Connect with Us

Engage with City Council

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.Arvida.org
Subscribe to arvada.org/ArvadaNews
Call us 720-898-7000

Emergency 9-1-1

- Liquor Licenses 720-898-7550
- Majestic View Nature Center 720-898-7405
- Municipal Court 720-898-7150

Non-Emergency Dispatch 720-898-6900
- Police Records 720-898-6920
- Animal Control 720-898-6850
- Park Pavilion Reservations 720-898-7410
- Arvada Economic Development 720-898-7010
- Planning and Zoning 720-898-7435
- Arvada Urban Renewal 720-898-7060
- Sales Tax 720-898-7100
- Building Inspections 720-898-7630
- Special Event Permits 720-898-7435
- Building Permits 720-898-7620
- Streets 720-898-7720
- City Clerk’s Office 720-898-7550
- Traffic Signals and Signs 720-898-7740
- Code Enforcement 720-898-7590
- Victim Outreach Line 720-898-6770
- Communications 720-898-7507
- Voter Registration 720-898-7550
- Engagement hotline 720-898-7654
- Waste Hauling and Recycling 720-898-7575
- Finance 720-898-7120
- Water Bills 720-898-7070
- Housing 720-898-7494
- Water Quality (business hours) 720-898-7800
- Lake Arbor Golf Club 720-898-7360
- Water Quality (after hours) 720-898-7820
- West Woods Golf Club 720-898-7370

The Arvada Report is a newsletter published by the Arvada City Manager’s Office, 720-898-7500.
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In the aftermath of the terrible tragedy that took place on June 21 in Olde Town, the Arvada Mayor and City Council issued statements to the community. You can read the following excerpts from those statements and read full versions of these statements at arvada.org/arvada-line-of-duty-death:

City Council’s June 22 statement:

“Your City Council remains shocked and deeply saddened by the violence that killed Arvada Police Officer Gordon Beesley and others, and that was witnessed by so many in our community. We also remain steadfast in our support for our Police Department and the City Team, and in our faith in the Arvada Community to come together to help each other through this extremely difficult time. We are grateful to the community members who helped protect each other during the violence and who are working now to provide mental health support and friendship to those most severely affected by this tragedy.”

“The loss of Officer Beesley is heartbreaking. The City's 2014 Employee of the Year, he was a hero who continually demonstrated dedication and kindness in service to our community. Officer Beesley never hesitated to answer the call of duty...”

“We stand with... the Arvada community. We understand that [the June 21] events have been extremely difficult for the rest of our City team, our community partners and the entire community, particularly the people visiting or working in the Olde Town area. Our thoughts are also with the Oberon Middle School community, where Officer Beesley built so many enduring relationships.”

“Despite what happened, Arvada remains a community of neighbors and friends. We will follow Officer Beesley's example, and we will continue to find and grow what is good in our community.”

Mayor Williams’ June 28 statement:

“An individual who had hatred for the police, and for the Arvada Police in particular, set off a horrendous chain of events that has led to three tragedies and adversely affected many people.”

“Johnny Hurley was a visitor to Olde Town, who took decisive action to protect others without thought for his own safety. Based on reports, he shot and killed the gunman, which without question saved lives of other officers and potentially other citizens in our community. He died a hero, and we will forever call him a hero to our community. Arvada will forever be in his debt, and we offer our thoughts and our prayers to his family, friends and loved ones.”

“We mourn the death of Mr. Hurley, but we also support our police officers and remain mindful of the challenges and the circumstances they confront in an active shooter situation. They face that potential each and every day, and they are trained to address it.”

“Our thoughts and prayers are also with our officers and their families as they cope with the aftermath of Monday's events.”

“Through it all Arvada is strong. We are resilient. We are hurting, but we will, as we always do, help each other out. We will do our utmost to keep Arvada safe and the special place we call home.”

Arvada City Councilmembers attended a June 21 procession in honor of fallen Arvada Police Officer Gordon Beesley.
Get ready for a NEW and IMPROVED way to request services

Ask Arvada is the City’s 24/7 online service you can use to ask questions and request services. For more than 15 years, many residents have used this system to conveniently interact with the City. As part of our commitment to providing the highest level of customer service possible, we recognized it was time for an update! Last spring we invited our residents to take a survey on Speak Up Arvada to learn how you use Ask Arvada. The results from that survey helped inform the design of the new system, and we look forward to unveiling the new, improved Ask Arvada soon!

At the time this edition went to print, we were anticipating the launch to take place in mid-August. Stay tuned to the ArvadaNews, Arvada.org, the City’s social media platforms and the engagement hotline (720-898-7654) for up-to-date launch announcements.

Community Engagement Telephone Hotline

Not everyone prefers going online to get information, and some in our community are not able to access reliable internet. That’s why we created a community engagement phone hotline. This line enables those who prefer the phone to the internet to learn about current City projects and issues. And when we need your feedback about a particular topic, you can participate by leaving a voice message on the hotline for the City team. The line is updated weekly (or as needed). Call the hotline at 720-898-7654.

Five-year anniversary of City’s Vision, Mission and Values

This year, the City team is celebrating the five-year anniversary of its organization-wide initiative that redefined our Vision, Mission and Values to ensure we are serving the Arvada community to the utmost of our abilities. We continue to work to find ways to improve our services and to carry out our Vision, Mission and Values everyday.

Vision: We dream BIG and DELIVER

Mission: We are dedicated to delivering superior services to enhance the lives of everyone in our community.

Values:

Innovation - We excel in creativity, flexibility and the use of best practices while valuing diverse backgrounds, ideas and perspectives.

Passion - We are a high performing, inclusive team inspiring each other to pursue excellence.

Opportunity - We value our diversity, embrace possibilities, face challenges, persevere and take action to deliver quality results.
Arvada is a great place to live, work and play. We are lucky to live close to natural resources like Ralston Creek, Van Bibeber Creek and the open space areas along the Foothills of the Rocky Mountains and throughout our City. Living in Arvada means understanding the hazards we face, including severe winter storms, extreme heat and cold, flooding and wildfire.

Each September, we recognize National Preparedness Month to promote family and community disaster planning. Preparedness begins at the individual level in our community.

The following are a few key preparedness actions to take as a resident in our community:

Sign up for our emergency notification service, CodeRED → your911.net

- If you need to know about a hazard or take action to protect yourself, one of the quickest methods to receive this information is through CodeRED.
- Landlines are automatically included in CodeRED notifications, but residents and businesses are encouraged to visit the CodeRED registration website to add additional contact information, including additional cell phone numbers, SMS (text) and email address preferences.
- You may also elect to receive severe weather notifications.

Create an emergency plan for your household

- It is possible that your most important assets (your property, your car, furniture) could be damaged or destroyed during an emergency. Having a basic plan in place for your household will keep you safe and prepared if you need to respond quickly.
- Visit ready.gov/plan to view a list of key questions to answer and documents to collect to create your household’s emergency plan.

Build an emergency kit

- Building a home emergency kit to have on hand in case of an emergency can be lifesaving. Here are the top six items to have in your kit:
  - Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
  - Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
  - Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
  - Flashlight and extra batteries
  - First aid kit
  - Cell phone with chargers and extra batteries
For more resources, visit www.arvada.org/prepare.

Connect with your neighbors

- Are you involved in our Neighbors Connected program? Join your neighborhood’s next meeting or start your own group by learning more at arvada.org/neighborhoods.
- Research and experience show that communities that recover quicker from disasters are those that have strong social networks.
- Complete the Talent Bank Tool with your neighbors (found under resources at arvada.org/neighborhoods).

Get in touch

Would you like to learn more about emergency preparedness? We’d love to hear from you.

Melissa Ryder, mryder@arvada.org
Michelle Kircher, michelle.kircher@arvadafire.com

September is National Preparedness Month
Bond projects update

Ralston Road Phase 2 (Yukon to Garrison streets) is well underway. Utility crews are working to relocate and install gas, electric, fiber and cable lines through the corridor.

Xcel Energy has been working to bury overhead power lines, and remove and install a gas line from Garrison Street to Everett Street as well as various cross streets during overnight hours.

Work during daytime hours, includes asphalt and concrete removals on the north side of Ralston Road between Yukon and Estes streets, sawcutting for water lines and storm drains, and continued potholing and erosion control.

The estimated timeline for gas, cable and electrical work through the corridor is six months, starting in March 2021. The City’s contractor, Hamon Infrastructure Inc., was given the Notice to Proceed on May 3, 2021, for the completion of the project within 730 calendar days.

Visit arvada.org/ralston-road-project to sign up for periodic project updates.

W. 72nd Avenue (Kipling to Simms streets) Widening Project

Tree removal and early utility work has begun in the corridor. Visit arvada.org/w-72-ave to sign up for periodic project updates.

Waste and recycling service has started!

In June 2021, waste and recycling carts were delivered to participating households throughout the community. Nearly 30,000 carts were delivered in advance of the City’s first service day, July 5. The City team and our partners at Republic Services thank community members for their patience as we rolled out this program.

Residents who are participating in the City’s Waste and Recycling Program with cart service are encouraged to visit waste.arvada.org to find resources such as links to service calendars, recycling education materials and rates.

Residents who are participating in the program at the minimum service level are encouraged to visit waste.arvada.org to learn more about future large item and leaf recycling events.
**Understanding your utility bill**

The Arvada Water, Wastewater, Stormwater and Waste and Recycling utilities are funded through rates, service fees and new tap fees, not taxes. The City does not make a profit on these services or use the funds generated for anything other than providing water, sewer, stormwater and waste and recycling services. The rates are designed to recover the costs of providing reliable, high-quality water service; to efficiently remove, treat, and dispose of sewage generated by our customers; to safely discharge stormwater into local waterways; and to provide waste and recycling services.

The City bills every two months for services. Your City of Arvada utility bill reflects your water, sewer usage of the previous two months. For example, a bill in May reflects usage from March and April.

*Due to the complexities of the billing system, waste and recycling fees may reflect between 1 to 3 months of service depending on the cycle.*

For questions about your City of Arvada utility bill, please contact the Utility Billing Division at 720-898-7070.
The Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA) has drafted a Retention Committee Work Plan to set forth annual goals with measurable metrics. The work plan focuses on three main goals, including Targeted Visits and Retention Services, Business Appreciation, and Retention Committee Engagement. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the team to get creative to meet these goals in 2020. The team transitioned retention visits to virtual check-ins, and business engagement became a priority to ensure our community was receiving pertinent information regarding financial support, communication around COVID regulations and restrictions, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), etc. With restrictions lifted, AEDA team members have been able to safely meet with businesses in person again. In the first quarter of 2021, AEDA conducted 20 retention visits. Main themes during these visits included COVID-19 impacts and the current financial health of the business, marketing support and future business plans.

Teh AEDA team was excited to welcome Footers Catering, a 40-year-old family-owned catering and events business, as the company opened Social Capitol, its 40,000 square foot headquarters, catering kitchen and event center, at 6543 Wadsworth Blvd. AEDA was able to support the redevelopment with an Economic Impact grant, which was presented by AEDA Board members upon its opening. For more information about the Retention Committee 2021 Work Plan, visit arvadaeconomicdevelopment.org/about/retention-committee.

AEDA’s 2020 Annual Report
Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA) recently published its 2020 Annual Report. The report highlights AEDAs Impact-Driven Strategic Plan, including Economic Impact, Community & Customer Impact, and Organizational Impact. It also features AEDAs role with the City of Arvada Emergency Business Recovery Initiative and the Arvada Resiliency Taskforce. The report is digital, and available on AEDAs website at arvadaeconomicdevelopment.org/2020-annual-report.

Looking for a new job?
The Arvada Chamber’s new Arvada Career Hub is open to all local businesses and nonprofits to post new positions. Find the latest opportunities or add new part-time and full-time openings at arvadachamber.org/arvada careerhub.
Arvada Chamber of Commerce recognizes the 2020 Business and Nonprofit of the Year

The Arvada Chamber of Commerce recognized the 2020 Business of the Year and Nonprofit of the Year winners at the Chamber’s 96th Annual Dinner on June 25.

The 2020 Business of the Year is Flatirons Dance. Founded in 2016, Flatirons Dance is based on family values – the key ingredient that enables this studio to successfully stand out in the world of dance. More than 20 professionally-trained staff members provide a nurturing and inclusive environment, with the focus on treating each student like they are a welcome addition to this special family. Currently, more than 400 students are enrolled in year-round classes at this studio, with classes ranging from ballet to tap and jazz, from cheerleading and hip-hop to musical theatre.

The 2020 Non-Profit of the Year is Epic Experience, which serves the cancer survivor and thriver population. The focus is around mental and physical health for those who have or continue to fight cancer. During the pandemic, Epic Experience transformed its signature in-person camp experience to virtual programs. In order to accommodate its immune-compromised target audience, the non-profit also provided educational how-to videos, free virtual yoga and fitness programs, and a virtual 3-day camp experience. Epic Experience’s work has been nationally recognized and has helped put Arvada on the map as a place of love, compassion and family. Videos and more information about the winners can be found at arvadachamber.org.

What is the Development Review process in Arvada?

The City reviews development projects to ensure they are consistent with the Community’s values and are implemented in ways that support and enhance our safety and quality of life. As part of this review, proposed developments must go through a rigorous, three-step process to comply with the City’s regulations. The process is applied to projects related to residential subdivisions, multi-family housing units and commercial buildings. The amount of review time and specific requirements for each step can vary.

1. **The pre-application.** The applicant attends a pre-application meeting where they learn about the types of review and preparation the project will need. For example: does the project impact traffic? Does it require re-zoning? Is a neighborhood meeting required? At the end of this step, a City planner provides a checklist of documents the developer must submit.

2. **The formal application.** The applicant compiles the required documents and submits them to the City as part of an application package.

3. **The Development Review process.** This includes layers of review from City teams, such as Planning, Engineering, Utilities and Parks. Projects must align with Community values and meet criteria outlined in Arvada’s Land Development Code. Along the way, public hearings may be required and certain projects will go on to the Planning Commission and City Council for additional feedback and approval. For example, this occurs when rezoning is needed for a proposed development. This meticulous process ensures development projects are compatible with the variety of services and amenities available to the community that help make Arvada a great place to live, work, learn and play.

   Once the project receives final approval, it is ready for construction. To learn more about the Development Review Process, visit arvada.org/DevelopmentReview.
Ralston House .5K

The Ralston House .5K Endurance Challenge Race/Walk is coming to Arvada on Saturday, Aug. 21! One hundred percent of your registration donation benefits the Ralston House Child Advocacy Center, a non-profit organization providing a safe place for children and teens who have witnessed or experienced physical or sexual abuse. Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 for children 15 and under, or $80 for a four-pack. All registered participants receive a finisher medal and .5K race t-shirt. To sign up for one or both races, visit ralstonhouse.org/race.

Dear Neighbors,

Hope Emerges

As the end of the COVID-19 pandemic nears, our community has emerged from isolation. Summer is drawing to a close, yet the air remains warm and hope and healing take-hold - not just for a return to normalcy, but for child victims who spent nearly a year in isolation with their perpetrators.

As child victims return to school this fall, to places of worship, and to recreational activities after many months in isolation, trusted and safe adults are recognizing signs of abuse in these children and are reporting the suspected abuse to authorities.

Ralston House Relies On You

Ralston House continues to rely on our community to support child victims in our community. Join our team by making a donation at RalstonHouse.org to help stop child abuse in our community.

Thank you for being a part of OUR team. Only YOU can make the difference.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Don Moseley
Executive Director
In Memoriam
Officer Gordon Beesley

“Look for the good in everyone.” - Gordon Beesley

End of Watch 6-21-21

This oak tree was planted in Davis Lane Park in honor of Officer Beesley’s Employee of the Year award. He asked for one “that would be a good climbing tree.” Officer Beesley’s bicycle is also pictured.

Photos from previous pages: 1. Officer Beesley at his pinning ceremony. 2. Beesley at his desk at Oberon Middle School. [credit 9News] 3. Beesley at the Employee of the Year tree planting ceremony. 4. Officer Beesley on duty in the motorcycle unit. 5. Beesley with Oberon students. 6. Beesley riding with students to school. [credit 9News] 7. Beesley helping plant his Employee of the Year tree.
In 2002 Gordon Beesley was sworn in as an Arvada police officer. He spent his first four years as a patrol officer. You had a positive impact on my kid's life; sorry I never told you. You will be missed. Thanks for your service. Amanda

I remember him being a gentle giant so many years ago and it seems he used this gift to be a source of strength and compassion for so many. Joanna

Officer Beesley and the students thrived together. His outstanding service to the students was recognized in 2014 when he was named City of Arvada Employee of the year.

In 2006, Gordon transferred to the motorcycle unit, where he spent the next five years as a traffic officer. I'm going to honor his legacy by trying to be more like him. Jim

In 2011, Officer Beesley found his calling as a school resource officer at Oberon Middle School where he spent the next ten years. I never really had friends in middle school, but I always looked forward to running outside to play with Officer Beesley. He will forever be in my heart and be my hero. Amanda

Gordon was a lot of things in life. He was a father, a husband, a brother, a son. He was a police officer, a friend, a musician, a cyclist. In addition to all this, he was kind; he was caring; he was humble. He had a fundamental goodness to him that is all too rare. His goodness stood out from the rest so significantly that you would stop and ask, “why aren’t more people like Gordon?” . . . After five minutes with Gordon, you couldn’t help but walk away feeling better . . . [He] was, quite simply, one of the finest human beings I’ve ever met.

Arvada Chief of Police Link Strate

In 2015, at the Employee of the year tree planting ceremony, the City team planted a Red Oak tree in his honor.

Photo credits on next page.
In Memoriam
Officer Gordon Beesley

“Look for the good in everyone.” - Gordon Beesley

End of Watch 6-21-21

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1. Officer Beesley at his pinning ceremony.
2. Beesley at his desk at Oberon Middle School. [credit 9News]
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4. Officer Beesley on duty in the motorcycle unit.
5. Beesley with Oberon students.
6. Beesley riding with students to school. [credit 9News]
7. Beesley helping plant his Employee of the Year tree.

This oak tree was planted in Davis Lane Park in honor of Officer Beesley’s Employee of the Year award. He asked for one “that would be a good climbing tree.” Officer Beesley’s bicycle is also pictured.
It’s back-to-school time. Help ensure that all kids are well-nourished and ready to learn by donating today!

One in nine kids does not know when they will have their next meal. According to studies, the effects of chronic hunger may last a lifetime. Hungry kids often fail to reach their academic, physical and social potential due to poor health and not knowing when they may have another meal can cause kids to have anxiety and depression.

School nutrition programs are there for kids during the week, but weekends can be tough when there is not enough food in the house. You can change that.

By supporting Feeding the Future, you can help make certain all children in our community have enough to eat. Since 2006, Community Table has distributed hundreds of thousands of weekend meals to schoolchildren, stocked emergency food pantries at schools and provided snacks and ready-to-eat meals to homeless teens. Help Feed the Future at cotable.org/donate.
Sea Creature Oil Pastels
Wednesday, Aug. 11, 9 a.m. to noon. Ages 6-12 yrs, $10.

Nature Discoveries
Third Tuesday of each month, 10 to 11 a.m. All ages, free.
Different topics and locations each month. Check the website calendar for details.

G.O. Time (Get Outdoors)
Saturday, Aug. 21 & Saturday, Sept. 18, 9 to 10 a.m.
Ages 4-9 yrs, free.

Nature Walks: With a Fun ‘Pinch’ at the end!
Tuesday, Aug. 10, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Adults, free.
Meet at Standley Lake Library Sundial, 8485 Kipling St.

Pitch, Play, and Stay - Family Camp Out in the Park
Aug. 7, 4:30 p.m. to Aug. 8, 9:30 a.m. All ages, $30 R, $35 NR.
Register at bit.ly/PitchPlayStay

Adventures in the Rainforest Art Club
Wednesdays, Aug. 25 to Oct. 6, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Ages 6-14 yrs. $90/10 weeks

Monarch Warrior Workshop
Saturday, Aug. 14, 10 a.m. to noon All ages, free.

Fall into Art Kids Workshop
Saturday, Sept. 25, 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 6-12 yrs, $15
(materials included)

Nature Rhythms
Second Saturdays, 7 to 8 p.m. All ages, $8
Listen to and experience a hands-on sound bath in the gardens at sunset.

Pollinator BioBlitz Challenge
Saturday, Sept. 18, 9 a.m. to noon.
All ages, free.
Learn about pollinators and help gather conservation data.

Cattail Trail Bird Walk
Friday, Sept. 24, 8 to 9 a.m. All ages, free.
Monarch Warrior Workshop

Calling all concerned butterfly and nature lovers – monarchs need our help! The eastern monarch butterfly population is down; they’ve declined 26 percent from just last year’s population size. So the City of Arvada is participating in the 2021 Mayor’s Monarch Pledge to support the declining populations of Monarch butterflies through a variety of action items throughout Arvada.

You can join our efforts and celebrate these special pollinators with us on Saturday, Aug. 14, and become a Monarch warrior. Learn about these butterflies, tour the pollinator and milkweed gardens to see what it takes to maintain these areas, see where the nearest pollinator garden is to you, and other free, family fun. Learn more about the Monarch Pledge, what we’re doing and other upcoming events at majesticviewnc.org/monarch.

Nature Center Director retires

Karen Miller was hired by the City of Arvada in 2002 to open and operate Majestic View Nature Center. Since then, close to 300,000 people have been served through programs, activities and outreach with over 6,400 functions. “I feel so fortunate to have been a part of fulfilling the City’s goals for environmental education, and I appreciate the support of our great community,” Karen said.

Prior to her role as Nature Center Director, Karen worked for Apex Park and Recreation District coordinating special events, outdoor recreation and youth programs for 16 years. We thank Karen for her 35 years of service to the community and wish her a happy retirement! View Karen’s Profile in Public Service video at arvada.org/nature-center.
Recently, I had the privilege of welcoming 14 participants to Camp Ember, which is a four-day, three-night camp offered to young women ages 16 - 18. The camp is free for those selected and exposes them to the career of firefighting and emergency medical services.

More important than exposing them to this career field, in my opinion, is the exposure they receive to the women who provide the training and mentorship as instructors in the program, all of whom are female firefighters.

My introduction to the group of young women this year was followed by a speech from a woman with a remarkable story. The speaker was a dean of instruction from Red Rocks Community College. She proceeded to tell the group that she was born in Israel and that her parents and grandparents were born in Iraq.

Just two short generations ago, the dean explained, her grandmother was forced into marriage at the age of 14 with a 30-year-old man because her family was financially indebted to the man’s family. With an 18-year-old daughter of my own in the camp, as well as being the father of two other teenage daughters, I was captivated by the dean’s story.

Inspiring the next generation of women firefighters
By Chief Mike Piper
Such an arrangement in America would literally be a crime, but in some other countries, women are merely regarded as property. The message was clear — unlike those who are oppressed and less fortunate, everyone in the room was free to pursue their dreams and forge their own path.

This powerful experience reminded me of how grateful I am for the women in our profession, especially those who pioneered the integration of women into what was once regarded as a profession for men. In doing so, they made our profession much better than it otherwise would have been. To see the instructors at Camp Ember leading by example and opening doors for these impressionable 16 - 18-year-old women was stirring.

All week long, campers learned a multitude of fire and rescue skills, like fire hose handling or bunker gear drills. All the more imperatively, they built life skills and were inspired by their instructors to reach their full potential.

Some of these campers may become our next generation of women firefighters at Arvada Fire. My hope is that an abundance of young women seize the opportunities present in America today to pursue their dream, be it a firefighting career or any other interest, obtain an education, and consequently live a life more fulfilling than it otherwise might have been.

If you are or know a young woman aged 16 - 18, please consider a career in the fire service and visit campember.net. I hope to see you at Camp Ember next year!

Using sensory kits to calm those with special needs

Noises and sirens, flashing lights, and the anxiety of an incident involving first responders can be stressful for anybody. For those with autism or sensory issues, the commotion can easily become overwhelming.

When Lieutenant Tim McChesney discovered a fire department in another state that uses special sensory kits to calm those with autism, he was eager to bring the idea back to the Arvada Fire Protection District.

“When first responders arrive, the scene gets hectic very quickly,” said Lt. McChesney. “If you can give somebody with sensory issues something to take their mind off the issue and help them from being overwhelmed, it not only helps that person, but everybody involved on scene.”

While Lt. McChesney began researching how to source the supplies for the kits, he was put in touch with a local volunteer organization that has sensory kits of their own. The Lake Arbor Optimist Club, comprised of volunteers who conduct service projects to help youth, donated 45 kits to Arvada Fire.

The kits include sunglasses, earmuffs, stress balls, fidget spinners, a white board and markers, and more. They can be deployed for individuals with any type of sensory issue, such as those with autism, dementia or Alzheimer’s.

Every apparatus in our fleet now includes a sensory kit on board. Lt. McChesney reported successfully using the kits twice already, helping calm a 14- and 18-year-old.
Dive into the time period between 1914 and 1924 in this edition of our walk down memory lane as we celebrate the history of Arvada Fire. More than a century ago, the early department made tremendous progress under the direction of Edward Louis Richter. A hard working “hometown product,” Richter was elected Chief in 1914 at the age of 23.

One of the first significant fires to occur during Richter’s term broke out on Sept. 15, 1914. A church bell was sounded to summon assistance after a citizen accidentally dropped a match in a closet while looking for her night robe. Bucket brigades were formed as wind whipped embers from the home toward adjacent structures. Firefighters and townspeople prevented the fire from spreading to buildings nearby, but could not spare the home from destruction.

Records show that friction between the fire department and the town board began to develop in 1917. This feud culminated when Chief Richter and four firemen held a special meeting, divided up the cash on hand, and disbanded. Richter and his men walked away from the meeting with $7.65 each. Official minutes from the August 29, 1917 meeting read: “Died. No Flowers.”

Two months later, the department again reorganized under Chief Richter. According to a local newspaper article, “about twenty of the sturdy young men of the village enrolled their names as active fire fighters” while a number of local high-ups, like Senator Saley and Mayor Richard Russell, enrolled to give “dignity to the organization on state occasions.”

Provisions for participating in the state volunteer firefighters’ pension fund were completed, and the firemen also joined the recently organized Colorado State Firemen’s Association.

George C. Townsley, Sr. and William T. Olson, Sr. each served as fire chief between 1921 and 1924. Olson operated a successful lumber company that later traded hands and burned to the ground in an incident during 1960 that still remains one of Arvada’s most devastating fires.

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Into the Archives, 1914 - 1924: Olde Town Politics

Introducing the Senior Safety Camp!

Seniors are invited to join the Arvada Fire Protection District this September for a fun, informative Senior Safety Camp designed to improve quality of life and prevent injuries and emergencies.

The camp will meet every Wednesday in September from 10:30-11:30 a.m. A different fire and safety topic will be discussed each week centering issues facing older adults. Potential topics include fall prevention, driving safety, and fire mitigation.

The camp will be held at the Arvada Fire Training Center located on 6651 Indiana St. Light snacks and drinks will be provided, and you are welcome to bring your own chair for comfort.

Seniors can register by calling 303-424-3012.
Annual SAFETY FAIR

Saturday, Oct. 2 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Training Center • 6651 Indiana Street

• Free food
• Safety vendors
• Scavenger hunts
• Fire trucks and ambulances
• Live burn demonstration
• Great giveaways!

Shots for Tots (and teens) will be at the Safety Fair
offering low-cost immunizations for children and teens from 10 AM - 1 PM

www.arvadafire.com
Bike recycle event
Saturday, Sept. 11, 8:30 to 11 a.m.: Streets Maintenance Facility (6161 Olde Wadsworth Blvd.). For more information, visit arvada.org/bicycle-recycle-program.

Bike to Work Day
Wednesday, Sept. 22: Learn more at biketoworkday.co.

Bike Friendly Arvada rides
Community bike rides are continuing through fall! For more information, visit meetup.com/BikeFriendlyArvada-Community-Bike-Rides.

Arvada Festival Commission events
Movies Around Town - Aug. 20
Clear Creek Valley Park (3700 W. 58th Place)
Join us the night before Arvada Days for live music by Keith Hicks at 7:30 p.m. followed by Movies Around Town, featuring Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark (showtime at dusk). For more information, visit arvadafestivals.com.

Arvada Community Garden
9195 W. 57th Ave. (north side, W. 57th Ave. and Garrison Street)
26th Annual Open House
Saturday, Aug. 14, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Garden will provide hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob, drinks, door prizes, kids bags, scavenger hunt, free gardening advice, best plot contest, put-n-take table, garden tours, seeds from the seed library and herb plants. This year’s gardeners will be bringing potluck items made from garden produce to share.

Third Annual Chili Roasting event
Saturday, Sept. 18, 8 a.m. until noon.
Bring your own chilis, and we will roast them for you!

FREE garden classes still happening
Aug. 4    Saving Seeds
Aug. 18   Preserving the Harvest
Sep. 15   Nutrition and Gardening
Sep. 29   Garden Tool Care
Visit arvadagardeners.org for more information.

Arvada Days - Aug. 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Clear Creek Valley Park (3700 W. 58th Place)
Call us old fashioned, but we believe the perfect recipe for family fun starts with fresh air and funnel cakes. We’ll toss in some competitions and crafts along with a dose of everything from derbies to dancing. For more information, check us out at arvadafestivals.com.

Arvada Days
Commission events
What Does it Mean to Be #ArvadaStrong?

When a community experiences a tragedy like Arvada recently suffered, time seems to stop and people come together. Collectively, we feel a deep need to understand, help, and grow. An event so impactful and devastating strips away our differences and reveals the special bond we share as Arvadans.

We invite you to continue to be #ArvadaStrong and work together to help our whole community thrive. Your individual support to be a better neighbor goes a long way to keep Arvada strong. Below are three ways to be #ArvadaStrong.

- **Listen** to and treat one another with grace and respect. Do not expect perfection from your fellow neighbor; healing is a process. At the same time, give yourself space when needed.

- **Lead** by example. If you are in a position to help, do so. Offer a kind word, an open ear, an extra hand, a warm embrace. The smallest of gestures can sometimes make the biggest impact.

- **Lift** up our Arvada businesses and organizations. We can show how resilient this community truly is. Our community is comprised of hundreds of locally owned businesses; they are the backbone of this city. Your support—whether a cup of coffee, a family dinner out or a donation to our food bank—is critical to sustain and advance all of Arvada.

Brought to you by the Arvada Resiliency Taskforce

Pick up a free #ArvadaStrong sticker at one of the following locations in Olde Town Arvada or email jeam@visitarvada.org:

- Apricot Lane, Balfour Goods, Gold Line Grab 'N Go, So Radish, and The Bluegrass Coffee & Bourbon Lounge.

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GET YOUR TICKETS NOW for the 2021-2022 ARVADA CENTER THEATRE SEASON!

Buy online at arvadacenter.org or call 720.898.7200