In 2015, just one waste hauler—Waste Connections—bid on the City of Arvada’s biennial Curbside Cleanup program. Upon completing the 2015 program, Waste Connections stated they would never bid on the program again. Given the inability to source a contractor, coupled with the need to increase funding for street maintenance, Arvada has eliminated the Curbside Cleanup program, which in 2015 cost taxpayers over $350,000 ($150,000 over the budgeted amount).

Arvada is not alone. No other city in Colorado continues to offer such a program, with the exception of cities which contract with a single hauler (such as Golden and Commerce City) where quarterly “bulky item pickups” are written into the contract.

The Arvada City Council analyzed several alternatives to provide residents with some opportunity to dispose of bulky items at no cost. In May of 2017, the City will offer a two-week drop-off recycling event with SustainAbility Recycling located at W. 54th Ave. and Marshall St. in Arvada. Residents will be able to drop off a variety of items including electronics, paint, tires, mattresses, appliances, metal, bikes, batteries, and all single-stream recycling items at no cost during those two weeks. (SustainAbility is open year round; many items can be dropped off at no cost or for a small fee. Visit sustainability-recycling.com for more information.) More details will be provided in the April/May issue of The Arvada Report and on the City’s website.

Questions may be directed to the City Manager’s Office at 720-898-7505.
City Government Phone Numbers

Emergency 9-1-1 720-898-7500
Non-Emergency Dispatch 720-898-6900
City Hall Main Line 720-898-7000

Accounts Payable 720-898-7130
Accounts Receivable 720-898-7128
Animal Control 720-898-6850
Arvada Center Box Office 720-898-7200
Arvada Economic Development 720-898-7010
Arvada Urban Renewal 720-898-7060
Building Inspections 720-898-7630
Building Permits 720-898-7620

City Manager’s Office 720-898-7500
Code Enforcement 720-898-7465
Communications Manager 720-898-7507
Fingerprinting Services 720-898-6808
Housing 720-898-7494
Lake Arbor Golf Club 720-898-7360
Liquor Licenses 720-898-7550
Majestic View Nature Center 720-898-7405
Municipal Court 720-898-7150
Park Pavilion Reservations 720-898-7410
Passports 720-898-7550
Planning and Zoning 720-898-7435

Police Records 720-898-6920
Sales Tax 720-898-7100
School Resource Officers - Contact Individual Schools 720-898-6803

Special Event Permits 720-898-7435
Streets 720-898-7720
Traffic Signals and Signs 720-898-7740
Victim Outreach Line 720-898-6770

Water Bills 720-898-7070
Water Quality 720-898-7800
Water Quality (after hours) 720-898-7820

City Council Meetings/Workshops - Arvada City Hall, Council Chambers - Mondays, 6 p.m.

February 2017
6 Business Mtg. 13 Workshop 20 No Meeting 27 No Meeting

March 2017
6 Business Mtg. 13 Workshop 20 No Meeting 27 No Meeting

(Note: Times and dates subject to change. To confirm meetings go to arvada.org or call 720-898-7550.)

The Arvada Report is a newsletter published by the Arvada City Manager’s Office, 720-898-7500, City of Arvada, 8101 Ralston Road, Arvada, Colorado 80002. It is distributed to all residences and businesses in the City. The City of Arvada holds the ownership rights and copyrights in the design and articles contained in The Arvada Report: Articles may only be reproduced with the express permission of the City of Arvada.

2016 Team of the Year

This past year, the Parks Department determined that a new landing area was needed to support the use of the Arvada Skate Park, and sought cost estimates from a contractor. The lowest cost estimate from a private contractor was $2,600 which Parks staff believed was far too high. They contacted the City of Arvada Streets Division Supervisor Terry LoSasso and his crew Dewayne Benefiel, James Garcia, Anthony Jackson, Dave McCord, Mike Menardi, Dave Scrivner, Larry Stewart, Brian Williams, and Shlomo Zrihan poured a new 16’ x 10’ feet concrete landing area for a total cost of $800. This work exemplifies the City’s values of Innovation, Passion, and Opportunity where staff found a way to produce a high-quality product while saving taxpayer dollars.

2016 Employee of the Year

Tracy Neal, Utilities Supervisor with the Wastewater Division, was both the Employee of the Fourth Quarter and the 2016 Employee of the Year. Tracy has continuously demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond in areas of customer service. For example, when responding to a home with a sewer service problem, he offered to tele-vise the line from the manhole back to the house and found a major defect due to the original installation five years prior. Tracy worked directly with the homeowner and a contractor for a spot patch repair that saved the homeowner about $4,000 over what a typical repair would have cost. Another example was a basement flooding problem in the Spring Mesa neighborhood, the source of which was unknown. Through determination and diligence, Tracy and his crew eventually uncovered a private under-drain plugged with roots and debris. The drain was owned by the Homeowners’ Association and had not been properly maintained. Finally, he recently helped an elderly homeowner with a service line problem. She was very concerned that she would have to pay for a new line which she could not afford. With the assistance of a plumber, Tracy was able to clear the line from the home to the City’s main line.

In summary, Tracy Neal sets the example for excellence in customer service, doing whatever is necessary to help Arvada customers regardless of whether the problem is part of the City’s sewer system or not.
The City’s Neighborhood Services Division offers two programs to make it easy to get to know your neighbors. The weather will be warming up soon, so now is the perfect time to plan some events to get your neighbors together.

**Block Party Trailer**

The Block Party Trailer has everything you need to host a neighborhood block party except the people, food, and fun! The Trailer is very popular, so don’t wait to book your event. For more information and to book the Block Party Trailer, visit arvada.org/block-party.

**Neighborhood Movie Program**

The Neighborhood Movie program offers a 12-foot inflatable screen, projector, DVD player, and sound system. Pick out a family-friendly movie and invite the whole neighborhood! More information and booking information can be found on online at www.arvada.org/movies.

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**Neighborhood Rehab Program**

Arvada’s Neighborhood Rehab program has two components: an annual Day of Service, and monthly rehab projects throughout the community. The City partners with the Neighborhood Rehab Project, a non-profit group working in Arvada, Golden, and Englewood. Much of the work is done by volunteers from the community. Homeowners who benefit from the program must demonstrate that they earn less than 80% of Average Median Income.

Arvada’s first ever **Day of Service** was held on September 10, 2016, resulting in 140 community volunteers working on eight projects in a single day. The **2017 Day of Service** will be held on September 16, 2017. Our goal this year is to recruit 300 volunteers! Day of Service projects are smaller projects that can be performed in a single day and consist of things like minor home repairs, house painting, and yard work. Monthly rehab projects tend to be larger projects that may require more than a single day to complete.

**Get Involved!**

- Nominate a property/homeowner that needs assistance.
- Volunteer to work on projects.
- Purchase a sponsorship or make a donation.

Visit www.beatool.org/projects for more information, or contact Kevin Nichols with the City of Arvada at 720-898-7474, knichols@arvada.org.

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**Help Us Reach Our Goal to Establish Community Liaisons**

One of the Arvada City Council’s strategic results is to identify and liaison with neighborhood groups in order to create a more vibrant community.

Help us to achieve this goal by contributing to the Neighborhood Group Database, being created by the Arvada Police Department and Neighborhood Services. A comprehensive database of neighborhood organizations, homeowners’ associations (HOAs), and community liaisons will be utilized to improve overall communication, notify residents of crime alerts and special events, organize community activities and volunteer opportunities, and much more!

If you are the primary contact for your neighborhood group or Homeowner’s Association, please send your name, mailing address, phone number, and email to arvadapolicepio@arvada.org or call 720-898-6884.
Marcella Manor, located at 6555 Schneider Way (just east of Arvada High School), offers assisted living for very-low income senior citizens receiving Section 8 Housing rental assistance. With 206 one-bedroom units, Marcella Manor has been a source of affordable housing for low-income seniors since 1977. Recently, Marcella Manor was put on the market, and the City was concerned that the property would remain an affordable housing resource for seniors needing assistance. The buyer, Security Properties, worked with City of Arvada staff to retain Marcella Manor as an affordable housing project, all the while making a number of much needed improvements. The Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) agreed to loan Security Properties $22 million for acquisition and rehabilitation costs, while the City of Arvada assigned approximately $5.7 million in Private Activity Bonding* to move the project forward. Security Properties then embarked on an extensive $10 million renovation of Marcella Manor, including:

- Energy efficient siding and windows replacement
- New rooftop photovoltaic 153 Kw system
- Renovation of all 206 residential units
- Parking lot resurfacing
- Backup elevator generators
- Hallway renovation
- ADA additions and improvements including automatic entrance doors
- Reconstruction of entry area, resident business center and lounge, and offices

Renovations were substantially completed in December of 2016.

*The State of Colorado Private Activity Bond (PAB) allocation program provides for the allocation of the State’s PAB ceiling to eligible jurisdictions and purposes within Colorado. The City of Arvada receives annual allocations of PAB authority. PAB is an allocation of tax exempt bonding authority which can be used for a limited number of purposes including:

- Industrial development
- Certain public works like water processing plants or facilities
- Educational facilities
- Multifamily affordable housing development
- Single family mortgage revenue bond programs (MRB)

The City has used PAB authority in the past for several of the above purposes and most frequently for MRBs to assist Arvada first-time homebuyers. The City has participated in a variety of mortgage revenue bond issues in cooperation with metropolitan jurisdictions over many years and in the more recent past through the Metro Mayors Caucus to provide affordable fixed-rate mortgage financing for moderate income first-time homebuyers with substantial success.

Marcella Manor Receives Facelift

Safe and Accessible Arvada

The City of Arvada and Brothers Redevelopment are partnering on a program designed to make the homes of senior or disabled community members more accessible. Grants to make improvements are available to homeowners or renters who earn less than 80% of the City’s average median income ($80,100 for a family of four). Accessibility improvements include ramps, grab bars, wider doors and hallways, roll-in showers, stairway railings, and levered door handles.

Brothers Redevelopment is an experienced, non-profit corporation which has managed similar programs in other cities. For more information, contact Brothers Redevelopment at 303-685-4225 or jasonm@brothersredevelopment.org.
The Arvada Police Department has named Chris McCoy as its new Senior Liaison Detective. Detective McCoy began his new position on January 9, 2017. Detective McCoy joined the Arvada Police Department in 2007 after completing the Jefferson County Regional Academy. Since that time, he has served Patrol in a variety of functions, including Field Training Officer, Taser Instructor, and assisting with the Explorer’s Program. Detective McCoy is also a certified Life Trak operator.

“I look forward to working with our senior population in Arvada, being a resource to them and advocating for them,” said Detective McCoy. “I also want to be a resource to the Department by understanding the implications of recently enacted State statutes pertaining to senior citizens and the at-risk community.”

Detective McCoy graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelors’ degree in Business Marketing and is one class from completing his Masters in Organizational Strategy from Colorado State University Global Campus.

The senior population is often targeted by criminals, and is sometimes at-risk of being victimized by those responsible for caring for them. Because Arvada has experienced a significant growth in the number of residents over age 60, Arvada created the Senior Liaison Detective to identify and provide for the concerns, problems, and service needs of older adults. To find out more about the Senior Liaison Detective, visit arvada.org or call Detective McCoy at 720-898-6724.
In a continuing effort to be responsive to the growth and needs of the community, the Arvada Police Department has established a fourth sector—the Delta Sector—to cover Arvada’s northwestern area. With the addition of this new sector, we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce the Commanders of each:

Community stations, in addition to placing officers directly into the sectors they serve, offer a variety of services for Arvada residents, including:

- **Safe Transaction Zones:** Make online purchase transactions more safely in our lobby during normal business hours.
- **Dog Licensing:** Whether you need to renew an existing license or apply for a new one, our Police Service Technicians are available to assist you.
- **Vin Verification**
- **Fingerprinting Services**
- **Lake Arbor and West Woods Community Stations offer Community Rooms** which can host meetings of up to 30 people and are available for free to residents.

To find out more about sector commanders and the services offered at all our community stations, please visit [arvada.org](http://arvada.org) and click on Sector Policing.

### New Sector, New Commanders

**Adam Sector**  
Commander  
Melanie Thornton  
Operating out of Lake Arbor Community Station  
8110 Vance Dr.

**Charlie Sector**  
Commander  
Gary Hutchcraft  
Operating out of West Woods Community Station  
6644 Kendrick Dr.

**Baker Sector**  
Commander  
Mark Nazaryk  
Operating out of Arvada City Hall  
8101 Ralston Road

**Delta Sector**  
The Delta sector is currently in the planning stages. Look for more information in the April/May edition of the *Arvada Report.*
Arvada Police Offer Free Crime Prevention Classes

The Arvada Police Department’s Community Response Impact Team (CRIT) is again offering free Crime Prevention and Crime Free Multi-housing classes in 2017.

Crime-Free Multi-Housing Class
Tuesday, April 11, 1 – 5 p.m.
Lake Arbor Community Station, 8100 Vance Dr.

This class is designed specifically for multi-housing units and multi-tenant building owners/landlords. Participants learn important ways to make rental properties and multi-tenant buildings safer. Topics include landscaping methods and other design factors to help keep criminals and criminal activity away. Other topics covered include gang activity, graffiti, and narcotics. Members of CRIT will also be available to answer questions.

Crime Prevention Class
Tuesday, April 11, 6 – 8 p.m.
Lake Arbor Community Station, 8100 Vance Dr.

This class gives homeowners important tips designed to keep them and their homes safe. Topics include reporting a crime, vacation safety tips, protecting your neighborhood, and how to be a good witness among others.

Registration for both classes is required and they often fill up. Please RSVP to 720-898-6883 to reserve your spot today.

Board Members Needed for the Walter Michael Northey Memorial Foundation

W. Michael Northey Foundation

The Walter Michael Northey Foundation is looking for citizens interested in supporting the community by participating on the Board of Directors.

The Foundation, named after an Arvada police officer killed in the line of duty, provides scholarship money for Arvada high school students who wish to pursue a degree in higher education, and donates on behalf of the department to officers and their families injured or killed in the line of duty. Board members participate in the selection of scholarship recipients.

Citizen appointments are for a two-year term and require participation in quarterly board meetings, as well as participating in the coordination of the Foundation’s two major fundraising events—the Northey Drug Take Back (second Saturday in April) and the Northey Shred-a-Thon (second Saturday in October).

Those interested in finding out more about the Northey Foundation or applying for one of the board positions should contact Bridgette Roberts at 720-898-6653 or via email at broberts@arvada.org.

The Northey Foundation is accepting scholarship applications for the 2017-2018 school year.

The W. Michael Northey Foundation honors the memory of Arvada Police Officer Michael Northey by investing in the youth of Arvada through the scholarship program. Students can be awarded up to $2,000 per calendar year.

Applications are due by March 17, 2017. For more information or to download an application, visit arvada.org/residents/police-services/northey-foundation.
April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month—a month-long awareness campaign reminding our communities to take care with our children. Ralston House, in recognition of this awareness campaign, provides Pinwheel Gardens to area businesses, organizations, church groups, and individuals who want to take a stand against child abuse and be a beacon of hope for children, youth, and adult survivors of child abuse.

Each Pinwheel Garden consists of 50 blue pinwheels—blue is the color of child abuse awareness. Each garden is planted for a $250 donation to raise funds for Ralston House, a non-profit child advocacy center serving the 1st and 17th Judicial Districts (Jefferson, Gilpin, Adams, and Broomfield counties). Working in partnership with police departments and social services, Ralston House provides a safe and welcoming space where children and youth who have experienced physical or sexual abuse or who have witnessed violent crime can tell their stories instead of coming to a busy and chaotic police station. Children and their families receive support services; children may receive a forensic medical exam by a child abuse pediatrician.

Through a collective of more than 150 pinwheel garden supporters in 2016, our Front Range communities were able to bring to light the importance of child abuse prevention and awareness while turning our community blue.

To be a part of this year’s Pinwheel Garden campaign, please contact Tara Roesener at 720-898-6752, via email at troesener@arvada.org, or learn more at www.RalstonHouse.net. YOU have the power to make a difference this April by sponsoring one pinwheel garden.

Limited Spaces Available in Spring 2017 Citizens Police Academy

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the Arvada Police Department or get an inside look at policing? Your chance to do so is here with the Spring 2017 Arvada Police Department’s Citizen’s Police Academy (CPA).

The academy meets on 12 consecutive Tuesdays between March 14 and May 23, 2017. Classes are held in both classroom and field settings, and give participants insight into many aspects of police work including the opportunity to do a ride-along with an Arvada officer. CPA instructors include police officers and other police department employees who lecture, teach, and provide hands-on participation in such areas as traffic stops, crime scene investigation, building searches, and officer survival. Other topics include internal affairs, media relations, preserving evidence, SWAT, and dispatch.

The CPA also educates participants about community problem solving, availability of police resources, law enforcement tools, and community programs.

To register for the Spring 2017 Citizens Police Academy or for more information, visit arvada.org/residents/police-services/citizens-police-academy.
Healthy Places is working to make it easier, safer, and more fun to be physically active in Arvada. Arvada was one of three communities chosen to participate in the Healthy Places Initiative, sponsored by the Colorado Health Foundation. Arvada received a $1 million grant to be spent over three years, on infrastructure improvements and programs designed to create a healthier, more active community.

HEALTHY PLACES IS...

- **Community**: Healthy Places is a community-led initiative that relies on the insight and expertise of residents.
- **Safety**: Healthy Places makes it safer to walk, bike, play, and be active in Arvada.
- **Movement... and Fun**: Healthy Places activates parks with free movies, outdoor fitness equipment, and classes, music and more.
- **Good Business**: Walkable, bikeable communities see higher property values and higher incomes for office, retail, and industry.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FIRST 2 YEARS:

- 125 healthy programs, events and activities
- 6 resident and community organizations were awarded mini-grants to run programs like yoga in the park
- 300 new bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding signs
- 75 community-led bike rides and walks
- 45 new bike racks, plus one bike corral
- $3M dollars leveraged to further improve the community

There are more exciting things on the way, including:
PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Arvada has many great parks but some have not been used to their full potential. Healthy Places is working to re-activate parks and engage neighborhood groups and elementary students to determine what would make them better. Based on community input, Homestead and Terrace parks are actively getting a number of improvements in 2016—and many residents are pitching in to help install the new amenities.

TERRACE PARK
- Expanded Trail Network
- Improved ADA Access Route
- Fitness Equipment Cluster
- Backed Benches
- New Tree Planting
- Pedestrian Path Lighting
- Dog Park
- Picnic Pavilion

HOMESTEAD PARK
- Trail (8' wide, concrete)
- Fitness Equipment Cluster
- Bench
- Trash Receptacle/Dog Waste Station
- Small Picnic Shelter
- Boulder Seating
BIKE AMENITIES

Healthy Places is making it easier and safer to bike in Arvada. Look out for:

- New bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding signs that connect neighborhoods with parks, schools, commuter rail stations and more.
- More bike parking with a bike corral in Olde Town.
- At least four bike repair stations in parks or at trailheads.
- New bike training facility next to the Jefferson County Head Start, which opened in May 2016.

GOLD LINE OPENING

The Gold Line, 11.2 miles of commuter rail, will have seven stations, three of which are in Arvada! Healthy Places is working to ensure residents are aware of this new community asset, making it easy and safe to walk and bike to the rail stations from nearby neighborhoods.

- From April through October 2016, Healthy Places will be hosting a monthly educational series called Go for the Gold: Arvada in Motion, that will provide recreation and opportunities for adults and youth in southeast Arvada neighborhoods to connect to Gold Line stations through transit, walking and biking.
- Sidewalks will be installed this summer on the north side of west 60th Ave. between Fenton St. and Sheridan Blvd., a key connection between the Homestead Park neighborhood and Gold Strike Station at Sheridan and 60th Ave.
Measuring Change in Arvada

In just the past ten years, development patterns have shifted significantly given the new residential neighborhoods to the west as well as centrally located infill development. The current housing boom and the opening of three commuter rail stations on the G Line will result in additional character shifts, land uses, and the people who call Arvada home.

The City’s Community Development Department has been compiling demographic and transportation indicators that highlight expected trends and their impacts for our community. The changes in demographics are striking—particularly the increasing median age of our residents—and provide insight on income, education levels, housing, race and ethnicity, commuting patterns, etc.

Arvada is the seventh largest city in Colorado and the fifth largest in the Denver metropolitan region. Arvada’s median age of 40.5 years is higher than the median age of most of the larger cities in the metropolitan region, Colorado, and the nation. Thirty-seven percent of the population is 50 years of age and over and this proportion will continue to increase. Residents 65 years and older comprise close to 15 percent of the population. Another finding of interest is that approximately 60 percent of all households have only one or two persons. This high proportion of smaller households can have implications for current and future housing demand.

With respect to Arvada residents’ commuting patterns, almost 92 percent of Arvada residents work outside of the City. The majority travel to Denver for work, making the G Line an important and efficient commuting option for many Arvada residents.

More detailed information on the changing trends and demographics of our community are available on the City’s website.
In December, the Board of the Arvada Fire Protection District approved the 2017 Budget. Some key items included in this budget are:

- A 0.8% increase in property tax revenue.
- A 3% increase in salaries as approved in the collective bargaining agreement for 2017.
- New bunker gear to ensure two sets for each firefighter.
- An 2.5% increase in health insurance coverage.
- Refurbishment of a reserve fire engine.
- Refurbishment of an ambulance.
- A new and highly improved District website (for both internal and external use).
- Fiber installation to improve internet connectivity at Station 5 and Headquarters. Station 3 will be prepped for fiber for 2018.
- Annual installment for debt service of a loan to be paid off in 2022. The debt service covered numerous large scale construction projects including:
  - Construction of Stations 2, 7, and 8.
  - Remodel and additions to Stations 4, 5, and 6.
  - Remodel of the training center and addition of new burn building.
  - Construction of new maintenance shop.

Jefferson County Treasurer Fees: $335,550. The Jefferson County Treasurer charges the District 0.015% for collection of property taxes and ownership fees on license plates.

Fuel for apparatus: $150,000. The District uses more than 35,000 gallons of fuel each year. “Apparatus” refers to the vehicle that on-shift personnel use each day for emergent call response, training, inspections, and preplans.

The AFPD 2017 budget can be viewed in full at www.arvadafire.com. This comprehensive document provides a great deal of information about our department. If you have questions, please contact me at fire.chief@arvadafire.com or 303-424-3012.
Ice and Cold Water Safety

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, every year there are over 7,000 drownings and 20,000 near-drownings in the United States. Over half of these incidents occur in cold or icy water.

The Arvada Fire District responds to many ice-related rescue calls involving people and pets. The following information may help prevent you or a loved one from becoming the next victim.

**How Thick Is “Safe” Ice?**

Ice on moving water in rivers, streams, and brooks is never safe. The thickness of ice on ponds and lakes depends upon water currents or springs, depth, and natural objects such as tree stumps or rocks. Daily changes in temperature cause ice to expand and contract, which affects its strength. Because of these factors, no one can declare the ice to be absolutely “safe.”

_The only “safe” ice is at a skating arena!_

**What To Do If Someone Falls Through the Ice**

Act quickly and call 911 for help immediately. Make sure properly trained and equipped rescue personnel are alerted to respond.

**DO NOT go out on the ice.**

Many times would-be rescuers become victims themselves.

**Reach, Throw, or Row.** Extend a branch, pole, or ladder to the victim. Throw them a buoyant object such as a life ring or float tied to a rope. If a boat is nearby, row out to the victim or push it toward them.

Move or send someone else to a different location to get two points of reference. This will help rescuers pinpoint the location of the person if they are no longer visible when help arrives.

**Personal Safety Tips**

If you fall into cold water, get into HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Position). Bring your knees to your chest, hold your upper arms tightly to your sides and clasp your hands in front of you, and cover your head if possible to protect your body from heat loss.

**DO NOT** try to swim unless a boat, floating object, or the shore are close by. Swimming causes “warm” blood to circulate to your arms and legs, where it cools off quickly and reduces survival time by as much as 35-50%.

*Portions of this article provided by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Safety.*

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**Congratulations to Captain Gilgren!**

The Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) met on December 13 and voted unanimously to award Captain Gilgren the designation of “Fire Officer” (FO). He earned the professional designation as witnessed by a team of fire service peers and members of the CPC. Captain Gilgren demonstrated through his education, professional affiliations, and technical competence that he possesses the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities required for leadership in the fire and emergency services profession.

This Fire Officer Designation is an internationally-accepted model that recognizes professional accomplishments and competence in fire and emergency services, and offers fire and emergency personnel career guidance and planning. The CPC developed their designations looking at a model that looks at the “whole officer.” Achieving the designation requires a strong educational background; diverse participation in emergency services at the local, state, and national level; and demonstrated involvement in the broader community.

_Congratulations Captain Gilgren!_
Once a week, members of the Arvada Firefighters Pipes and Drums band get together to practice. Many of the members of the Arvada Firefighters Pipes and Drums band are also members of the Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Band, part of the fraternal group Emerald Society established for police and firefighters of Irish decent.

Leading both of these groups is Arvada Fire’s own Ben Ackerman as the Pipe Major. Through the Emerald Society band, Arvada Firefighters perform weekly whether it be for a benefit dinner, line of duty deaths, or public safety retiree funerals. In addition to collaborating with police through the Emerald Society, Arvada Firefighters Pipes and Drums band also have their own performances, such as leading off the Harvest Festival parade, performing for graduations, and District events.

In April, the Arvada Firefighters Pipes and Drums band will celebrate its 10th anniversary. The band was founded through financial support from the District and through the research and efforts of Ben Ackerman. Since 2012 the band has been self-sufficient. Each firefighter who wants to become a member of the band deducts $10 out of their paycheck each week to help fund uniforms, travel, instruments, and lessons for new members. Some of the band members had previous musical experience but many are new and have developed their skills while being a member. Even after members have established proficiency with their instrument, their education continues. Every year a few members will attend a conference; in January, for example, several members attended the Winter Storm Pipes and Drums event in Kansas City.

The tradition of bagpipes played at fire and police funerals in the United States goes back over 150 years. When the Irish and Scottish immigrated to this country, they brought many traditions with them. One of these was the bagpipe, often played at Celtic weddings, funerals, and ceilis (dances). The great potato famine and massive Irish immigration to the East Coast of the United States kicked off the tradition of bagpipes being connected to fire departments. In the mid-1800’s, Irish immigrants faced widespread discrimination to the point that signs were posted reading “NINA” - No Irish Need Apply. They could only get the dirty and dangerous jobs that no one else wanted—so many became firefighters and police officers at a time when it was not uncommon for firefighters to be killed while fighting fires. As was the Irish tradition, their funerals were accompanied by the playing of the pipes. The deep, mournful sound brings formality, pride, and respect to the event, not to mention some additional tears.

Firehouse Quilts
Helping the Community

For many years, the Arvada Fire Protection District has received beautiful quilts from a group called Firehouse Quilts to provide to families and individuals that need some comfort or warmth. It is wonderful to be able to provide this gift to community members in their time of need. There is a lot to be said about the comfort that a quilt can provide someone in distress and it has been a useful tool for us at incidents such as home fires or car accidents.

Firehouse Quilts is a non-profit group of volunteers that makes and donates quilts to Colorado fire departments, ambulance companies, Denver Health Medical Center, victim advocate offices, county social and human service agencies, and Douglas County Women’s Crisis Center. Each year they donate over 1,000 items. Ninety percent are “snuggle quilts” for children who have been in an automobile accident, a house fire, or domestic violence situation. Volunteers from Firehouse Quilts meet for two Sew Days a month at Shiloh House in Littleton the first Thursday (from 2:30 – 7:30 p.m.) and third Thursday (from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.). The Sew Days are ‘work’ days; volunteers bring their own sewing machine and get to work.

Firehouse Quilts is always looking for organizations that might benefit from their creations. They ask for nothing in return and even deliver! For more information, email firehousequilts@ecentral.com.
CITIZEN’S FIRE ACADEMY

The academy is a five-week course that is designed to introduce residents to the daily operations of Arvada Fire Protection District

Topics Include:

* Dispatch  * Hazmat  * Water/Ice Rescue
* EMS  * Tech Rescue  * Fire Prevention
* Wildland  * Hose Operations  * Fitness Test

Wednesdays
April 19 - May 20
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

To Register go to ArvadaFire.com
or call 303-424-3012
Applicants must be at least 18

The Academy will end with a fun hands-on day at our Training Center on May 20
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Public Hours
Monday through Thursday, and Saturday
October-May: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
June – September: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Located in 80-acre Majestic View Park we offer public, school, scout, home school and community group programs, and rentals.

Pre-Registration Required for all classes: Full class descriptions and program registration available at www.arvada.org/nature

Pre-Registration Required for all classes: Full class descriptions and program registration available at www.arvada.org/nature

Drop in Discovery
First Thursday and Third Monday at 10 a.m. All ages, Free. No registration necessary.

School Field Trips:
Elementary Exploration Program
Topics are science standards based, specific to grade level.

After Nappers Club
Tuesdays, February 7 – 28, 4 – 5 p.m.
After Nappers: Ages 2 – 4 with adult
After School: Ages 5 – 10
$15 for 4-week session.

Russian Story Time
Saturday, February 11, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Ages 3 – 5, free.

Denotes a Grand Tour Event See page 19

Rocks and Minerals Around Us
The Nature Center hosts the North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club’s exhibit. Stop in during public hours to enjoy the display.

Unearthing Colorado
Saturday, February 18, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Ages 6 – adult, Free.
Learn techniques and clues to have your own successful rock hunt.

Hands Dirty, Feet Wet – Nature Playdates
Thursday, February 16, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., All ages, Free.

Tai Chi at Majestic View
Mondays, February 20 – March 27
Beginning: 5 – 6 p.m.
Continuing: 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.
Adults, $60 for 6-week session.

Winter Survival: Night with a Naturalist Series
Tuesday, February 21, 6 – 7:30 p.m. All ages, $5/person, $15/family.
Be better prepared to enjoy the winter landscape.

Watercolor and Tea
Wednesdays, February 22 and March 1, 6 – 8 p.m.
Adults, $40 for 2-week session.

Walking in a Winter Wonderland – 15 for 15
Saturday, February 25, 11 a.m. All ages, Free.
Meet at Pavilion at Ralston Central Park, 5850 Garrison St.

Preschool Fun with Animals
Wednesdays, March 1 – 22, 10 – 10:45 a.m. Ages 3 – 6, $18 for four-week session.

Preschool Fun with Animals
Wednesdays, March 2, 9, 16 and 23, 10 – 10:45 a.m.
Ages 3 – 6, $15 for four-week session.
Learn about snakes, porcupines, ants, frogs.

Animal Olympics with The Downtown Aquarium
Saturday, March 4, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m., All ages, Free.
Meet live animals.

The Many Benefits of Urban Birds
Saturday, March 11, 3 – 4 p.m. All ages, $5/person, $15/family.
With David Leatherman, retired forest entomologist.

Wildlife Trafficking:
MVNC Campfire Series
Wednesday, March 15, 5:30 – 6 p.m. All ages,
$5/person, $15/family.

Dark Night, Star Light – 15 for 15
Friday, March 24, 8 – 9:30 p.m., Ages 6 – adult.
A night of star gazing

Hands Dirty, Feet Wet – Nature Playdates
Tuesday, March 28, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. All ages, Free.

Seed Starting
Saturday, March 25, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., Adults & Teens, $5.

Seed Swap and Giveaway
Saturday, March 25, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All ages, Free.

Kite Making Classes at Majestic View Nature Center
Friday, March 31, 4 – 5 p.m.
Saturday, April 1 at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.
Ages 4 – 10, $5 (All materials included)

Nature Art from Around the World
Wednesday, April 5 - May 24, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Ages 6-12.
$72 for 8-week session
Instructor David Sullivan
Celebrating 15 years!

KAREN M. MILLER, DIRECTOR, MAJESTIC VIEW NATURE CENTER

Majestic View Nature Center is excited to mark 15 years of service, a milestone that has been reached with the support of the Arvada community, donors, and Nature Center volunteers and employees.

To celebrate, throughout 2017 we will offer 15 free activities in honor of our 15 years. See page 18 for the upcoming Grand Tour Events. More details on prizes, coupons, and the full Grand Tour schedule is available at arvada.org/nature/birthday celebration. In the meantime, mark your calendars for our official Birthday Party on August 5.

The growth we have achieved since we opened in 2002 is a true example of the City’s new vision statement: We Dream Big and Deliver!

Notable accomplishments include:

- Volunteers have donated nearly 16,000 hours teaching classes, supporting events, working in our gardens, and much more.
- Over 210,000 people have attended nearly 5,000 programs and functions.
- Over $220,000 in donations and grants have been received.
- A recent park expansion added outdoor teaching spaces, additional trails, and gardens.
- In the past two years, our urban farm has grown 4,397 pounds of vegetables providing local food for purchase and donation.
- Our water-conserving demonstration garden sparks ideas for visitors.
- A solar voltaic system provides for energy needs.
- We initiated the Mayors’ Monarch Challenge to increase pollinator populations.

I am truly honored to have been the Nature Center Director since the early planning stages and look forward to the future endeavors that our team of staff and volunteers are planning. 2017 will be an exciting year full of activity and celebration! Please join us.

Let’s Go Fly a Kite!

Annual Arvada Kite Festival
Sunday, April 2, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Stenger Soccer Field,
11204 W. 58th Ave

Back for its 16th year, the Arvada Kite Festival is a free, fun event for the entire family. Bring your own kite or purchase one at the Festival. In addition to kite flying, enjoy:

- Kids Zone provided by Fit2beKids. Children ages 3 – 18 can compete in a speed and agility camp with fun interactive games, fitness challenges, and nutrition awareness.
- Jumping castles, face painters, balloon artists, hamster balls, and more!
- Community booths and food vendors.
The Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA) is profiling primary employers that are conducting business in Arvada. A primary employer is defined as a company that sells the majority of its product or service outside the community, thereby bringing in new dollars to Arvada. In this issue, AEDA is showcasing the BCER Group located at 5420 Ward Road.

The BCER Group is a consulting engineering firm providing mechanical, electrical, fire protection, life safety, and technology engineering services for commercial, industrial, and government projects nationwide. Founded in 1994, BCER has 88 employees working out of its three offices located in Arvada; Colorado Springs, CO; and Tampa, FL.

Company president Stephen Rondinelli serves alongside principal partners Mike Cordero and John Thompson, ten associate principals, and nine associates collectively offering years of engineering work experience. The company is extremely well-versed in the management of the business as well as the operational side of engineering design and construction in the industry. The BCER Group prides itself on “providing powerful possibilities” for its clients and colleagues. BCER is willing and able to make quick decisions, evolve with the ever-changing industry, and take necessary risks to continue growing and providing future growth opportunities for its employees, clients, and community.

The BCER Group was founded on guiding principles including being a fun, friendly company able to focus on the serious nature of its work without taking itself too seriously. This founding principal continues to hold great importance to the corporate culture. The company strives to foster a sense of family, with monthly birthday parties, holiday parties, and an annual employee/client golf tournament. The BCER Group supports a variety of charitable organizations including the Santa House, The Salvation Army, Caruso Charities, Whiz Kids Tutoring Program, The Children’s Hospital Burn Camp, and more.

Recently, the City of Arvada, AEDA, Talentrust, and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade celebrated BCER’s company leadership and staff when it was honored as a 2016 Colorado Company to Watch winner. BCER continues to grow and expand into new markets. The company recently celebrated 20 years in business, which it credits to its sincere belief in community support and servant leadership. The company also invests heavily into developing its future workforce and succession strategies. To learn more about the BCER Group, go to www.YouTube.com/investinarvada and watch the video or visit the website, www.bcer.com.

Small Business Campus (Micro Spaces) Coming to West Arvada

The first phase of construction is under way on a nine building development known as “Micro Spaces @ IBC (Indiana Business Center).” The Campus is located at W. 66th Ave. and Holman St., one block east of Indiana Street. The development team at Micro Commercial, along with Intergroup
Architects, has begun construction on the first three buildings that include 17 units ranging from 700 to 1,650 square feet. These condominium units are available to purchase or lease and will be ready for occupancy in the spring of 2017.

At full build-out, Micro Spaces @ IBC will have 62 units. The nine buildings range from 5,625 to 17,550 sq. ft. and total approximately 73,000 sq. ft. when complete. The contemporary industrial design includes exposed, structural metal elements; a combination of architectural metal details; and masonry stucco walls in four-color accent groupings. The buildings were designed for a wide variety of users in mind with minimum 20-foot high ceilings for mezzanine and second story spaces. Large windows and glass garage doors allow for maximum light and create indoor/outdoor working environments. The units will have the latest in technology with fiber cable and LED lighting. In completing the design, multiple outdoor common areas allow people to gather together while enjoying creative spaces.

“We are excited to bring these unique and innovative commercial spaces to west Arvada. After working closely with the City of Arvada and AEDA, we believe this campus will provide an affordable opportunity for small businesses to grow and thrive among other small business owners,” said Greg Pierce, a managing partner for Micro Commercial.

Each building has unique characteristics that allow businesses to find a unit that best fits its needs, whether through purchasing or leasing. The location allows convenient access to main travel routes and easy walkability to restaurants and retail. “We are blessed with the location as it’s perfect for the micro concept and will allow many Arvada residents to work closer to home,” adds Pierce. To learn more about this project, visit www.microspaces-ibc.com.

**New Arvada Businesses**

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

- **Arvada Barre Belle**
  8330 W. 80th Ave.

- **Aspire Fitness**
  6550 Wadsworth Blvd.

- **Bedazzled Burrito**
  5273 W. 64th Ave.

- **Crystal Joys & Gallery 1874**
  5665 Olde Wadsworth Blvd.

- **Defy Hair Design**
  7601 Grandview Ave.

- **GB Fish & Chips**
  7401 Ralston Road

- **Global Co-Working**
  5625 Olde Wadsworth Blvd.

- **Hunter Bay Coffee Roasters**
  5600 Olde Wadsworth Blvd.

- **Lithos (Book & Hobby Store)**
  5695 Yukon St.

- **Now Printing**
  6650 Wadsworth Blvd.

- **The Grandview Tavern and Grill**
  7427 Grandview Ave.
Apex Park and Recreation District Progressing on Bond Projects

In May 2016, Apex Park and Recreation District voters approved the renewal of the $25 million bond that built the Apex Center in 2000. Proceeds will fund the construction of six projects around the District. Four of these projects are on track to be completed in 2017, with the remaining two scheduled for completion by mid-2018.

Apex Center Splash Pad
The first project, an outdoor splash pad and renovated aquatics area at the Apex Center, 13150 W. 72nd Ave., makes its debut this summer. Guests will be treated to a brand-new outdoor aquatic experience to add to the existing indoor water features: a 7,800 sq. ft. outdoor splash pad. In addition, the center play pool and the upstairs “kids’ clubhouse” will undergo renovations. This project’s estimated completion date is June 2017.

Harold D. Lutz Sports Complex Improvements
Improvements to the Harold D. Lutz Sports Complex, 10664 W. 58th Ave., should be completed in the third quarter of 2017. This project includes a new four-field baseball/softball pod complex with lighting, parking, restroom, and concessions.

Arvada Tennis Center
Two more projects are slated for completion in the fourth quarter of 2017. The Arvada Tennis Center at 6430 Miller St. will gain a new, four-court indoor tennis facility with controlled access to the tennis complex. The eight outdoor courts will be renovated with post tension surfaces, new lights, and fence. The projects are slated for completion in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Long Lake Ranch
Also in the fourth quarter of 2017, several improvements will come to Long Lake Ranch, 17850 W. 64th Pl.:
- baseball/softball fields, including backstops, to complete the first five field complex; lighting for all five baseball/softball fields; a restroom/concession building; and two new synthetic multi-sport turf fields with parking and lights.

Fitzmorris Park Center and Pool
The new Fitzmorris Park Center/Pool at Independence St. and W. 62nd Pl., will consist of an 8,500+ sq. ft. recreation center and a six-lane outdoor pool. This facility is tentatively scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2018.

Secrest Recreation and Teen Center
The new Secrest Recreation and Teen Center at 6820 W. 66th Ave. will replace the existing Secrest facility. The 21,521+ sq. ft. recreation center will include a small weight room, community/aerobics area, teen center, small gym, locker rooms, and therapy pool. The current outdoor pool and inline hockey rink will remain. Its estimated completion date is the second quarter of 2018.

For construction updates, visuals, and details, visit apexprd.org/bond-projects. Due to the scope and complexity of these projects, completion dates are estimates only – but at press time, all projects were on schedule. Once again, many thanks to the voters who made these improvements possible by approving the bond issue in May 2016.

High Tea for Seniors

Saturday, March 18, 2 – 4 p.m.
Apex Community Recreation Center
6842 Wadsworth Blvd.

Reservations required: RSVP by calling 720-898-7403 by Wednesday, March 8.
Now in its 13th year, the annual High Tea honors Arvada residents 90+ years young, and their guests. The event offers seniors a chance to socialize and enjoy special entertainment in a festive celebration. Each senior may invite one guest of any age to join them.

For more information visit www.arvadafestivals.com or call 720-898-7403.
February

- First Fridays Art Walk
  Olde Town Arvada
  oldetownarvada.org

A Chocolate Affair
Saturday, February 4
3 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Olde Town Arvada
www.oldetownarvada.org
303-420-6100

Sample chocolate-based food and drink while raising money for a worthy cause! Activities include a treasure hunt, booth decoration contest, cake decorating contest, balloon artists, face painting, storytelling, chocolate playdough creations, and more. Tickets are $5 each. All proceeds benefit Ralston House, an advocacy center for children who are victims of abuse or neglect.

March

- Art for the Young at Heart
  4 – 6 p.m.
  Apex Community Recreation Center
  6842 Wadsworth Blvd.
  303-425-9583

March

- First Fridays Art Walk
  Olde Town Arvada
  oldetownarvada.org

St. Patrick’s Day Festival
Saturday, March 11
12 – 6 p.m.
Olde Town Arvada

Celebrate all things Irish at the St. Patrick’s Day Festival. This free, family-friendly event includes live music, Irish dancers, arts and crafts, kids’ activities, food booths, green beer, and more! Visit www.oldetownarvada.org or call 303-420-6100 for more information.

April

- 60+ Spelling Bee
  1 – 3 p.m.
  Apex Community Recreation Center
  6842 Wadsworth Blvd.
  303-425-9583

Annual Kite Festival
Sunday, April 2
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Stenger Soccer Field
11204 W. 58th Ave.
www.arvadafestivals.org

This is a perfect opportunity to get families and kids of all ages outside and have fun flying kites! Bring your kite or purchase one at the event. Enjoy activities including jumping castles, face painters, balloon artists, music, community booths, and food vendors.

See page 19

High Tea for Seniors
90+ Years Young
Saturday, March 18
2 – 4 p.m.
Apex Community Recreation Center
6842 Wadsworth Blvd.
See page 22

The Arvada Visitors Center is a one-stop-shop resource for the residents of Arvada and guests visiting the area. The Visitors Center is located in Historic Olde Town Arvada at 7305 Grandview Avenue. Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the weekends. For more information, contact Jean Gordon at 720-898-3380 or jean@visitarvada.org. Online at visitarvada.org.
Jesus Christ Superstar

MARCH 24 - APRIL 16

BUS STOP
“‘It takes strong men and women to love... people strong enough inside themselves to love... without humiliation.”

by William Inge
Directed by Allision Travis
FEBRUARY 24 - APRIL 15
Supported by the Ralston Arts and the Ralston Foundation

THE DROWNING GIRLS
“You could say George Joseph Smith took our breath away.”

by Beth Graham, Charlie Tomlinson and Daniela Vlasakova
Directed by Arvo Calhoun
MARCH 17 - MAY 21

Children’s Theatre!

FEBRUARY 2 - MARCH 4
APRIL 25 - MAY 19
Annex support funded by You

STOP/LOOK/SEE
DOUBLE EXPOSURE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES MILMOE
AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO
Sponsored by Children’s Theatre!

For information or tickets, call 720-898-7200 or visit arvadacenter.org