

# the Village Reporter

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



## In this Issue

- Village News 2
- Committee News 3
- Metro District 4-5
- Association News 6
- Emergency Services 7
- Wildlife 8

[www.thevillagecastlepines.com](http://www.thevillagecastlepines.com)

## Coffee with the Manager

Would you like to learn more about issues that affect the Village? Our General Manager Mark Larson and Chief of Emergency Services Matt Wortsman will host the next "Coffee with the Manager" event on October 21, 6:30 pm to 8 pm at the Homes Association office. Residents may also join via Zoom. Please see the Village Weekly email for details on how to register virtually for this event.



with the CPHA  
General Manager

## Upcoming Homes Association Board Election

One seat on your Homes Association Board of Directors currently held by Frank Jacobsen is up for election at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Members. The location and time of the Annual Meeting will be announced later. In accordance with the Village's Declarations, Covenants and Bylaws [Amended and Restated Castle Pines Declaration and Agreement Creating Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions and Easements and Amended and Restated Bylaws of Castle Pines Association, Inc, Homes] members of the Board are elected at the annual meeting by a vote of the Members. All Members are entitled to one [(1)] vote for each Dwelling Unit of which such Member is the owner. Board members are elected to three-year terms and as a Board are responsible for exercising for the Association all powers, duties, and authority vested in or delegated to this Association by the Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation or the Declaration.

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***The Board of Directors is involved with many substantive issues that affect the quality of life and protect the investment each member of the Association has made in their homes.***

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The Board of Directors is involved with many substantive issues that affect the quality of life and protect the investment each member of the Association has made in their homes. While the requirements for running are few, the current Board has several recommendations for those wishing to be considered for this important seat.

The Board of Directors hold their monthly meeting the fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 7 am for an executive session and 8 am for the general meeting. Interested candidates should be available for at least 10 of 12 monthly meetings each year. In addition, Board members dedicate up to 25 hours each month to Board related activities in addition to the normal once a month public Board meeting. Committee membership is an outstanding way to get involved with the operations of the Homes Association and allows you to become familiar with some of the issues that affect the community. Regular attendance at monthly Board meetings also will give interested candidates insight into the types of issues the Board deals with regularly. Getting involved in your community through these avenues will make for a more knowledge-

Continued on page 3

## Upcoming Events

- **October 15** – Animals of All Hallows Eve, CPHA, 7 pm
- **October 21** – Coffee with the Manager, CPHA, 6:30 pm – 8 pm
- **October 30** – ES Pancake Breakfast, CPHA, 8 am
- **December 4** – Tree Lighting, Village Lake Fitness Center, 4 pm



## Area News

### Creepy Crawlies at the Rock at the Fall Festival

Festival Park in Castle Rock will provide a fun opportunity for children to interact with creepy crawlies on Saturday, October 16 between 10 am and 3 pm. Castle Rock's Local Colorado will celebrate with numerous activities. The educational, Halloween-themed animal booth will include some of Castle Rock's creepiest creatures such as snakes, spiders, toads, owls, and roaches. Presenters will be on hand to answer questions.

### Fangtastic Festival

On October 29, Castle Rock will be celebrating Halloween at Festival Park. Join the fun from 1 pm to 4 pm with costumes, candy, inflatables, carnival games, pumpkin painting and more!

### Star Lighting Tradition in Downtown Castle Rock

The Chamber of Commerce of Castle Rock will have their annual Downtown Star lighting on Saturday, November 20 from 2 pm to 6 pm. The "Lighting of the Star" has been a favorite community event shared by Castle Rock residents dating back to 1936. Annually, residents gather to kick off and celebrate the holiday season with festivities that include hot chocolate and adult beverages, food trucks, nonprofit booths, strolling entertainers, and live entertainment. The Star Lighting ceremony will begin at 5 pm with the actual lighting of the star at approximately 5:30 pm.

### I-25 Gap Project South of Castle Rock to Monument Update

The 18-mile paving of Interstate 25, or "The Gap," from Castle Rock to Monument continues. 90,000 linear feet of fiber-optic line have been added along the stretch to enhance the communication. Crews are adding an Express Lane in each direction of I-25, in exchange for a toll along with two free general-purpose lanes. Carpoolers (vehicles with three or more people) and motorcyclists can ride the Express Lanes for free. The Gap project, funded by state, local, and federal money, is on budget and expected to be completed in 2022.

## Upcoming Events & Activities

### Welcome Ambassadors

- New Residents Reception, Tuesday, October 26 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the CPHA Wildcat Room. If you are a new resident and have not been contacted by the Village Welcome Ambassadors, contact Susan Clifford at 303-660-6323 or sclifford@estreet.com.

### The Village Shops Events

- Saturday, October 23, 10 am to 2 pm, Fall Fest Trick or Treat. Costumes welcomed!
- Saturday, December 4, 10 am, Santa in the Pines. Save the date, more information to follow.

### Garden Club

With Autumn's shorter days and cooler temperatures, the gardening work days at the Village Serenity Garden are coming to an end. The final two days are October 6 at 9 am and October 20 at 9 am.

Upcoming Garden Club Programs and Events

- Saturday, October 23, 2 pm – Field Trip to the Sedalia Museum
- Friday, November 5, Program Meeting, 10 am. Decorating for the Holidays presented by Tasha Carrington, at the Wildcat Room, HOA Building.
- Tuesday, November 16, Field Trip to the Denver Art Museum
- Wednesday, December 1, 11 am – Holiday Brunch
- Wednesday, December 8 – Field Trip to Denver for the Immersive van Gogh exhibit.

For more information regarding the upcoming Garden Club events, check out [www.vcpgc.org](http://www.vcpgc.org) or contact at Darcey DeRose, 310-869-6426, [DarceyDeRose@comcast.net](mailto:DarceyDeRose@comcast.net).

## Ask the DRC

**Q. Do all improvements or modifications to the exterior of my home require DRC review and approval?**

**A.** Yes, all improvements and modifications to the exterior of your home require DRC review and approval. The review process is quick and simple and in most cases can be accomplished in just a matter of days. The application for review can be downloaded from the Homes Association website at [www.thevillagecastlepines.com](http://www.thevillagecastlepines.com). In many cases the DRC can provide recommendations during the review process that will enhance your project and add to the value of your home. This review process is designed to maintain the architectural integrity of the Village. For questions contact DRC Administrator Linda Matthews at 303-814-1345.

### Animals of All Hallows Eve

Have you ever wondered why certain animals have become legendary during the Halloween celebration? The Village Wildlife Committee is pleased to present the "Animals of All Hallows Eve", Friday, October 15, 7 pm in the CPHA Wildcat Room. Light snacks will be served, and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Masks are encouraged, and registration is required. Please RSVP for this event by October 11 at [wildlife@thevillagecastlepines.com](mailto:wildlife@thevillagecastlepines.com).

## Parks and Recreation

### Summer Event Recap

The warm summer days set the scene for some amazing Village events these past months with activities including every age group. Movie night round two made a return to the Canyon Club for the showing of Ratatouille for family entertainment that was enjoyed by all ages. Music in the park was a big hit with the Tripping Griswold band and food trucks entertaining more than 200 Village residents.

Oktoberfest did not disappoint as one of the Village's biggest events. Residents enjoyed traditional Oktoberfest food and beverage with live entertainment.

The summer ended on a competitive note with the kid's triathlon. Twenty children came out and tried their skills at swimming, biking, and running to see how far they could go. Nico and James Wood were on hand to push themselves for the eighth year since the event started. The youngest participant was 2 years old and the oldest was 15 years old.

### First Annual Pickleball Tournament

The last competitive event of the summer was the first annual Pickleball Tournament. Twenty-one people participated in the tournament. The format for advanced and intermediate brackets was a round robin with the four highest point players moving on to the finals. There were two beginner couples who played as a team and played a best three out of five format. Their last game lasted for over 25 minutes! The level of play in all brackets was phenomenal. Congratulations to all who participated.

Tournament winners were:

- Beginners:** Rune and Jill Haug – First Place  
Linda and John Allstadt – Second Place
- Intermediate:** Jed Raskin – First Place  
Brenda Conroy – Second Place  
Aaron Puser – Third Place
- Advanced:** Josh Reel – First Place  
Dillon Reel – Second Place  
David Conway- Third Place

### Board Election (continued from page 1)

able Board candidate and eventually a more effective Board member. In addition to the candidate statements, information on how long a candidate has lived in the Village, which Homes Association Committees they have served on and how many monthly Board meetings they

have attended will be listed in the election edition of the Village Reporter and in the Annual Meeting package.

If you are interested in running for this seat, please submit your resume including, name, address, how long you have lived in the Village, past or present Homes Association Committee membership, and professional experience history to the Homes Association, attention Mark Larson, no later than close of business Monday, December 13, 2021. This will allow the Nominating Committee the opportunity to review the resumes, make their recommendations to the Board of Directors, and give the Village Reporter staff ample time to conduct interviews with candidates for publication. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Board member, or Mark Larson, General Manager at 303-814-1345 or by email at mark@thevillagecastlepines.com.



Beautiful weather, great food, and a live band greeted residents at Oktoberfest.



Competition was intense at the Pickleball Tournament.

### Fall Brush Clean Up

The District will be conducting a Village-wide branch and brush collection in the first three weeks of October. This pick-up is limited to tree branches. For easier handling, we are asking that the trees be cut in 4' lengths and that the branches are removed. Please stack tree branches and limbs together at the edge of the asphalt for pick up. **DO NOT BUNDLE THE BRANCHES.** Your efforts in removing dead brush from your property is an excellent way to help reduce fire hazards.

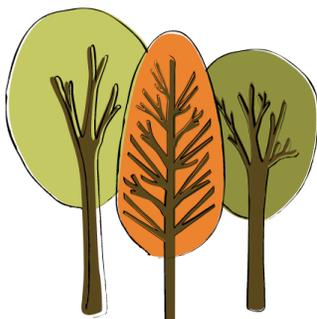
The Village is divided into three sections for an easier clean-up and to help reduce the amount of time the tree branches are sitting in front of your homes. The sections and collection weeks are as follows:

- **Section 1** – October 4 – collection in the north and northwest sections of the Village.
- **Section 2** – October 11– collection in the center section of the Village
- **Section 3** – October 18 – collection on the south side of the Village (south of Happy Canyon Road).

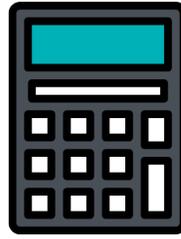
**PLEASE HAVE ALL DEBRIS OUT FOR PICK UP AT 8 AM ON MONDAY MORNING**

Each household will receive a reminder letter approximately three weeks before their assigned pick up.

Once the branches are collected, the District will grind the debris, which can then be used for mulch. For more information on the tree branch collection, please call the Metro District at 303-688-8330. For information about the types of landscape materials that may or may not be removed from your property, please contact the Castle Pines Homes Association at 303-814-1345.



### 2020 Audited Financial Report Accepted



At the August 31, 2021, District Board meeting, Mr. Matt Beerbower, Partner at RubinBrown, LLP presented the District's Audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year 2020. 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](http://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 2019 CAFR.

### Winterize Your Pipes

Winterizing your pipes is essential to lower the risk of frozen fixtures as the weather begins to cool down. Follow these precautions to prevent an expensive fix:

1. **Disconnect hoses you used over the summer** – When the watering hose remains attached to the water supply during winter, there is the possibility of the faucet or pipe freezing resulting in a burst. Disconnecting the hose allows for the water to drain completely from your hose to fully mitigate a possible worst-case scenario.
2. **Insulate pipes in colder areas** – Wrapping pipes in your garage, for example, helps mitigate the occurrence of a pipe burst. This helps keep the pipes warmer as temperatures drop below freezing.
3. **Use heat tape** – Using heat tape is best for areas with exposed water pipes. Heat tape or a similar concept is essential for avoiding a broken pipe as they are directly exposed to the cold air.
4. **Seal off doors, vents, and cracks** – With cold weather comes cold winds. Sealing these areas will help protect exposed pipes from freezing.
5. **Locate the master shut-off valve** – Where the waterline enters your home, you will find a valve that turns off all water on your property. This will prevent water from entering your pipes without the risk of bursts. This is the last option method to be used only with extreme weather conditions.



## Required - Test Your Backflow Prevention Devices



The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) requires all water systems to implement a cross-connection control program. Cross-connections are the physical connection between the potable water system and where a containment hazard exists, such as a lawn irrigation system and any other potential or actual hazard connected directly to the main water supply. An additional example of cross-connections is a home's fire suppression system, which is installed in all homes in The Village at Castle Pines. "Backflow" is the reverse flow from the fixture/equipment back into the drinking water piping. If improperly protected and a backflow event was to occur, contaminants could flow back into the water supply. **New State regulations require that these devices must be tested and certified every year to ensure that they are working properly.**

The District has partnered with Backflow Solutions, Inc. (BSI) to assist in administering the backflow program in our community. BSI will be coordinating the notifications and tracking the testing process. BSI is an authorized agent for the District and communication will be received every year beginning this fall.

As of October 15, 2021, BSI will be sending backflow assembly due and past-due notifications on behalf of the District. Property owners are responsible for having their devices tested and the tester will be required to submit the results to BSI Online for tracking and compliance. Local contractors have been informed of the new program procedures as well. You will still need to call your tester/contractor to schedule your annual backflow assembly test. In future correspondence, BSI will provide the resources to find a local and certified testing company. BSI does not test backflow devices.

Please contact BSI with any questions: 888-966-6050 or support@backflow.com.

Castle Pines Metropolitan District is proud of the water it delivers to you every day. By working together and cooperating in this critical program, we can further protect our water resources. Please visit our website for more information at [castlepinesmetro.com](http://castlepinesmetro.com)>News.



**Snow Removal**  
For complete information regarding Metro's snow removal process, please visit our website [castlepinesmetro.com](http://castlepinesmetro.com)

## Sprinkler & Bluegrass Transitional Maintenance

If you haven't shut down your sprinkler system yet, it's time! In Colorado, it's recommended to shut down your irrigation system starting late September as the temperatures start to drop. Contact your landscape service provider to do the same for your household. By the middle of October, irrigation systems need to be turned off, drained, and protected from the coming winter weather. Any outside watering needed through late fall and early winter should be done with a hose and hand-held sprinkler.

Bluegrass lawns, which are prominent throughout the Village, can be dormant throughout the winter season. While Bluegrass stays healthy with little attention during these months, attending to trees, shrubs and perennials is important due to Colorado's dry climate. The health of these plants can be determined by the appearance of growth such as wilted leaves or visible yellowing. To maintain the growth throughout the winter, water your lawn one to two times per month, October through March on a warmer day when the ground is not frozen. A decrease in watering allows the roots to continue stable growth during winter. This helps with healthy production during the warmer months in Colorado.



### Castle Pines Metropolitan District

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

email: [Info@castlepinesmetro.com](mailto:Info@castlepinesmetro.com)  
[www.castlepinesmetro.com](http://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 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.

## New Monuments are Nearly Complete

As you have probably noticed, the Village monument signs located near Gates 1 and 4 are nearly complete. Due to supply delivery issues the project has taken longer to complete than we had hoped for, but the finished products are beautiful and a fitting announcement that you are entering a first-class neighborhood.



Welcome home!

## Holiday Decorations

As the holidays approach and you consider your holiday decorations, residents are asked to be mindful of the Castle Pines Homes Association Rules and Regulations regarding outdoor decorations at their homes. The decorations should be a "tasteful temporary decoration or display that is incidental to, customarily and commonly associated with any national, local or religious celebration".

The display should be erected no more than 45 days prior to the holiday and should be removed no more than 21 days after the celebration. Residents are also asked to be considerate of their neighbors. Holiday lighting may interfere with sleeping if it is left on late or overnight.

## Manager's Report

*"Just Another Day in Paradise"*



Fall has arrived and from the wonderful weather we have been having, it looks like we are in for a beautiful one. It was wonderful to see the Village return to a semblance of normal this past summer. We saw record attendance at the summer events and your Parks and Recreation Committee committed numerous hours to hold great events such as the Pig Roast for the Summer Solstice event, a great parade and barbecue for the Fourth of July, and the ever-popular Oktoberfest (this year with the return of German beer and wine) just to name a few. The Village pools were busy this summer as families enjoyed the summer season.

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***For the 21st straight year, the Emergency Services Department will hold their famous Pancake Breakfast.***

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Those with school aged children already know that school has begun in Douglas County and with it comes children on our roadways early in the morning and late in the afternoon. The Douglas County School District has limited school bus stops throughout the County and the Village has been affected by that reduction. Some children are walking longer distances to the school bus stops, so please watch for them in the mornings and afternoons. Excessive speed, failure to obey traffic control signs, children on the roadways and our narrow streets can all add up to a disaster. That few minutes you wait at the bus stop to allow children the opportunity to enter and exit the school bus is well worth it when the safety of a child is the issue.

For the 21st straight year, the Emergency Services Department will hold their famous Pancake Breakfast. The event will be on Saturday, October 30 and will once again have a Halloween theme. This is a wonderful event and we look forward to seeing you there to enjoy a delicious breakfast served by your Emergency Services Officers. Look for more information in this edition of the Village Reporter and future Village Weekly emails.

My staff and I wish you a safe and enjoyable autumn season.

Respectfully,

*Mark G. Larson – General Manager*

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## Village Lake Fitness Center Remodel

The remodel project at the Village Lake Fitness Center began on Tuesday September 7 and is proceeding on schedule. The project goals are to maximize the space available in the Fitness Center to allow for additional exercise equipment, and upgrade the locker rooms, facility flooring, HVAC system, and lighting. If you have questions concerning this project, please give the Homes Association a call at 303-814-1345.



## Trick or Treat Safety

**H**alloween is just around the corner, so let's take a moment and remember children's safety during Halloween. Even though we enjoy the security of living in a gated community, it is still important to take common sense precautions and have a conversation with your children about trick-or-treat safety. Make sure your little ones are accompanied by a responsible adult and that everyone follows these Halloween safety rules:



- Swords, knives and other accessories should be short, soft and flexible.
- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags.
- Never trick-or-treat alone.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering.
- Always walk and don't run between houses and carry a flashlight.
- If possible, walk on paths and trails rather than in the street.
- If you must walk on the street, walk against the traffic
- Wear well-fitting masks to avoid blocked vision.
- Never enter a home unless you're with a trusted adult.
- Wear flame-resistant costumes and avoid candles or jack-o-lanterns with open flames.
- Establish a curfew for older children.

Sticky fingers, tired feet and one last house to trick-or-treat. Have a safe and happy Halloween!

## CPES Halloween Pancake Breakfast

**E**mergency Services will once again be hosting their delightfully delectable Halloween Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 30 beginning at 8 am in the CPHA Community Room. The menu will include eggs, hash browns, sausage and of course, GM Mark Larson's delicious pancakes. The Emergency Services staff will be on hand to serve you. Come and spend some time with your neighbors and the men and women who make up our Emergency Services staff. Representatives from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and South Metro Fire Rescue will also be there with their emergency vehicles and there will be treat bags for the kids (costumes are welcome). See you there.

## A Message from the Chief

**A**t the August Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved draft language for a revision to the Rules and Regulations concerning use of Village roads and trails. Following the 30-day review period, the Directors reviewed member comments. At the September Board meeting the Directors voted to approve the revisions to the Rules and Regulations as presented.



The amended rules clarify that only licensed drivers may operate golf carts on Village roadways. If a golf cart driver is stopped by Emergency Services and cannot produce a valid driver's license, he or she will be issued a notice of violation like any other driver.

Pedal powered and electric bikes and standup-up scooters are permitted on Village roadways and must obey all rules of the road, including stop signs, yielding when necessary and obeying posted speed limits. The amended rules also clarify that toy vehicles (such as one-wheel boards, kamikaze boards and youth sit-down scooters) are not permitted on Village roadways.

Finally, the amended rules clarify that motorized vehicles (including golf carts) are not permitted on Village trails with the following exceptions: electric bikes and stand-up scooters are allowed on paved trails only and toy vehicles are allowed on all types of trails. Please contact Emergency Services with any questions, 303-688-6447.

Sincerely,

*Matt Wortsman – Chief of Emergency Services*

### 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](http://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*

Mikayl Bristol, *Administrative Assistant*

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES (ES)

303-688-6446

Matt Wortsman, *Chief of ES*

Steve Camino, *ES Administrator*

#### CPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Cooper, *President*

Chuck Skinner, *Vice President*

Frank Jacobsen, *Treasurer*

Wendy Ingraham, *Secretary*

Al Notary, *Assistant Treasurer*



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### THE VILLAGE REPORTER

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If you are new to the Village, call or email Susan Clifford for the Welcome Packet: 303-660-6323 or [sc Clifford@estreet.com](mailto: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](mailto:mikayl@thevillagecastlepines.com)



## Batty over Bats!

Bats are a biological marvel. They are our only flying mammal. Their forelimbs are adapted as wings with long spread-out fingers covered with a thin flexible membrane. They are among our most beneficial animals, pollinating fruits and eating insects. They have very long lifespans for their small size.

Bats are nocturnal, hiding out in roosts during daylight. All 18 Colorado species are insectivores (insect eaters). Our most commonly seen species is the Big Brown Bat that weighs ½ to ¾ of an ounce and has brown fur, a wingspan of 13 to 16 inches and a lifespan of 20 years. It is an insect eating machine, devouring 1200 mosquitoes an hour which it locates by echolocation (rapid pulses of sound that bounce off an object). Females gather in nursery colonies in the spring and give birth to one baby (pup) which is fed breast milk. Big Brown Bats are year-round residents of Colorado and hibernate by themselves in rock crevices rather than in large groups in caves.

Unfortunately, bat reputations aren't helped by their potential to carry deadly diseases to which they are often



Bats are a valuable part of our ecosystem.

resistant. Scientists are investigating their superpowers to discover the secrets of their super-immunity and longevity. While bats can carry rabies, it is still quite rare. If a bat is acting abnormally, such as sitting on the ground or acting drunk, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife or a pest control agency. If you or your pet come in contact with a bat, contact a healthcare or veterinary provider immediately.

That said, the likelihood of contracting a disease from a bat is extremely low, and they are a valuable part of our ecosystem. You may have seen bat houses, such as at the Denver Audubon Nature Center. You can watch bats at dusk as they eat the mosquitoes before the mosquitoes eat you!