Marshall Fire: How you can help

The Marshall fire is officially the most destructive in Colorado history in terms of the number of homes and businesses destroyed. Our hearts go out to our community neighbors in Boulder County whose lives were impacted by it, and we thank members of the Arvada community who have given generously in support of their recovery. Although the emergent needs have been addressed, the impacts of the Marshall Fire are profound, ongoing and long term. It is important to continue to offer support well into the foreseeable future. Following are some ways you can do so:

• **Stay informed** - The Boulder County Office of Emergency Management will continue to provide the latest information on the overall event: boulderoem.com/emergency-status.

• **Assist financially** - Contribute financial assistance directly to the Community Foundation Boulder County: coloradogives.org/cofires.

• **Register for volunteer notification** - To be notified of volunteer opportunities, register at coloradoresponds.org.

Thank you for your continued support!

COVID update

As the highly contagious omicron variant continues to spread, please consider the following practices:

**Masking:** At the time this publication went to print, it continues to be a requirement per the Jefferson County and Tri-County public health agencies that masks must be worn in all public, indoor spaces.

**Social distancing:** Use caution with in-person contacts. Gather only in small groups when possible, keep your distance, wear a mask and keep your environment clean.

**Getting a vaccine:** The Colorado Department of Public Health has an extensive up-to-date FAQ page, which includes the top ten most frequently asked COVID vaccine questions. Visit covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-FAQ.

You can find the latest public health orders and COVID-19 information at these resources:

• Jefferson County Public Health: jeffco.us/3999/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19

• Tri-County Health Dept.: tchd.org/818/Coronavirus-COVID-19

• Colorado Dept. of Public Health: covid19.colorado.gov
Employee Awards

Madeline Stephens
Senior IT Project Manager
Service to the Organization

Madeline Stephens received the Employee of the Quarter Award for her contributions to two extremely large City projects. In addition to these two large projects, Madeline managed several other projects, while continuing to provide outstanding service to employees in her regular job duties. Colleagues affirm that Madeline exemplifies the City’s Vision, Mission and Values every day.

Daniel Amador
Combination Inspector 1
Service to the Organization

Daniel received the Employee of the Quarter Award for his work on a months-long project coordinating the switchover from iPads to laptops for field-use for the City’s inspectors group. This project required collaborating with several workgroups and training colleagues on the new programming. Daniel’s colleagues laud him for being an ideal co-worker, for always being willing to help and always having a good attitude.

Trang Tran
Civil Engineer II
Service to the Organization

Trang Tran was awarded both the Employee of the Quarter Award and the Employee of the Year Award for her sustained drive, professionalism, patience, fortitude, diligence and communication efforts on the Ralston Road Phase II project. Trang regularly provides public speaking and presentations to further the goals of the City Council in the City Council Strategic Plan. Co-workers praise her for her professionalism, her skills as a project manager, for going above and beyond everyday and for proving to be a valuable member of the engineering team.

Andrew Stephens
Streets Foreman
Service to the Community

Andy was awarded both the Employee of the Quarter Award and the Employee of the Year Award for the dedication and passion he demonstrates in his service to Arvada residents. One example includes his response to a situation that presented potential danger to motorists. When Andy discovered a deep and wide separation in the road at a railroad crossing, he acted immediately, setting up cones around the separation, notifying the railroad and staying on site until they arrived to make the repairs. Andy’s quick thinking and prompt actions potentially prevented a serious accident and demonstrated his commitment to the safety of the Arvada community.

Team of the Year - Utility Billing

Throughout 2021, the Utility Billing team helped thousands of Arvada residents navigate the recently implemented Waste Hauling Program, while continuing their normal work helping residents pay their water bills. To prepare for this challenge, they tested and validated the complicated implementation of newly-introduced features in the City’s utility billing software. This involved detailed work with technical and non-technical vendors, outside contractors, internal service providers and many city stakeholders. They also tested and validated a large and complicated upgrade to the utility billing software. The team was praised for meeting all challenges, while also maintaining superior service to Arvada’s water customers.
Gordon Reusink, Director of Vibrant Community and Neighborhoods, retires

For forty years, Gordon Reusink served the community and City of Arvada, supporting a vision for the community's parks, trails and open space areas, as well as helping establish the City as a regional leader in golf and hospitality services. Mr. Reusink retired on Jan. 28, 2022.

Reusink joined the City team as an intern in the City Manager’s Office in 1981. Through the course of his career, he served in a variety of positions, including as Assistant to the City Manager, Acting Deputy City Manager and as the City’s Budget Officer. However, his most visible contributions took place while leading the City’s parks, recreation and hospitality functions, including in his role as Director of Parks, Golf and Hospitality and as Director of Vibrant Community and Neighborhoods.

Under his leadership, and as part of a Parks Master Plan Mr. Reusink helped to create, 96 percent of residents are within a 10-minute walk of a park. During his tenure, the City greatly expanded its network of open space, trails and special purpose parks, such as the Arvada Skate Park and Ralston-Central Park, and the City’s golf and hospitality services also increased. In recent years, Reusink helped expand the City’s housing and homelessness programs, in concert with other local and regional partners.

In addition to his direct work within the City team, Mr. Reusink served as a liaison for the City’s partnerships with Jeffco Public Schools, Apex Park and Recreation District, Hyland Hills Parks and Recreation District and the Arts and Culture Committee, and served as the Chair of the Arvada Visitor Center Board of Directors.

Lauding Mr. Reusink’s extensive and significant service to Arvada, City Manager Mark Deven remarked, “Over the course of decades of dedicated service, Gordon has literally helped shape our community. From our vast network of parks and trails to Arvada’s commitment to arts and culture, the amenities that help make Arvada a vibrant place to live have thrived under his leadership. We are grateful for his service.”

A “Profiles in Public Service” video featuring Gordon Reusink will be available later this spring.
Mark your calendars: Waste Hauling Drop Off Events in 2022

Mark your 2022 calendars for three large item drop offs and three leaf recycling events. As a reminder, these events are open to all Arvada residents regardless of which waste hauling company you contract with.

Large Item Drop Off Events
Saturday, June 18, at Stenger Sports Complex
Saturday, July 16, at Stenger Sports Complex
Saturday, Aug., 20, at North Area Athletic Complex
All events are 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. For additional details including acceptable items, see arvada.org/bulky-item-drop-off-events.

Leaf Recycling
These drop off events will be held the first three Saturdays in November (11/5, 11/12, 11/19) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. See arvada.org/leaf-recycling for location information and additional details.

Sign up for Water Conservation programs with Resource Central

Through a partnership with Resource Central, the City of Arvada offers several programs to help residents reduce their outdoor water usage.

Water-Wise Seminars
Sign up to participate in Water-Wise Landscape Seminars on Xeriscape and other sustainable landscaping practices, offered free to Arvada residents. Visit resourcecentral.org/waterwise-yard-seminars.

Discounted smart sprinkler controller
For only $80, qualified City of Arvada water customers can get an Orbit B-Hyve Smart Controller and free installation (total value of $180). Visit resourcecentral.org/slowtheflow/smartcontrollers.

Garden in a box includes a selection of xeriscape perennial starter plants, as well as a professional “plant-by-number” design, planting and care instructions, all available below retail costs. Each garden kit comes with 15-30 locally started plants and customers can choose their favorite low water gardens out of the perennial xeric garden kits available. A limited number of customers can also purchase discounted turf removal services to assist with replacing turf with low water plants. Visit resourcecentral.org/gardens.

Water Quality Report Survey
The City of Arvada wants to hear from residents regarding their familiarity with the Annual Water Quality Report as well as other water quality topics. Register at speakup.arvada.org to take the brief survey.
With the impacts of the Marshall Fire still on our minds, now is the time to prepare yourself, your family, your pets and your household for potential stresses. Did you know that Colorado is at risk for blizzards, fires, floods and even earthquakes and tornados? There are some simple steps you can take to keep yourself, your family and even your neighbors safer in an emergency:

Make a plan - Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you’ll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Find valuable guidance for developing an emergency plan at ready.gov/plan.

Build a home emergency kit - Most of the items you should include in your emergency kit are inexpensive and any one of them could save your life. For a list of items to include, visit ready.gov/kit.

Be informed - Sign up for emergency notifications. The notification system is used by emergency services agencies in the area to help disseminate information regarding critical incidents. Landlines are automatically included in notifications, but cell phones are not. To add cell phone numbers, SMS (text) and email address preferences, visit your911.net.

**Year ‘round emergency preparedness**

As we approach spring runoff season, it is advisable that residents review their flood risk. To see if your property is in a floodplain, check the Interactive Floodplain Map available at arvada.org/floods. Floodplain maps are periodically updated, so it is good practice to review your property’s status.

Other actions you can take to prepare for floods are:

- Obtain flood insurance, especially if your property is in the floodplain. Due to the City’s participation in the Community Rating System (CRS), Arvada residents are eligible for a discount on insurance premiums.
- Have an evacuation route planned.
- Store photocopies of important documents and valuable papers away from your house.
- Sign up for emergency notifications. The notification system is used by emergency services agencies in the area to help disseminate information regarding critical incidents. Learn more and sign up at your911.net.

For more flood information, visit arvada.org/floods.
Where does Sub-area Planning come from?

The current Arvada Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2014 in which it expresses the community’s shared values and vision. The policies that are specified within the Plan help guide development and investment decisions that have a direct bearing on the quality of life in Arvada. The Plan establishes the City’s land use pattern, sets the stage for development regulations and standards, and guides the City in funding programs and capital investments by anticipating future tax revenue. The Plan is reviewed yearly, and is updated when necessary to leverage opportunities to strengthen Arvada’s economy, respond to shifting demographics and resident concerns, and manage growth in order to achieve Arvada’s vision.

The City continually applies the Plan policies and, has initiated the creation of Sub-area plans that focus on targeted areas around the City. Sub-area plans will incorporate the community’s vision into development or redevelopment that happens within the area over the next 20 years. Currently, there are planning efforts to create Sub-Area plans for New Town, Northwest Arvada and Square Lake in collaboration with Adams County. In 2022, there will be additional community participation within the planning process and will be updated on the website. To learn more about all of these efforts, visit AdvanceArvada.org or contact advance@arvada.org. To learn more about the Comprehensive Plan, visit arvada.org/2014-comprehensive-plan.

Business Summit educates and celebrates resiliency

In the Fall of 2021, the Arvada Resiliency Taskforce hosted its 2021 Arvada Business Summit. The goal of the half-day conference was to educate businesses on emergency and mental health preparedness. Over 125 businesses attended the training sessions designed to equip them with the basic tools and resources to respond to a variety of emergency situations. Sessions included Business Safety with Arvada Police, CPR/AED/First Aid/Fire Safety with Arvada Fire, and Mental Health First Aid with the Jefferson Center of Mental Health. The event concluded with the Celebrating Resilience Luncheon to honor businesses for recent response and recovery leadership.

Congratulations to the Celebrating Resilience Winners!

Arvada Great Harvest Bread Company won for Resilient business of the year (honorable mentions to The Bluegrass Lounge and The Lashing Room).

Community Table - Arvada Community Food Bank won for Resilient non-profit of the year (honorable mentions to Arvada Fire and Lutheran Medical Center).
Arvada Resiliency Taskforce honored by Jefferson County

The Arvada Resiliency Taskforce (ART) which is a partnership of local organizations including the Arvada Chamber of Commerce, Arvada Economic Development Association, City of Arvada, the Olde Town Business Improvement District, Arvada Visitors Center, Community First Foundation and many others was awarded the Gateway Award for Community Partner of the year by the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

ART was formed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was recognized for its role in helping businesses navigate through the ongoing business challenges. This included: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distribution to businesses when supplies were difficult to come by (masks, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, etc), grant funding resources and distribution, health mandate education, and marketing and financial programming support.

Arvada Economic Development Director Daniel Ryley said, "We originally created the taskforce because our local businesses are the heart of our community and we knew we needed to act immediately in order to make a difference."

President of the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Kami Welch said that winning the Gateway award is a testament to the taskforce's teamwork. "By working together, pooling our resources and building on our strengths we can accomplish great things," said Welch.

ART continues to work to develop solutions and programming for local businesses impacted by the pandemic and other challenges. To learn more, visit arvadaeconomicdevelopment.org/arvada-resiliency-taskforce-report.

ART was honored by Jefferson County

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Mark your calendar - Sales and Use Tax classes

The Arvada Revenue staff is hosting a free class on collecting and reporting Sales and Use Tax and all Arvada businesses are invited to attend. Important tax topics will be covered such as:

- Licensing requirements, tax forms, and payment options
- What is use tax and how it applies to your business
- What happens when your account is delinquent
- Refund requirements
- When to tax or not tax items
- What to expect from an audit

This is an in-person class, and it is encouraged to bring your specific tax-related questions, as there will be time during and afterwards for one-on-one assistance. Classes are held from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Finance Conference room, located on the first floor of the Annex (east of City Hall), 8001 Ralston Road. The classes will take place the second Thursday of each month. For more information and to reserve a spot, call 720-898-7100.
Hello, I am Commander Melanie Thornton. I recently rotated to the Charlie sector from my prior assignment as the Commander of Police Administration, where I led policy, accreditation, training recruiting and more. I am grateful to return to engaging with the community and focusing on crime trends and quality of life issues in the southwest area of Arvada. Additionally, I lead the mental health and behavioral health efforts and partner with other organizations to help this vulnerable population.

I embrace community outreach with:
- businesses and other organizations that are experiencing crime-related issues,
- those who seek or are open to crime-prevention education,
- schools, HOAs, apartment complexes and faith-based organizations.

In addition, I lead and support our sworn personnel and support staff through change and challenging times.

The Charlie sector tends to experience more property-based crime (as opposed to violent crime). Practice these tips to help reduce property-based crimes:
- Keep vehicle locked; do not leave it running with a key inside; do not leave valuables, weapons and spare keys in your vehicle; lock your vehicles, park them in the garage if possible, and close the garage doors.
- Monitor package deliveries and find ways to keep packages from being left outside when possible.
- Call and report suspicious behavior at 720-898-6900 or 911 for any emergency.
Overall, when compared to the three-year average, the Arvada Police Department (APD) saw an increase in crime between January and September 2021.

What the crime stats reveal
From the data, we learned that “person crimes,” such as assault, harassment and robbery were up two percent; “society crimes,” such as disorderly conduct, trespass and child pornography possession were up 14 percent; and “property crimes,” including auto theft, was up 19 percent. While APD had anticipated an increase in property crimes, 2021 proved higher than expected and was far from an average year for crime – and not just in Arvada, but in most other metro-area cities.

Auto theft no longer just a property crime
Auto theft has traditionally been considered a “property crime.” Ten to 15 years ago, when a car was stolen, it would most likely end up being “chopped” and the parts sold, but that has changed. Now, criminals who steal cars often use them to commit other crimes, including shoplifting, smash and grab burglaries, drug-related crimes (the suspects frequently use meth or fentanyl inside the stolen vehicle), and even shootings. Motor vehicle theft can no longer be considered just a “property crime.” In 2021, more than 756 cars were stolen from our community. Of those, APD filed 191 auto theft charges. Unfortunately, in most cases, there is not enough evidence or the case does not meet prosecutorial standards to file charges. APD remains committed to preventing the auto theft crime trend in an effort to also prevent other crimes.

How you can help
Here are a few simple steps you can take to help prevent auto theft:

- Understand that there is a high likelihood that one stolen car will be used in multiple other crimes.
- Lock your car and remove all valuable and identifying information.
- Park your vehicle in the garage if possible and take the keys inside.
- Watch out for suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

A community is only as strong as the relationships built between neighbors. This is the best crime prevention tool we can create together and it doesn’t cost anything. For more information on crime prevention in your neighborhood, visit arvada.org/crime-and-prevention.
Neighbors Connected relaunch coming soon!

The City of Arvada Neighbors Connected program, paused for re-evaluation during the last several months, will be relaunching this spring! Neighbors Connected empowers residents to become active partners in making Arvada a vibrant and resilient community. The City supports this mission by providing resources and training opportunities to community members who are organizing neighborhood improvement projects, block parties, and events that strengthen their community and enhance quality of life. Through the Neighbors Connected program, community members have planted new trees around local parks, established community gardens, hosted movie nights, coordinated neighborhood barbecues, constructed Little Free Libraries and more!

Neighborhood enrollment in the program provides access to:

✓ Neighborhood Grants
✓ Block Party Trailer
✓ Neighborhood Movies
✓ Training and Networking Opportunities

We anticipate updates regarding the relaunch to be finalized in early spring. These will include an updated enrollment form and an updated neighborhood map. You will soon find information about the relaunch on our Neighbors Connected webpage at arvada.org/neighborhoods. You will also find news about the relaunch on all of our social media channels and other communication platforms, which you can access at arvada.org/find-us-online.

For additional information, including how to connect with your neighborhood group or how to get a new one started, email neighborhoods@arvada.org or call 720-898-7535.
Are you registered on Speak Up Arvada?

Speak Up Arvada is an online tool that the City of Arvada uses to share information and ask for feedback on projects and initiatives from residents, at times that are most convenient to them.

Through Speak Up Arvada, online feedback is considered along with feedback collected during face-to-face events. Online engagement allows a broader cross-section of our community to participate. In the past year, community members participated in a wide variety of projects, including:

- Voting on the final design for the Lake Arbor Recreation Center playground and Lakecrest Park playground,
- Locating pollinator gardens around town and sharing pollinator garden stories,
- Contributing feedback to improve the Arvada Report, the City’s most popular publication,
- Taking surveys to inform the development of sub-area plans for specific areas of Arvada.

In the next year, the Engagement Team’s goal is to increase the number of Speak Up registrants. Currently, 2.5 percent of our community members are registered, and we want to increase that number to 5 percent or more! Please consider registering at speakup.arvada.org to receive the Speak Up newsletter with updates on City projects and to share your perspective with the City team!

Our vision for successful community engagement for parks, open space and trails is to reach every member of our city and provide a convenient forum for them to provide valuable feedback. This feedback directly informs how we shape the built environment of our park system.

Traditional methods for collecting input have included evening meetings during the week at a City facility. That method has been effective in hearing some voices; however, we know that many residents who are passionate about parks, trails and open space are unable to attend in-person meetings during the traditional time frame.

In order to provide more engagement opportunities, the City team is applying a multi-pronged approach. Project-specific engagement may include going out to neighborhood gatherings, HOA meetings, schools, parks, special interest groups, etc. It includes creating both digital and physical materials in multiple languages and providing translation services at larger in-person engagements. We also collaborate with the Arvada Park Advisory Committee made up of residents from the community who weigh in on parks, open space and trail projects. Future community engagement opportunities for parks, open space and trails include Marge Roberts playground renovation, Gold Strike Park, the Holistic Health Park and more. Watch for information in the Arvada Report, the ArvadaNews and on social media. Follow us by visiting arvada.org/find-us-online.
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Ralston House recognizes National Child Abuse Prevention Month by asking the communities that we serve to plant pinwheel gardens or sponsoring pinwheel gardens in order to:

- recognize the role that each of us have in preventing child abuse,
- let victims of child abuse know that their community cares for them and wants to stop child abuse,
- financially support the work that Ralston House does every day.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why a pinwheel?

Started by Prevent Child Abuse America, the organization found that people respond positively to pinwheels, which represent childlike whimsy and lightheartedness and our vision for a world where all children grow up happy, healthy and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities.

Why the blue pinwheel?

Blue is the color used nationally to symbolize child abuse awareness. It is used on ribbons when representing child abuse prevention and awareness as well.

What does “Planting hope” mean?

Ralston House plants pinwheel gardens throughout our communities to show child victims and their families that they are not alone and that their community supports them and stands with them against child abuse.

How can I help?

Contact Jennifer at jkemps@ralstonhouse.org or learn more at ralstonhouse.org/pinwheels to be a part of this year’s month-long Pinwheel Garden campaign and activities. Pinwheel gardens can be planted in your garden, in a planter, placed in a vase or on display in your home or business. Each pinwheel planted helps a child victim. Pinwheel Gardens can be delivered or picked up in March and displayed throughout the month of April.

If you suspect child abuse, please call 1-844-CO-4-KIDS or call 911.

Historic Trolley Returning to Arvada

Many residents are surprised to learn that commuter rail service once connected Arvada to the greater Denver Metro Area for almost 50 years. The very last Denver Tramway Company Car providing rail service in our region took its last run from Arvada to downtown Denver in July, 1950. The #04 trolley that served Arvada was the last car to run, and the last known streetcar in restorable condition. This history was nearly forgotten, but with the help of a dedicated citizen committee, Friends of the #04 Trolley, a generous grant from History Colorado’s State Historical Fund and support from the Arvada Urban Renewal Authority, the trolley will soon be making its way back to Olde Town. The small pocket park at the corner of Grandview and Saulsbury will become the #04 Trolley Park, just feet from the new Gold Line Tracks greeting commuters as they enter Olde Town by rail.

The restoration is complete. Empire Carpentry and Wasatch Railroad Contractors worked for over a year through the pandemic to restore the #04 to the exact historically significant condition during its last run in July 1950.

The City selected Britina Design as the landscape architect for the trolley park. Britina also designed most of the Olde Town Arvada public spaces and the Wadsworth bypass bridge. The park design will be consistent with the design and streetscape of Olde Town. Preliminary designs include a small plaza, landscaping, and pavilion to feature and protect the trolley. Design plans are under development review at the City with final designs and groundbreaking anticipated to happen in 2022.

For more information, visit arvada.org/Arvada-trolley.

To learn more about how to support the project, visit the Friends of the #04 Trolley citizen group website at friends04trolley.org.
Pre-season boat inspections

Pre-season boat inspections for anglers wishing to use their boats on Arvada Reservoir will be held at the end of March with dates TBA. For more information and updates, visit arvada.org/arvada-blunn-reservoir.

Golf Club hiring recruitment

Golf season is just around the corner! The West Woods Golf Club and Lake Arbor Golf Club are gearing up for the upcoming season and hiring staff NOW! Join our restaurant or pro-shop team! Benefits include FREE GOLF, fast-paced environment, food and pro-shop discounts, teamwork and FUN! Apply NOW at arvada.org/jobs!

Reservoir Ranger volunteers needed

Looking to enjoy the outdoors, while also contributing to your community? Like the idea of volunteering in a beautiful setting with fun, friendly people? Come spend a few hours a day a few days a week (or whatever suits your schedule) at the Arvada Reservoir assisting anglers, inspecting boats and weighing fish, while enjoying the tranquility of the lake!

Ranger training will be offered on March 8 and 9 and will include:
- ANS boat inspections training by Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- First aid and defibrillator training
- Fun and friendly customer service practices/techniques
- Tips for hosting the annual Kids Fishing Tournament

Lunch will be provided. For more information and to apply, visit arvada.org/arvada-blunn-reservoir or contact Emily Alba at 720-990-1954 or ealba@arvada.org.
Nature Playdate
Thursday, Feb. 10 & Wednesday, March 23, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Geared toward ages 2-12 yrs, free.

Nature Discoveries
Third Tuesday of each month, 10 to 11 a.m., all ages, free.

Love in Nature Art Workshop
Saturday, Feb. 5, 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 6-12 yrs. $15 (supplies included).
Little artists will create a love-themed masterpiece in this instructor-led step-by-step workshop.

Let’s Make Baskets!
Saturday, Feb. 19, 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 6-10, $5.
Participants will create their own baskets to use when out exploring nature.

Cartooning Animals Art Club
Wednesdays, Feb. 16 - March 16 Ages 6-14, $45/5 weeks.
Learn about animals through the whimsical depiction of them through cartooning.

Duck Stamp Art Workshop
Saturday, Feb. 19, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Ages 8-16, $5 (supplies included).
Create duck stamp artworks to submit to the National Duck Stamp Contest.

Balls for Bees and Butterflies
Saturday, March 12, 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 6-12 yrs. Free.
Have fun learning about wild-flowers and pollinators and create your own seed balls to take home!

Sunset Nature Walk
Saturday, Feb. 12 and Saturday, March 12. All ages, free. Times and locations vary. Check website for details.

Indoor Stargazing
Saturdays, Feb. 19 and March 19, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. All ages, free.
February will focus on deep-sky exploration, and in March we’ll be looking for galaxies!

Night with a Naturalist: Nature Journals
Tuesday, Feb. 22, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All ages, $5/person.
Kids and adults alike will have fun learning the art of nature journaling.

Appalachian Basket Weaving
Saturday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. $25 (supplies included).
Come and weave your own baskets to take home - materials, instructions, and light snacks provided.

Build-a-Birdhouse
Thursday, March 10, 6 to 7:30 p.m. $15 (supplies included).
Attract birds to your yard with your very own birdhouse.

Garden Planning Workshop
Saturday, March 26, 10 to 11 a.m. Free.
Learn tips and tricks from experienced gardeners to plan your own garden to attract birds and other pollinators.

Meditation in Nature
Wednesdays, 12 to 12:30 p.m. Free.
New this year - join us on your lunch break and be guided in various meditation techniques to relax, rejuvenate and be inspired by nature.
Volunteer Open House - Feb. 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Have a green thumb? Want to learn more about animals or show off your naturalist skills? Looking to meet new people and get involved? We need your help! Join the Majestic View family and share your talents and passion with your community.

Drop by the Nature Center to learn about the various volunteer opportunities and meet our current amazing volunteers.

Take our quick poll to help protect Arvada’s trees

We love our trees in Arvada, and we need your help to protect them! Visit Speak Up Arvada to take our quick poll and let us know if you’ve heard of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) threat to Arvada’s ash trees, and if you are treating your trees for EAB. The City Forestry team will use the feedback to determine if the community needs additional information to help protect our ash trees from EAB. Register at speakup.arvada.org to participate.

Prescribed Burns

Our Partner in a Healthy Prairie and Lower Wildfire Risk

Arvada Fire Protection District, in partnership with the City of Arvada’s Parks Department and Majestic View Nature Center, is planning a prescribed burn of Patridge Open Space in 2022.

WHY?

A prescribed fire decreases the risk of an uncontrolled fire and gives Arvada firefighters valuable hands-on training with live fire.

Burning the prairie improves conditions for native plants and wildlife and helps control the spread of invasive plant species.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact:
Tracy Leyva, Arvada Fire Protection District, 303-423-4437

More information will follow in the next Arvada Report.
Due to an increase in 911 calls for behavioral health emergencies, Arvada Fire is implementing a pilot program in the Spring of 2022. The new program is modeled after innovative and highly successful programs in Denver and in Eugene, Oregon.

The new response model will better serve citizens experiencing behavioral health emergencies, while also minimizing the need for police, ambulance and fire trucks to respond to these emergencies.

A team consisting of a social worker or counselor and a paramedic will begin responding to certain 911 calls referred to from the Jeffcom 911 dispatch center. The paramedic’s role on the team is to rule out any underlying medical cause for a behavioral health crisis. The social worker provides the clinical expertise to connect the patient with the best type of resources necessary to address the crisis, often eliminating unnecessary and costly trips to hospital emergency rooms.

Nationally, co-responder models have provided improved quality of care to those experiencing mental health emergencies while decreasing unnecessary arrests or hospitalizations. These models can improve the availability of other agency resources, such as ambulances or fire apparatus that can return to service for other emergencies. The program also reduces costs for the agency by diminishing repetitive calls for service.

As a collaborative effort between Arvada Fire and the Jefferson Center for Mental Health, the impact of the program will be measured with hopes of eventually expanding the program and obtaining alternative sources for funding the program.
“Do the people who drive your fire trucks need to be able to parallel park it?"

The answer is simple and yet a little more complicated. Arvada Fire engineers are not required to show proficiency in parallel parking our apparatus since parking at emergency scenes requires placing the apparatus for tactical advantage.

Driving a fire apparatus is much different than traditional driving. Our engineers are faced with maneuvering very large and heavy apparatus through traffic and residential streets where traditional large vehicles of this size are not driven. So, although you aren't likely to see us parallel park in Olde Town, you can still see our engineers perform a lot of other impressive driving skills.

Engineers are required to demonstrate many maneuvers, such as diminishing clearance forwards and backwards to within 4 inches, serpentine driving forwards and backwards, and vehicle turn around in a 50 x 100 foot box. Additionally, our engineers are also trained to the state certification level of Driver Operator Aerial, and attend continual education and training throughout the year to prove and hone their skills as driver operator engineers.

Seth Smith, Arvada Fire Engineer

Fire hazard from valet trash services

Arvada Fire has seen many apartment complexes providing valet or doorstep trash services for their tenants in recent months. With this service, trash can be left outside of an apartment for scheduled pick-up, saving a tenant a trip to the dumpster.

Although the service sounds convenient, it poses considerable fire hazards. Once the Fire Marshal’s Office became aware of this service, we researched whether it was compliant with the City of Arvada’s adopted fire code. The result was that this service is in violation of the 2018 International Fire Code.

Specifically, it violates the provision that does not allow for combustible storage within hallways and that it reduces the reliability of the means in which occupants would need to evacuate in the event of an emergency. Effective since Aug. 5, 2021, this service is not allowed to be provided and shall be eliminated from use in any building not equipped with a fire sprinkler system.

For those complexes that are equipped with fire sprinkler systems, Arvada Fire will consider the allowance of this service on a case-by-case basis. Specific information can be found at arvadafire.com on the Fire Code Resources page.

Have a question for Arvada Fire? Whether you want to ask a firefighter, paramedic, chief or fire marshal, email us at pio@arvadafire.com with the subject line “Ask Arvada Fire” and we will answer in the next edition of the Arvada Report!
Save a life with PulsePoint

A new mobile app is giving citizens the power to save lives. If you are trained in CPR, you can download the PulsePoint app and be notified if someone nearby is having a cardiac emergency.

PulsePoint Respond will notify users who are trained in CPR and willing to assist in the event of a cardiac emergency through alert notifications. The app can send you directions to the emergency and the location of the closest AED while simultaneously dispatching advanced medical care.

Because less than half of cardiac arrest victims get help before emergency responders arrive, and because every second counts, this app – and your participation – can make the difference and save a life in our community! We’re proud to partner with PulsePoint to offer this service to our community. To participate, visit pulsepoint.org.

Celebrate American Heart Month

February is American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. A healthier heart can lead to a healthier life and Arvada Fire invites you to celebrate this February — and all year long — by looking out for your heart!

President Lyndon B. Johnson, among the millions of people in the country who've had heart attacks, issued the first proclamation in 1964. Since then, U.S. presidents have annually declared February American Heart Month.

Heart disease kills an estimated 659,000 Americans each year. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States. Fortunately, we can reduce our risk for Coronary Artery Disease through healthy lifestyle changes and, in some cases, medication:

- Choose healthy meals and snacks to help prevent heart disease and its complications. Be sure to eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables and fewer processed foods.
- People with obesity have a higher risk for heart disease. Carrying extra weight can put extra stress on the heart and blood vessels.
- Physical activity can help you maintain a healthy weight and lower your blood pressure, blood cholesterol and blood sugar levels. For adults, it’s recommend-ed to get two-and-a-half hours of exercise, like brisk walking or bicycling, every week.
- Cigarette smoking greatly increases your risk for heart disease. If you don’t smoke, don’t start. If you do smoke, quitting will lower your risk for heart disease.
- Manage and check your cholesterol and blood pressure.
As we continue to explore Arvada Fire’s storied history, we’ve arrived at a time period where fire crews witnessed more civilian fire deaths than that of any other generation in the department’s history.

Seven civilians lost their lives in residential fires that occurred between 1981 and 1989. The cause of all but one of the deadly fires is recorded as careless smoking, while one was attributed to a child playing with a lighter.

In addition to the tragic residential fires that characterized the decade, firefighters also confronted some of the worst commercial fires in the department’s history. The Wheat Ridge Lumber Company Fire on March 7, 1985 and the Army-Navy Surplus Fire on May 11, 1989 are two of the most notorious fires in Arvada’s history.

The end of the fiery 1980s did not bring an end to civilian fire deaths attributed to careless smoking. Smoking is the likely cause of a house fire that took the life of a 39-year-old Arvada woman in 1993 and an apartment fire that took two lives in 1996.

On Jan. 24, 1994, our firefighters rescued a 36-year-old man and his two sons, a 7-month-old and 2-year-old, from their burning third-floor apartment on the 6400 block of Quail Street. All three sustained critical burns and were unconscious when firefighters arrived. The family returned to Station 6 to thank the firefighters who saved them after the boys spent a month in a children’s hospital recovering from burns. The fire was one of a pair of 2-alarm fires that Arvada Fire fought that day.

Other notorious incidents in the 1990s include the 2-alarm Mother’s Day fire on May 8, 1994 and the 2-alarm Interstate 70 self-storage fire on Feb. 13, 1995. More than 100 firefighters used one million gallons of water and worked tirelessly in freezing temperatures to contain the I-70 self-storage fire.

In addition to significant fires, this era also saw substantial developments for Arvada Fire. Our eighth station and Training Center were put into service on Jan. 1, 1980. Taxpayers in the fire district approved a $1.5 million dollar bond issue to construct the training facility, which is located at 6651 Indiana St.


During this time, our first thermal imaging cameras were put into use. Thermal imaging cameras enable firefighters to see through smoke and are among the most significant fire service innovations to arise during the 20th century, topped only by the development of motorized fire apparatus and self-contained breathing apparatus.
Olde Town Arvada St. Patrick’s Day Festival!
You are invited!

What: Olde Town Arvada St. Patrick’s Day Festival
When: March 12 from noon to 6 p.m.
Where: The streets of Olde Town Arvada

Olde Town Arvada is thrilled for the return of the annual St. Patrick’s Day Festival. With live music, marching bands, kid’s entertainment, unique vendors, and of course, plenty of libations, this is an experience for the whole family!

Due to concerns around COVID-19, the Arvada Festivals Commission (AFC) has decided to cancel High Tea for Seniors for March 2022. AFC hopes to bring back this event in the fall and will re-evaluate the circumstances in late summer. For updates, visit arvadafestivals.com/high-tea-for-seniors.

The Arvada Festivals Commission is excited to bring the Kite Festival back to Arvada on Sunday, April 10. Mark your calendars and don’t miss out on this free family event. For more information, visit arvadafestivals.com/kite-festival.

Heart Throb 5k in Memorial Park

Feb. 12, 2022
$5 off with code ARVREPORT22
HeartThrobRun.com

Community Garden signup available soon

Garden Plots are available at the Arvada Community Garden, now in its 55th year. The garden is located on a three-acre site at W. 57th and Garrison Street. Returning gardeners have until Feb. 14 to renew their garden plot from last year. Beginning Feb. 15, applications for new gardeners will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Membership is $50/year and includes 12x22 plot, ditch water, tool and equipment usage, greenhouse space, gardener storage, some plants and seeds, sunshine and plenty of free advice. A limited number of 4x8 raised bed plots are available for $25/year, and a few wheelchair accessible plots are available for $15/year. Gardenships for special circumstances are available on an individual basis. Visit arvadagardeners.org for more information and to sign up for a plot.

Save the date for the Kite Festival!

The Arvada Festivals Commission is excited to bring the Kite Festival back to Arvada on Sunday, April 10. Mark your calendars and don’t miss out on this free family event. For more information, visit arvadafestivals.com/kite-festival.
Kasey Goode
Lot One
Kasey has worked at Lot One since the day they opened and is their lead day chef and kitchen trainer. According to Lot One owner Josh Timon, Kasey is an integral part of the kitchen team. Kasey's positive attitude is a big key to his success; he brings new associates up to speed very quickly - which is a necessity in their fast-paced kitchen.

What is the favorite part of your job, Kasey?
"My favorite part of my job is the cooking itself. Not everyone can say they love to cook, but I am one of few who can. I truly love making food look good, and there is nothing better than when I see our customers enjoy their meals."

Tell us about the culture of Lot One.
Lot One really is a "family and friends restaurant." Josh and Jamie host potlucks for our employees a few times a year and organize fun team-building activities outside of work to strengthen our relationships as co-workers. As an employee of Lot One, I really feel valued and taken care of. I am very lucky to be with them.

Hospitality is defined as
"the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers."

What do you think constitutes GREAT customer service?
"I believe great customer service starts with a smile and a welcome from the restaurant staff from the time you walk in the door to the time you leave. Our customers should feel like they are being taken care of - not just having a meal, but having a great experience every step of the way... from the servers to the great food/drinks and leaving our restaurant satisfied. We want every Lot One customer to leave with a smile on their face."

Why do you like working in Arvada?
"I love working in Arvada because the people are kind. It is a beautiful part of Colorado."

Hospitality Heroes of Arvada
Brought to you by the Arvada Visitors Center

The Arvada Visitors Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that works to inspire travel to our community and provides key information to people considering a visit or relocation to Arvada. They have proudly welcomed thousands of guests from around the world since their doors opened on 7305 Grandview Ave. in November 2012.

An investment in visitors is an investment in community. Visitors to Arvada generate sales tax revenue. One quarter of the City’s total revenue comes from sales tax dollars. This revenue helps pay for police services, city parks, improvements to infrastructure, and many other services that benefit the entire Arvada community.
The Black Box Repertory Company features a rotating cast of actors who shape-shift from one role to the next.

**BLACK BOX REPERTORY THEATRE**

**THE LIAR**
FEB 4 - MAY 22

**ANIMAL FARM**
FEB 25 - MAY 21

**STICK FLY**
MAR 18 - MAY 19

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**KiNkY BOOTS**

So much fun, you'll dance out of the theatre.

― ABC News

**MAIN STAGE THEATRE**

MAR 25 - APR 24, 2022

Book by Harvey Fierstein
Music & Lyrics by Cyndi Lauper
Written by Jeff Deane & Tim Firth