Around: Healthy Planet Gardening</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 24, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Adults, $10 With growing concern about the future of our climate, learn what YOU can EASILY do in your garden to help.</td>
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<td><strong>Nature Walks with Dean</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 11, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Adults, free. Meet at Standley Lake Library Sundial, 8485 Kipling Street</td>
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Please Note:
Arvada Trails Day will not be held as a festival-type event on June 5. Check back to the website for details about how we'll still celebrate trails in early June, safely enjoying the outdoors with Majestic View and Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge.
Are You Water Wise?

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, in August of 2020, a whopping 94 percent of our state — home to 4.2 million Coloradans — was classified as being in moderate to extreme drought. But this doesn't count the countless species of wildlife and plants that also need water to survive in our dry climate.

With so little water available, everyone needs to use water wisely to save our recreational water sources, household water for communities downstream, and water for habitats and ecosystems in our parks and open spaces.

Using less water is important, but it's also important to make sure that what little water we have stays clean! Being water wise means using water efficiently, recycling water for things like plants or your lawn, and preventing water pollution. You can find a checklist to see how water wise your home is online in our website Conversation Corner at majesticviewnc.org/are-you-water-wise.

You can also book free water educational programs for your Arvada-based learning pod or class! This 1 hour program meets several Colorado state science standards and is available for 3-5 grade students. Visit majesticviewnc.org/schools-groups for more details and to request a program today.

Every little step towards becoming water wise is a step towards making our community and our nature spaces a place for all to enjoy. See how much you already understand water with this crossword puzzle (answers on majesticviewnc.org/are-you-water-wise).

Understanding Water

ACROSS
2. A kind of precipitation.
5. A dry condition from not having enough water.
7. Using less water in order to save it for future use.
9. A type of habitat that is saturated with water. Examples are marshes or swamps.

DOWN
1. Too much water all at once will cause this.
2. When everyone uses a smaller, fixed amount of water instead of the usual amount of water.
3. An area of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins or seas.
4. A body of water held by a dam. This is one way to store water.
6. Kind of man-made ditch that carries water from place to place.
8. Another name for a watershed is a drainage ____.
Arvada Chamber highlights 2020 work in its Annual Report

The Arvada Chamber of Commerce’s 2020 Annual Report details the work, collaboration, ingenuity and support that made a difference in the business community. In a unique and challenging year, the Chamber saw 71 new members, 33 professionals graduate from Leadership Bootcamp, 1,201 members attend business and community events, and 275 businesses listed in the Arvada Resiliency Taskforce’s “Safe and Open” campaign. Read the full report at arvadachamber.org/annualreport.

“For years, the Arvada Chamber has talked about our role as a convener, catalyst and champion in our community,” said Arvada Chamber of Commerce President Kami Welch. “2020 put in stark relief what this really means.”

Retention Committee gets to work

Along with the work of its Board and team, the Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA) also hosts a Business Retention Committee made up of Arvada businesses that volunteer to help guide AEDAs mission to support and keep businesses in the local community. The Committee meets quarterly and at the first meeting in 2021, four new members were welcomed, including Sara Schaeffner with The Digital Frontier, Masaru Torito with Kokoro, Namiko Eshtima with Namiko’s and Chris Owen with Madre Coffee Collective. This year, the Committee will be focusing its efforts on the following:

- **Business resources** - communicating all the resources businesses may take advantage of including loans, training and marketing services.
- **Business Appreciation** - develop opportunities to appreciate business in Arvada.
- **Targeted visits** - conduct a variety of retention activities.

To learn more about the Retention Committee members and read the 2021 Work Plan, visit arvadaeconomicdevelopment.org/about/retention-committee.

New Arvada businesses

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

- Barber-Nichols Inc.  
  6350 W. 56th Ave.
- Berger Orthodontics PLLC  
  14749 W. 87th Pkwy.
- Blazing Bird  
  12368 W 64th Ave.
- Freedom Street Social (Food Hall)  
  15177 Candelas Pkwy.
- New Arvada Vet LLC  
  6645 Wadsworth Blvd.
- Take 5 Oil Change  
  6795 Wadsworth Blvd.
Sub-Area planning is underway, and we want to hear from you

In late 2020, the City kicked off sub-area planning for several areas of Arvada. Sub-area planning helps shape the future character of specific neighborhoods and relies on resident input. The City has hosted several open houses within the areas of Square Lake in partnership with Adams County, New Town and Northwest Arvada. To learn more about these areas and additional area plans that are anticipated to be completed over the next few years, visit AdvanceArvada.org.

The initial virtual interactive public community meetings for the designated areas were held in February and March. The City team was inspired to see so many people participate in the meetings. The feedback is helpful as we develop the area plans. If you were unable to attend, or would like to learn more, the recorded meetings are available at AdvanceArvada.org, and while you’re watching, click the green button and add your comments.

The next round of public meetings will be scheduled in the early summer of this year as well as additional public participation opportunities. The City of Arvada Planning team looks forward to continuing these long range planning efforts. If you have questions, comments, or would like to drop staff a line, contact us at Advance@Arvada.org.

How does the City decide what to build and where?

One of the great things about Arvada is its engaged residents. The City frequently receives questions about development projects and how different residential and commercial areas grow and change over time. A number of online tools are available to answer your questions about development in the City.

**Story Maps** - All current development projects that are under review or in construction may be viewed at arvada.org/development. All you need is the project address.

**Arvadapermits.org** - Using arvadapermits.org gives access to permit and project records 24/7. Visit arvada.org/using-the-online-application-tool to learn more.

**Develop and Review Process** - Once a pre-application is submitted, the information is public eTRAKIT. To learn more about the process, visit arvada.org/develop.

**Arvada Economic Development Association** - is the community’s business-to-government liaison and supports new and existing businesses. Visit arvada.org/economic-development to learn more or email bizinfo@arvada.org if you are looking for more on a specific industry.

Along with these tools, you can find additional information about engineering and property at arvada.org/develop or contact the planner of the day with questions and/or comments at pod@arvada.org. You can also reach the team at 720-898-7435.

The Arvada Report | 17 | April - May 2021
It is with tremendous pride to announce that the Insurance Services Office (ISO) has given the Arvada Fire Protection District a rating of Class 1 effective June 1, 2021.

The ISO rating is used to calculate how well-equipped our fire department is to put out building fires in our community. The ISO provides this score to insurance companies. Insurance companies then use the score to determine insurance premiums on properties in the District. The more well-equipped a fire department is to promptly extinguish building fires, the less likely a home or business is to burn down.

The ISO fire insurance rating, also referred to as a Public Protection Classification (PPC), is a score from 1 to 10 that indicates how well-protected our community is by our fire department. The lower the ISO fire protection class (with Class 1 being the best), the “better” the fire department – at least in the eyes of the ISO.

There are approximately 30,000 fire departments in the United States with an ISO rating, less than 1 percent of which are rated as a Class 1. This is something our community should all celebrate and be very proud of.

According to the ISO’s Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), there are four main criteria used to determine the District’s ISO score:

- 50% comes from the quality of our fire department, including staffing levels, training, and the location of fire stations in the District.
- 40% comes from availability of water supply, including the prevalence of fire hydrants and how much water is available from them.
Finding ways to conserve water in a water centric industry

The fire service is known for putting water on the fire. Of course we know that Fire Departments do a lot more than that and that the fire service has evolved over time. However, dealing with water is still a large part of what we do and conserving water is essential to our ability to serve the community. Our mission is to preserve life, property, and the environment and one of the ways that we try to accomplish that is by finding ways that we can reduce the use of our natural resources like water!

In 2013 we purchased something called the Draft Commander. The Draft Commander is used to do pump testing of our apparatus. Testing ensures the engine and fire pump are performing with the correct horsepower and the fire pump is pumping the correct amount of gallons per minute. It can also be used as a training prop for our Engineers, who drive the fire engines. The tank of the Draft Commander holds approximately 2,000 gallons. As a training prop our engineers can use the unit to train on flowing water through different sized hoses.

This piece of equipment is designed to recirculate the water used throughout the testing or training process rather than washing it out the end of the hoses. Weiss Fire who developed the Draft Commander publishes that this technology is effectively saving millions of gallons of water worldwide.

• 10% comes from the quality of the District’s 911 communication center (Jeffcom).
• 5.5% comes from the District’s Community Risk Reduction (CRR) programs targeted to prevent fire loss.

The formulas that insurance companies use to determine their insurance rates are complex and constantly changing. All other things being equal, a lower ISO rating should translate to lower property insurance premiums, as it means your property is at a lower risk from serious fire damage.

However, how our ISO rating impacts your insurance premium varies by insurer, and it is often only one of many factors insurers consider with regard to fire safety. Also, some insurers do not use the ISO’s score to set premiums at all. Instead, they use their own metrics based on factors like historical fire data.

On behalf of the Arvada Fire Protection District, I would like to thank and acknowledge the following jurisdictions who are true partners in our collaborative effort to protect our community from fire loss and are equally responsible for our community’s Class 1 ISO rating:

• City of Arvada
• Valley Water District
• North Table Mountain Water & Sanitation District
• Ralston Valley Water & Sanitation District
• Wheat Ridge Water District
• Consolidated Mutual Water Company

Moreover, I would also like to thank and acknowledge the Jefferson County Communications Center Authority (“Jeffcom 911”), who also shares responsibility for our ISO rating of Class 1. In fact, as it pertains to evaluation of 911 dispatch centers, Jeffcom received a perfect score during our ISO rating evaluation.

The District’s Class 1 ISO rating is an excellent example of how cooperation and collaboration between government agencies can improve public safety. Reducing the property insurance premiums paid by our citizens is also a favorable result of such collaboration.

Again, very special thanks to our government partners but especially to our citizens for their continuous support of the Arvada Fire Protection District and our mission to preserve life, property, and the environment.
Eight tips from the National Safety Council for Window Safety Week, April 5 - 11

As spring arrives, Arvada Fire and the National Safety Council encourages parents and caregivers to recognize the importance of practicing window safety year-round. Window Safety Week is observed April 5-11. However, open windows can be dangerous any time of year for young children who are not properly supervised.

Falls from windows can result in serious injury or death and pose an especially dangerous threat for children. Every year, about eight children under age five die from falling out a window, and more than 3,300 are injured seriously enough to go to the hospital.*

It only takes seconds for a preventable window fall to occur. To avoid these needless tragedies, it is very important for parents and caregivers to take steps to prevent home falls.

To protect children, the Window Safety Task Force offers the following tips:

1. When young children are around, keep windows closed and locked.
2. When opening a window for ventilation, use those located out of a child’s reach.
3. Avoid placing furniture near windows to prevent young children from climbing and gaining access to an open window.
4. Don’t allow children to jump on beds or other furniture to help reduce potential falls.
5. Don’t rely on insect screens to prevent a window fall. Insect screens are designed to keep bugs out, not to keep children in the home.
6. Supervise children to keep child’s play away from windows, balconies or patio doors.
7. Install ASTM F2090 compliant devices designed to limit how far a window will open or window guards (with quick-release mechanisms in case of fire or other emergency) to help prevent a fall.
8. Teach your child how to safely use a window to escape during an emergency, such as a fire.

Follow the Window Safety Task Force on Twitter and Facebook for more tips and updates on this important safety issue.

* According to Safe Kids Worldwide’s 2015 Report to the Nation: Protecting Children in Your Home
WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?

Our district includes territory that we refer to as the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). These areas are primarily located in the western half of the District. As our communities continue to develop there will be an increasing number of homes that lie within this interface.

Defensible Space is your property’s front line defense against the spread of fire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home’s chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property.

SPRING CLEANING!

ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green
1. Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
2. Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
3. Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

ZONE 2: 30–100 feet of Reduced Fuel
4. Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
5. Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
6. Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire
7. Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.

VERTICAL SPACING
Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical “fire ladder.”

HORIZONTAL SPACING
Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants, the amount of spacing will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.
From April through October each year, Bike Friendly Arvada leads fun, organized “themed” bike rides throughout Arvada. Rides are geared for cyclists of all levels with a focus on children, families and casual/recreational riders.

April/May bike rides include:

- **April 17**  
  Coffee Ride, Red Silo, 10 a.m., 6590 Holman St.  
  #207, free coffee before the ride.

- **May 1**  
  City Council Rides the Arvada Bike Loop, 10 a.m., Olde Town Square, 57th & Olde Wads.

- **May 16**  
  Big Dry Creek Ride, 10 a.m., Epic Mountain, W. 92nd Ave. and Wadsworth Blvd.

- **May 22**  
  Fire Station Ride, 10 a.m. Volunteer Firefighters Park, W. 84th Ave. and Garrison St.

For a full schedule, ride descriptions and maps for Bike Friendly events in Arvada, visit [meetup.com/BikeFriendlyArvada-Community-Bike-Rides](http://meetup.com/BikeFriendlyArvada-Community-Bike-Rides).

**Bike Friendly Community Bike Rides**

**First Annual Garden Tool Sale at the Community Garden**

April 17, 8 a.m. until noon.

**Masks are required, social distancing is practiced.**

The Arvada Festivals Commission (AFC) continues to plan re-imagined events for Arvadans this spring and summer. AFC recognizes the importance of following COVID-19 safety protocols and will always enforce local and state guidelines. Other COVID-19 safety protocols include proper signage, extra hand washing/hand sanitizing stations, employee/volunteer symptom check, and temperature screenings. Additionally, AFC events will include appropriately-spaced vendors and controlled capacity based on the COVID-19 Dial Framework at that time. Event details are not yet finalized but will be worked out in the near future.

**April**

- **Cancelled**  
  Kite Festival

**May through September (tentatively scheduled):**

- **May - September**  
  Movies Around Town with live music before show time

- **June 26**  
  Arvada on Tap

- **Aug. 21**  
  Arvada Days

**Fall 2021 date TBD**

High tea for Seniors

For updates, visit [arvadafestivals.com](http://arvadafestivals.com) or follow them on Facebook @ArvadaFestivals.

**Free Garden Classes offered at Community Garden**

The Arvada Community Gardeners are practicing water conservation principles and offering a class on water conservation, free and open to the public, at the garden (9195 W. 57th Ave.) Other gardening classes are also offered throughout the growing season. April/May classes include:

- **April 14**  
  Growing Onions

- **April 28**  
  Water Conservation

- **May 12**  
  Container Gardening

- **May 26**  
  Beekeeping

View the entire season of classes at [arvadagardeners.org](http://arvadagardeners.org) or contact Heather Fiedler, heather_fiedler@yahoo.com, 720-341-9968.

**Masks are required, social distancing is practiced.**

**Arvada Festivals Commission Events**

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**Masks are required, social distancing is practiced.**
Tee Off Against Hunger!
Save the Date!

Help feed families in Arvada and surrounding communities by participating in the Arvada Community Food Bank Foundation’s Seventh Annual Charity Golf Classic scheduled to be held Monday, Aug. 16, at Fossil Trace Golf Club in Golden. Mark your calendars now to play in the 18-hole shotgun tournament. For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, contact Leanne at lcadman@cotable.org or 720-437-6394 or visit cotable.org/event/seventh-annual-charity-golf-classic.

You can help stop child abuse

Educated caregivers and community members can significantly reduce the likelihood of sexual abuse by taking actions to stay informed about how to prevent, recognize, and respond to sexual abuse. Ralston House encourages you to keep an open, healthy dialogue with your children to give them the confidence they need to confide in you about this sensitive subject. To schedule a free Ralston House prevention training to learn prevention strategies and tips on how to start the conversation with your child, visit ralstonhouse.org. Schedule your training today and help stop the abuse and start the healing.

Support the care of critters; support Foothills Animal Shelter

The Foothills Animal Shelter staff care for thousands of cats, kittens, dogs, puppies and critters every year and offer a variety of services to the community including pet adoption, pet licensing, affordable spaying and neutering, vaccinations, microchipping and rescuing lost and found pets. Learn how you can access their services and how you can support their goal to make lives better for pets and people at foothillsanimalshelelter.org.

MAKING LIVES BETTER FOR PETS AND PEOPLE
WOOD.WORKS
AND
CARLEY
WARREN:
THREE PIECES

SUMMER CAMPS
AT THE CENTER

Let your child’s creativity blossom this summer at the Arvada Center. Virtual and in-person camps available in visual arts, drama, dance, digital arts and more.

“...The artists deliver a depth and quality of goods that force a reconsideration of any idea that wood is archaic.”
- The Denver Post

Make your free reservation today!

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON THEATRE

Celebrate the power and joy of theatre with virtual and in-person performances!

OUR FAVORITE THINGS
Take a trip down memory lane and hear some of your favorite musical theatre tunes from the past 45 years.

THE GREAT GATSBY: A RADIO PLAY
Let your imagination shine with the decadence of the classic jazz age story adapted for the audio format.

For Tickets and Reservations, visit
arvadacenter.org
or call the Box Office at 720.898.7200