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www.thevillagecastlepines.com

US 85 Widening Project Now Underway - Louviers to Sedalia

The Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) project to expand US 85 to four lanes from Louviers to Sedalia is now underway. The completed 2.5-mile stretch of highway is expected to ease congestion, improve access to side streets and enhance drainage and safety. Wildlife fencing will also be added. Construction work is scheduled from 7 am to 7 pm weekdays with the potential for some night and weekend activity. One lane will remain open in each direction with the speed limit reduced to 45 miles per hour through the work zone with possible reductions to 40 miles per hour when flaggers are present. Be advised that there will be occasional lane closures that shift traffic to a single lane in each direction with shoulder closures and possible delays. The US 85 project is expected to be completed by spring 2022. For updated information, check out the project's webpage: cdot.gov/projects/us85-widening-louviers.

Pools Open Through Labor Day Weekend

Please note that the Canyon Club and Summit Club pools will close for the season on Monday, September 7 at 8 pm. The Village Lake Fitness Center, adult-only pool, will stay open through October 1, weather permitting.

The Village celebrates the Fourth of July in style.



A Message from Emergency Services

Motorized (or electric) scooters have become an increasingly popular mode of transportation in many US cities and have also become popular with youngsters in the Village. Research has revealed that scooter-related head and face injuries have increased alarmingly along with the electric scooter's popularity. According to the American Journal of Otolaryngology, such injuries have tripled over the past decade.

In the Village powered scooters may only be operated on our roadways by licensed drivers. Young, unlicensed operators on a powered scooter can quickly lead to

Upcoming Events & Activities

Metro Drive-Thru Community Picnic

The Castle Pines Metropolitan District is pleased to announce it will be hosting its annual community picnic “drive-thru” style this year on Saturday, August 15. Reservations are required. Please see page four for details.

Welcome Committee and Garden Club Events Postponed

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, all events of the Welcome Group and Garden Club are currently postponed until further notice.

Wildlife Committee

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, Cherokee Ranch will not be hosting the Elk Rut Barbecue this year. We hope to see everyone in 2021.



Garden Club members continue to maintain the beauty of the Serenity Garden on the banks of Village Lake, inside Gate 4.



Ask the DRC

Outdoor Lighting

Q. What is the outdoor lighting policy in the Village?

A. The Village at Castle Pines is situated in a naturally forested mountain setting and the Design Review Committee (DRC) Exterior Lighting and Landscape Standards were written to maintain this natural environment. A “Dark Sky” policy exists and the outdoor lighting rules attempt to balance the legitimate requirements of function and safety with the Village Lighting Standards.

In general, the number of light fixtures attached to the house or landscape should be held to a minimum. In terms of the light fixtures, all outdoor lights with one exception must be down lights. Down lighting is defined as lights where the light source is shielded from view and the light itself is directed downward, meaning light does not emanate through glass from the fixture sideways or upward.

The one exception to the down light rule is as follows; two coach type lights are allowed at the front entry of the house. This type of light allows light to emanate out the sides, but the glass must be translucent which does not allow the light source to be visible.

Q. Does the outdoor lighting policy include landscape lighting?

A. Yes, all landscape lighting is to be down lighting and must be approved by the DRC.

Q. I have always liked the look of lights shining upward in the trees at night. Is this allowed?

A. No, this is not allowed.

Q. Can I add motion lights to my house?

A. The traditional spot light motion lights are not allowed.

Q. My neighbor’s outdoor lights shine in my windows at night. What should I do?

A. Contact the Castle Pines Homes Association with your concern.

Remember – any changes to exterior lighting must be approved by the DRC before it is installed. Call the DRC Administrator at 303-814-1345.

Emergency Services (continued from page 1)

an accident where no one wins. Operating the scooters on Village trails is also prohibited. Our trails are narrow and designed for pedestrian use, and not safe for use by motorized vehicles including powered scooters.

Scooters are super fun and rapidly becoming as popular among young people as skateboards and bikes, however, they are not allowed to be operated by unlicensed drivers on Village roadways or used by anyone on Village trails.

Parks and Recreation

Summertime in the Village

COVID-19 restrictions certainly called for some creativity from all of us this summer. Even though the summer events looked different than in past years, the Parks and Recreation Committee members worked hard to create new events that provided fun for all while social distancing.

The “Summer Solstice Jam” became the “Frisbee Golf Tournament.” Residents of all ages received a Village Frisbee to play the challenging par three course around Village Lake. The tournament provided entertainment for the whole family. There were five categories, and the winners of each category won a gift card from one of our Village Square restaurants and stores. A permanent disk course, along the flood plains just above the Village Lake Fitness Center, is coming soon.

Following the Frisbee Golf event and food truck feast, we rolled right into the Fourth of July events. The week kicked off with the Chalk Art contest showing our red, white and blue patriotic enthusiasm. Twenty households participated, and all submissions were spectacular!

Next up was the drive-in movie night from the comfort of your car. Popcorn, candy, bottles of water and the movie “Up” kept the crowd entertained. We had a packed lawn at the Canyon Club, where everyone could enjoy a movie the old fashioned way.



Movie night in the Village.

The week ended with the Fourth of July car parade through the Village followed by a barbecue. Flying Horse catering handed out almost 2000 boxed barbecue dinners, capping off a successful week of summertime fun.

Men’s Tennis Team Needs Players

The CTA Adult 65 & Over 7.0 Team needs more players. The team will play six or seven matches on Friday mornings at 9 am starting August 28 through October 9. Men who will turn 65 or older this year are welcome. The format is three lines of doubles. Men with 3.5 or 3.0 ratings are welcome. Interested players should contact Jerry at tenniscgurujerry@gmail.com.



Hummingbirds abound in the Village. Photo by Cassandra Hines

Forest Stewardship

Fire Mitigation

Wildfire is the number one safety hazard in Douglas County, but by being good land stewards, we can reduce wildfire hazards.

Fire is, and always has been, a threat to homes located in natural areas. To assist firefighters and other first responders in protecting our lives and properties, residents must take reasonable precautions. Studies show that as much as eighty percent of the homes lost in the wildland fires could have been saved if simple precautions had been taken.

Create a defensible space

Every resident is asked to inspect the area around his or her own home to create what is known as defensible space. This is the space between the structure and the native area surrounding it. This space is a buffer to slow or halt the spread of fire to a structure, and ranges up to thirty feet from the foundation.

Within this zone, remove dead limbs from trees (considered ladder fuels that would allow a surface fire to climb into the trees) especially those within ten feet from the ground.

- Remove dead limbs from oak and other shrub.
- Remove leaves, pine needles and debris from rooftops and gutters.
- Remove all flammable materials from under decks near the house.
- Remove dried weeds and grasses.
- Remove/prune junipers near the house, particularly those located under windows.
- Ensure that all barbecue grills are turned off and fire pits are covered after using.

Please note, when it comes to thinning and pruning trees, you must receive DRC approval prior to commencing work. Please contact one of the DRC Landscape Technicians at 303-814-1345 for assistance.

2019 Audited Financial Report Accepted

At the July 16, 2020 Castle Pines Metro Board meeting, Mr. Matt Beerbower, Partner at RubinBrown, LLP presented the District's Audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year 2019. Representatives of RubinBrown worked with District staff members to complete the audit of the District's finances in preparation for the annual report. The Independent Auditor's Report found the District's financial statements to be in compliance with accounting standards and to fairly represent the District's financial position. The CAFR is public information and is posted on the District's website at www.castlepinesmetro.com. It is located under the tab for District Info/Financial Information. You can also request a copy by contacting Sue Mantz at 303-688-8330. The District also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its 2018 CAFR.



Metro "Drive-Thru" Community Picnic

In lieu of the annual Castle Pines Metropolitan District Community Picnic, Metro will be hosting a "Drive-Thru" picnic on Saturday, August 15. Pick up your boxed dinner between 5 pm to 7 pm at the Castle Pines Metropolitan District office at 5880 Country Club Drive.

Tickets to this event are **required**. Please RSVP by Friday, August 7 at noon. Please call 303-688-8330 or fax 303-688-8339 or email the Metro District (lhady@castlepines-metro.com) to RSVP.

You can pick up your picnic tickets at the Metro District office during business hours (8 am to 4:30 pm) or let us know and we will send them to you in the mail.



Water Conservation Tips

Ninety-seven percent of the water on the planet is in our oceans, a non-potable source due to its high salt content. A startling fact is only two percent of the water on our earth is suitable for drinking. Most of that freshwater is locked up in the Antarctic and Arctic polar ice sheets. This means that less than one percent is available for human consumption world-wide.

Identifying and tracking your monthly water use can have a huge impact on your overall water use. It is not commonly understood that up to seventy percent of your annual water consumption comes from the outdoor irrigation. Simple adjustments to your existing landscape can save a dramatic reduction in overall water use.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Toilets are by far the main source of water use in homes accounting for nearly thirty percent of residential indoor water consumption. Toilets also happen to be a major source of water due to leaks and/or inefficiency. Water conservation is a good sustainable practice whether we are experiencing drought or not. Please help Metro conserve water by following some of these easy and relatively inexpensive water conservation tips:

Outdoor Water Saving Tips

- Water your lawn only when it needs it. Typically, in Colorado during the summer, most lawns only require water two or three times a week.
- Check your outdoor faucets for leaks and broken sprinkler heads and have them repaired immediately.
- Often outdoor leaks are hidden or difficult to find, and they quickly increase your water bill and add no benefit to your lawn and garden.
- Sweep your driveway and sidewalks instead of using your hose.
- Install a Smart Controller on your irrigation system to help monitor your watering with current weather conditions
- Check sprinkler heads to ensure equal distribution and rate of flow. Replace as necessary.
- Don't water your sidewalk or the street, and avoid watering your lawn when it is windy.
- Water your lawn early in the morning or late at night to avoid high evaporation and encourage root zone infiltrations.





Castle Pines Metropolitan District (Metro) is a quasi-municipal corporation whose organizational decree was approved by Douglas County in 1973. Metro is a special district form of government that must conform to the laws established under Article 32 of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

5880 Country Club Drive
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8am – 4:30 pm
Telephone – (303) 688-8330
After Hours/Emergencies – (303)-688-6447

Services We Provide:

Metro provides the following services to the property owners within its service boundaries:

- Water production, treatment and distribution
- Sanitary sewer collection. (Wastewater treatment services are provided by Plum Creek Water Reclamation Authority).
- Roadway operation, repair and maintenance (on roads conveyed to Metro for operation).
- Roadway signage operation, repair and maintenance
- Snow plowing and sanding on Metro roads
- Storm water management and storm drainage operation, repair and maintenance

Metro contracts with CPHA to perform their landscape maintenance services. If you notice any concerns in any of these areas, contact the Metro District promptly, or the emergency number above.

The District is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors. Day-to-day operations are managed by the District Manager and several qualified staff members.

Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates Offered for 2020

Castle Pines Metro District is offering rebates for Smart Irrigation Controllers in 2020. These state-of-the-art controllers, referred to as ET or Smart Controllers, allow a homeowner to integrate an ET Controller in place of the standard irrigation clock. Before the watering cycle, the Smart Controller wirelessly transmits data back and forth to a weather station. The weather will determine the amount of irrigation necessary.

Since seventy percent of all water used in the Village is for irrigation, the District has sought to educate itself and homeowners on more efficient ways to water outside greenery. Our research has confirmed the ET Controller to be the most effective conservation method. Historically, knowing when to and when not to water has been more common sense than science. Even so when not at home, one must rely on an irrigation clock to do the job regardless of weather conditions.

“These state-of-the-art controllers, referred to as ET or Smart Controllers, allow a homeowner to integrate an ET Controller in place of the standard irrigation clock.”

If you would like to buy and install a smart irrigation controller for your residence, the District will refund fifty percent of the combined cost of an ET or Smart Controller and installation of the device (max rebate \$150 per household). A Smart Controller costs range from \$200 on up and can be purchased online or at local hardware stores. **This rebate is for equipment purchased in 2020**, on a first-come, first-served basis. *Please remember to submit the signed application, copy of the receipt, and a picture of the controller installed at your home.* Call Metro at 303-688-8330 to get more information on the program.

Castle Pines Metropolitan District

5880 Country Club Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80108
303-688-8330

email: Info@castlepinesmetro.com
www.castlepinesmetro.com

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm

Burt Knight, District Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Huser, *Chairman*
Mike Lanam, *Treasurer*
Tad Walden, *Secretary*
Dick Munday, *Director*
Craig Sundquist, *Director*

The Metro Board of Directors meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6 pm at the Metro District office. Meetings are open to the public. Please call to confirm date and time.



Construction season is here; please give the contractors a “brake.”

Be Bear Aware

- Keep your car doors locked
- Keep your outdoor grills clean
- Close and lock all garage doors
- Don't leave your trash out overnight

Shredding Event, August 29

The Castle Pines Homes Association is pleased to present the annual "Shred It" event for the community. This event is free of charge, and you may bring up to four banker's boxes of documents, files, or other printed materials for shredding. One banker box of files is about the equivalent of one garbage bag full of papers or approximately 35 pounds of paper. Shred-it will have two trucks on site at the Village Lake Fitness Center that will safely and securely shred your sensitive documents while you watch. No need to remove paper clips, staples, spiral binders or hanging folders. It can all go right into the shredder. Please note this event is open to Village Residents only. If you have additional shredding beyond the maximum allowed four boxes, you will need to contract with Shred-It separately and outside of this event.

Please watch the Village Weekly for dates and further details. This event is currently scheduled for Saturday, August 29, from 9 am to 11 am.



Village residents enjoying the Fourth of July events

Manager's Report

"Just Another Day in Paradise"



This has certainly been a summer like we have never seen before and hopefully we will not see again. Your Parks and Recreation Committee, consisting of resident volunteers, thought outside the box and organized a Fourth of July event that allowed the Village to celebrate the United States on its 244th birthday. First, we had 20 households submit

entries for the Chalk Art Contest that highlighted the artistic talent throughout the Village. The drive in movie held at the Canyon Club was a big hit allowing us to hold this annual event while maintaining proper social distancing. The vehicle parade held on the morning of July 4 had over 50 vehicles decorated in patriotic themes for a drive through both sides of the Village. Residents lined the parade route showing their Fourth of July spirit! The day was complete with a "Drive-Thru" barbecue at both the Summit Club and Canyon Club. Almost 2,000 meals were provided to residents.

"The drive in movie held at the Canyon Club was a big hit allowing us to hold this annual event while maintaining proper social distancing."

Each year I like to take the opportunity to publicly thank the many volunteers who make this Village a "world-class" community. Nearly 100 of your neighbors volunteer countless hours working on issues that affect the Village. The Wildlife Committee is a perfect example of volunteers who dedicate many hours of their time to provide guidance, educational events, and information on the wildlife that we share this magnificent land with. These volunteers have a dedicated email (wildlife@thevillagecastlepinest.com) where you can send them questions concerning wildlife, and a member of the Committee will get back with you and lend their expertise.

Within the Association there are ten formal committees, three subgroups, and the Board of Directors, all of which are completely comprised of volunteers from the community. It is a pleasure to work with them; the Village is a solid community because of their dedication. If you are interested in getting involved do not hesitate to contact me and I can give you information on volunteer options.

As you enjoy the rest of summer, please be mindful that pedestrians and bicyclists are out and sharing the roadways, and please remember that the speed limit in the Village is 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Douglas County schools are delaying their start date so children will be out and about later than usual this summer. Exceeding the speed limit or failure to obey traffic signs can lead to a disaster.

I join my staff in wishing you a continued safe and enjoyable summer.

Respectfully,

Mark G. Larson, CMCA, AMS – General Manager



Bicycle Safety

There's no question that cycling is a passion for many of us. It's been said that Americans will drive around for an hour to find a gym where they can ride a stationary bike for an hour.

Not surprisingly, now that summer is here, we see a lot more bicycles on the road. But if you're an avid cyclist who lives in the Village, don't be lured into a false sense of security because you're riding on private roads in a gated community.

The website, *bicyclesafe.com* offers these tips for riding in traffic and avoiding drivers who may be less concerned about your safety than you are:

Signal Your Turns. You're less likely to get hit when your movement doesn't take motorists by surprise. Let them know you're about to turn or move left or right by signaling with your arm. Point your left arm out to move left, and point your right arm out to move right (You may have learned the old way of signaling a right turn with your left arm, but most young people today have no idea what that means).

Re-think music players and mobile phones. It's more important to hear what's around you when you're biking than when you're driving. Riding with headphones increases your risk of accidents. Similarly, texting or talking on a mobile phone is as dangerous while on a bike as it is while driving. You also want both hands free in case you have to brake suddenly.

Ride as if you were invisible. Ride in such a way that motorists won't hit you even if they don't see you. If you make a left turn, you're counting on cars behind you to see you and stop. If the lane is too narrow for cars to pass you safely, then move to the left and take the entire lane. Getting buzzed by cars is too dangerous.

Light up. Most night-time cyclists ride without lights. Bike shops have rear red blinkers for \$15 or less. Headlights are just as important as rear lights. And modern headlights use LED's so the batteries last ten time longer than old school headlights.

Remember that it's often safer to take the whole lane, or at least ride a little bit to the left, rather than hug the right side of the road. Cars can see you better and will be less likely to pass you too closely. **Taking the lane works especially well in traffic circles.** It's perfectly legal for you to take the lane when appropriate. And it's always better to be safe than sorry.

Officer of the Quarter

Craig Rainey started his career with Emergency Services as a Patrol Officer and Emergency Medical Technician in 2017. His attitude, dependability and sense of humor quickly made him a favorite with his peers. It is in recognition of these qualities, along with his dedication to the residents of the Village, that Craig has been selected as Employee of the Quarter.



Craig has a large, blended family with five children. He is a devoted father and an avid outdoorsman. He's also an expert skier during the winter and enjoys family camping trips in the summer.

If you run across Craig while he's performing his patrol duties, congratulate him on being honored as the Officer of the Quarter.



Do Your Part...

- Drive Carefully
- Watch for children and wildlife
- Walk/run against traffic
- Cycle with traffic and stay right
- Use trail system wherever possible

Castle Pines Homes Association & Emergency Services

688 W. Happy Canyon Road, Castle Rock, CO 80108
Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm
www.thevillagecastlepines.com

CASTLE PINES HOMES ASSOCIATION (CPHA)
303-814-1345

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Margie Cheatum, *Accountant*
Linda Matthews, *Executive Assistant/DRC Administrator*
Kevin Olsen, *Compliance Coordinator*
Mikayl Bristol, *Administrative Assistant*

EMERGENCY SERVICES (ES)
303-688-6446

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THE VILLAGE REPORTER

The Village at Castle Pines community newsletter
published bi-monthly with funding from Castle Pines
Homes Association and Castle Pines Metropolitan District
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Area News - Linda Battin, Maureen Kowalsky
Ask the DRC - Linda Matthews
Events & Activities - Joyce Paloma
Parks & Recreation - Wendy Ingraham
Wildlife - Gina Gerken
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If you are new to the Village, call or email
Susan Clifford for the Welcome Packet:
303-660-6323 or sclifford@estreet.com

Please note: CPHA permission is required by the General Manager of the Homes Association for any professional/
commercial filming or photography on CPHA-owned property or at CPHA-funded events/activities.

For more Village news, sign up for weekly email: linda@thevillagecastlepines.com



Keystone Species - Support for our Ecosystem

A "keystone species" is a living creature that has a disproportionately large effect on its environment relative to its abundance. Like the critical stone in an arch that holds all other stones together, a keystone species plays a major role in the health of an ecosystem. Wildlife keystone species can be predators, prey or engineers. In The Village at Castle Pines, we have examples of each. The loss of any of these can devastate the balance of nature in the Village.



Young Bobcat. Photo by Michele Volkl

The Great Horned Owl



Baby Northern Flickers. Photo by Ron West

and the bobcat are examples of predator keystones, and we have healthy populations of each. Both eat high volumes and wide ranges of prey, especially rabbits and rodents, whose numbers would quickly explode if unchecked. Mice and voles are the ultimate prey keystones and are a large portion of the diet of bobcats, coyotes, raptors, skunks, and snakes. These species would suffer or even disappear without mice and voles.

Finally, woodpeckers are crucial engineer keystones. The Village has Northern Flickers, Hairy Woodpeckers and Downy Woodpeckers, each of which drill numerous cavities to use as nesting and roosting holes. Eleven species of cavity nesting birds in the Village cannot drill their own nest holes and rely on abandoned woodpecker holes for their nests.