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.Arvada.org
Call us 720-898-7000

Inquire at arvada.org/AskArvada
Subscribe to arvada.org/ArvadaNews
Follow us @CityofArvada

Emergency

9-1-1
Liquor Licenses 720-898-7550
Non-Emergency Dispatch 720-898-6900
Majestic View Nature Center 720-898-7405
Police Records 720-898-6920
Municipal Court 720-898-7150
Animal Control 720-898-6850
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
City Manager’s Office 720-898-7500
Victim Outreach Line 720-898-6770
Code Enforcement 720-898-7465
Voter Registration 720-898-7550
Communications 720-898-7507
Waste Hauling and Recycling 720-898-7575
Engagement Hotline 720-898-7654
Water Bills 720-898-7070
Finance 720-898-7120
Water Quality (business hours) 720-898-7800
Housing 720-898-7494
Water Quality (after hours) 720-898-7820
Lake Arbor Golf Club 720-898-7360
West Woods Golf Club 720-898-7370

The Arvada Report is a newsletter published by the Arvada City Manager’s Office, 720-898-7500.
The City of Arvada, 8101 Ralston Road, Arvada, Colorado 80002. It is distributed to all residences and businesses in the City.
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COVID update

Two public health orders were issued in Jefferson County recently that impact local governments. The first requires all employees and visitors to wear masks within City facilities. If you are planning a trip to a City facility, please wear a mask. Remember, for your safety and convenience most City services are available remotely.

The second public health order requires the City to implement a weekly COVID-19 testing program for employees, contractors and volunteers. People who demonstrate they are fully vaccinated can opt out of the weekly testing. The City’s Covid Recovery Team is implementing a confidential system to confirm the vaccination status of those who choose to self-identify.

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

- Tri-County Health Dept.: tchd.org/818/Coronavirus-COVID-19
- Colorado Dept. of Public Health: covid19.colorado.gov

A proactive voice toward State government

The City of Arvada continually monitors and advocates on behalf of our community to the Colorado State Legislature. The legislature has a House of Representatives (65 members) and a Senate (35 members) with several legislators representing different areas of Arvada. Legislation is typically passed during the first half of the year, and those decisions have a deep impact over the direction of the state. Decisions such as body-worn cameras, affordable housing initiatives, funding for state infrastructure and more are decided at the Colorado Capitol.

The City advocates independently and through the Colorado Municipal League to mitigate unfunded mandates that will be at the cost of Arvada taxpayers and to promote the authority of home rule municipalities to ensure we have the flexibility to meet current and future needs of the community.

The next session of the Colorado General Assembly begins on Jan. 12, 2022. We encourage Arvada residents to learn what state bills are being proposed by visiting the Colorado General Assembly website at leg.colorado.gov. We also encourage Arvada residents to communicate with our state elected officials. Remember, your voice counts! To find your state representative and senator, visit leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator.

Unofficial Election Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councilmember At-Large (4 year term)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Smith</td>
<td>54.6% 20,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael P. Griffith</td>
<td>45.4% 16,889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councilmember District 1 (4 year term)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Randy Moorman</td>
<td>51.7% 4,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Canda</td>
<td>48.3% 4,631</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councilmember District 3 (4 year term)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Marriot</td>
<td>51.2% 4,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzie Schuckman</td>
<td>48.8% 4,106</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 3C - Qualifications</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>66.5% 25,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>33.5% 13,039</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 3D - Vacancies</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>69.2% 26,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>30.8% 11,966</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 3E - Initiative Procedures</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60.9% 23,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>39.1% 15,185</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 3F - Referendum Procedures</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60.2% 23,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>39.8% 15,449</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of 11-4-21
Join a City board or commission

Serving on a Council-appointed board or commission is a meaningful way to engage with City government and contribute toward your community’s quality of life. Citizen boards bring together residents with wide-ranging interests and expertise, and take on important issues that shape Arvada’s future. Some of the boards with vacancies in 2022 include:

**Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee (ASAC)**

The ASAC works to preserve resources and foster environmental stewardship. Two of their important contributions include community supported agriculture and Arvada’s new waste and recycling program.

**Design Review Advisory Committee (DRC)**

The DRC works to preserve the historic character of Olde Town. Two prominent examples include the renovation at Steve’s Meat Market and the new construction at Reno Place.

**Arvada Park Advisory Committee (APAC)**

As representatives of the community perspective, APAC members assist with planning and naming recommendations regarding Arvada’s trails and recreational facilities with a focus on parks, nature, wellness and community.
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC makes recommendations regarding Arvada’s transportation system, with a focus on multimodal connectivity, so that Arvadans can walk, bike or scooter to their destinations. One important achievement toward this goal is the Kipling Parkway Underpass.

Arvada Urban Renewal Authority (AURA)

The AURA board is a decision-making body responsible for revitalizing urban areas with high-quality projects. One highly visible example of an AURA project includes the renovation and development at the NE corner of Independence and Ralston Road into the Shops at Ralston Creek.

Nine boards/commissions will have vacancies in 2022

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

To apply to join a board or commission, visit arvada.org/2022boards. Fill out the application online OR download, print and fill out the application. Then:

- email to arvadaboards@arvada.org; or
- fax to 720-898-7515; or
- mail (or submit it in person) to the City Clerk’s Office, 8101 Ralston Rd., Arvada, CO 80002.
(If you would like the forms mailed or emailed to you, contact the City Clerk’s Office at 720-898-7550.)

Thank you! Your interest is appreciated!
Our water system
When you turn on your tap, you expect clean water. Have you ever wondered about the path water takes to get to and from your home? Follow the journey below.

Gross Reservoir
Located in Boulder County, Gross Reservoir stores much of the water that eventually gets sent to the City for treatment.

Water Treatment Plant
The City of Arvada has two water treatment plants: Ralston Water Treatment Plant, which operates year round and Arvada Water Treatment Plant, which runs during warmer months. Together the two plants produce over 6.4 billion gallons of drinking water per year.

Utility Billing
Over the next five years, the City will replace all water meters with smart meters allowing residents to view water usage before they receive their bill.

Water Delivery
The City maintains 632 miles of drinking water distribution pipes. Stretched end-to-end, the pipes would reach Des Moines, IA.

Wastewater
All the water that is flushed down the drain in Arvada flows to Metro Water Recovery treatment facilities in Denver. This regional plant treats all of Arvada’s wastewater. The majority of wastewater rates residents pay passes directly to Metro Water Recovery.
Low Mow/Let it Grow
Maintenance practice for open space and natural areas

The Arvada Parks and Open Space division takes great pride in maintaining both our irrigated and non-irrigated lands. The division maintains more than 2,500 acres of non-irrigated land throughout the city. Each growing season, our parks staff mows approximately 1,350 acres of open space areas bordered by hundreds of private properties. In an effort to maintain the health and aesthetics of the city’s natural areas and trail corridors, the City of Arvada has adopted a Low Mow/Let it Grow practice for open space and natural areas within the city. This practice is similar to policies that other municipalities have enacted and is recognized as a best practice in open space maintenance.

Low Mow/Let It Grow benefits

The Low Mow/Let It Grow practice allows native grasses to regenerate naturally and thrive, which in turn supports wildlife and a balanced ecosystem with increased biodiversity. Healthy native grasses support pollinators, filter stormwater pollutants and reduce non-native weed growth. Additional benefits result from the elimination of fertilizer and herbicide use and lawn mower emissions. And contrary to popular belief, a low mow approach to open space maintenance does not increase fire risk. In fact, healthy, tall, non-dormant native grasses act as a “water reservoir” and provide a level of defense against a stronger-intensity wildfire.

Low Mow/Let It Grow Areas

The Low Mow/Let It Grow areas are important places of special use for Arvada’s wildlife and conservation interests that are different from neighborhood parks and athletic fields in use and maintenance. These open space and natural areas are non-irrigated lands that receive water only from rain and snow and would exist as-is in their natural condition if left undisturbed by humans. They include designated native grass landscapes, designated natural areas, wildlife resting/habitat and trail corridors along with undeveloped City-owned open space properties.

What does this approach look like in practice?

Want to know more about No Mow/Let it Grow practices in the City of Arvada? Visit arvada.org/no-mow.
Recycle your Christmas tree!

The City of Arvada is offering two convenient drop-sites for you to recycle Christmas trees free of charge. We will accept trees from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week beginning Dec. 26 through Jan. 24.

- **Lake Arbor Lake Park** (6400 Pomona Dr.)
- **Stenger Soccer Complex** (W. 58th Ave. and Oak St.)

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

**PLEASE** make sure the tree is free of nails, wire and all decorations to ensure safety of the City staff handling the trees. Remember, only Christmas trees are accepted (no garlands, wreaths or yard waste) and no business or commercial use. For more information, visit [arvada.org/recycle-those-christmas-trees](http://arvada.org/recycle-those-christmas-trees).

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**Holiday Recycling Guide 2021**

**SustainAbility**

**Zero Waste Center**

6240 W. 54th Ave.
Arvada, CO
303-425-9226

**Monday through Thursday:**
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Friday and Saturday:**
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Sunday:**
Closed

**Holiday Closures:**
Nov. 25, 26
Dec. 24, 25
Jan. 1

**SA = SustainAbility**

**Wrapping Paper and Tubes**
Recycle at SA drop-off site
NO SHINY/MIRRORED PAPER

**Tissue Paper**
Compost at SA drop-off site

**Cardboard Boxes**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

**Styrofoam - LG Packaging**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

**Packing Peanuts**
REUSE ONLY
Take to local shipping store

**Bubble Wrap**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

**Christmas Lights**
Recycle at SA drop-off site
NO LARGE LIGHT BULBS

**Large Shopping Bags**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

**Plastic Shopping Bags**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

**Leftover Food and Scraps**
Compost at SA drop-off site

**Cooking Oil**
Recycle at SA drop-off site
COOKING OIL ONLY

**Christmas Trees**
Compost! Find a drop-off site at [PickYourOwnChristmasTree.org](http://PickYourOwnChristmasTree.org)

**Wine & Champagne Corks**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

**Glass Bottles: Wine, Champagne, Beer**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

**Electronics**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

**Cell Phones and Tablets**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

**Bows and Ribbons**
REUSE ONLY - Save for next year!

**Cards and Envelopes**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

**Leftover Food and Scraps**
Compost at SA drop-off site

**Cooking Oil**
Recycle at SA drop-off site
COOKING OIL ONLY

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**Bows and Ribbons**
REUSE ONLY - Save for next year!

**Cards and Envelopes**
Recycle at SA drop-off site

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www.sustainability-recycling.com
**Arvada Report Survey results**

In order to serve our customers better, we recently asked you to fill out a survey regarding what you wanted to see more (or less) of in the Arvada Report. This is a summary of what you told us, and we will do our best to incorporate those preferences in future issues.

- **Overall Rating**
  - **44%** Excellent
  - **44%** Satisfactory
  - **12%** Poor

The majority of respondents said they’d like to see more images and more articles shorter in length. The top four topics respondents are interested in are: City Projects, City Council Actions, Construction Impacts and Calendar of Events.

Thank you for your feedback! To view current and past Arvada Reports, visit [arvada.org/the-arvada-report](http://arvada.org/the-arvada-report).

**Check out the new look of Speak Up Arvada!**

Speak Up Arvada is the website where the City posts projects for input from residents. The City uses this online feedback in addition to face-to-face activities, such as meetings, open houses, and surveys, to reach a more representative cross-section of our community. The improved site offers:

- Easier navigation
- A more user-friendly experience
- An opportunity to conveniently share your feedback at any time and from any place
- Faster translations

Please visit [speakup.arvada.org](http://speakup.arvada.org) and register to have your say on issues that are important to you!

**Website replacement**

The City team is developing a plan to update the City’s website, [Arvada.org](http://Arvada.org), which has not been significantly updated since the current version was launched in 2015. As part of the City’s ongoing commitment to improving transparency, customer service and public involvement opportunities, we expect a new website to be:

- Easier for people to use and find information
- Focused on user-centered design and customer service
- More efficient to maintain and update
- Visually engaging
- Updated frequently based on ongoing user feedback

Look for future opportunities to provide feedback on this very important project! To follow the project progress, visit [arvada.org/updating-arvada-org](http://arvada.org/updating-arvada-org). If you have questions and comments about this project, you can email the team at [engage@arvada.org](mailto:engage@arvada.org).

**Be a snow buddy! Help your neighbors in need this winter season!**

There are many elderly or disabled Arvada residents, without family or friends to assist them, who cannot afford to pay for snow shoveling services. These residents rely on volunteers through Arvada’s Snow Buddies program to remove their snow, but we are in need of more volunteers to meet the growing demand. To sign up to volunteer, visit [arvada.org/snowbuddies](http://arvada.org/snowbuddies).
In previous Arvada Reports, we have described the goals of Arvada Community Policing (also known as sector policing). It is one aspect of our police department’s progressive approach toward public safety. Community Policing organizes Arvada into sectors, assigning a commander and police officers to a specific sector on a full-time basis, enabling them to become familiar with the residents and any problem areas in their sector. For this edition, we’re spotlighting Commander Ron Avila and Baker “B” Sector. For additional information about the Baker Sector, visit arvada.org/baker-sector.

Baker Sector Commander Ron Avila

Hello, I am Commander Ron Avila, the Sector Commander for Baker Community Station. Baker Sector is located in the southeast area of Arvada from I-70 to 64th Avenue between Sheridan Blvd. and Kipling Street. Baker is the smallest of the four sectors, but the Community Station at Police Headquarters near Olde Town is also the busiest. In order to address crime and improve the quality of life in the Baker Sector, I utilize Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS). I study a criminal database and determine where crimes are most prevalent within the sector, providing this information to patrol officers to more effectively direct their patrols. This practice has proven beneficial; crime has decreased in designated areas using DDACTS.

I see community engagement and outreach as the cornerstone of community-oriented policing, and I continue to establish relationships within the community. When issues arise in Baker Sector, I am the point of contact. This Commander-as-point-of-contact style allows me to address crime trends using a collaborative approach with the appropriate Unit/Team. Also collaboratively, my ask of citizens to help address crime in the Baker Sector is the old adage: “If you see something, say something.” Community members are the eyes and ears of Arvada. They know if something doesn’t feel right and should call the Arvada Police Department, so we can check it out.

As the “go to” person for all things in Baker Sector, I look forward to meeting as many community members of Baker Sector as possible and invite them to reach out to me via email: ravila@arvada.org or call my desk at 720-898-6869.

The Arvada Police Department’s section of the Arvada Report is published by the City of Arvada with content provided by the Arvada Police Department as a service to the citizens of Arvada.

The Arvada Report | 10 | December 2021 - January 2022
On June 19, 2020, Governor Jared Polis signed Senate Bill 217 into law to take effect July 1, 2023. The Bill was a call for “Police Accountability,” the first of its kind in the country. Included in the new law are dozens of police operational changes that are yet to be fully defined. One of the standards is that every police officer in Colorado will be required to record every contact they make with community members through the use of Body-Worn Cameras (BWC).

APD BWC study: An in-depth look

This new mandate does not come without controversy, given that research on the effectiveness of BWC is mixed. In 2014, the Arvada Police Department (APD) conducted an in-depth study on transparency, citizen/officer privacy, community confidence and the cost of BWC. The 114-page document explains that while BWC will at times provide clear exonerating or incriminating actions on behalf of police officers or suspects, there are also times when the BWC will not capture convincing evidence. As stated in the 2014 study, “It is clear that the officer who is falsely accused of serious misconduct such as sexual assault and can demonstrate via BWC video the accusation is unfounded benefits greatly. However, agencies must understand the emotionally-charged, highly contested officer-involved critical incidents that are driving public and agency interest in BWC may or may not benefit from officer-worn cameras. It is possible that for every incident where video clearly captures the scene, there could be an incident where the camera captures the incident from a poor angle or under poor lighting and could fuel controversy rather than quench it. While this alone is not a sufficient reason to avoid BWC, it does indicate that agencies have to be aware of these issues and have a framework in place to aggressively educate the public on these matters.”

Moving forward: staff efforts and cost

When law 217 was passed, the City of Arvada went to work on implementing the program, and we are ahead of schedule. Team members from across the City organization are working together to ensure a successful BWC program, one that our community can support. Along with APD, this includes team members from Information Technology, Finance, Legal and Communications.

Tax-payer dollars are also part of the BWC conversation. This is an unfunded mandate, and the cost to implement it will fall to municipalities. The BWC camera system will require the addition or partial funding of the following professional staff for support:

- Crime Analyst to manage data
- Legal Advisor
- Records technicians for reporting and request fulfillment
- System administrator for managing the program
- Two digital evidence technicians

During the first year, the program is estimated to cost more than $1.7 million. The price tag on “Cloud Storage” that meets federal law for security is estimated at more than $500,000. The amount that will be spent over 10 years will be more than $14 million. In comparison, the cost of one police officer per year is $125,000.00 (training and equipment not included).

Caution advised

BWCs will allow our community members to see what the men and women in patrol cars face daily and will enhance community communications; however, that comes with caution, says Dr. Bill Lewinski, Executive Director of the Force Science Institute: “Rushing to condemn an officer for inappropriate behavior based solely on body-camera evidence can be a dicey proposition,” cautions Dr. Lewinski. “Certainly, a camera can provide more information about what happened on the street. But it can’t necessarily provide all the information needed to make a fair and impartial final judgment. There still may be influential human factors involved, apart from what the camera sees.”

If you would like to learn more about the related laws, visit leg.colorado.gov/session-laws. If you would like to stay informed about the project, or if you would like to read the APD BWC study, visit arvada.org/Body-Worn-Cameras.
Meyers Pool Project

With an approved intergovernmental agreement, the City, the Apex Park and Recreation District and Jeffco Public Schools are ready to begin the project to replace Meyers Pool. You can learn more about the project at arvada.org/meyers-pool. You can also go there to learn about opportunities to engage with the project or call our Engagement Hotline (720-898-7654).

City begins planning for ARPA funds

Over the next several years, the City is eligible to receive more than $11 million in federal pandemic relief funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The City team is administering ARPA funding consistent with our Recovery Principles and how we manage other federal relief and grant programs, such as the CARES Act and Housing and Urban Development funding. We are also committed to strategic partnerships, including with Jefferson County and local non-profits, to coordinate when possible to maximize the effect of relief funding in our area.

The approach includes a commitment to apply resources across the following focus areas: public health and economic impacts, premium pay for front-line and other essential city workers, revenue loss and investment in infrastructure, including to improve access to clean drinking water, improve wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems, and provide access to high-quality broadband service.

To learn more about the City’s approach to applying ARPA funds, to track expenditures and to find opportunities to provide input along the way, visit arvada.org/arpa.
In the Nov. 6, 2018 election, Arvada residents approved Ballot Issue 3F for a bond measure to fund improvements to Ralston Road and W. 72nd Avenue. The bond measure provided $79.8 million for two major transportation projects: Ralston Road between Yukon and Garrison streets was allotted $15.3 million and W. 72nd Avenue between Kipling Street and Swadley Court $64.5 million.

As design for Ralston Road progressed, the budget was increased by $2.5 million due to rising costs of right-of-way, construction materials, and design services. This difference was met by the City bringing the total budget to $17.8 million for the roadway portion of the project. Additionally, the Arvada Urban Renewal Authority invested $3.5 million for the streetscape elements such as improvements to Wolff Park, pedestrian lights between Upham St to Garrison St, raised planter medians, monuments and district markers. Ralston Road construction is well underway with multiple contractors working to install new and relocating existing utilities. Once the utilities are completed, the construction of curb, gutter, sidewalk, and paving could occur on the north side of the corridor. Visit arvada.org/ralston-road-project.

Construction for W. 72nd Avenue has been divided into three phases called “construction packages.” Construction package 1 (CP1) is mainly utility relocation work. CP1 is currently underway. CP2 is currently scheduled to begin February 2022 and will widen the road between Swadley and Oak. CP3 addresses Oak to Kipling Street including the railroad underpass. This package is currently scheduled to begin construction in September 2022. All schedules are subject to change. Visit arvada.org/w-72nd-avenue-project.

The project team provides quarterly updates to the City Council on project progress including budget. The next update is scheduled for Dec. 13, 2021. Below is an overview of spending on these projects as of Nov. 1, 2021.

### Ralston Rd. Phase II budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget: $17,883,000</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget Remaining: $10,616,640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Spent: $7,266,360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent Spent: 40.6%

### W. 72nd Ave. budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget: $64,500,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget Remaining: $53,597,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Spent: $10,902,113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent Spent: 16.9%

### 2022 utility rates to be announced in December 2021

The City team works diligently to make sure we have an efficient system with minimal water loss and treatment infrastructure that has the capacity to serve our thriving community. As our infrastructure ages and our city grows, water rates are adjusted in order for the City to reinvest in our water, sewer and stormwater systems. At the time this edition of the Arvada Report went to press, the Arvada City Council had not yet voted on 2022 rates and fees. Once the vote takes place, the City team will share 2022 rates and fees in mailed utility bills, through a new email list for electronic billing only customers and on other City communication channels.

Do you have questions about water rates? Watch our video with Utility Billing Customer Service Manager Jason O’Keefe answering questions from Arvada residents. Visit arvada.org/utility-billing-division.
Embracing transparency and community engagement

By Chief Mike Piper

There are many reasons for citizens to be proud of our fire department. One such reason is Arvada Fire’s commitment to transparency. Because citizens pay for the fire department and have no choice but to use us when calling 911, it is especially important for citizens to have access to information about the fire department.

Citizens have the right to request information about government organizations like Arvada Fire because of open records laws. Arvada Fire voluntarily makes information available to citizens in various platforms and is also capable of fulfilling specific requests for information.

Just a few examples of information we maintain on our website at arvadafire.com for public review are as follows:

- How we propose to spend your tax dollars
- How we spent your tax dollars
- Strategic Plan
- Annual Reports

These documents play an important role in ensuring citizens are informed and have the opportunity to understand how their fire department functions. For instance, within the Annual Report, you can find information on the more than 16,000 incidents we responded to in 2020, our strategic accomplishments, and data on our financial position.

Additionally, our Board of Directors hold monthly meetings that are open to the public. Citizens are welcome and encouraged to participate in governance of the fire department through the process of electing the members of our Board of Directors, as well as providing public comment during the monthly Board meetings.

As an added measure of transparency, our fire stations are open for citizens to visit seven days a week. As your Fire Chief, I am also accessible by phone (303-228-3602) or email (mike.piper@arvadafire.com) and am honored to discuss any aspect of our service you would like to discuss.

Embracing transparency and community engagement

By Chief Mike Piper
Season's Greetings from our Arvada Fire family to you and yours! The holidays offer an opportunity to deck the halls with decorations and cheer. However, some of our holiday traditions also offer opportunities for fire to start unexpectedly.

Fortunately, a few preventative measures can ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season. Follow these six tips to keep your festive season free from mishaps:

1. Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up. Throw away light strands with frayed or pinched wires.
2. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look and smell like real candles. If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and keep them away from decorations and other things that can burn.
3. Only use decorations that are flame-retardant or not flammable.
4. Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators or candles. Water the tree daily to keep it from drying out and do not place it in an area that blocks an exit.
5. Turn off or unplug all electrical holiday lights and blow out any candles before leaving your home or going to bed.
Into the Archives, 1953-1979: Big Growth

From the rock ‘n’ roll revolution to disco and from radio to personal computers, the decades from the 1950s to the ‘80s were marked by considerable changes. Likewise for Arvada Fire, the time period between 1953-1979 included significant growth as well as notable fires in the District’s history.

In 1953, storage of the department’s fire apparatus moved from the Town Hall to a new garage at 57th Avenue and Zephyr Street. That year also included the District’s first employment contract. The board hired Elizabeth Schmitt to receive emergency telephone calls, sound the department’s outdoor siren, and then telephone the firemen with the location of the emergency. Mrs. Schmitt worked from her home and agreed to be available at all times for a monthly salary of $150.

“Fritz” Sedlmayr served as fire chief longer than any other person in the department’s history. During Chief Sedlmayr’s term, the department roster tripled in size and fire stations were erected at 7900 W. 57th Ave., 12205 W. 52nd Ave., 7300 Kipling St., and 6845 W. 68th Ave. Chief Sedlmayr was regarded as “one of Arvada’s most dedicated public officials” in a newspaper article published in 1967 near the end of his 16-year term.

Loss of civilian lives and property from fire increased, as did Arvada’s growth during the ‘60s and ‘70s. A commercial business fire in 1968 claimed a civilian’s life, as did a house fire on Sept. 28, 1977.

Fortunately, no lives were lost during an incident on Dec. 4, 1978 when flaming drums of combustible liquids were hurled hundreds of feet into the air during explosions at the Thoro Products Company Fire. Some west Arvada residents still recall the fiery sky during a night in which winds gusted at speeds above 100 mph.

The 1970s also brought six full-time employees devoted to fire prevention, as well as a district manager, communications supervisor, mechanic, supply clerk, and secretary. Significant improvements took place as communications evolved from an antiquated siren system to a staffed radio communication center in less than a decade.

Fire Station 5 (8100 Vance Dr.), Station 6 (6503 Simms St.) and Station 7 (9190 W. 84th Ave.) were constructed as the city expanded north and west during the 1970s. Chief Matt Kramer, Sr. headed the department during much of the decade that recorded substantial growth and improvement.

Kramer’s eight-year term as Chief was preceded by that of Dale Penn, who served from 1967-73. Kramer and Penn are regarded as two of Arvada’s toughest and most effective Fire Chiefs.
Enroll in the Ambulance Membership Program for 2022

With the New Year just around the corner, now is a good time to consider joining our Ambulance Membership Program!

This program is an annual membership that will help you cover the cost of emergency transport services for the year. An annual membership is $50 and $25 for each additional family member in the same household.

Our Ambulance Membership Program:

- Open to residents of the Arvada Fire Protection District.
- Helps cover the cost of emergency ambulance transport services not covered by insurance.
- Can save you and your family hundreds of dollars each year.
- Primary health insurance is required.

If you are at high risk for illness or falls and your insurance doesn’t cover transport services fully, you might be a good candidate for this membership.

To learn more, call 303-424-3012 or visit arvadafire.com.
2021 Summary - Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA) made an impact

As 2021 comes to an end the AEDA Retention Committee has been on task in completing its business retention goals. By the end of the year, AEDA will have conducted over 100 retention visits with local businesses which included scheduled visits as well as organic visits, which consists of assisting businesses with needs as they arise. In addition, one of the main goals was to contact all 318 businesses that had received CARES funding as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. AEDA was successful in contacting 100% of the businesses and provided follow-up resources to many of them that were seeking additional support. To learn more about CARES funding as well as all of the efforts to support businesses visit, arvada.org/business/tools-for-business/arvada-emergency-business-recovery-initiative.

We heard a few quotes from Arvada businesses that received funding support during the pandemic, and the impact it has had:

“"The only feedback I have is kudos for responsiveness! The bridge loan for small businesses helped us cover the gap before PPP was available. Then making the bridge loan a grant instead helped my business tremendously. All were timely. All the information you had was communicated effectively and disseminated efficiently. Kudos to your team for keeping Arvada rolling during the last year! Keep up the good work!""

La Pâtisserie Française

“"Thank you for the email. No feedback or questions, we are just super grateful for the grants we received this last year. Thank you!"

Stephen Bashford, Arvada Vision Eye Clinic

Furthermore, AEDA surveyed businesses to gain insight on their economic development perspectives, which launched in September of 2021. This survey is similar to the resident survey that was conducted in 2020. AEDA received a significant amount of responses from businesses, with a total of 250 participating in the survey. Those results will be made available to the public in 2022. AEDA will continue surveying residents and businesses, alternating each survey annually. More information on both surveys can be found at: arvadaeconomicdevelopment.org/services/economic-development-survey.

In closing, AEDA would like to acknowledge the work and thank the AEDA Board and the Retention Committee for their continued involvement and support. To learn more about AEDA, visit arvadaeconomicdevelopment.org.

Arvada’s largest ribbon-cutting celebrating Olde Town Arvada and Phase One of Ralston Road Improvement Project

Arvada’s largest ribbon-cutting celebration was a HUGE success. On Oct. 15, more than 150 community members held a 2000 foot ribbon that encircled Olde Town blocked off streets near the intersection of Grandview and Olde Wadsworth Boulevard. This giant ribbon cutting marked the completion of the semi-permanent pedestrian area in Olde Town and the completion of Phase One of the Ralston Road Improvement Project. To learn more, visit arvadaeconomicdevelopment.org/news/. 

The Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA) is the Arvada community’s business-to-government contact. If your Arvada business has a question or needs support, AEDA staff is here to assist at 720-898-7010 or bizinfo@arvada.org.
Sub-area plan update

The City team continues the development of sub-area plans for New Town, Northwest Arvada and Square Lake (in collaboration with Adams County). These areas are important for future redevelopment and economic stability. Sub-area planning is a type of long-range planning for specific geographic areas within the city. These plans focus on topics including land use, urban design, architectural design and transportation.

On Oct. 11, the team presented progress on all three sub-area plans to the City Council. To view a recording of the meeting, visit arvada.org/city-council.

Community participation is encouraged and will continue as the plans develop and the team works towards adoption. To review the open house information, along with informational videos and a sign-up option to receive emails and provide comments to specific sub-area plans, visit AdvanceArvada.org. You may email the team at advance@arvada.org.

Looking for a new job? Search open positions on the Arvada Career Hub

Man and Woman of the Year Honored at 70th Annual Arvada Chamber Awards Luncheon

On Oct. 6, the Arvada Chamber hosted the 70th Annual Awards Luncheon, a long-standing tradition in Arvada recognizing outstanding community involvement, generosity and overall impact. This year’s luncheon was hosted at Social Capitol Events and honored Man and Woman of the Year, Image Award, Young Professional Leadership Award, and Rising Star Award winners. Find video profiles of the Man and Woman of the Year, as well as information and photos of all the award recipients at arvadachamber.org/awardsluncheon.

Man of the Year: Edward Rothschild

Edward is the business owner of AlphaGraphics, a business advocate and a dedicated servant and volunteer for his community. His many leadership roles in the community include serving on the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Advocacy KAPS Council, the Sooper Credit Union Community Foundation Board, the Bike Friendly Arvada Board, the City of Arvada Charter Review Committee and the Whisper Creek Townhomes HOA. He has also volunteered his time with many worthy organizations such as the Arvada Planning Commission, Foothills Animal Shelter Foundation and MS Society of CO/WY.

Woman of the Year: Marie Beeler

Marie is a local hero that advocates for our neighbors and their children and that enriches all of Arvada. Through her work with HOPE (Help Our People Eat), Arvada High School, the Severe Weather Network, migrant ministry, Hope House and a variety of other causes and organizations, she has helped feed thousands of Coloradans in need. Marie sees the good in people, especially the students, and encourages each individual to become their own personal best.

The Arvada Chamber’s 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/arvadacareerhub.
Art Workshops
Dates and times vary, all supplies included. $5 to 15.
Get excited about winter art or the Duck stamp art contest.

Whimsical Wildlife
Saturday, Dec. 18, 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 6-10, free.
Using natural materials, students will create whimsical winter wildlife crafts to decorate the home.

Fun with Snow!
Saturday, Jan. 8, 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 6-12 yrs, free.
Have fun exploring snow with games, crafts, and (weather permitting) actual snow!

Birding for Everyone
First Fridays of the month, 8 to 9:30 a.m. Adults, free.
Locations will vary.

Painting Landscapes
Wednesday, Jan. 12, 6 to 8:30 p.m., Adults, $10 (supplies included)
Learn how to paint landscapes with this step-by-step workshop.
Tea and snacks provided.

Nature Papermaking
Saturday, Jan. 29, 3 to 5 p.m., Adults, $15 (supplies included)
The art of papermaking is a fun new skill to learn for the new year!

Majestic Gardens Tai Chi
Mondays, Jan. 10 - Feb 28, various times.
Adults, $80/8 weeks.

Sunset Nature Walk
Saturday, Dec. 4 and Saturday, Jan. 8, All ages, free.
Times vary, check website for details.

Geminids Meteor Shower Watch Party
Monday, Dec. 13, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
All ages, free.
Bring the family, mugs, and blankets and join us to watch for meteors! Hot beverages provided.

Indoor Stargazing
Saturdays, Dec. 18 and Jan. 15, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. All ages, free.
You read that right, we’ll be stargazing from the comfort of a fireplace-warmed room.

Night with a Naturalist: Beeswax Lanterns
Thursday, Jan. 20, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., All ages, $5/person ($15/4+ people)
Kids and adults alike will have fun making beeswax lanterns to light up the cold winter nights.

Engage with the Nature Center
What kinds of programs would you like to attend? Where do you go to find nature? What animals have you seen in your neighborhood? Each month we’ll ask a different question and give visitors the chance to vote on topics at the Nature Center or contribute their voice to the neighborhood. It’s your Nature Center - let your voice be heard!

Looking to get even more engaged? Save the date for our Volunteer Open House on Saturday, Feb. 12. You’ll be able to learn about the various volunteer opportunities at the Nature Center and meet our current amazing volunteers. Opportunities include everything from gardening to teaching to checking wildlife cameras and more!
Celebrating Arvada trees

In October, the City of Arvada launched the Arvada Tree Campaign celebrating the role trees play in supporting our vibrant community and ecosystems, while also raising awareness about the challenges our trees face, including Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Over the next several months, we will be providing tips and actions you can take to plant, maintain and replace trees; information about EAB; and updates and news about tree-related special events, including a celebration next May of 36 years of Arbor Day tree planting and the City’s 30+1 run of recognition as a Tree City USA!

Visit us on SpeakUp.Arvada.org for engagement opportunities, follow us on social media and visit our suite of Urban Forestry webpages for more about trees at arvada.org/trees.

Winterfest on display at DIA!

If you happen to be out at Denver International Airport, check out the Colorado Winter Festivals exhibit, which includes a display of photos and cultural artifacts from Arvada’s WinterFest! The exhibit is located in the Jeppesen Terminal, Ansbacher Hall, Level 6 North, before A Bridge Security and runs through March 2022.

High Tea for Seniors

The status of the High Tea for Seniors will be decided in the Spring of 2022.

Visit arvadafestivals.com/high-tea-for-seniors for updated information.
Colorado Gives Day

Colorado Gives Day, coming up on Tuesday, Dec. 7, is an opportunity to show your appreciation to the Arvada non-profits that provide services critical to the well-being of our community. Some of the Arvada non-profits included in the Colorado Gives campaign include the Ralston House, Community Table, The Arvada Center, the Arvada Chorale, The Sunrise Rotary Club, the Horse Protection League and many others. This Colorado Gives Day, visit coloradogives.org. Type “Arvada” in the “search by location” window, and Give Where You Live.

“25 X 25” Food Drive Challenge!

Help collect 25,000 pounds of non-perishable food by Dec. 25! Community Table relies on donated food to help feed thousands of hungry families every year. The pandemic disrupted their grocery rescue program, and they need food donations to keep pantry shelves stocked and provide choice and variety for the families they help. Next time you’re grocery shopping, please pick up a few extra items for those in our community who do not have enough to eat. Personal care products are needed too. From now until Dec. 25, you can drop your food donations at locations across Arvada. Learn more at cotable.org.

Resolute Run

Resolute Runner 5k in Memorial Park
Jan. 1, 2022
$5 off with code ARVREPORT22
ResolutionRunner.com

Olde Town Arvada Flour Mill open

The Olde Town Arvada Flour Mill (5590 Olde Wadsworth Blvd.) has reopened after being closed during the pandemic. Built in 1926, the flour mill produced Arva-Pride flour, operating until 1944. The building was renovated by the Arvada Historical Society in the mid-seventies and opened to the public as a museum. It is listed on the Register of Historic Places. You can visit the Mill on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 303-431-1261.

Apex PRD 2022 activity guides

In 2022, Apex Park and Recreation District is excited to provide activity guides to the community via an e-guide, online format, instead of the traditional printed guide. This will allow the Apex PRD to keep content more up-to-date, while also making it easier than ever for customers to get more information about programs and register. Watch your mailboxes for a postcard reminder to check out the latest guide and be in the know about all things Apex! More info at apexprd.org.
Hospitality Heroes of Arvada
Brought to you by the Arvada Visitors Center

Olivia Mansell
Einstein Bagels

Olivia has worked at the Einstein Bagels in Arvada for nearly a year. We are proud to recognize Olivia for her commitment to providing a positive team environment and her belief in amazing customer service.

What is the favorite part of your job, Olivia?
“I love having a good crew that I get to see every day.”

How do you keep the “team spirit” alive during the day-to-day grind?
“I like to make sure that we celebrate all birthdays. That is important to me. I also like to treat the team to little pizza parties whenever we get through a particularly difficult week.”

What do you think constitutes GREAT customer service?
“To always have a conversation with the customer . . . regardless of the level of irritability or potential personal conflicts. And, to sacrifice precious time to ensure all of the customer’s needs are met.”

Why do you like working in Arvada?
“Arvada has always seemed like a fun town, and since moving to Colorado, I have loved visiting and walking around the shops and restaurants of Olde Town Arvada.”

What is one thing you wish more people knew about your job?
“The level of compassion and understanding needed for each individual employee going through their own struggles and hardships, while keeping a smile on their face every day . . . finding their own way through life. Same as I am.”

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

We like to think that we have an abundance of hospitality in our community—from the baristas at our coffee shops to the baggers at our grocery stores. A simple and pleasant exchange or warm smile from one of these people that we see routinely can make a big difference in someone’s day.

We wanted to start recognizing a few of the amazing hospitality ambassadors in Arvada and thank them for making our city a place that has a reputation for amazing hospitality for residents and tourists alike.

Do you know of a Hospitality Hero in Arvada that deserves some special recognition? Please email jean@visitarvada.org to nominate them. Each Hero that is recognized will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Arvada Report and receive a $250 Olde Town Arvada gift card.

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.
arvada center
arvadacenter.org 720.898.7200

Embrace your inner elf! Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity. As Buddy helps New York City rediscover its Christmas cheer, this family favorite helps us all find the joy in the season.

35th / 45th ANNUAL AC GALLERIES
FINE ART MARKET AND POTTERY SALE | DEC 2 - 19, 2021

This year’s 35th Annual Fine Art Market will be held in the Main Gallery, and the 45th Annual Holiday Pottery Sale will be in the Upper Gallery.