

the Village Reporter

A bi-monthly publication by, and for, Village residents.

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www.thevillagecastlepines.com

Upcoming Events

- **August 13** - Movie in the Park, Canyon Club, showing "Ratatouille"
- **August 21** - Metro Picnic, Canyon Club, 4:30 pm, RSVP required
- **August 27** - Music and Food Trucks in the Park, Canyon Club, 6 pm
- **September** - 11 - Oktoberfest, Canyon Club, 3 pm
- **October 30** - ES Pancake Breakfast, Castle Pines Homes Association

Area News

Get your Douglas County School District Volunteer Hours

Every student attending high school at a Douglas County School District school is required to fulfill a 20-hour community service requirement outside of their home and family environment to graduate. Ridgeline Wranglers has a volunteer opportunity for our high school students. Monthly, the group gathers to help maintain and improve the trails at Ridgeline Open Space in Castle Rock. The next meeting is Saturday, September 11. They will meet at the trailhead parking lot off Coachline Road at 8:30 in the morning. A waiver is required for all participants. Gloves, tools, and water are provided. Youth under the age of 14 require an adult over 21 to supervise.

5 Easy Back to School Tips

1. Ease back into a school-based sleep schedule. Those early mornings will be here soon so start putting the kids to bed and waking them earlier a week or two before school starts. Kids aged 5-12 years need 10-11 hours of sleep.
2. Create a structured morning routine and plan out lunches in advance.

Continued on page 3

Vino in the Village

When: Friday, August 13, 5:30 pm-8 pm
Where: Village Shops at Castle Pines

Vino in the Village is back! Come join your friends for this wonderful event held at the Village Shops. This year's events include wine, whiskey tastings, live music, food pairings and much more. Tickets are available at www.castlepineschamber.com



Pool Closure Update

The Summit Club and Village Lake Fitness Center Pools are open through Labor Day, Monday September 6.

The Canyon Club pool will remain open weekends in September from noon to 6 pm, Saturday and Sunday.

Time for one last splash!



The Village celebrates the Fourth of July in style.



Upcoming Events & Activities

Garden Club

The Village is in full bloom. Please join us for one of the following events.

The Village Serenity Garden, work days every other Wednesday

- August 11 and 25 at 9 am
- September 8 and 22 at 9 am
- October 6 and 20 at 9 am, Closing Day

Wine in the Garden

- Saturday, August 14, 5 pm to 8 pm

Opening Lunch

- Friday, September 17, 10 am to 2 pm

New Member Welcome Events

- Tuesday, August 10, 11:45 am to 2 pm - New member lunch
- Tuesday, September 28, 9:30 am, New member meeting
- RSVP required, call for membership and location information.

For information regarding the above events, please contact Nancy Kirschke at 949-436-0358, gkirkk@aol.com. For Village residents interested in becoming a member, please check out www.vcpgc.org or contact Darcey DeRose at 310-869-6426, darceyderose@comcast.net. For outside the Village gardening opportunities, contact Marcia Wiedelman Duggan, 720-771-6222, mwiede75@gmail.com

The Village Castle Pines Garden Club is "where friendships bloom".



The Fourth of July pool events made a big splash.

Greetings to our Newest Neighbors

Welcome to The Village at Castle Pines!

Tony & Patty Youga	Anaconda Court
Theodor Hamstra	Anaconda Drive
Peter & Kelli Arch	Ballarat Lane
Andrew & May Dodds	Borealis Way
Harrison & Helen Lamons	Castle Pines Drive N
Shane & Suzanne Wischer	Castle Pines Drive N
Gary & Wendy Inglis	Castle Pines Drive S
Jeremy & Cassie Lee	Castle Pines Drive S
Jan Boxer	Chateau Ridge Road
Scott & Diane Wieting	Chateau Ridge Road
Charles & Cathy Johnson	Copper Blush Court
Kyle & KariAnn Speidell	Country Club Drive
Scott & Jacquelyn Shensky	El Dente Peak
Jeffrey & Cherie Baudier	Glengarry Place
Roger & Martha Huffman	Golf Club Drive
Christopher & Brooke McCasky	Good Hope Drive
Jason & Brooke Flower	Good Hope Drive
Darla Greenwaldt	Good Hope Drive
Paul Chapple and Marcie Markovich	Holy Cross Court
Frank & Tamara Russo	Holy Cross Court
Alan & Janet Flanigan	Homeplace Point
Sharron Carlene Hacker	Homestake Court
Nicholas & Ronda Thomas	Hyland Drive
Paul & Maggie Moore	Indigo Way
Rachel Peterson	Lindsey Peak Lane
James & Kristin Bender	Lost Elk Circle
Carol Kline	Maroon Peak Place
Kari & Donna Rajaniemi	Massive Peak Circle
Steve & Wendy Jo Warnecke	Morning Star Drive
Douglas & Melissa Allensworth	Northstar Circle
Frank & Tracy Marrone	Northwood Lane
John & Deborah Sakys	Northwood Lane
Paul & Beth Bloom	Orofino Drive
Kyle & Sarah Cervi	Oxford Peak Lane
Nikko & Lauren Collida	Paragon Way
Marco Del Chairio	Providence Drive
Tab & Debbie Bouc	Red Pass Way
Christopher Bryant	Ruby Trust Drive
David & Ruth Singleton	Ruby Trust Drive
Penny Christensen	Silbrico Way
Leslie Babcock & Becky Gleason	Silver Dale Court
Christopher & Jennifer Elson	Swandyke Court
James Owsley	Tamasoa Place
Christian & Holly Phillips	Tolland Drive
Bruno & Patricia Lavandier	Westchester Circle

If you are new to the Village and would like to have your name and street listed in a future issue, please contact the CPHA at admin@thevillagecastlepines.com.



Parks and Recreation

Summer 2021 in the Village

The Village at Castle Pines kicked off summer festivities with the Summer Solstice event. Over 500 residents enjoyed frisbee golf, bocce ball, volleyball, cornhole, and three events at the pool - Limbo, Hula Hoop and Dance-Off. The fun filled event was capped off by a pig roast at the Canyon Club.

A Pickleball and Tennis social was quick to follow with over 100 participants lining the courts for the first summer social, doubling the participation in the court side socials in the past years.

Fourth of July festivities began with the 5K run, in which over 150 residents crossed the finish line for their ribbons. The parade followed, with almost 300 residents on decorated bikes, carts, strollers and wagons celebrating Independence Day in style. The day ended with a delicious picnic, where over 1500 meals were served.

More Fun on the Way

In addition to the August events, September will feature the last of the summer activities. The Kids Triathlon will be held on September 6 at the Canyon Club Pool. Oktoberfest will follow on September 11. More information on these events will be featured in the Village Weekly.

Tennis Court Update

The new tennis court, Court 2, is complete and play has begun. Reserve your court time at thevillageatcastlepines.com.

Ask the DRC

Defensible Space Annual Tasks

Q. What can I be doing to increase the level of fire safety on my property?

A. The Village at Castle Pines is in a beautiful forest but there are steps residents can take to maintain a defensible space.

- Keep trees and shrubs properly thinned and pruned, particularly within 30' of the home.
- Remove branches that overhang the roof and chimneys.
- Remove the dead wood in the Gamble oak all around the property.
- Dispose of slash from tree/shrub thinning.
- Clear roof and gutters of pine needles and other debris.

- Remove flammable material including leaves/needles from around the home.
- Mow grasses to a height of six inches or less within 20' of home.

Q. Does any of this work require DRC approval?

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

Area News (continued from page 1)

3. Stay positive about any stress or anxiety your children are expressing. They take their cues from you.
4. Nurture independence. Any child who is self-sufficient, who can tie his shoes, dress, or undress himself, reflects in his joy and sense of achievement the image of human dignity, which is derived from a sense of independence.
5. Go visit the school and meet the teacher.

2021 Mid-Year Real Estate Review The Village at Castle Pines

As of June 30, 2021 there are currently 22 homes for sale in the Village, compared to 33 homes in 2020, and 17 homes under contract. The home prices range from \$685,000 to \$6,500,000. The average list price is \$2,402,464, the median list price is \$2,200,300, and the average cumulative number of days on market is 59.

Below is the breakdown of current homes for sale, under contract, and homes sold in 2021 (as of June 30, 2021).

	Homes Sold	Homes Under Contract	Homes For Sale
Under 800,000	5	0	3
\$800,000 to \$999,999	20	4	2
\$1,000,000 to \$1,199,999	6	1	0
\$1,200,000 to \$1,499,999	14	2	1
\$1,500,000 to \$1,999,999	21	3	4
\$2,000,000 to \$2,999,999	11	5	6
More than \$3,000,000	5	2	6

83 homes in the Village sold in the first six months of 2021 with prices ranging from \$440,000 to \$4,075,000. The average sold price was \$1,558,466. The median sold price was \$1,415,000 and the average days on market was 44 days. The average sold price to list price was 100%.

Sales have remained very strong in 2021 due in part to a continued low inventory of homes, favorable mortgage rates, and a recovering economy. Inventory should improve as more people are vaccinated and Sellers are more comfortable with showing their homes. These conditions should keep house-buying power strong in 2021...again good news for Sellers.

Summer 2021 Voluntary Irrigation Schedule

This schedule is effective May 1 – October 1, 2021.

NO WATERING BETWEEN 10 am and 6 pm



Native Grasses – a Healthy Blast from the Past



As you have driven through the Village lately, you may notice the vegetation looks...taller. The Castle Pines Metro District has adopted a new native grass landscape initiative. These areas are often referred to as “native grass” areas because their unmowed appearance sometimes looks like that of a native prairie. We are working to restore our open spaces to what they looked like when the Village was first founded, and this process may take two to three years.

There are many benefits to embracing this blast from the past. Native grasses are adapted to their environment and grow deep roots, allowing them to survive on natural precipitation, which saves water. For similar reasons, native grasses also are drought resistant. When native grasses fully grow out, they will need little maintenance or weed control and native grasses help prevent erosion. Weed control is critical in developing these areas. This

year the District has dramatically increased its efforts on weed control during this grow-out period.

Tall grasses also help shade the ground and adjacent grass plants, reducing evaporation of the moisture in the soil. They also encourage animal biodiversity and native wildlife habitats in open areas.

We know this new look may take some acclimation. That is why we have enlisted the help of horticulturist Craig Miller. Craig has outlined some important differences in caring for native grasses. First, you do not need to mow native grasses as mowing weakens the native grasses, causes them to go dormant, and creates weed infestations. Next, it is not necessary to irrigate native grasses as irrigating native grasses forces air out of the soil and causes the roots to remain shallow. Read more about caring for native grasses in Craig’s Educational PDF here <https://bit.ly/3j32vjz>.

“Native grasses are adapted to their environment and grow deep roots, allowing them to survive on natural precipitation, which saves water.”

Craig also has created a video that may help you better understand the benefits to native grasses and why native grasses make sense for our neighborhood. Please type in <https://bit.ly/2WEYPgv> to watch the video.

In addition, Craig will conduct in-person education seminars about native grasses later this year to help with topics such as weed management, types of native grasses, differentiation between native grasses and weeds. Be on the lookout for more information about Craig’s seminars.

For additional information, please visit <https://bit.ly/2STgm2T>. Please share your email address with us if you are interested in receiving updates to kknackstedt@castlepinemetro.com.

“The wildflowers and grasses are just gorgeous in the native area northeast of the fitness center towards Mirage Drive. Last summer that area was brown and barren. I’m really glad it is not being mowed or overwatered. Thank you!” – Kristin Olsen



Construction season is here, please give the contractors a break.



Lawn & Order: Special Weeds Unit



As Castle Pines Metro District adopts landscape ideals that are more in line with the original intent of The Village at Castle Pines and the surrounding area, it may be necessary to reformulate your scheduled summer yard maintenance and weed control efforts. The District is working on a list of preferred vendors with whom residents may contract to help with weed management on their properties.

With this in mind, horticulturist Craig Miller offers additional tips for keeping weeds in check:

- Drought-stressed, thin lawns are susceptible to invasion by a number of lawn weeds, including dandelion, bindweed, spurge, mallow, and crabgrass.
- Weeds (especially crabgrass and spurge) will be more common on those areas of the lawn where irrigation water does not reach, and along sidewalks and driveways.
- Drought-stressed weeds can be difficult to kill with summer herbicide applications.
- Apply herbicides only when weeds are green and growing.
- Spot-treat weeds whenever possible.
- Weeds not controlled with summer herbicide applications are more easily controlled with fall treatments.
- Avoid applying herbicides in windy conditions and when temperatures exceed 85°F.



Just as it is important for residents to manage their weeds, the District is also taking preventive measures to control weeds. Native grasses will help, but everyone must do their part to keep the Village beautiful and well-maintained.

Road Repair Work Started in July

Castle Pines Metropolitan District began its 2021 Road Repairs & Surfacing project the first week of July. As a part of this year's work, 53 road segments will be worked on. The roads were chosen based on their condition, ride, and nature of their defects. Although a healthy investment (about \$1.9 million in construction cost) has been planned, not all the streets in the District will be worked on. The goal for this year's work is to maintain the structural integrity of the roads with most of them receiving patching. Some of this year's roads in the project will receive surface treatments, but others will receive a surface treatment either next year or very shortly thereafter. The overall goal is to preserve the roads from further deterioration and to provide a smooth and safe ride for the residents. Rather than simply treating the surface of the roads and having rideability and visual concerns reflect through, the plan is to repair critical areas and then follow up with surface treatments.

The type of work utilized depends on the road condition and the expected future traffic on the roadway. This is a multistep process that we are confident will produce the best results. Unfortunately, construction work associated with patching areas and surface treatments will not occur continuously. The District will publish a weekly schedule in the Village Weekly, so residents will know what to expect in their area. A bright pink door tag will also be attached to your mailbox the week before the roadwork is scheduled in your area. The contractor and the District are committed to a safe and orderly process.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this lengthy process.

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

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Mike Lanam, *Treasurer*

Tad Walden, *Secretary*

Dick Munday, *Director*

Craig Sundquist, *Director*

The Metro Board of Directors meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am at the Metro District office. Meetings are open to the public. Please call to confirm date and time.

Renovation of the Village Lake Fitness Center Ready to Begin September 7

The renovation of the Village Lake Fitness Center is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 7 and last until May of next year. The project is designed to maximize the usable space in the facility, improve the air handling system, remodel the locker rooms, replace the current carpet with a cushioned floor, and provide a removeable pool cover to allow the Fitness Center Pool to be used throughout the winter months. The increase in usable space will allow room for additional exercise equipment, including an additional treadmill, rowing machine, exercise bikes and a universal weight machine. Your Parks and Recreation Committee held community forums in 2020 and again earlier this year to discuss the plans for the renovation and get feedback from Fitness Center users on ways to improve the facility.



While the Fitness Center is undergoing the renovation, we have entered into an agreement with Planet Fitness in Castle Rock to provide you with a location to continue your exercise routine. Planet Fitness provides a variety of exercise equipment and is open 24 hours daily. Temporary memberships to Planet Fitness will be limited to two per household. Watch future Village Weekly emails for information on how to obtain your temporary membership. If you use Medicare for your healthcare, you may also be eligible for the Silver Sneakers program which provides memberships at local fitness centers at no additional cost to you. You can obtain information on the Silver Sneakers program at <https://tools.silversneakers.com/Eligibility/HealthPlans>.

If you have questions on this renovation project, please email Mark Larson, General Manager, at mark@thevillagecastlepines.com, or call the Homes Association at 303-814-1345.

Manager's Report

"Just Another Day in Paradise"



It certainly has been great to be able to get back to a semblance of normal in the Village. The pools are open, the pickleball and tennis courts are busy, and it has been a wonderful summer. Your Parks and Recreation Committee consisting of resident volunteers have really pulled out all the stops to hold some great activities so far this summer and more planned. We saw record attendance at the Summer

Solstice pig roast, the Fourth of July Celebration and the recent Adult Social. It was inspiring to see children and adults alike decorate their bikes and vehicles to celebrate the Fourth of July. The upcoming Metro Picnic, Village Field Day and Music in the Park events will be a great way to round out the Summer.

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 Communication Committee is a perfect example of volunteers who dedicate many hours of their time to publish this outstanding publication, establish guidelines for the Village Weekly email that goes out to many residents on a weekly basis, and work to establish avenues for providing information to the community. The Village is an outstanding place to live because of their efforts.

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 bicyclist are out and sharing the roadways, and please remember that the speed limit in the Village is 25 mph unless otherwise posted. 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 – General Manager



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



A Message from the Chief

Golf carts aren't just for golfing these days. They're also a convenient way to get around gated communities. And while they may be fun to drive, it's important to remember that they are not toys and golf cart safety should be taken seriously. Here are some important basic safety tips for driving golf carts in the Village.



- Obey all traffic rules, especially stop signs and speed limits.
- Only carry the number of passengers you have seats (or seat belts) for.
- Keep feet, legs, hands and arms inside the cart at all times.
- Slow down before and during turns.
- Check behind you before driving in reverse.
- Always yield to pedestrians and cars. Do not assume cars see you.
- Do not text and drive.
- Do not allow anyone to stand in the cart.

Along with golf carts on our Village streets, the warmer weather has also generated an increase in pedestrian traffic. It seems that more young residents are walking or riding their bikes to and from our Village pools and parks. Whether walking or biking, here are some safety tips that kids should keep in mind while navigating through the Village:

- Teach kids at an early age to look left, right and left again before crossing the street. Then remind them to continue looking until safely across.
- It's always best to walk on paths (we have 13 miles of both paved and natural trails in the Village), but kids walking to our pools or parks should always use sidewalks and crosswalks. Where there are no sidewalks, they should walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible and bike in the same direction as traffic as far to the right as possible.
- Teach kids to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
- Every child is different, but developmentally most kids are unable to judge the speed and distance of oncoming cars until age 10.

- Encourage kids to be especially alert for cars that are turning or backing up.
- Teach kids to turn off phones, headphones and other devices when crossing the street.

Sincerely,

Matt Wortsman – Chief of Emergency Services

Officer of the Quarter

Officer Michael DeCastro was born on March Air Force Base in Riverside, California. Michael began his career in Emergency Services as a Gate Officer in 2019 and was soon recognized for his professionalism and outgoing personality. Because of these qualities he was transferred to the Patrol Division in October 2020.



Michael and his wife Maria prefer Colorado's cool summer nights and crisp winter mornings to other places they have lived. When asked what he likes most about working in the Village, Michael said that the Village itself is a remarkable place to be. He enjoys the beautiful scenery and wildlife, and often takes a moment just to enjoy the gorgeous view.

When he is not performing his patrol duties, Michael and Maria enjoy movies, shows and dinner parties. Michael is also a writer and enjoys reading articles and writing fiction.

If you run into Michael during the performance of his patrol duties, take time to congratulate him on being honored as the Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2021.

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

Mark Larson, *General Manager*
Margie Cheatum, *Accountant*
Linda Matthews, *Executive Assistant/DRC Administrator*
Kevin Olsen, *Compliance Coordinator*
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EMERGENCY SERVICES (ES)
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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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If you are new to the Village, call or email
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303-660-6323 or sc Clifford@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: mikayl@thevillagecastlepines.com



Wildcats in the Village

We live in an area historically named Wildcat Mountains, named for the native bobcats and mountain lions. Both avoid humans whenever possible. Bobcat sightings are relatively frequent, but mountain lions are rarely seen. Bobcats are most active at dawn and dusk; mountain lions hunt from dusk to dawn. Either may be seen at any time of day. Close encounters with either one are extremely unusual.



Bobcats average 18 to 22 pounds, about double the size of a house cat, and are about 3 feet long. They are grayish-brown, spotted and have a short tail and a ruff of fur around the cheeks. They are easily distinguished from adult mountain lions which are about 6 feet long (excluding the tail), slender, have a long tail and weigh 150 pounds. The adult lion coat is yellow-brown and unspotted. Both have black-tipped short ears. Bobcats may be confused with

lynx, but lynx are not found along the Front Range. Lynx are rare in Colorado and live primarily in the San Juan mountains and occasionally in other high altitude habitats.

The Village offers good habitat for bobcats, with shelter and small prey such as rabbits and squirrels – and sometimes pet food. They can prey on domestic cats and small dogs. Bobcats are easily scared away. As with any wild animal, they may be aggressive if young are nearby. Mountain lions have very large territories; any lion seen here likely has its den elsewhere. They prey on deer, elk and small mammals. In the highly unlikely possibility of encountering a mountain lion, remain calm, make yourself look large and back away slowly while watching it and talking to it. Hold onto small children to keep them from running and looking like prey.

Take precautions, but consider yourself fortunate to share the Village with our wildlife.



Village bobcats add to the natural beauty of our surroundings.